Fiji notes the progress in implementing the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan and we are thankful to the assistance of FAO to the work in Fiji.

With political commitment through a very supportive Agriculture Minister, the Budgetary Allocation of the Ministry of Agriculture's Statistics Unit has increased substantially, with additional positions created and an intensive training programme underway aimed at improving the quality of data collection carried out by the Ministry. A senior officer of the Fiji Bureau of Statistics is now heading the Ministry of Agriculture's Statistics Unit.

The developments augur well with FAO's efforts given that Fiji is one of 9 priority countries targeted for implementation activities and there are advanced discussions to include Agriculture related questions in our next Population and Housing Census.

Fiji did not have a chance to speak. He wishes to include his statement in the report if possible.