

TEN YEAR PACIFIC STATISTICS STRATEGY (TYPSS) Phase II
11TH PACIFIC STATISTICS STEERING COMMITTEE (PSSC) MEETING

Tanoa Plaza Hotel, Suva, Fiji Islands
24th – 27th November, 2015

PSSC-11 Agenda Item 10.4

Meeting Paper Title: “Strategic Planning for Agriculture and Fishery Statistics”:
Workshop Outcomes

1. Purpose of Paper

This document is to provide a brief overview of the outcomes of the workshop “Strategic Planning for Agriculture and Fishery Statistics” and to inform the PSSC of developments on agricultural and fishery statistics in the Pacific.

2. Introduction / Background

The workshop was conducted over 4 days between the 4th and 8th of October 2015. It was attended by 44 participants representing planners, statisticians and policy makers from 14 Pacific Islands. The workshop was jointly organised by SPC and FAO under the umbrella of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

The objective of the workshop was to improve the collection and use of agricultural and rural statistics in the Pacific, by bringing together key stakeholders to take stock of the current situation of agricultural and fisheries statistics, with a view to developing a shared vision on scope and coverage of a proposed Pacific Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics.

3. Key Developments

The three **key results** from the workshop were:

- **Information** on global and regional methodological approaches and innovations for the collection, use and dissemination of agriculture and fishery statistics **shared with participants.**
 - These included for example: changes in the 2020 round of World Census of Agriculture; the Agricultural Integrated Survey approach, capacity assessment questionnaire; use of Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing technology; POPGis; integration of modules into HIES and Population Census.
- Participants agreed on the proposal to create a **Pacific Strategic Plan on Agriculture and Fishery Statistics** which is to be well harmonised with existing regional and national strategies while also filling the recognised gaps for agriculture and fishery statistics in the Pacific.

- A **Technical Working Group** (TWG) was established to take forward the work of developing the Strategic Plan.

On day 3 and 4 of the workshop, participants conducted group discussions around the objective, and potential activities of the proposed Strategic Plan. The outcome of these discussions is appended to this document and available in the workshop report. It is important to note that proposed objective and activities are highly complementary with TYPSS.

Next steps for development of the Strategic Plan were proposed by the organisers and agreed upon by participants, these included:

- Development of a Concept Note to gain endorsement from appropriate fora;
- Develop a roadmap and timetable for development of the strategy;
- Establish a vision and mission for the agricultural statistical system in the next 10 years;
- Identify results, outputs and activities (using feedback from workshop group discussions) to draft a strategy;
- Finalise the draft following stakeholder consultation.

The above activities will be steered by the TWG. The TWG is 'small and efficient' and comprised of 7 members representing a range of experience and geographical locations. The SPC and FAO organisers of the workshop will form a joint secretariat of the TWG with a consultant hired to help progress the work.

4. Key Issues

Discussions throughout the workshop were around the following thematic areas:

- Statistics play a fundamental role in evidence-based policy making and agricultural and fishery statistics are important for key development objectives on **food security** and adaptation to **climate change**;
- Statistics need to be **used to be useful** hence there should be emphasis on translating the meaning of statistics for non-specialist audiences and communicating them effectively;
- It is very important to build on and **complement existing** national and regional approaches including the Global Strategy, the TYPSS and National Statistics for Development Strategies.

5. Key Recommendations

For PSSC Information Only

6. Annex

Annex I: Extract from the Draft Workshop Report on discussions of the Strategic Plan.

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[The following text is extracted from the workshop report which will be available at www.spc.int/pafpnet once finalised]

SUMMARY OF GROUP WORK ON THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERY STATISTICS

On day 3 and 4 of the workshop “Strategic Planning for Agricultural and Fishery Statistics in the Pacific” participants were put into groups to discuss various aspects of the proposed Pacific Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics. The following is a summary of the outcomes of those discussions:

What are the critical agriculture and fisheries and rural data gaps, constraints and challenges in your country?

- The need for more accurate and reliable agricultural data that is comparable over time and across countries.
- The need for better collaboration and harmonization across agencies plus also national, regional and global approaches. This includes linkages across sectoral and national plans and frameworks to ensure statistics have a greater alignment with national priorities.
- The need for more usage of existing and planned statistical data, in particular increased inclusion of agricultural data in evidence-based policy making and development decisions.
- Accessibility and transport, such as to remote islands or highlands.
- Human resources in terms of the number of staff as well as technical capacity of staff, and the need to build on existing systems and capacity with a focus on sustainability.
- Funding remains an ongoing challenge, with census being expensive and time consuming, as does the need to have national level ‘champions’ or advocates for improved budget prioritisation of national statistics.
- The need for more Information Technology (IT) support and collaboration.
- Reliability of data from the ‘general public’ given poor or non-existent record keeping, especially from subsistence farmers.
- Inconsistencies of classifications (i.e. general “bundles” of produce versus specific kilograms) coupled with the need to further improve the adaptation and adoption of standard tools and methodologies.

What would be the main objective of a regional strategy on agriculture and fishery statistics?

To build countries’ capacity to collect, use and disseminate agriculture and fisheries statistics to meet their requirements for national policy making and monitoring and to meet international commitments such as SDGs by:

- Continuing and enhancing work on the harmonization of agriculture and fisheries statistics in Pacific Island countries using international and regional concepts, definitions, classifications and tools;

- Improving the efficiency of collection activities through establishing agriculture and fishery survey and census schedules;
- Increasing the use of new technologies for data collection and dissemination;
- Further integrating agriculture and fisheries statistics into National Statistics Systems (NSS) and thereby fostering improved coordination between agencies involved in agriculture and fisheries statistics;
- Improving awareness of the value of agriculture and fisheries statistics by better communicating and translating the meaning of statistical information to stakeholders such as policy makers.

What would be the key activities included in the Strategic Plan?

Statistics production;

- Continue to improve the adaptation and adoption of existing tools and methods for collection of a range of agriculture and fisheries statistics
- Encourage broader adoption of the Agriculture Integrated Surveys (AGRIS) approach
- Encourage further regional training and capacity building
- Further establish mechanisms to integrate TYPSS and SPARS into countries
- Further harmonise standard tools, templates and approaches (including data sets) that can create efficiencies for countries, as well as be shared across countries
- Further the use of existing tools and particularly new technologies through CAPI. This includes investigating the possible sharing of IT resources (such as tablets) by Pacific Island countries.

Statistics dissemination;

- Continue to develop and strengthen capacity development programs, including through “improved” South-South (or intra Pacific) knowledge sharing and collaborations (recognizing there are already many collaborative efforts in existence)
- Consider the development and adoption of training programmes on data analysis and summarization
- Further the use of new tools and technologies for data dissemination such as POPGis.

Statistics use;

- Develop a public awareness campaign to enhance understanding and use of statistics
- Continue to seek high level advocates for statistical approaches
- Consider the development and adoption of training programmes on understanding and practically using statistics in strategic planning, policy and other development activities
- Continue to work with the Global Strategy (GS) on initiatives, being mindful of the unique aspects of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
- Continue to link with existing systems and processes, and increase awareness of what is already “on the ground”
- Research on the application of statistics to policy concerns e.g. further development of use of HIES on food security issues

- Support for the application and use of research produced through the GS.

What are the next steps for developing the Strategic Plan?

- Implementation component should be included in the strategic plan
- Promote the plan to ensure the actual use of statistics and the involvement of cross-sectoral stakeholders from NSO and agriculture ministries
- Circulate the draft to donors, SPC and others for feedback
- Seek high level endorsement such as from PIFS
- Consider inviting PSSE
- Incorporate objectives of the plan with governments and regional development plans' objectives.

Most importantly they said that a Technical Working Group should be established to help guide the development of the strategy.

Participants agreed on the composition of the TWG being small and efficient with members representing experience across a variety of strategies and approaches, including:

- National Statistics Office (NSO)
- Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (GS)
- Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS)
- National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)
- Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS)
- Mix of people from National Statistics Offices (NSO) and agriculture, fisheries or forestry.
- Minimum one member from each of: Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia
- Minimum one member from a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) with preference to those not currently running census or related activity, and one member from a larger Pacific nation with experience operationalizing census and other activities
- Consideration to include development partners.

The TWG members are:

- (TWG Chair) Patrick Arioka, Senior Secretary of Agriculture, Department of Policy, Ministry of Agriculture, Cook Islands.
- (TWG Vice-Chair) Edith Faaola, Samoa Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Samoa Bureau of Statistics
- Simil Johnson, Head of Vanuatu National Statistics Office
- Manaia Halafihi, Tonga Head of Policy and Planning Unit, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Forestry and Fisheries
- Marlyter Silbanuz, FSM Deputy Assistant Secretary Ministry of Agriculture
- Kiribati (Kiribati accepted nomination, with the specific nominee to be confirmed)
- Leon Hickie, Principle Fisheries Office, Statistics and Information. Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Solomon Islands

It was agreed that the SPC and FAO organisers of the workshop would form a joint secretariat of the TWG and that a consultant would be hired to progress the work.