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Coordination of statistical capacity-building activities:
Statistical training

Response to request for information for preparation of document E/ESCAP/CST(2)/8 - Response by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [1]

Approaches and programmes for statistical capacity building
FAO Statistics Division Capacity-building Strategy

I. Programme Strategy

7 Key principles to guide the strategy:

1. Based on findings and orientations of the **Global Strategy for Improvement of Agricultural Statistics**

2. **Integrated approach** of statistical capacity building: Advocacy, Technical assistance (advisory missions, training courses), Collection of data (methodological developments, questionnaires, pilot surveys); Data dissemination (guidelines, tabulation plan); Data analysis (country and regional reports); Knowledge management (production of training materials, collection of best practice, regional workshops, website)

3. **Modular Approach**: this approach recognizes the diversity in country situations regarding capacity in place and priority technical support needed. At the same time, it will provide the possibility of addressing a wide range of needs. The Modules will be self sustained but complementary.

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[1] This document was contributed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. It has been reproduced without formal editing. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations.

4.   **Flexibility**: Adapt the activities to the level of development of the national statistical system. Each country could implement the core NSDS module and selected technical modules that best suit its condition.

5.   **Sustainability** (search of solutions that are not too expensive and can be funded in the medium-long term with national budget)

6.   **Coordination** with future national and global statistical initiative

7.   **Partnership approach**: the implementation of the programme will be done in partnership with existing regional institutions trough training of their staff , outsourcing some activities, posting regional advisors, joint missions with FAO.

The programme is modular with each module being designed as stand alone (with specific activities, outputs and inputs per country), but NSDS module is core and common to all countries and there is synergy, linkages and complementarity between various modules.

- The Core Module (Integration of agricultural statistics into NSDS) will support preparation of technical guidelines and field missions to ensure that agricultural statistics is mainstreamed in the NSDS and that effective coordination bodies and mechanisms are in place and functioning.

- Other modules:

    Module 1: Classification and Economic and Environmental Accounts

    Module 2: Advanced data collection methods

    Module 3: Food Security

    Module 4: Agricultural Price

    Module 5: CountrySTAT

- The strategy will put emphasis on effective partnership with recipient countries, capacity building and national ownership of products.

- Partnership with regional institutions will be also implemented through training of their staff and/or posting of regional advisors. In addition to FAO Regional Offices, possible partner regional institutions may include:

    - in Africa: AFRISTAT, UN-ECA; UEMOA, SADC, EAC;

    - in Asia: ESCAP;

    - in Latin America: ECLAC, IICA, CARICOM, Andean Community;

    - in Near East: ESCWA.

- South-South cooperation will be used as much as possible for technical assistance.

II. Programme Outputs

Outputs of Core Module: Integration of agriculture into NSDS

Global level

- FAO/PARIS21 guidelines on the integration of Food and Agricultural Statistics in National Statistical Systems and NSDS and strengthening of institutional collaboration (FAO/PARIS21 HQs);

- Good practices in institutional coordination for the production of agricultural statistics identified, documented and disseminated;

- A standard assessment framework of country agricultural statistics system to be developed by FAO (programme team);

- Advocacy products (video, audio, pamphlets, etc.) produced and disseminated.

Regional and country level

- Assessment Report of the national agricultural statistical system;

- Technical assistance plan to improve the system through the FAO modules proposed and evaluation of resources needed;

- Proposal for the revision of the legal/institutional framework for the national Food and Agriculture Statistics System (FASS);

- A revised NSDS with mainstreamed agricultural statistics adopted by national Governments;

- Implementation of the revised NSDS with the assistance of FAO and PARIS21.

Outputs of Module 1: International standard classifications and economic-environmental accounts for food and agriculture

Global level

- Training materials and practical guidance documents, such as, for example, Handbook of Classifications for Food and Agriculture to be developed by FAO;

- Training materials and practical guidance documents, such as, for example, Handbook of Economic-Environmental Accounts for Food and Agriculture to be developed by FAO;

- Compiling and Sharing Good Country Practice and Case Study Materials: the materials will be used for both the Global and Regional Training Workshops and Country Technical Assistant.

Regional and country level

- Global and Regional Workshops on Classifications: to offers training on international standard classifications for food and agriculture. The

workshops will emphasize basic principles of classification methods while specifically covering classifications of products (CPC), traded commodities (HS), economic activities (ISIC), occupations (ISCO), land use, consumption, and others, focusing on the application and relationship of these classifications with food and agriculture.

• Global and Regional Workshops on Economic-Environmental Accounts: to offer training on economic-environmental accounts for food and agriculture. The workshops will cover the principles, methodologies, international standard concepts, definitions, accounting rules and tables of economic-environmental accounts, including FBS and SUAs. Emphases will be on how to use the economic-environmental accounts as a framework to select a core set of indicators, to address the urgent and emerging challenges such as global warming, climate changes, environmental issues, food supply and demand, agricultural production, trade, prices, and sustainability faced by the national policy- and decision-makers.

• Country Technical Assistant Projects on Classification and Economic-Environmental Accounts: To assist countries to adopt and implement the international classifications and economic-environmental accounts. This includes to building up correspondence table of international-national classifications; to identify a set of core indicators based on the framework of economic-environmental accounts for food and agriculture; to establish FBS, SUAs, and extend to full-fledged economic-environmental accounts for food and agriculture for data collection and compilation and for policy and decision analysis and making.

Outputs of Module 2: Advanced data collection and compilation methods

This module will assist countries in adopting and applying advanced and cost effective methods of collecting and compiling agricultural statistics. In particular, it will assist countries in implementing the approach of integrated master sample frame and integrated survey framework, recommended in the global strategy for improving agricultural statistics. It will also take into account the technical work developed by FAO, in particular the World Programme for Census of Agriculture 2010 (WCA2010), the existing and upcoming technical guidelines.

Global level

• Technical guidelines for integrated master sample and integrated survey framework, including data quality framework developed. (FAO HQ)

• Methodological handbooks and guidelines and training material prepared for designing and implementing

    (i)   sampling for agricultural censuses, surveys,

    (ii)   estimation and imputation,

    (iii)   data reconciliation and quality standards,

    (iv)   crop forecasting,

(v)   indicators for monitoring and evaluation of agriculture and rural development, and

(vi)   use of emerging cost-effective tools and methods (use of GPS/remote sensing, CAPI/PDA, GIS, use of modern data processing and analysis systems etc..).

Regional and country level

•   Technical capacity of national/regional staff strengthened on. integrated systems, use of standard concepts and advanced methodology for data collection and compilation and assessment/improvement of data quality

Outputs of Module 3: Food security

Under this module assistance will be provided to countries in developing standard food security modules to be included in questionnaires of household and agricultural surveys, compiling and analysing food security data and indicators using methodology developed by FAO and adoption of FAO concepts and methods related to food security.

The specific outputs will include:

Global level

•   Food consumption component of agricultural and household surveys designed and tested for the production of quality and consistent food security statistics;

•   Standard Packages for compilation, analysis and use of Food Security Indicators for improved food policies and better development outcome;

•   Harmonised methods for compiling food balance sheets;

•   Training manuals prepared for production of Food security statistics and compilation of Food Security Indicators.

Regional and country level

•   Technical capacity of national staff strengthened in the production, compilation, analysis and use of food security statistics and indicators.

Outputs of Module 4: Agricultural price module

Agricultural prices are important data required for agricultural policy development and monitoring. This data is highly demanded both by the public and private sectors. However, the capacity of many countries is limited in this domain and few have well established systems of collecting, compiling and disseminating food and agricultural prices, particularly, producer and rural market prices. The lack of methodology and guidelines in this domain is an important constraint. Therefore, the following outputs are expected from the module:

Global level

- An effective methodology and data collection, management and dissemination system developed for prices received by farmers and statistical information systems on rural and agricultural markets;

- A methodology developed to aggregate data at different level (time, geographic, item);

- A methodology to compile and analyze indicators based on these data and on other internationally available data and a set of templates to perform the calculations;

- Recommendation on state-of-the-art information and communication technologies for capturing and disseminating market data.

Regional and country level

- Technical capacity of national staff strengthened in the use of methodologies and technologies.

Outputs of Module 5: CountrySTAT data integration and dissemination

CountrySTAT will be the core data harmonization, integration and dissemination framework common to all countries. It will serve as a one-stop center for web access to all existing country food and agricultural statistics and facilitate data exchange with FAOSTAT, reducing data reporting burden on countries. Through this module, it is expected to have fully functioning CountrySTAT with harmonized and integrated quality data easily accessible and with trained administrators and users, operating rules, supportive IT infrastructure, and user applications. The assistance will expand to more countries in Africa and also to other countries in Near East, Latin America and Asia, the on-going support being provided to 17 African Countries through Bill and Melinda Gates funded CountrySTAT for Sub-Saharan Africa project. Specific outputs expected for each country are:

Global Regional and Country level

- An operational CountrySTAT system will be established in recipient countries providing an efficient framework for organisation, integration, analysis, and dissemination of existing data from various sources along with development of national capacity to maintain and develop the system;

- Significant improvement in the exchange, access and use of Country data on food and agriculture as well as a regular and expanded flow of quality data from recipient countries to International data bases, in particular to FAOSTAT, adapting standards of Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX);

- Development of metadata system and assessment of data quality at national level in recipient countries.

Regional and country level

- Enhanced and up-graded capacity of staff in running and updating CountrySTAT system;

III. Programme implementation

Core research, development and management team for programme implementation:

- Core team of experts + Statistics Division Regular Staff: The team to include existing FAO staff for the programme management (on part time basis) as well as experts and consultants (strong reliance on south-south cooperation) in specific fields

- Partnership with regional institutions will be implemented through training of their staff and/or posting of regional advisors. In addition to FAO Regional Offices, possible partner regional institutions may include: (i) in Africa: AFRISTAT, UN-ECA; UEMOA, SADC, EAC; (ii) in Asia: ESCAP; (iii) in Latin America: ECLAC, IICA, CARICOM, Andean Community; (iv) in Near East: ESCOWA

- The core team to provide: technical expertise for development and consolidation of the modules and technical backing to country work

- The Core team: responsible for global and regional trainings and will be provided with necessary facilities. The full team will be composed of: 6-8 P4 equivalent and support staff

- Depending on number of modules and countries, the core team may be adjusted accordingly. An indicative prototype budget is available as basis for discussion with potential Donors.

IV. Capacity-building in agricultural statistics

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