

Asian Development Bank
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Manila, Philippines
21-23 November 2011

First meeting of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics

DRAFT REPORT

ORGANIZATION

1. The *First meeting of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics* (SGAS) was jointly organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Statistics Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO RAP) from 21 to 23 November 2011 at the ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines; the Programme of the meeting is attached in Annex I. The event was attended by 26 participants, including Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics (henceforth referred to as “Steering Group”) members and other experts representing 15 countries and 7 international organizations; the list of participants is attached in Annex II and the membership of the Steering Group is presented in Annex III.
2. The meeting was organized to bring together members of the Steering Group and other experts to consult on the development of a regional implementation plan for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (henceforth referred to as “regional implementation plan”). Mr Rome Recide (the Philippines) and Mr Karpo Dukpa (Bhutan) served as SGAS Chair and Vice-chair, respectively.
3. The consultations focused on the following key parts:
 - a. presentation of preliminary country assessment results;
 - b. strategy and outline of the regional implementation plan;
 - c. Steering Group working arrangements.
4. Following the opening, an overview was provided of the Global strategy and its three pillars. Subsequent back-to-back sessions discussed the Global action plan and its implementation. The detail of the Global action plan (e.g. its components) was

considered and discussed. Furthermore, lessons learned from the preparation of the action plan for Africa were shared with the participants. The participants were also provided with an overview of the progress made in the Asian and Pacific region in relation to the improvement of agricultural and rural statistics as per the global strategy following the ESCAP Committee on Statistics' decision to develop a regional implementation plan.

5. During the next session, preliminary findings from country assessments and other available information were presented to provide participants with an overview of the availability and quality of agricultural and rural statistics in Asian and Pacific countries, and identifying common and country specific constraints/ shortcomings.
6. In the following core consultation sessions, the participants considered the draft outlines and discussed the components of the regional implementation plan. The three components, the technical assistance component, the research component, and the training component were discussed in plenary and in subgroups. The participants also discussed the standard format for preparing individual country implementation plans, and strategies for their integration/alignment with the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs).

The next session addressed strategic issues such as funding strategy, governance mechanism and stakeholder analysis. The participants discussed the potential role of global and regional organizations/ forums/ partnerships in the regional implementation, and how the work of the SGAS can contribute and benefit from the work of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics and other ongoing regional and international initiatives.

7. The meeting concluded with a session during which the Steering Group members agreed on milestones and work plan for the development and execution of the regional implementation plan.

MEETING CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8. The conclusions and recommendations of the meeting focused on the broad strategy and outline of the regional implementation plan, including: required intervention needs; assessments; approach; outline; strategy for grouping of countries; objectives and outcomes; activities; implementation and funding arrangements including governance; and work plan and strategy for the formulation of the implementation plan. The recommendations and conclusions are presented under the headings of the respective agenda items.

The Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (agenda item 2)

9. The Steering Group noted the three pillars of the global strategy, namely a minimum set of core national data items, integrating agriculture into the NSS and better governance and capacity building. It further noted that the minimum set of core national data items proposed by the global strategy accounted for 95 percent of the world's production of cereals, meat, and fiber. It recognised the need for national coordination mechanisms such as a National Statistical Council, particularly in decentralized NSS, to ensure data quality, avoid duplication of statistical activities and enable optimum resource allocation into the NSS.
10. The Steering Group agreed that the establishment of a master sample frame would be a remarkable achievement towards integrating agriculture into the NSS but recognised the technical and political challenges. It noted that geo-referencing would facilitate the linking of area and list frames and the need for research and technical guidelines on how to attain master sample frames in the countries of the region.

Implementation of the Global Strategy (agenda item 3)

11. The Steering Group noted that the global strategy's main goal was to improve the capacity of the countries to produce the agricultural statistics. Therefore, political commitment and will on the part of the countries to implement the strategy was quite important. The first phase of the implementation of the global strategy was a 5-year phase, covering a subset of developing countries. The Steering Group also noted that donors had expressed interest in starting not only with statistically "weak" countries (as it might take longer than five years) but with a mixture of different country categories (strong, intermediate, weak).
12. The Steering Group was of the view that the research topics seemed ambitious for a 5-year period. However, it noted that the research topics were presented in order of prioritization and were relevant. The Steering Group noted that the implementation plan for Asia and the Pacific should also look into the different practices or methodologies already in use in countries such as India, Australia and Japan that could be used by other countries. The Steering Group recommended synergies between research, training and technical assistance, particularly in the case where readily available research could be implemented through training or technical assistance.

Learning from the African experience (agenda item 4)

13. The Steering Group learnt that some of the problems encountered in the implementation plan in Africa included (i) complicated governance, (ii) not enough coordination among partners (e.g. the three components were not unified), (iii)

different logical frameworks and budgets, (iv) redundancies (e.g. overlap of activities), (v) high budget, and (vi) an ambitious five-year implementation plan. To address these problems, partners introduced selection criteria to reduce the number of countries in the first phase, integrate the budgets (budget for Africa and budget for the other Regions), move up the research plan to global level and streamline the governance of the implementation plan.

14. The Steering Group noted that while some donors might wish to pledge funds to the global trust fund, others might provide funds to a specific region or country. It further noted that donors preferred countries to prepare a simple country proposal using a standard template. However, the Steering Group recognized it was important to give the countries room and opportunity to formulate their own action plans which are unique to their national realities. Country ownership was recognized as crucial for the implementation of the regional plan.

Improvement of agricultural and rural statistics in the Asian and Pacific region (agenda item 5)

15. The Steering Group discussed the need for close coordination with the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics as well as other relevant regional initiatives including the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy, the Working Group on the Coordination of Statistical Training and the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific (henceforth referred to as “Partnership”). In this regard the Steering Group formulated the following recommendations/conclusions:
16. Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics (SGRPES) – the Steering Group recognized the need for coordination with the SGRPES to ensure that there is no significant overlap (between the regional implementation plan and the implementation plan of the Regional Programme). The Steering Group further recognized that the Regional Programme is the main strategy for the improvement of the capacity of countries in the Asian and Pacific to produce economic statistics and that the two implementation plans should complement each other.
17. Coordination in the Pacific - the Steering Group recognized the important role that the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2011-2020 plays in the development of the capacity of the sub-region to produce statistics. The participants further recognized the significant synergies between the Pacific Strategy and the Global Strategy and as such recommended that special attention be paid in the implementation plan to ensure coordination with current and planned activities in the Pacific (and avoid any possible duplication). The Steering Group further recognized the important role that Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) plays in the implementation of the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2011-2020 and as such recommended that any implementation in the Pacific subregion (including any assessments) be fully coordinated with the SPC.

18. Working Group on the Coordination of Statistical Training (WGCST) – the Steering Group members recognized the important role of the WGCST in assessing the current capacity of the region to deliver training and training needs. The participants agreed that the Steering Group should coordinate closely with the WGCST when developing the training component of the implementation plan.
19. “Partnership” – the Steering Group took note of the “Partnership” as the regional coordination mechanism of all international, regional and sub-regional organizations and bilateral donors concerned with the improvement of statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

Status of agricultural statistics systems in member countries: Creating an understanding and identifying intervention needs (agenda item 6)

20. To understand the current status of the compilation of agricultural and rural statistics in Asia and the Pacific, an initial evaluation of countries was done based on information previously collected by the ADB, ESCAP, FAO, and the World Bank and also, those that were gathered from national statistical offices’ websites. The initial country assessment can also be used to identify possible interventions that can be employed to improve data compilation methods. The data items that were considered in the country assessment were: (i) type of statistical system (organization and legal framework), (ii) statistical legislation, (iii) adoption of a national statistical plan, (iv) the national statistics office’s website, (v) data dissemination, (vi) conduct of a household survey in the last 5 years, (vii) conduct of agricultural census in the last 10 years, (viii) conduct of production surveys, (ix) time series data on crop production, (x) time series data on livestock production, and (xi) time data on aquaculture and fisheries production and (x) per capita GNI (at 2008 USD).
21. Four country groups were formed: (i) high income, (ii) low income with low data availability, (iii) middle income with low data availability, and (iv) middle income with good data availability. The Steering Group members agreed that the results were preliminary and the data used for classifying the countries should be further validated.
22. A country assessment questionnaire (CAQ), following the template provided by the FAO Statistics Division, was sent to the countries/economies in the region by the implementing partners in the previous week. The CAQ can help finalize the country grouping and also assist in evaluating the country’s strengths and weaknesses in producing agricultural and rural statistics. Replies to the CAQ are requested by 16 December 2011. The CAQ for Pacific should be sent to Mr. Gerald Habekorn, SPC so that he could assist in following up the replies. Moreover, the CAQ for some Pacific countries like New Caledonia, French Polynesia, American

Samoa, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands, should be coordinated with the US Census of Bureau.

Components of the regional implementation plan (agenda item 7)/ Development of the components of regional implementation plan (in subgroups) (agenda item 8)

23. The Steering Group decided that in line with the Global action plan the regional implementation plan should consist of 3 components, namely technical assistance, training and research. The Steering Group then decided to establish three sub-groups to guide the development of these components with ESCAP (including SIAP) responsible for drafting the training component, FAO RAP for the technical assistance component and ADB for the research component.
24. The Steering Group Members agreed that the sub-groups formed during the First Meeting (see table 1 below) will be used as a basis for forming of the permanent sub-groups which will guide the development of the 3 components. The Steering Group members further agreed that members will be given the opportunity to change their preferences, however care will be taken to ensure that all subgroups are balanced in terms of numbers and representation.

Table 1 – Subgroups formed during the First Meeting

Focal Person	Technical Assistance	Methodological Research	Training
	Jairo Castano	Dalisay S. Maligalig	Artur Andrysiak
	Vijay Kumar Bhatia	Masoud Asadi	Ardief Achmand
	Karpo Dukpa	Douglas H. Brooks	Vijay Kumar Bhatia
	Gerald Haberkorn	Elisabetta Carfagna	Supaporn Bongsunun
	Franziska Kohler	Jacky Hodges	Laupua Fiti
	Satya Ranjan Mondal	Kenji Kamikura	Rikke M. Hansen
	Dalip Singh	Aloke Kar	Romeo S. Recide
		Herath R. Mudiyansele	Fathimath Abdulla Saeed
		Quang Vinh Pham	Vuthy Srey
		Guntur Sugiyarto	
		Katinka Weinberger	

Technical Assistance Component (agenda item 7a)

25. The Steering Group noted that a country assessment questionnaire (CAQ) had been sent to all member countries in Asia and the Pacific to (i) provide information of the capacity, strengths, weaknesses of the countries; (ii) allow categorizing of the countries based on their capacity to produce the minimum set of core data and the

integration of agricultural statistics in the NSS (particularly in the population census and household surveys).

26. The Steering Group agreed that the technical assistance component should (i) be of cross-cutting nature and consider linkages with the other components, (ii) adhere to international principles for technical assistance (e.g. UNSC, Paris declaration), and (iii) identify institutions capable of providing technical assistance at the regional and country levels.
27. Members expressed concern over the complexity of the CAQ but thanked the implementing partners for pre-filling the questionnaires to reduce response burden. They agreed that the CAQ could not be filled-up by only one agency but by all relevant NSS agencies and that not all questions were necessarily pertinent to all countries. The members of the Steering Group agreed to advocate for the importance of filling-up and timely submittal of the CAQ in their respective countries upon their return. They also agreed that the CAQ will not only provide the basis for the preparation of the technical assistance component, but also a baseline for the region useful for decision making by countries and development partners.
28. In the subgroup discussion, members agreed that countries ought to be categorized along their statistical capacity; political will (e.g. commitment to mainstream agricultural statistics into an NSO-centric NSDS); data availability; importance of agriculture in country's economy or society; and income level. These groupings would help in deciding prioritization of countries for the technical assistance.
29. The subgroup agreed on the following outline for the technical assistance component:
 - a. Prioritization of areas of intervention and technical assistance activities
 - b. Objectives and outcomes of technical assistance at regional level
 - c. Phased approach for implementation (each activity might have different milestones extending beyond phase 1 of five years)
 - d. Budget
 - e. Implementation arrangement (national, sub-regional, regional, institutions)
 - f. Results-based logical framework
 - g. Monitoring and reporting
 - h. Work programme
30. With regards to Table 1 of the global action plan, the subgroup concurred with most of technical assistance activities proposed at the regional level. It however emphasized the following: (i) there should be a two way bottom-up communication going from the national to the regional level, and from the regional to the global level; (ii) global activities do not need to include development of standards in areas

where such standards already exist – UNSC standards for technical assistance is one such example; (iii) there is a need to clarify what is meant by analysis methods in activity 11 (Table 1 of the global action plan); (iv) grant assistance to countries for statistical advocacy in activity 12; and (v) there is a need to develop standards for experts and maintain a database of qualified experts for the region in activity 15.

Methodological Research Component (agenda item 7b)

31. In the plenary discussions, the Steering Group members supported the need for undertaking methodological research to improve agricultural statistics. The research sub-group members discussed the different research topics that were listed in the global action plan and found all the topics important. However, the sub-group members agreed that methodological research for improving data collection and analysis should be given priority.
32. As advised by FAO and specified in the global action plan, research on methods will be coordinated by FAO which will identify the best regional research institutions to undertake them. To complement this approach and to encourage the participation of national statistical systems in the Asia and the Pacific, ADB will provide small financial grants to eligible statistical agencies to undertake their own methodological research in close collaboration with ADB statisticians. Engaging statistical systems in this process would help in securing the commitment of governments to continue the implementation of the recommendations/results of important methodological research. ADB will give priority to research proposals on the two topics (data collection and data analysis) that the sub-group members deemed most important.
33. The sub-group discussions revealed that there are countries in Asia and the Pacific region that are already implementing advanced methods for compilation and forecasting crop production and other agricultural and rural statistics. These countries are also willing to assist other countries in undertaking methodological research. In this regard, ADB in close collaboration with ESCAP and FAO will develop a community of practice website that supports interactive discussions, online newsletter, wikis, blogs and online publishing. Dissemination of the research results from the ADB grants will be done through a regional conference in 2012 or early 2013 and also, through the community of practice website on agricultural and rural statistics.

Training Component (agenda item 7c)

34. The Steering Group members recognized the importance of the training component and the increasing demand for training on agricultural and rural statistics in the region, stressing that the training component needs to focus on priority training needs. The Steering Group members agreed that the Training component can be developed at the same time as the other two components but must take them into

account. The Steering Group members made the following specific recommendations/conclusions concerning the training component:

35. Structure - The Steering Group members have agreed on the following outline of the training component:

- A. Approach
 - a. Survey on training, facilities and needs
 - b. Training needs assessment
 - c. Core skills framework (Global and SIAP)
- B. Objectives and outcomes
- C. Activities, inputs and outputs
 - a. Pilot training programs
 - b. Training programs
 - c. Strengthening the capacity of the training providers/institutions
- D. Implementation arrangements
 - a. Training providers (national, subregional, regional)
 - b. Coordination in the Pacific subregion
 - c. Working Group on the Coordination of Statistical Training
- E. Monitoring Progress
- F. Implementation Plan
- G. Budget

36. Approach – the Steering Group members agreed that the Training component should be developed in line with the global action plan and on the basis of available information such as SIAP training needs survey, FAO assessments etc., as well as information collected by the Working Group on the Coordination of Statistical Training through its ongoing “Survey on training, facilities and needs”.

- a. “Survey on training, facilities and needs’ - the Steering Group members agreed that the results of the survey currently being conducted by Working Group on the Coordination of Statistical Training should be used as the basis for the development of the training component, and in particular for identification of the potential regional/subregional training providers and for understanding of their strengths and weaknesses. The participants further agreed that the Steering Group should coordinate closely with the WGCST when developing the training component.
- b. Training needs assessment - The Steering Group members agreed that a Training needs assessment should be conducted towards the middle of the 2012 and will be considered an activity under training component. The results of the Training needs assessment will be used to develop a training programme for the region (development of which will be shown as an activity of the training component), identify training priorities and form country groupings. The training needs assessment in the Pacific should be

conducted in close collaboration with the SPC, which will coordinate the process in that sub-region.

- c. Core Skills Framework (CSF) - the Steering Group members recognized the usefulness of the SIAP CSF and as such agreed that it should be incorporated into the training component. Efforts should be made to operationalize the CSF and ensure that it lines up with the Global CSF (when it becomes available).
37. Outcome – The Steering Group members agreed to align the outcome of the regional implementation plan with the global action plan.
38. Activities – The Steering Group members expressed some concerns about the division of activities (global, regional and country level) presented in the Table 1, stressing the need for the development of region specific training materials and highlighting the existing capacity in the region to develop and deliver training including training on agricultural and rural statistics. Concerning the specific activities envisaged under the training component for the Asian and Pacific region, the Steering Group made the following recommendations/conclusions:
- a. Pilot training programmes (3rd and 4th Quarter of 2012) – the initial activities under the training component should focus on delivering a “pilot training programme”. The pilot programme should be initiated in 2012 and should focus on the most urgent needs as well as advocacy and raising awareness of the policy makers.
 - b. Training programs (2-3 years to be ready by Jan 2013) – in the second phase the training component should focus on developing a comprehensive training programme (to be developed on the basis of the training needs survey). The training programme will respond to the needs identified in the survey.
 - c. Strengthening the capacity of the training providers/institutions – The training component needs to focus on strengthening the capacity of existing regional, subregional and national training providers/institutions to deliver training. Particular emphasis should be placed on strengthening the national capacity to ensure that countries are able to deliver basic training on their own. Subregional and regional training courses should not focus on basic training but rather on areas that countries lack expertise and experience in (new methods, standards, etc). Training of trainers should be the preferred approach at the subregional and regional levels (with some exceptions particularly in the Pacific subregion).
39. Focus – The training component should focus on ensuring sustainability. Therefore strong emphasis should be made on delivering training of trainers at the regional

level which has a high multiplier effect and which will strengthen in the longer run the national capacity to deliver training.

40. Implementation arrangements - the Steering Group members recommended that the findings of the "Survey on training, facilities and needs" be used as a basis for identification of possible organizations that could be involved in delivering the necessary training and be target institutions for developing training capacity.

Foreseeing the country implementation plans (agenda item 9)

41. The Steering Group members supported the drafting of country action plans to formalize the roadmap for improving agricultural and rural statistics at the national level. The country action plan can also be used for advocacy to secure government commitment and the support of the development community. Drafting of the country action plan requires an analysis of the country's strength and weaknesses of agricultural statistics; identification of priority areas; discussion on how available resources will be managed and a workable approach on how the resource gap can be addressed. This should be undertaken by the responsible government agency in the national statistical system and in consultations with all the major stakeholders.
42. The country action plan is different from the country proposals that will be submitted for funding application. The latter is drafted as a request for support for a specific activity like conducting a survey while a country action plan is geared towards strengthening the capacity of a country to produce accurate agricultural and rural statistics. The drafting of a country action plan or even the updating of an existing statistics development plan can be a country proposal that may be submitted for funding support.
43. The Chair noted that countries are in different stages of statistical development. While there are many that already have a statistics development plan that includes agricultural statistics, there are also many countries in the region that do not yet have a statistics plan. Also, the statistics plans of some countries do not include agricultural statistics. For countries that do not have a plan yet or will need to update the plan, the elements proposed in the presentation are recommended as guide.

Funding strategy, governance mechanism and stakeholder analysis (agenda item 10)

44. The Steering Group recognized the importance of clear funding and governance arrangements for the successful implementation of the regional implementation plan. The Steering Group members carefully reviewed the proposed arrangements and formulated a number of recommendations/conclusions in that regard.

45. “Top down approach” – The Steering Group reviewed the global governance structure and funding arrangements that were under development by the FAO. The Steering Group members expressed their concern about the perception of a “Top down approach” employed at the global level, with the overall impression that decisions are made at the global level with little if any regional or national consultations. The Steering Group emphasized the need for country ownership of the global and regional initiatives to ensure buy in ownership by countries in the region, which is crucial for the success of the initiatives. In this context, some members of the Steering Group were surprised of decisions already been made concerning some “pilot” implementation activities in the region (specifically in Bangladesh and India) without any consultation with the Steering Group and very limited (if any) country consultation. The Steering Group members also expressed their concern about the fact that the current proposal was presented "as final" leaving impression that no scope existed for recommending changes (to the "proposal"). Representative of the FAO explained that the draft Action Plan had already been revised by the Friends of the chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission and had undergone peer review. It was also clarified that some changes can still be made and that the Action Plan, as well as the governance and funding strategies will be submitted to the UNSC in February 2012 where many of the countries from the Asian and Pacific region will be represented.
46. Structure of the "Global Steering Committee" – the Steering Group noted that the proposed "Global Steering Committee" is unbalanced, with a high number of international organizations present on the Committee. The Steering Group stressed the need to pay more attention to a more balanced representation and ensuring that countries have sufficient say in the process to ensure country ownership.
47. Governance arrangements for Asia and the Pacific - given the "rush" to establish the governance structure the Steering Group members agreed to act on temporary basis as the “Steering Committee” for the regional implementation of Global Strategy (subject to endorsement by the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics), to enable implementation in 2012 and flow of funds from the global to regional and country levels. The Steering Group will electronically agree on a proposal for a temporary “Regional Executive Board”. The Steering Group set itself a goal of formulating recommendation on the permanent regional governance structure by August 2012. The Steering Group supported the suggestion of partner organizations that FAO RAP should act as the Asia-Pacific “Fund manager” for the global fund (this was subsequently confirmed by the FAO RAP’s Assistant Director General). The SGAS Secretariat will continue to be housed in FAO RAP.

Developing a common work plan for the steering group (agenda item 11)

48. The Steering Group agreed that the regional implementation plan should be formulated by the middle of 2012 and the initial phase (experimental) of the regional implementation of the Global Strategy should start in the second half of

2012. In that regard, the Steering Group formulated the following recommendations/conclusions concerning its work plan and strategy.

49. Milestones – The Steering Group agreed on the milestones for 2012 (see table 2). The Steering Group agreed that the three components of the regional implementation plan should be drafted by March 2012 so that they can be reviewed and discussed during the second meeting of the Steering Group, tentatively scheduled for April 2012. The Steering Group further agreed that the Draft version of the regional implementation plan should be ready by June 2012 to permit for a comprehensive consultation process (via email) with all the countries in the region, to obtain their views and secure their support prior to the 3rd session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics in December 2012.

Table 2 – Milestones for the development to of the regional implementation plan

Milestone	Date
Draft versions of training, research and technical assistance components	Mar 2012
Second meeting of the Steering Group	Apr 2012
Draft version of the Implementation plan/action plan	May/Jun 2012
Consultation with member states	June 2012
Consideration by legislative bodies	Sep – Dec 2012
Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS)	Sep/Oct 2012
ESCAP Committee on Statistics	Dec 2012

50. Next steps – to meet the very ambitious milestones, the Steering Group agreed on a detail work plan (as presented in table 3).

Table 3 – SGAS Work plan November 2011 to September 2012

Activity	Start	Finish
Deadline for submission of CAQ	16 Dec 2012	16 Dec 2012
Guide the assessment in (and analysis of results) the region	Nov 2011	Jan 2012
Form sub-groups to guide the development of the training, research and technical assistance components	Nov 2011	Dec 2011
Guide the development of and contribute to a Community of Practice Website	Dec 2011	Feb 2012
Guide the preparation of 3 components (inc. training assessment questionnaire) according to the guidelines of the Global Action Plan	Nov 2011	Jun 2012
Guide the preparation of regional implementation plan (bringing the three components together)	Apr 2012	Aug 2012

Ensure the integration of the regional implementation plan with Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics	Jun 2012	Aug 2012
Approve the draft regional implementation plan	Aug 2012	Aug 2012
Provide advice/guide the in-depth country assessments/country proposal	Apr 2012	Sep 2012
Provide advice on (and if possible assist with) resource mobilization and execution of regional implementation plan	Apr 2012	Sep 2012
Consider and make recommendations on the most appropriate governance structure for the implementation of the regional implementation plan for the Global Strategy	Jan 2012	Aug 2012
Assist with the development of country action plans	Aug 2012	
Begin implementation	Aug 2012	

51. Sub-groups - the Steering Group Members agreed to form three sub-groups to guide the development of the 3 components with ESCAP (including SIAP) responsible for the training component, FAO RAP for the technical assistance component and ADB for the research component.

Way forward and conclusions (agenda item 12)

ANNEX I: PROGRAMME

Monday, 21 November 2011

09:00-09:20 **Opening Ceremony**

Welcome Address [Mr Juzhong Zhuang, Deputy Chief Economist, ADB]

09:20-9:45 **Agenda item 1 - Opening of the meeting**

Chair: Mr Romeo Recide, Director, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics,
Department of Agriculture

- Objectives
- Organization
- Introduction of participants
- Adoption of the agenda

9:45-10:15 *Coffee break and group photo*

10:15-11:00 **Agenda item 2 - The Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics**

Chair: Mr Romeo Recide, Director, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics,
Department of Agriculture

- Presentation: Overview of the Global Strategy [Mr Jairo Castano, Senior Statistician, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific]

Overview of the Global Strategy

- The First Pillar—Identifying a Minimum Set of Core Data and Determining National Priorities
- The Second Pillar—Integrating Agriculture into National Statistical Systems Framework to Develop a Master Sample Frame for Agriculture
- The Third Pillar—The Sustainability of Agricultural Statistics through Governance and Statistical Capacity Building

- Discussion

Objectives: To provide an overview of the Global Strategy; and to discuss the three pillars.

11:00-12:00 Agenda item 3 - Implementation of the Global Strategy

Chair: Mr Romeo Recide, Director, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture

- Presentation: Implementation of the Global Strategy [Ms Elisabetta Carfagna, Senior Statistician, Statistics Division, FAO]
 - Global, Regional, and National Governance
 - Interdependent Linkages of Components of the Global Action Plan
 - Country Assessments
 - Technical Assistance Plan
 - Training Plan
 - Research Plan
 - Implementation Strategy, Indicative Budget, and Timeline
 - Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting
 - Governance mechanism
 - Funding modalities
- Discussion

Objective: To analyze in detail the Global Action Plan and its implementation strategy

12:00-13:30 Lunch break

13:30-14:00 Agenda item 4 – Learning from the African experience

Chair: Mr Karpo Dukpa, Statistician, Ministry of Agriculture

- Presentation: Implementation plan for Africa – lessons learned [Ms Elisabetta Carfagna, Senior Statistician, Statistics Division, FAO]
 - Implementation arrangement
 - Dealing with the difference in capacity of African NSSs
 - Winning commitments and ownership
 - Establishing governance structure
 - Ensuring sustainability
- Discussion

Objective: To discuss lessons learned from the preparation of the Action Plan for Africa

14:00-15:00 **Agenda item 5 - Improvement of agricultural and rural statistics in the Asian and Pacific region**

Chair: Mr Karpo Dukpa, Statistician, Ministry of Agriculture

- Presentation: Improvement of agricultural and rural statistics in the Asian and Pacific region [Ms Rikke Munk Hansen, Chief SISS, Statistics Division, ESCAP]
- Presentation: Agricultural and Rural statistics in the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2011 - 2020 [Mr Gerald Haberkorn, Manager, Statistics for Development Programme]
- Committee's decision
- Implementing partners
- The Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics (SGAS)
- Progress made (country assessment, draft training component)
- Discussion

Objective: To provide an overview on the progress made in the Asia-Pacific region

15:00-15:30 *Coffee break*

15:30-17:00 **Agenda item 6 - Status of agricultural statistics systems in member countries: Creating an understanding and identifying intervention needs**

Chair: Mr Karpo Dukpa, Statistician, Ministry of Agriculture

- Presentation: Presentation of preliminary findings from the country assessments and other available information [Ms Dalisay S. Maligalig, Principal Statistician, ADB]
- Discussion

Objectives: Understanding the availability and quality of agricultural and rural statistics in Asia-Pacific countries; identifying common and country specific constraints/ shortcomings; and identifying constraints that can be addressed at the regional level and those which should be addressed at the national level.

Tuesday, 22 November 2011

9:00-10:15 **Agenda item 7 - Components of the regional implementation plan**

Chair: Mr Romeo Recide, Director, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics,
Department of Agriculture

- Presentation and discussion: Technical assistance component [Mr Jairo Castano, Senior Statistician, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific]
- Presentation and discussion: Research component [Ms Dalisay S. Maligalig, Principal Statistician, ADB]
- Presentation and discussion: Training component [Mr Artur Andrysiak, Statistician, ESCAP]

Objective: To discuss the draft outline of the components of the regional implementation plan in the light of the previous sessions.

10:15-10:45 *Coffee break*

10:45-12:00 **Agenda item 7 - Components of the regional implementation plan - continued**

12:00-13:30 *Lunch break*

13:30-15:00 **Agenda item 8 - Development of the components of regional implementation plan (in subgroups)**

Chair: Mr Karpo Dukpa, Statistician, Ministry of Agriculture

- Discussion in Groups

Objective: To discuss in group and further develop the implementation plan components in the light of the discussion/comment/suggestion from plenary sessions, the country assessments results and other relevant previous sessions.

15:00-15:30 *Coffee break*

15:30-17:00 **Agenda item 8 - Development of the components of regional implementation plan (in subgroups) - continued**

Wednesday, 23 November 2011

9:00-10:15 Agenda item 9 - Foreseeing the country implementation plans

Chair: Mr Romeo Recide, Director, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture

- Presentation: Foreseeing the country implementation plans [Ms Dalisay S. Maligalig, Principal Statistician, ADB]
- Discussion

Objectives: To discuss strategies to develop the implementation plan so that it is flexible to adjust to the type and degree of constraints of individual countries; to discuss and create the understanding of a standard format for the preparation of country action plan; and to discuss strategies to align/integrate national action plans into NSDSs.

10:15-10:45 Coffee break

10:45-12:00 Agenda item 10 - Funding strategy, governance mechanism and stakeholder analysis

Chair: Mr Romeo Recide, Director, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture

- Presentation: Funding strategy and governance mechanism [Ms Elisabetta Carfagna, Senior Statistician, Statistics Division, FAO]
- Discussion

Objective: To discuss the potential role of global and regional organizations/ forums/ partnerships in the regional implementation (Partnership, Working Group on Training Coordination, World Bank Virtual Statistical System, etc); to discuss how the work of the SGAS can contribute and benefit from the work of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics and other ongoing regional and international initiatives; to identify stakeholders and key players at the country level; to discuss the current level of understanding by the policy makers of the importance of investing in agricultural statistics; and to discuss ways for facilitating south-south coordination.

12:00-13:30 Lunch break

13:30-15:00 **Agenda item 10 - Funding strategy, governance mechanism and stakeholder analysis - continued**

15:00-15:30 *Coffee break*

15:30-16:30 **Agenda item 11 - Developing a common work plan for the steering group**

Chair: Mr Karpo Dukpa, Statistician, Ministry of Agriculture

- Presentation: Work plan for the steering group [Mr Romeo Recide, Director, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture]
- Discussion

Objectives: To formulate coordination strategies to align the development of different components so that they can be successfully synthesized into one seamless implementation plan; to discuss how the work of one subgroup will influence/give input to others; setting common timeline; and review of the TOR.

16:30-17:00 **Agenda item 12 - Way forward and conclusions**

Chair: Mr Karpo Dukpa, Statistician, Ministry of Agriculture

- Summary and recommendations
- Evaluation of the Meeting
- Closing of the Meeting [Mr Douglas Brooks, Assistant Chief Economist, ADB]

ANNEX II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

AUSTRALIA

Ms Jacky Hodges, Regional Director Tasmania, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Tasmania, Australia

BANGLADESH

Mr Satya Ranjan Mondal, Joint Director, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Dhaka

BHUTAN

Mr Karpo Dukpa, Statistician, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Thimphu

CAMBODIA

Mr Vuthy Srey, Deputy Director, Department of Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Phnom Penh

INDIA

Mr Dalip Singh, Additional Statistical Adviser, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi

Mr Vijay Kumar Bhatia, Director, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi

INDONESIA

Mr Ardief Achmad, Director of Food Crops, Horticulture and Estate Crops Statistics, BPS - Statistics, Jakarta

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Mr Masoud Asadi, Deputy Director General, Office of Agricultural Statistics, Statistical Centre of Iran, Tehran

JAPAN

Mr Kenji Kamikura, Senior Statistician, Statistics Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Tokyo

MALDIVES

Ms Fathimath Abdulla Saeed, Economist, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Male

PHILIPPINES

Mr Romeo Recide, Director, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Quezon City, Philippines

SAMOA

Mr Laupua Fiti, ACEO, Economic Statistics, Samoa Bureau of Statistics, Apia

SRI LANKA

Mr Herath Rasnayaka Mudiyansele, Senior Agriculture Economist, Socio Economics and Planning Centre, Department of Agriculture, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

THAILAND

Ms Supaporn Bongsunun, Senior Statistician, Office of Agricultural Economics, Bangkok

VIET NAM

Mr Quang Vinh Pham, Director, Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fishery Statistics, General Statistics Office of Viet Nam, Hanoi

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)

Mr Douglas H. Brooks, Director, ERDI, ADB, Manila

Ms Dalisay Maligalig, Principal Statistician, ADB, Manila

Mr Guntur Sugiyarto, Senior Economist, Development Indicators and Policy Research Division, Economics and Research Department, ADB, Manila

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID)

Ms Franziska Kohler, Assistant Statistician, DFID, London

ESCAP

*CENTRE FOR ALLEVIATION OF POVERTY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE (CAPSA)*

Ms Katinka Weinberger, Head, CAPSA, Bogor, Indonesia

STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)

Mr Alope Kar, Statistician/Lecturer, SIAP, Chiba, Japan

STATISTICS DIVISION

Ms Rikke Munk Hansen, Chief, Statistical Information Services Section (SISS)

Mr Artur Andrysiak, Statistician, SISS,

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)

Ms Elisabetta Carfagna, Senior Statistician, Statistics Division, FAO, Rome

Mr Jairo Castaño, Senior Statistician, Economic, Social and Policy Assistance Group (ESP), FAO, Bangkok

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC)

Mr Gerald Haberkorn, Manager, Statistics for Development Programme, SPC, Noumea Cedex

ANNEX III: MEMBERSHIP OF THE STEERING GROUP FOR AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Afghanistan | Mr Azizullah Faqiri, Head of Economic Statistics, Central Statistics Organization |
| 2. Australia | Ms Jacqueline (Jacky) Hodges, Regional Director, Tasmanian office and Program Manager, Environment and Agriculture BSC |
| 3. Bangladesh | Mr Satya Ranjan Mondal, Joint Director, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics |
| 4. Bhutan (Vice-Chair) | Mr Karpo Dukpa, Statistician, Ministry of Agriculture |
| 5. India | Mr Rajeev Lochan, Adviser (Agricultural Statistics), Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture |
| 6. Indonesia | Mr Ardief Achmad, Director of Food Crops, Horticulture and Estate Crops Statistics, BPS |
| 7. Iran | Mr Masoud Asadi, Deputy Director General, Office of Agriculture Statistics, Statistical Centre of Iran |
| 8. Japan | Mr Kenji Kamikura, Senior Statistician, Planning Division, Statistics Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries |
| 9. Maldives | Ms Fathimath Abdulla Saeed, Economist, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture |
| 10. Myanmar | Mr Soe Win Maung, Director, Department of Agriculture Planning, Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation |
| 11. Philippines (Chair) | Mr Romeo Recide, Director, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture |
| 12. Russian Federation | Mr Alexey Gospodarev, Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture |
| 13. Sri Lanka | Dr R M Herath, Agriculture Economist, Socio Economics & Planning Centre, Department of Agriculture |

14. Thailand Ms Unchana Tracho, Director of Center for Agricultural Information, Office of Agricultural Economics
15. Viet Nam Mr Pham Quang Vinh, Director, Department of Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Statistics, General Statistics Office (GSO) of Viet Nam
16. ADB Mr Douglas Brooks, Assistant Chief Economist
17. DFID Ms Frances Harper, Head of Profession for Statistics & Team Leader, Global Statistics Partnerships Team, Research & Evidence Division
18. IFAD Dr Ganesh Thapa, Regional Economist, Asia and the Pacific Division
19. SPC Dr Gerald Haberkorn, Manager, Statistics for Development Programme
20. IASRI Mr Vijay Kumar Bhatia, Director, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute
21. Chairman, Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS) Mr Hong Narit, Acting Director, Department of Planning and Statistics, MAFF, Cambodia.
22. FAO Ex officio
23. FAO– Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (**Joint Secretariat**) Mr Jairo Castano, Senior Statistician, Economic, Social and Policy Assistance Group (ESP)
24. ESCAP Statistics Division (**Joint Secretariat**) Ex officio