

“On behalf of the Regional Steering Committee of the Asia Pacific Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve agriculture and Rural Statistics, I thankfully acknowledge the support and encouragement of countries to this programme. In particular I would like to mention contributions of Korea, Iran and Japan.

In response to question from Vanuatu, I would like clarify that Global Strategy follows a broader definition of agricultural sector which includes fisheries and forest sub-sectors as well, as against just crop and livestock covered in the ISIC. This broader definition is necessary because means of production and decision making at household is common. This broader definition can be followed for integrated data collection but the data has to be kept conceptually separate for the purpose of National Income Accounting by sectors as defined in the ISIC.

On behalf of FAO, I would like to mention that FAO provides support to member countries through a number of other modalities supported by Regular Programme of FAO which are guided by the Country Programming Framework (CPF) of FAO which is agreed with the Government, and guides the total technical assistance provides to a country from FAO in different areas. I call upon the member countries to adequately prioritize the capacity building needs in statistics in their respective CPFs. This will facilitate augmenting the resource base for providing technical support to countries to build their capacity to monitor the SDGs relevant to agriculture sector. Finally, I would like to communicate that FAO stands ready to support the efforts of countries to build the capacity of their statistical systems to monitor the SDGs as soon as they are localized.