



Global Strategy
IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS
IN ASIA PACIFIC




Priorities and Challenges in the SDG Monitoring - FAO regional perspective

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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Presentation Outline

- FAO's role in monitoring the SDGs
- FAO commitments
- FAO ongoing work in the region
- Reflections on Asia Pacific situation
- Challenges and potential strategies
- Conclusions



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FAO's role in monitoring the SDGs

20 SDG indicators under FAO custodianship (across SDGs 2, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15) and contributing to further 5 indicators

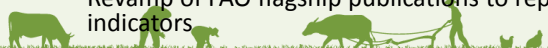
- Compared to only 4 indicators monitored by FAO in the MDG process

Major role for FAO:

- Globally: develop methods and survey tools; contribution to the IAEG-SDG; report progress in FAO and UN publications; data dissemination
- Regionally: additional regional indicators; contribute to regional reports;
- Nationally: support countries to produce the required global indicators; additional national indicators; contribute to national reports.

In addition:

- New partnerships: Global (UNWOMEN, WB, UNCCD etc.) and regional level
- New database on FAO-related SDG indicators
- Revamp of FAO flagship publications to report on the FAO-relevant SDG indicators



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FAO commitments

Contribution to the IAEG-SDG

- Next meeting in October 2016

Corporate Plan for Statistical Capacity Development

- Training programmes to roll-out guidelines/manuals developed by the HQ statistics units;
- Technical assistance to enable the improvement of national surveys or the use of new data sources for the collection and dissemination of food and agricultural statistics;
- Technical assistance to help identify national- or regional-specific SDG indicators
- Vertical and horizontal in-house coordination
 - (Ag. statistics is decentralized by nature)



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Ongoing work of FAO in Asia Pacific

- **FAO Regular Statistics Programs**
 - Food Security Statistics
 - World Program for Census of Agriculture 2016-25
 - AMIS (G-20 initiative)
 - Forestry, Environment, Fishery, Water, Gender, Social protection etc
- **Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics**
 - Implementation ongoing in 16 AP countries (target is 20 countries completed by end 2017)
 - **SIAP** and **ADB** partners in implementation
 - **Capacity Assessment, Strategic Planning, Technical Assistance, Training and Research** are main ingredients of implementation
 - Strategic Plans for agricultural and Rural Statistics (**SPARS**) and In-depth Capacity Assessment (**IdCA**) **Reports** to guide country statistics systems in the next 10 years.



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Implementing 2030 Agenda- Reflections on Capacity of NSS in the Region

- **Constraints**
 - Agricultural data availability is reasonable, concern on data quality (Admn. Reporting systems main basis in many countries)
 - Censuses (few countries yet to do their first Ag Census e.g. PNG and TL)
 - NSOs have experience in Strategic planning for statistics but not the line ministries (many countries preparing SPARS for first time)
 - Not enough integration of agriculture in NSS (e.g. lack of a common census and survey calendar for NSS)
 - Statistical infrastructure, Human and Financial resources under stress to meet 2030 agenda
 - Statistician manpower capability: very weak in some countries, no base training
- **Positive signs**
 - Stronger Political will to improve NSS in the countries e.g. Fiji, Myanmar, Bangladesh)
 - Greater adoption of ICT (used of for ag census in Thailand, Iran, and over 10 other countries demanded support on this)
 - Appreciation of the need for better Coordination and Partnerships across stakeholders to meet data needs (Lao PDR, Bangladesh, India)



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Challenges and Potential Strategies

- **Prioritization to meet high expectations**
 - Technical Assistance needed on wide variety of technical domains covered by SDG indicator framework
 - We need a better understanding of country needs (National priorities) for monitoring SDGs
- **Resource gap**
 - At least 20 countries will be ready with their SPARS by the end of 2017.
- **Limited availability of ready experts**
 - Investments on potential experts is needed

Solutions

- **South-South Cooperation** being promoted (Bangladesh to Afghanistan, Vietnam)
- **Bilateral to multilateral:**
 - Indian bilateral experts to Afghanistan to work with FAO for greater synergy.
 - NASS-FAO support to Bangladesh
- **Model making** while we solve issues at country level during SPARS: **Samoa, Bangladesh, Indonesia**
- **Sub-regional approaches: P-SPAFS (FAO-SPC initiative)**



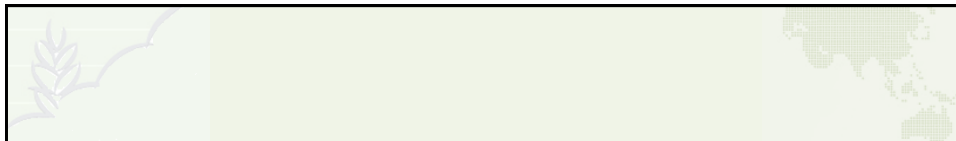
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Conclusions


- **Both NSOs and line Ministries will need capacity building support given the huge SDG indicator framework.**
- **NSOs have better capacity in relation to line ministries. Specific focus on line ministries sectorial statistics to meet SDG requirements**
- **Common Support framework at regional level for cross cutting themes/areas**
- **Domain specific CB by each agency**
- **Resource mobilization and better coordination at national and international level will be the guiding element for SDG monitoring**
- **Regional Level**
 - Synergy between Training and TA
 - Well thought policy on training for making an impact on country capacity
- **National Level**
 - Coordination between DPs
 - SPARS with NSDS e.g. Myanmar
 - Funding support to implement SPARS/NSDS
 - Bridge the disconnect between NSO and Line Ministries
 - Setting up of high level Steering/ Coordinating bodies



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- Thank your very much!



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