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Pacific – Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics (P-SPAFS)

Anna Fink, Agricultural Statistician, SPC

Michael Sharp, Economic Advisor, SPC

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to:
 - provide a summary of the draft Pacific – Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics (P-SPAFS); and
 - seek endorsement from Heads of Fisheries on the draft plan.

Rationale

1. Three quarters of the Pacific population live in rural areas and rely largely on agriculture and fishing for their livelihoods. These populations are vulnerable to the long term impact of climate change and the devastation caused by frequent natural disasters. Long term declines in agricultural productivity are undermining the sustainability of these livelihoods and have contributed to a rise in diet related Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) such as obesity and diabetes. NCDs are responsible for three quarters of deaths in the Pacific (World Bank, 2014). Investing in sustainable agricultural development will help tackle two of the greatest challenges facing the region: climate change and NCDs.
2. While the agriculture sector is a priority for development, the delivery of effective government programmes is hampered by insufficient accessible and reliable data. Evidence-based policy requires timely, relevant and reliable statistics for use by policy makers.

3. P-SPAFS provides a mechanism through which Pacific users and producers of agricultural statistics can define their priorities and establish a common vision for the development of sustainable agricultural statistics systems. Furthermore, it provides a structure for bringing together existing and potential partners to give support and resources to help achieve that vision.

Development of P-SPAFS

4. This Strategic Plan was initiated in 2015 through a regional meeting of more than 50 agricultural statisticians and planners from 14 Pacific islands. It has since been developed under the guidance of a Technical Working Group comprised of planners and statisticians representing the different sub-regions of the Pacific and different capacities with agricultural statistics. The work has been supported by a partnership between the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Asia Pacific, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation Pacific regional programme and the Pacific Community, both through its Statistics for Development Division and the European Union (EU) supported Intra ACP Pacific Agricultural Policy Project (PAPP) implemented through its Land Resources Division.
5. The plan presented herein is the most current draft (March 2017). It is envisaged that the current draft plan will not significantly change and it is on this basis that endorsement from Heads of Fisheries for the draft plan is sought. The plan will be finalised in 2017 (preparatory phase) and implemented from 2018.

The Vision

6. The vision of P-SPAFS is for a region where decisions relating to food security and sustainable agricultural and fisheries development are based on evidence from high quality, timely and relevant statistics. This will be achieved through strengthening the collection, dissemination and use of statistics relating to food security, agriculture, fisheries and natural resources. The Plan has four main objectives:
 - A. Significantly increased availability and quality of a core set of regionally comparable statistical indicators related to food security, agriculture, fisheries and natural resources ('agricultural statistics');
 - B. Agricultural statistics fully integrated into national statistical systems with robust coordinating mechanisms established through National Strategies for the Development of Statistics or other appropriate frameworks;
 - C. Better use of agricultural statistics through data dissemination systems and tools and increased awareness by policy and decision makers of the data collection sources, processes, data quality and data limitations; and
 - D. Increased capacity to collect, compile, process, interpret, analyse and disseminate agricultural statistics on a sustainable basis and to use a wide range of data and information for evidence based policy and decision making.

Scope

7. Agricultural statistics in P-SPAFS include statistics on crops, livestock, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries and land use and will be used to understand issues relating to food security, sustainable livelihoods, climate change and disaster risk management, and economic development. The Strategic Plan includes all Pacific Community members and participation in activities will be determined by national needs, interests and priorities.

Implementation

8. From the outset P-SPAFS seeks to bring together users and producers of agricultural statistics to ensure data is relevant and used to create evidence based policy creation. It will also focus on building regional level tools and approaches in order to provide the greatest benefit to the greatest number. It will work with and complement other regional frameworks particularly the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS).
9. One of the first activities will be establishing data demands by reviewing Pacific priority Sustainable Development Goals and data demands in National Agricultural Policies as well as other relevant regional frameworks and the existing agricultural National Minimum Development Indicators. Data demands will then be used to help shape the design of data collection activities.
10. Support will be provided for cost-effective collection methodologies which help improve the quality and comparability of statistics. This may include moving towards an integrated system of data collection across different surveys, the improvement of administrative data and greater use of technology, particularly tablets and smartphones for survey management.
11. Emphasis will be placed on strengthening the integration of agriculture into national statistics systems in order to improve co-ordination and collaboration between statistics users and producers. Resources will also be directed towards increasing the availability of statistics that are produced and to raising the visibility of the importance of agricultural statistics through advocacy events.
12. All areas of work will be supported by capacity building through a variety of different mediums. Priority will be given to using existing knowledge within the region by supporting south-south co-operation and mentoring and twinning arrangements. This will be augmented through the development of formal training programmes and, where appropriate, strengthening statistical units within Ministries of Agriculture.
13. P-SPAFS will be a 10 year strategy overseen by a Steering Committee of stakeholders including agricultural and fishery statisticians and planners, regional private and civil society organisation representatives and key contributing partners. It is envisioned that a Co-ordinating Unit will be established to support management of the P-SPAFS and deliver some core technical assistance. 2017 will be a critical preparatory phase of foundational activities such as formalising the governance structure, finalising the activities for Phase 1 (2018-2020) and committing resources.
14. Building a sustainable agricultural statistical system is a long term process. This process started many years ago in the Pacific and it will continue after the lifetime of P-SPAFS. P-SPAFS will therefore endeavour to help the agricultural sector engage and articulate their requirements in the development of their National Statistics Development Strategies. It will also report to and participate in activities within TYPSS such as working groups and intra-regional cooperation. The ultimate indicator of the success of P-SPAFS will be that a separate coordinating mechanism for agricultural statistics is no longer required but is fully integrated into regional and national statistical systems.

Recommendations

15. Heads of Fisheries are invited to:
 - Note the progress made in the development of P-SPAFS;
 - Support and promote the vision, mission and objectives of P-SPAFS; and
 - Endorse the draft plan.

Appendix 1: P-SPAFS Vision, Mission and Objectives

Vision

'A region where decisions relating to food security and sustainable agricultural development, including fisheries and natural resources, are based on evidence from high quality, timely and relevant statistics'

The ultimate objective of the P-SPAFS is to increase the use of evidence in the development, implementation and evaluation of projects and programmes which seek to develop the agricultural and fisheries sectors for the purpose of strengthening food security, increasing the sustainability of rural livelihoods and promoting economic development.

Mission

'To strengthen the collection, dissemination and use of statistics related to food security, agriculture, fisheries and natural resources, for evidence-based planning and policy formulation and to support private sector decision making'

P-SPAFS's vision will be achieved by strengthening the collection, dissemination and use of statistics by agricultural and fisheries stakeholders, both within public and private sectors. Users of agricultural statistics have an important role to play in determining priority data needs. They also have a vested interest in the quality of such statistics, particularly in terms of availability and timeliness. A two-pronged approach will, therefore, be adopted by P-SPAFS to strengthen both the capacity to collect, and the capacity to use, agricultural data.

Objective A: High-quality and regionally comparable statistics made available

Significantly increased availability and quality of a core set of regionally comparable statistical indicators related to food security, agriculture, fisheries and natural resources (collectively referred to as 'agricultural statistics')

A lack of high quality and relevant statistics is consistently cited in regional agricultural policies as a limitation on the effectiveness of the monitoring and implementation of government support. One of the central objectives of the Global Strategy is to support the collection of core minimum data sets to help monitor development goals. Indeed, a similar request was voiced by the Heads of Planning and Statistics in the Pacific in 2010, which led to the development of the National Minimum Development Goals.

With the Pacific islands commitments to meet the SDGs as well as other regional objectives under the S.A.M.O.A Pathway and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, a set of core indicators is more important than ever. These indicators need to meet multiple reporting objectives and be comparable across the region.

Key outputs under this objective are:

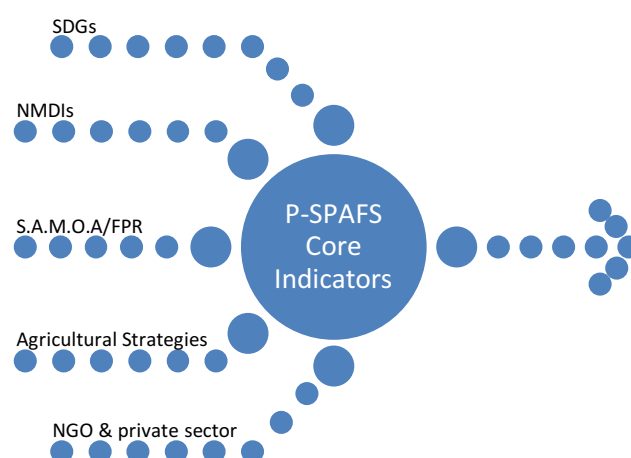
Output A1 - Core set of regionally comparable agricultural statistics indicators regularly compiled and disseminated publicly

Output A2- New and existing data collection mechanisms and methodologies supported to meet data requirements of the core minimum dataset

Output A3 - New data collection technologies adopted

The first activity conducted under Objective A will be the establishment of a core set of regional indicators on agriculture which will reflect the demands of monitoring of regional development issues such as strengthening food security, tackling NCDs, increasing the sustainability of rural livelihoods and increasing domestic and external trade. This will be done by building on the existing agriculture, forestry and fisheries NMDIs through a review of the Pacific Framework for Regionalism (FPR), the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway, reporting obligations for the SDGs and requirements for national agricultural policies and strategies. Data demands of the private sector and civil society should also be taken into account as far as they are relevant at a regional level.

Once the indicators have been established the metadata will be developed, data items defined and data sources identified. This will help to direct work on amending existing data collection mechanisms and designing new mechanisms. The emphasis of this objective is to ensure data collection mechanisms are well aligned with data demands.



Based on our current understanding of the situation some of the anticipated activities (to be confirmed after the indicators are developed) may include:

- Amendments and promotion of existing agriculture modules in the HIES and PHC
- Establishment of market surveys and administrative data systems
- Work on establishing regional standards and classifications
- Establishment of a standardised agricultural census
- Development of an integrated approach to agricultural surveys

Working groups on data collection methodologies could be used to explore greater harmonisation of agricultural statistics standards and classifications in order to support integrated approaches to agricultural data collection and greater use of microdata for regional comparisons.

This objective will also include support for regional solutions for greater use of ICT in data collection, particularly Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). This would include, for example, capacity building on the use of CAPI software and trials of agricultural surveys and censuses using tablets and smartphones.

Objective B: Agriculture statistics integrated into statistical systems

Agricultural statistics fully integrated into national statistical systems with robust coordinating mechanisms established through National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs) or other appropriate frameworks

At national level agricultural statistics have lagged behind other sectors largely due to their traditional isolation from the national statistics system. Agriculture statistics collection is often divided between National Statistics Offices and the relevant line ministries without clearly defined roles and responsibilities and with little sharing of resources or standards. In order to establish a sustainable foundation for increasing collection and use of agricultural statistics it is vital that the different agencies responsible for agricultural statistics work together effectively and efficiently.

At a regional level it is also important that sustainable frameworks are established for continuing to communicate and advocate for the importance of agricultural and fisheries statistics in tackling regional development challenges. Integrating P-SPAFS into regional planning structures such as TYPSS is therefore important for the sustainability of P-SPAFS impacts.

Key outputs under this objective are:

Output B1 - Activities of P-SPAFS integrated in the TYPSS workplan

Output B2 - Agriculture adequately integrated in new and revised NSDSs

Output B3 - Strategic plans for agricultural and rural statistics prepared

Output B4 - Support integration of the agriculture dimension into existing national censuses and surveys

P-SPAFS is aligned with the current phase of TYPSS and will report to the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee on activities, and will participate in activities conducted under TYPSS. This will include participation in cross-sectoral working groups such as the current groups on ICT, common tools and methods and monitoring and evaluation if they are continued into the third phase of TYPSS. P-SPAFS Phase 1 workplan will be developed taking into account the activities and priority areas of TYPSS Phase 3. Ultimately it is hoped that the workplan of P-SPAFS can be fully integrated into TYPSS in the later phases of P-SPAFS implementation.

Many PICTs have begun to strengthen their national statistics systems through the development of NSDSs. P-SPAFS will endeavour to support line ministries to identify their data needs and participate productively in the development of NSDSs. For countries participating in the Global Strategy this will be largely through the development of Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics. For other Pacific islands this may include recommendations on the effective use of regional agricultural statistics data collection mechanisms. Considerable progress has already been made in collecting food and agricultural data through the PHC and HIES. This approach is particularly important for the smaller countries that do not have the resources to mount a separate agricultural census or survey. This approach will be further refined and evaluated and countries supported in this process.

Objective C: Data disseminated and awareness raised on the importance of agricultural statistics

Better use of agricultural statistics through improved data dissemination systems and tools and increased awareness by policy and decision makers of the data collection sources, processes, data quality and data limitations

A study in 2012 of the status of agricultural statistics in the Pacific (APCAS, 2012) found that three of the top five constraints to agricultural statistics were related to a lack of demand for statistics from high-level policy makers. This is not just a Pacific phenomenon but global, and the general decrease in investment in statistics in the past few decades has become the target of a new global ‘data revolution’. Lack of demand leads to low investment, which results in poor statistics and further reduces demand. Actively working to counteract this negative cycle is essential for sustainable statistical systems.

Key outputs under this objective are:

Output C1 - Public awareness and advocacy events conducted on the regional agricultural statistics strategy and the importance of agricultural statistics

Output C2 - Publications using agricultural statistics to highlight current trends in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, market trends in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, household food and nutrition

Output C3 - Research tools and outputs for the region generated and promoted

Output C4 - Data dissemination strengthened by improving access of stakeholders to agricultural statistics

The importance of agricultural data and information in the decision making process, how to access it and how to use it will be the subject of an advocacy campaign directed at politicians, planners, extension officers, farmers and the public at large. This will be directed through the establishment of a communication and advocacy strategy which will promote P-SPAFS itself and also the importance of agricultural and fisheries statistics more generally. This will include the roll-out of training at national level on communication and advocacy of agricultural statistics, which has been initiated by SIAP through the Global Strategy.

Publications and research on food security in the region using HIES data will be continued and new publications highlighting market trends and the state of agriculture in the Pacific developed. The emphasis of research will be on policy recommendations in order to emphasise the importance of agricultural statistics for decision making on issues such as import dependence, market competitiveness and tackling NCDs.

The Global Strategy has produced a wide body of research on the production and use of agricultural statistics and over time activities will be developed to help apply this research in the Pacific context. To facilitate the analytical work, P-SPAFS will support activities to improve data dissemination and data access. In-depth analysis requires access to micro-data sets or working closely with the institutions responsible for maintaining such data sets. This type of access can conflict with the requirements for data confidentiality as specified in the Statistics Acts. Over the lifetime of P-SPAFS work will be done with NSOs to develop data access protocols to facilitate research and analysis. Combined with work on harmonisation of agricultural statistics standards and classifications under

Objective A, this would provide the pre-conditions for the establishment of a regional database, which provides agricultural statistics at the micro and macro level and therefore enables access to both casual and technical users. This would represent a significant step forward in regard to access to statistics that would assist greater engagement in the policy management cycle across governmental divisions and also from the non-government and private sectors.

Dissemination of statistics will also be supported through the production of user-friendly factsheets, the development and extension of online databases and the improvement of national level websites including greater use of GIS mapping tools.

Objective D: Strong capacity for compiling and using agricultural data

Increased capacity to collect, compile, process, interpret, analyse and disseminate agricultural statistics on a sustainable basis and to use a wide range of data and information for evidence based policy and decision making

The final objective is cross cutting and will support all of the other components of P-SPAFS. It seeks to increase capacity across all aspects of data collection and use and will work with a wide variety of actors from extension officers in the field, government policy makers and planners, and young adults and farmers.

Key outputs under this objective are:

Output D1 - Training and technical assistance provided to data producers to collect and compile agricultural statistics

Output D2 - Training and technical assistance provided to data users to analyse and use data for policy making

Output D3 - Module on agricultural statistics included in USP statistics course

Output D4 - Respondents better informed on the purpose and specific data requirements of agricultural censuses and surveys

The preferred method for sustainable capacity building in the Pacific, as articulated by the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC), is South-South Cooperation, the establishment of intra-regional working groups and twinning/mentoring (PSSC, 2016). These approaches will be key activities under this objective and will be further supported by additional forms of capacity building such as formal education and training and long term technical assistance.

On data collection and compilation the focus will be on building skills and increasing knowledge on statistics standards and methodologies. For example, this will include training for extension officers on sampling for statistical surveys and training for statistics officers on estimating agriculture sector economic value. It will also include training on the methodologies of any new data collection mechanisms established such as market surveys. It is also anticipated that a module on agriculture statistics be developed and integrated into suitable courses run by the University of the South Pacific (USP). Other training modalities such as e-learning will also be explored.

Working groups will be established to agree on regional level standards, classifications and best practice which will then be supported through the production of handbooks and guidelines and integrated into other aspects of capacity building.

To support the user-driven approach, data users will be trained in how to effectively use the data which is available for the development and management of national strategies and plans for the agricultural sector. This will include how to analyse sector trends, produce analytic reports and the production of policy recommendations for long term planning. This will be delivered through formal training conducted at the national level, but also with the help of long term technical assistance and mentoring/ twinning programmes.

In some cases PICTs had identified the need to strengthen the statistical capacity for collection and use within the Ministries of Agriculture. Where this is applicable (according to the national statistical system roles and responsibilities) support will be given to the establishment/strengthening of statistical units within Ministries of Agriculture. This would be done with the intention of supporting the longer term capacity of the Ministries to use data for policy making and monitoring.

In the longer term, opportunities for increasing the statistical literacy of farmers will also be addressed in order to increase the quality of data collected through farmers' interviews. This will include in the interim greater emphasis on informing and educating respondents on the purposes of censuses and surveys. Over the longer term, however, it should be expanded to working with farmer training institutions and colleges on effective book keeping and statistical/data aspects of farm management. Engagement with non-governmental organisations, farmers' organisations and the private sector will be critical to the success of this activity.

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Pacific – Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics (P- SPAFS)

STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENCE BASE FOR SUSTAINABLE
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Acknowledgements

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Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ACP	Africa, Caribbean, Pacific
APCAS	Asia Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics
CAPI	Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing
CPI	Consumer Price Index
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FPR	Framework for Pacific Regionalism
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographical Information System
Global Strategy	Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Surveys
HOPS	Heads of Planning and Statistics (Triennial Regional Conference of Heads of Planning and Statistics)
IdCA	In-depth Country Assessment
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LRD	Land Resources Division (SPC)
NMDI	National Minimum Development Indicator
NSDS	National Statistics Development Strategy
NSO	National Statistics Office
NSS	National Statistical System
PAPP	Pacific Agriculture Policy Project
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21 st Century
PHC	Population and Housing Census
PICT	Pacific Island Countries and Territories
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PRISM	Pacific Regional Information System
P-SPAFS	Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics
PSSC	Programme Statistics Steering Committee
PSSC	Pacific Statistics Steering Committee
RAP	Regional Action Plan for the Improvement of Rural and Agricultural Statistics in Asia-Pacific
S.A.M.O.A	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action
SDD	Statistics for Development Division (SPC)
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPAR	Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Rural Statistics
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
TWG	Technical Working Group
TYPSS	Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy
UN	United Nations

UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNSIAP	United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia Pacific
USA	United States of America
USP	University of the South Pacific

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Executive Summary

Rationale

Three quarters of the Pacific population live in rural areas and rely largely on agriculture and fishing for their livelihoods. These populations are vulnerable to the long term impact of climate change and the devastation caused by frequent natural disasters. Long term declines in agricultural productivity are undermining the sustainability of these livelihoods and have contributed to a rise in diet related Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) such as obesity and diabetes. NCDs are responsible for three quarters of deaths in the Pacific (World Bank, 2014). Investing in sustainable agricultural development will help tackle two of the greatest challenges facing the region: climate change and NCDs.

While the agriculture sector is a priority for development, the delivery of effective government programmes is hampered by insufficient accessible and reliable data. Evidence-based policy requires timely, relevant and reliable statistics for use by policy makers.

This Strategic Plan provides a mechanism through which Pacific users and producers of agricultural statistics can define their priorities and establish a common vision for the development of sustainable agricultural statistics systems. Furthermore, it provides a structure for bringing together existing and potential partners to give support and resources to help achieve that vision.

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This Strategic Plan was initiated in 2015 through a regional meeting of more than 50 agricultural statisticians and planners from 14 Pacific islands. It has since been developed under the guidance of a Technical Working Group comprised of planners and statisticians representing the different sub-regions of the Pacific and different capacities with agricultural statistics. The work has been supported by a partnership between the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Asia Pacific, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation Pacific regional programme and the Pacific Community, both through its Statistics for Development Division and the European Union (EU) supported Intra ACP Pacific Agricultural Policy Project (PAPP) implemented through its Land Resources Division.

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P-SPAFS will be a 10 year strategy overseen by a Steering Committee of stakeholders including agricultural and fishery statisticians and planners, regional private and civil society organisation representatives and key contributing partners. It is envisioned that a Co-ordinating Unit will be established to support management of the P-SPAFS and deliver some core technical assistance. 2017 will be a critical preparatory phase of foundational activities such as formalising the governance structure, finalising the activities for Phase 1 (2018-2020) and committing resources.

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1. Introduction

Evidence-based policy making for the agricultural sector requires timely, relevant and reliable statistics that are readily accessible to policy makers and other stakeholders. Such data is not currently available or used in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) to the extent required. This Strategic Plan sets out the approach and necessary actions for addressing this constraint.

The Pacific has approximately 11 million people, of which nearly eight million (73%) live in rural areas and largely rely on agriculture and fishing for their livelihoods. However, long term exposure to the adverse effects of climate change and frequent natural disasters make Pacific rural populations particularly vulnerable. Declines in per capita agricultural production over the past 50 years have also contributed to increased food import dependency across the region (ADB, 2011).

Furthermore, the Pacific is facing huge challenges in regard to the impacts of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes and obesity. About 75% of deaths in the Pacific are attributed to the effects of NCDs (World Bank, 2014) which in their turn are affected by food availability and consumption.

Ensuring the sustainability of livelihoods (particularly rural), improving diets and promoting economic development through trade are key development objectives for the region and the agriculture sector has a central role to play in achieving them.

While the agriculture sector is a priority for development, the delivery of effective government programmes is hampered by insufficiently accessible and reliable data. Support for the collection, dissemination and use of agricultural statistics has been provided through several avenues in the Pacific for many years. Gaps in support remain, however. There is a need for a co-ordinated response within the region that will address outstanding gaps in collection activities and will also bring producers and users together to ensure statistics are translated into evidence for using to help the Pacific achieve its development goals.

The purpose of the P-SPAFS is to deliver a framework for this co-ordination. It provides a mechanism through which Pacific users and producers of agricultural statistics can define their priorities and establish a common vision with development partners for building sustainable agricultural statistics systems. Furthermore, it establishes a structure for bringing together existing and potential new partners providing support in the area of agricultural statistics, so that resources can be used efficiently and effectively by reducing duplication and directing resources to where they're most needed.

2. Rationale for P-SPAFS

2.1 Supply of agricultural statistics

Pacific Island Countries and Territories are not only diverse in size and population but also in institutional structures and statistical capabilities. Capacity for the collection and use of agricultural and fisheries statistics varies widely, as does their access to resources to help develop and improve the existing capacity.

Despite these differences, a substantial number of reviews of the state of agricultural statistics in the Pacific have been conducted over the past decade and the findings of these studies have changed only marginally. The studies also recognise there are many commonalities to the challenges faced by PICTs despite their diversity.

There appears to be a consensus that the key gaps on the availability of agricultural statistics are in the area of domestic production volumes and value (Fink, 2014). Information on the use of agricultural inputs (e.g. irrigation, fertilisers etc.) are also very weak.

This is particularly true of household level and subsistence production which is inherently difficult to capture. Much of agricultural and fisheries activities in the Pacific are subsistence. These activities leave no paper trail making it difficult to record their size and importance. With fisheries, large-scale commercial enterprises are generally well reported in the Pacific, especially those relating to deep-sea fishing. Activities relating to capture fishing, mostly done at the household level, remain weak across the region however. This is also true of the aquaculture industry. Large scale commercial production of prawns and black pearls in New Caledonia and French Polynesia respectively are well recorded, but household based activities are not well understood.

These data gaps make it hard to determine changes in yields and the impact of agriculture on the climate (and the other way round). This means there are huge gaps in our understanding of requirements for sustainable agricultural development.

Data on the trade and prices of agricultural and fisheries goods is generally more available but a lack of integration of data from biosecurity and quarantine agencies means informal trade, which is believed to be particularly important for the primary sectors, is not captured. There are also relatively few well established market surveys in the region. Where they do exist they rarely capture information on what is in stock and non-standard units of measure (e.g. 'strings of fish') are commonly used. This makes it difficult to monitor the supply of domestically produced food, which in turn makes the development of appropriate initiatives for food security challenging.

Greater use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and satellite imagery is opening up new avenues for increasing our knowledge on the use of our natural resources and streamlining data use and dissemination. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can be used to supplement information on land cover/land use. Use of smartphones and tablets can improve the speed and accuracy of data collection and new forms of communicating with farmers (SMS based systems) are beginning to emerge. The Pacific is, however, only beginning to explore the vast potential these technologies provide.

Gaps in supply of data are caused by a myriad of different challenges. Fundamentally, most PICTs face severe human and financial resource restraints for data collection. Agricultural statistics in particular have, however, fallen behind the development of statistical systems for other sectors. This is largely because agricultural statistics are often seen as the responsibility of line ministries. Ministries of agriculture, fisheries and food are often not adequately integrated into the National Statistics System and therefore do not benefit from mainstream statistical support that other sectors have enjoyed in recent years. This has been a particular constraint in the PICTs where statistical resources and capacities in line ministries are limited.

2.2 Demand for agricultural statistics

Demand for agricultural statistics at policy level is generally low. There are, however, encouraging signs that recognition of the importance of data for evidence based policy making is growing.

In 2010 a study of six Pacific Islands found that generally, policy development is based on perception rather than evidence. Another study conducted by the Asia Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS) in 2012 found that three of the top five constraints to agricultural statistics in the Pacific were related to demand and political support (APCAS, 2012).

A review of 15 Pacific island agricultural sector policies in 2015 (PAPP, 2015) revealed that more than half¹ explicitly mentioned a lack of agricultural statistics as holding back the effectiveness of implementation and monitoring of the agriculture sector plan, and planned to take action to address this. This demonstrates both the continued lack of availability of statistics, but also a growing consciousness of their importance.

Access to data by regional stakeholders has significantly improved in recent years through the publication and dissemination of statistics through national government websites. The agriculture sector is, however, again falling behind other sectors in this respect and a large amount of information is kept offline and is inaccessible to those that need it.

Global level initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have done much for advocating the importance of statistics for supporting development. The capacity of Pacific islands to report against the SDGs is low but this knowledge has lent support to campaigns and awareness raising for investing in statistics. A recent review led by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS) identified that out of the 157 different indicators required for reporting on the SDGs, the SBS collects 54 i.e. 35%². Not all indicators are relevant for Pacific islands but this demonstrates the significant gap between the ideal and what is currently possible in regard to international reporting. The demands of reporting on the SDGs has led to agreement within the Pacific to focus on indicators that align with other regional frameworks such as the S.A.M.O.A Pathway³ and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism⁴

While the availability of agricultural statistics remains weak in many areas, increasing demand for statistics in national agricultural policies and for reporting on regional development goals is a very encouraging sign. Building on this trend should help justify increasing investment in agricultural statistics, which will increase availability, use, and in its turn, generate further demand.

2.3 Capacity for use

Capacity at national level for the analysis of agricultural statistics varies immensely between PICTs, depending largely on the level of integration of agriculture into the national statistical system and the perceived importance of statistics at a political level.

The collection and analysis of agricultural statistics is traditionally seen as the domain of the Ministry of Agriculture but only a few countries have dedicated policy or planning units. Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and the Solomon

¹ FSM, Kiribati, Samoa, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, PNG

² Presentation at Pacific Statistics Steering Committee in June 2016

³ SIDS ACCELERATED MODALITIES OF ACTION [S.A.M.O.A.] Pathway. Outcome of the 3rd International Conference on Small Islands Development States 1-4 September 2014.

⁴ Framework endorsed by Pacific Island Forum Leaders in July 2014. Process for identifying and implementing regional priorities.

Islands have units for policy and planning within the Ministry of Agriculture but the capacity for data analysis amongst these units varies widely (Rogers, 2010).

Phase II of TYPSS (2015-2017) places increased emphasis on addressing capacity challenges around the region and recognises the growing ability of PICTs for South-South cooperation, which leads to more sustainable capacity building. Several working groups and exchanges have been successfully conducted in the Pacific, demonstrating the value of this approach. For example the Samoa Bureau of Statistics supported the Vanuatu National Statistics Office to develop regular market surveys to monitor domestic production.

2.4 Current support

Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics

Recognition of a decline in the quantity and quality of agricultural statistics at a time of huge emerging data requirements to fight poverty and hunger and support sustainable livelihoods, led to the creation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (Global Strategy). The initiative was supported by various agencies of the United Nations (UN), including the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and also the World Bank through consultation with national statistical institutes, ministries of agriculture and regional and international organisations. The Global Strategy is in its first phase of implementation (2012-2017) and is implemented in the Pacific through the Asia Pacific Regional Action Plan (RAP).

The RAP has three main modalities; technical assistance, training, and research and is delivered in partnership by FAO, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the Asian Development Bank. In the Pacific, technical assistance has been provided to four PICTs (Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, and PNG) for the development of Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS). The development of SPARS will provide sustainable support to the countries for the collection of minimum core data sets. SPARS are also designed to be integrated into the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs) and to make sure that the roles and responsibilities for agricultural statistics collection are defined and strengthened within the national statistics system.

Pacific islands have also benefitted from inclusion in various regional trainings supported by the UN Statistics Institute for Asia Pacific (SIAP) and research produced at the regional and global level.

Nevertheless, the RAP recognises that it will not be possible to reach out to all PICTs within its current resources before 2017. The successes achieved through regional level initiatives, as demonstrated by the TYPSS, provide an excellent approach for reaching out to more PICTs in a cost effective way. The Framework for Pacific Regionalism highlights the importance of regional level coordination, cooperation and collaboration for regional development. Statistics are an important regional public good and the establishment of a regional strategy which would target common challenges of PICTs would enable the Global Strategy to benefit more Pacific islanders in a cost effective way.

Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy

At the regional level, the overarching framework for statistics work for Pacific Islands is provided by the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2011-2020 (TYPSS) which was endorsed in 2009 and is now in the second phase of implementation (2015-2017). TYPSS is directed by a steering committee comprised of national statisticians and planners and is supported by a large number of development partners⁵. Financing and technical assistance

⁵ Funders include PICT national governments, Australia, New Zealand, France, USA, Japan, ADB, World Bank and IMF.

is provided by the various partners of TYPSS including the Statistics for Development Division of the Pacific Community (SPC).

TYPSS focuses on addressing challenges common around the region on the collection and use of statistics across all sectors. Particular gains have been made strengthening data collection in the areas of demography, economic statistics, civil registration and vital statistics, and education.

Up until this point the integration of agriculture and fisheries statistics into the TYPSS has been weak but has nevertheless contributed to the development of agricultural statistics in multiple areas. Advances in National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDIs) have included core sets of indicators for agriculture, forestry and fisheries. TYPSS has also supported the development of NSDSs, which help to include sectoral statistics (including agriculture and fisheries) into national statistical systems. Furthermore, TYPSS activities have included the development of standardised Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) and Population and Housing Censuses (PHC) as part of the process of creating regionally and internationally comparable data collection mechanisms. Modules on agriculture have been (or are in the process of being) developed for these censuses and surveys and, with appropriate support, have the potential to make a huge impact on collection of agricultural statistics.

The success of the work on agriculture and fisheries statistics in the TYPSS thus far is a strong rationale for expansion and further integration of these sectors into TYPSS. The P-SPAFS framework provides this opportunity by increasing the visibility of agricultural statistics and potentially attracting new resources and partners into TYPSS to work in a co-ordinated manner in the agriculture sector.

Pacific Agriculture Policy Project

The EU supported, Intra African, Caribbean and Pacific, (ACP) Pacific Agriculture Policy Project (PAPP) is implemented by the Land Resources Division of the Pacific Community (SPC). PAPP aims to increase the use of evidence in agricultural policy in the Pacific with the ultimate goal of supporting smallholder farmers' access to markets. Support for the collection, use and dissemination of statistics is an important workstream for PAPP and significant achievements have been made since PAPP began implementation in 2014. PAPP has worked within TYPSS and in partnership with FAO to provide support for an Agricultural Census in FSM, the establishment of a market information system in Cook Islands and technical assistance to the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture for the conduct of a baseline survey. Furthermore, it has updated the NMDIs for 15 Pacific Islands and supported the dissemination of factsheets and infographics from the NMDIs and the agriculture aspects of HIES.

These gains are, however, currently highly dependent on funding and technical assistance from the project itself. To leave a lasting impact it needs to integrate its activities into a regional level framework that can continue to advocate for the importance of agricultural statistics and coordinate activities within the region to achieve a common goal.

FAO statistics resources

In terms of resources allocated to agricultural statistics, support from the FAO is the most significant in the region. This support is delivered through FAO's Pacific Multi Country Partnership Framework (2013-2017) and Technical Cooperation Programmes with individual countries. The programme is integrated into the RAP but is broader in its scope. The regional programme covers 14 Pacific islands and the production of statistics for evidence-based policy making is a core theme throughout.

Recent and upcoming support from FAO include completion of the agriculture census in Cook Islands (2013), implementation of an agricultural census in Tonga (2014-2015), FSM (2016-2017) and Solomon Islands (2017-2018), a market survey in Vanuatu (2014-2017) and the establishment of a statistics unit in the Ministry of Agriculture in Samoa (2014-2017).

It has also engaged in added value work by using the statistics produced by censuses and surveys for the support of country-demanded policy research, including publications examining dietary patterns to support sound food and nutrition policy programmes and interventions in PICs. So far, the evidence gathered identified healthy locally produced foods as key to better health and nutrition outcomes. This is in line with top priorities of the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway for achieving sustainable and inclusive growth in the Pacific. Recent publications include a nutritional profile of Samoa and Vanuatu, while ongoing studies will make use of most recent HIES data from Cook Islands, Tonga, FSM, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji to further support cross-country evidence in the region.

The indicative resource estimate for the Pacific framework is US\$44.2 million, 15% of which is distributed to work on improving policy and strategic planning which involves the bulk of the work on agricultural statistics. There is, however, a funding gap of approximately US\$14.6 million⁶.

Addressing this gap requires coordinated initiatives with other development partners. Integration into a multi-agency regional framework can help more effective leveraging of existing resources. It can also help strengthen the sustainability of support and ensure activities on data collection are part of a long term plan for statistical strengthening.

2.5 The way forward- a regional framework

As demonstrated in the previous section, significant achievements have been made in agricultural statistics in the Pacific but challenges remain. Coordination of existing initiatives on agricultural statistics provides a way of pooling existing resources, reducing duplication and increasing the cost effectiveness of financial and technical support.

The purpose of the P-SPAFS is to prepare a framework for this co-ordination by bringing together existing and new agencies providing support in the field so that resources can be used efficiently and effectively.

Most importantly, the P-SPAFS provides a tool for creating a shared vision for agricultural statistics which can bridge the divide between users and producers. The current disconnect between users and producers has meant agricultural statistics have not benefited from improvements in national statistical systems; and where data is available it is not making its way into policy documents.

P-SPAFS provides a mechanism through which Pacific users and producers of agricultural statistics can define their priorities and establish a common vision with development partners for the advancement of sustainable agricultural statistics systems.

3. Development of the P-SPAFS

The P-SPAFS has been developed through extensive stakeholder consultation in the Pacific and specific oversight from a Technical Working Group (TWG) comprised of representatives from national governments, development partners and agencies.

Between 5 - 8 October 2015 a workshop on 'Strategic Planning for Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics in the Pacific Island Countries' brought together 55 Pacific planners and statisticians from 14 PICTs. The workshop aimed at supporting the sharing of best practice and lesson learning on agricultural statistics and to discuss ways to strengthen agricultural statistics in the longer term. A key outcome of the workshop was an agreement to

⁶ Figures taken from the April 2013 Pacific Multi Country 2013-2017 Implementation Plan

develop a strategic plan for agricultural statistics in the Pacific. It also established a ‘small but efficient’ TWG to help take forward the process of developing the strategy.

In April 2016 the TWG met to discuss the vision, mission and objectives of the P-SPAFS. The TWG is comprised of seven members from PICTs representing a mix of planners and statisticians as well as the Pacific sub-regions and a mix of statistical capacity. Included in the TWG was also a representative of SPC’s Statistics for Development Division and FAO’s sub-regional office. The TWG was supported by a Secretariat comprised of the Agricultural Statistician of PAPP and Regional Coordinator of the Global Strategy. The group were also supported by a Consultant tasked with developing the regional strategy document. The outcome of the meeting was agreement on core objectives and activities. It also finalised the key milestones for development of the Strategy.

The Vision, Mission and Objectives arising from this meeting were presented at the June Pacific Statistics Steering Committee of TYPSS and were endorsed by its members. Finalisation of the document has been achieved through further consultations with the TWG.

4. The Plan -Vision, Mission, and Objectives

Vision

‘A region where decisions relating to food security and sustainable agricultural development, including fisheries and natural resources, are based on evidence from high quality, timely and relevant statistics’

The ultimate objective of the P-SPAFS is to increase the use of evidence in the development, implementation and evaluation of projects and programmes which seek to develop the agricultural and fisheries sectors for the purpose of strengthening food security, increasing the sustainability of rural livelihoods and promoting economic development.

Mission

‘To strengthen the collection, dissemination and use of statistics related to food security, agriculture, fisheries and natural resources, for evidence-based planning and policy formulation and to support private sector decision making’.

P-SPAFS’s vision will be achieved by strengthening the collection, dissemination and use of statistics by agricultural and fisheries stakeholders, both within public and private sectors. Users of agricultural statistics have an important role to play in determining priority data needs. They also have a vested interest in the quality of such statistics, particularly in terms of availability and timeliness. A two-pronged approach will, therefore, be adopted by P-SPAFS to strengthen both the capacity to collect, and the capacity to use, agricultural data.

Objective A: High-quality and regionally comparable statistics made available

Significantly increased availability and quality of a core set of regionally comparable statistical indicators related to food security, agriculture, fisheries and natural resources (collectively referred to as ‘agricultural statistics’)

A lack of high quality and relevant statistics is consistently cited in regional agricultural policies as a limitation on the effectiveness of the monitoring and implementation of government support. One of the central objectives of the Global Strategy is to support the collection of core minimum data sets to help monitor

development goals. Indeed, a similar request was voiced by the Heads of Planning and Statistics in the Pacific in 2010, which led to the development of the National Minimum Development Goals.

With the Pacific islands commitments to meet the SDGs as well as other regional objectives under the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, a set of core indicators is more important than ever. These indicators need to meet multiple reporting objectives and be comparable across the region.

Key outputs under this objective are:

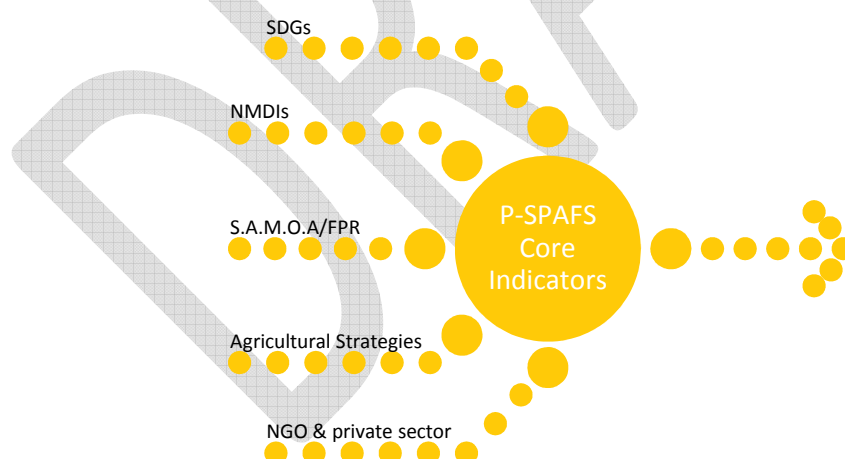
Output A1 - Core set of regionally comparable agricultural statistics indicators regularly compiled and disseminated publicly

Output A2- New and existing data collection mechanisms and methodologies supported to meet data requirements of the core minimum dataset

Output A3 - New data collection technologies adopted

The first activity conducted under Objective A will be the establishment of a core set of regional indicators on agriculture which will reflect the demands of monitoring of regional development issues such as strengthening food security, tackling NCDs, increasing the sustainability of rural livelihoods and increasing domestic and external trade. This will be done by building on the existing agriculture, forestry and fisheries NMDIs through a review of the Pacific Framework for Regionalism (FPR), the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway, reporting obligations for the SDGs and requirements for national agricultural policies and strategies. Data demands of the private sector and civil society should also be taken into account as far as they are relevant at a regional level.

Once the indicators have been established the metadata will be developed, data items defined and data sources identified. This will help to direct work on amending existing data collection mechanisms and designing new mechanisms. The emphasis of this objective is to ensure data collection mechanisms are well aligned with data demands.



Based on our current understanding of the situation some of the anticipated activities (to be confirmed after the indicators are developed) may include:

- Amendments and promotion of existing agriculture modules in the HIES and PHC
- Establishment of market surveys and administrative data systems
- Work on establishing regional standards and classifications
- Establishment of a standardised agricultural census

- Development of an integrated approach to agricultural surveys

Working groups on data collection methodologies could be used to explore greater harmonisation of agricultural statistics standards and classifications in order to support integrated approaches to agricultural data collection and greater use of microdata for regional comparisons.

This objective will also include support for regional solutions for greater use of ICT in data collection, particularly Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). This would include, for example, capacity building on the use of CAPI software and trials of agricultural surveys and censuses using tablets and smartphones.

Objective B: Agriculture statistics integrated into statistical systems

Agricultural statistics fully integrated into national statistical systems with robust coordinating mechanisms established through National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs) or other appropriate frameworks

At national level agricultural statistics have lagged behind other sectors largely due to their traditional isolation from the national statistics system. Agriculture statistics collection is often divided between National Statistics Offices and the relevant line ministries without clearly defined roles and responsibilities and with little sharing of resources or standards. In order to establish a sustainable foundation for increasing collection and use of agricultural statistics it is vital that the different agencies responsible for agricultural statistics work together effectively and efficiently.

At a regional level it is also important that sustainable frameworks are established for continuing to communicate and advocate for the importance of agricultural and fisheries statistics in tackling regional development challenges. Integrating P-SPAFS into regional planning structures such as TYPSS is therefore important for the sustainability of P-SPAFS impacts.

Key outputs under this objective are:

Output B1 - Activities of P-SPAFS integrated in the TYPSS workplan

Output B2 - Agriculture adequately integrated in new and revised NSDSs

Output B3 - Strategic plans for agricultural and rural statistics prepared

Output B4 - Support integration of the agriculture dimension into existing national censuses and surveys

P-SPAFS is aligned with the current phase of TYPSS and will report to the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee on activities, and will participate in activities conducted under TYPSS. This will include participation in cross-sectoral working groups such as the current groups on ICT, common tools and methods and monitoring and evaluation if they are continued into the third phase of TYPSS. P-SPAFS Phase 1 workplan will be developed taking into account the activities and priority areas of TYPSS Phase 3. Ultimately it is hoped that the workplan of P-SPAFS can be fully integrated into TYPSS in the later phases of P-SPAFS implementation.

Many PICTs have begun to strengthen their national statistics systems through the development of NSDSs. P-SPAFS will endeavour to support line ministries to identify their data needs and participate productively in the development of NSDSs. For countries participating in the Global Strategy this will be largely through the development of Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics. For other Pacific islands this may include recommendations on the effective use of regional agricultural statistics data collection mechanisms. Considerable progress has already been made in collecting food and agricultural data through the PHC and HIES. This approach is particularly important for the smaller countries that do not have the resources to mount a

separate agricultural census or survey. This approach will be further refined and evaluated and countries supported in this process.

Objective C: Data disseminated and awareness raised on the importance of agricultural statistics

Better use of agricultural statistics through improved data dissemination systems and tools and increased awareness by policy and decisionmakers of the data collection sources, processes, data quality and data limitations

A study in 2012 of the status of agricultural statistics in the Pacific (APCAS, 2012) found that three of the top five constraints to agricultural statistics were related to a lack of demand for statistics from high-level policy makers. This is not just a Pacific phenomenon but global, and the general decrease in investment in statistics in the past few decades has become the target of a new global 'data revolution'. Lack of demand leads to low investment, which results in poor statistics and further reduces demand. Actively working to counteract this negative cycle is essential for sustainable statistical systems.

Key outputs under this objective are:

Output C1 - Public awareness and advocacy events conducted on the regional agricultural statistics strategy and the importance of agricultural statistics

Output C2 - Publications using agricultural statistics to highlight current trends in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, market trends in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, household food and nutrition

Output C3 - Research tools and outputs for the region generated and promoted

Output C4 - Data dissemination strengthened by improving access of stakeholders to agricultural statistics

The importance of agricultural data and information in the decision making process, how to access it and how to use it will be the subject of an advocacy campaign directed at politicians, planners, extension officers, farmers and the public at large. This will be directed through the establishment of a communication and advocacy strategy which will promote P-SPAFS itself and also the importance of agricultural and fisheries statistics more generally. This will include the roll-out of training at national level on communication and advocacy of agricultural statistics, which has been initiated by SIAP through the Global Strategy.

Publications and research on food security in the region using HIES data will be continued and new publications highlighting market trends and the state of agriculture in the Pacific developed. The emphasis of research will be on policy recommendations in order to emphasise the importance of agricultural statistics for decision making on issues such as import dependence, market competitiveness and tackling NCDs.

The Global Strategy has produced a wide body of research on the production and use of agricultural statistics and over time activities will be developed to help apply this research in the Pacific context.

To facilitate the analytical work, P-SPAFS will support activities to improve data dissemination and data access. In-depth analysis requires access to micro-data sets or working closely with the institutions responsible for maintaining such data sets. This type of access can conflict with the requirements for data confidentiality as specified in the Statistics Acts. Over the lifetime of P-SPAFS work will be done with NSOs to develop data access protocols to facilitate research and analysis. Combined with work on harmonisation of agricultural statistics standards and classifications under Objective A, this would provide the pre-conditions for the establishment of

a regional database, which provides agricultural statistics at the micro and macro level and therefore enables access to both casual and technical users. This would represent a significant step forward in regard to access to statistics that would assist greater engagement in the policy management cycle across governmental divisions and also from the non-government and private sectors.

Dissemination of statistics will also be supported through the production of user-friendly factsheets, the development and extension of online databases and the improvement of national level websites including greater use of GIS mapping tools.

Objective D: Strong capacity for compiling and using agricultural data

Increased capacity to collect, compile, process, interpret, analyse and disseminate agricultural statistics on a sustainable basis and to use a wide range of data and information for evidence based policy and decision making

The final objective is cross cutting and will support all of the other components of P-SPAFS. It seeks to increase capacity across all aspects of data collection and use and will work with a wide variety of actors from extension officers in the field, government policy makers and planners, and young adults and farmers.

Key outputs under this objective are:

Output D1 - Training and technical assistance provided to data producers to collect and compile agricultural statistics

Output D2 - Training and technical assistance provided to data users to analyse and use data for policy making

Output D3 - Module on agricultural statistics included in USP statistics course

Output D4 - Respondents better informed on the purpose and specific data requirements of agricultural censuses and surveys

The preferred method for sustainable capacity building in the Pacific, as articulated by the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC), is South-South Cooperation, the establishment of intra-regional working groups and twinning/mentoring (PSSC, 2016). These approaches will be key activities under this objective and will be further supported by additional forms of capacity building such as formal education and training and long term technical assistance.

On data collection and compilation the focus will be on building skills and increasing knowledge on statistics standards and methodologies. For example, this will include training for extension officers on sampling for statistical surveys and training for statistics officers on estimating agriculture sector economic value. It will also include training on the methodologies of any new data collection mechanisms established such as market surveys. It is also anticipated that a module on agriculture statistics be developed and integrated into suitable courses run by the University of the South Pacific (USP). Other training modalities such as e-learning will also be explored.

Working groups will be established to agree on regional level standards, classifications and best practice which will then be supported through the production of handbooks and guidelines and integrated into other aspects of capacity building.

To support the user-driven approach, data users will be trained in how to effectively use the data which is available for the development and management of national strategies and plans for the agricultural sector. This will include how to analyse sector trends, produce analytic reports and the production of policy

recommendations for long term planning. This will be delivered through formal training conducted at the national level, but also with the help of long term technical assistance and mentoring/ twinning programmes.

In some cases PICTs had identified the need to strengthen the statistical capacity for collection and use within the Ministries of Agriculture. Where this is applicable (according to the national statistical system roles and responsibilities) support will be given to the establishment/strengthening of statistical units within Ministries of Agriculture. This would be done with the intention of supporting the longer term capacity of the Ministries to use data for policy making and monitoring.

In the longer term, opportunities for increasing the statistical literacy of farmers will also be addressed in order to increase the quality of data collected through farmers' interviews. This will include in the interim greater emphasis on informing and educating respondents on the purposes of censuses and surveys. Over the longer term, however, it should be expanded to working with farmer training institutions and colleges on effective book keeping and statistical/data aspects of farm management. Engagement with non-governmental organisations, farmers' organisations and the private sector will be critical to the success of this activity.

5. Scope

P-SPAFS includes statistics in the agriculture sector which take in crops, livestock, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries. This is broadly defined by the Pacific Standard Industrial Classification (PACISIC 2014) as Section A, Divisions 01-03, Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing. For fishing, P-SPAFS will focus on capture fisheries activities conducted at household level. Industrial-scale fishing activities, (0311_01, 02, 03) are excluded as the data capture mechanisms for these industries are relatively well established. For Forestry, P-SPAFS will focus on household activities including agroforestry activities.

Statistics from these sectors will be used to understand issues relating to thematic areas of food security, disaster risk management, sustainable natural resource management and economic development.

6. Country coverage

All the PICTs under the mandate of SPC will be included though not all countries will participate in all activities. The focus of the strategy is on addressing issues common to the region and therefore establishing regional level initiatives which will have application to many PICTs.

This does not mean that national level activities are not captured within P-SPAFS. If an activity within a country is anticipated to lead to the development of a regional level standard, approach or tool it will be captured.

Some of the larger countries, namely Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tonga, are carrying out separate national exercises to develop their own Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS) and can be expected to attract additional resources to support their own specific activities. Only the activities from these SPARS which have common application to many PICTs will be captured within P-SPAFs.

PICTs participation in activities within P-SPAFS will be determined by their national needs, interests and priorities. No formal groupings will be attempted; rather, groupings of countries will be established for specific activities as the work programme develops. For example, one group would be those countries planning on collecting agricultural data through the PHC or countries that have large agricultural extension services and that wish to focus on administrative data collection.

7. Implementation Strategy

The implementation of the P-SPAFS is based on two fundamental principles: firstly, building on existing progress on agricultural statistics in the region; and, secondly, bringing together users and producers of statistics to ensure data is relevant and used to create evidence-based agricultural policy.

The initial phases of P-SPAFS will therefore prioritise strengthening existing tools and mechanisms for agricultural statistics and gradually introducing new activities and areas over the course of P-SPAFS implementation.

It will, however, work with both users and producers from the outset. It will support collection activities and simultaneously work with data users to build their capacity to use statistics in the policy making cycle, and to demonstrate and advocate for the importance of statistics for effective government programmes.

One of the first activities of P-SPAFS will be articulating and defining the demand for agricultural statistics within the region through the establishment of a core set of regional level indicators. Understanding what information is most useful will help determine priorities for data collection activities and also provide structure to P-SPAFS's other objectives on data dissemination, capacity building and integration into the statistical system.

A core set of agricultural, forestry and fisheries NMDIs already exist for the Pacific. These will be reviewed and expanded to incorporate emerging data demands and priorities. This will include reviewing requirements for reporting on the SDGs, the S.A.M.O.A Pathway and the Pacific FPR. It will also review the use of evidence in national level agricultural policies and strategies to identify key gaps in collection and use.

Working backwards, the indicators will then help inform priority collection activities. The emphasis initially will be on utilising and strengthening existing collection tools. This will include, for example, the agricultural modules already developed for inclusion in the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and the Standardised Household Income and Expenditure Survey.

Over time and throughout the implementation of P-SPAFS it will, however, include the establishment of new collection activities to help address indicators where significant gaps in available data exist. This will likely include strengthening administrative data collection on production and on volume and value of agricultural produce sold at domestic markets. It will also include continuing research and tests on the appropriate use of ICT in data collection (particularly CAPI) and dissemination.

FAO has already started the process of upgrading the capacity in some of the larger countries to conduct evidence based analysis through its Technical Cooperation Programme. P-SPAFS will facilitate the sharing of lessons learned from this development initiative, as well as best practices, in areas of common interest. Work on capacity building under Objective 4 will increase over time to expand work with schools and training institutes and to broaden access to formal education through scholarships and online courses.

FAO, the Global Strategy and SPC have also commenced a strong work stream of publications, research and data dissemination tools (e.g. factsheets and GIS maps). These will be continued and expanded to demonstrate the application and value of statistics for policy makers. This work will be guided through the development of a Communication Strategy in the preparatory phase. Over time, and through capacity building activities, it is hoped increasing amounts of publications and products will be taken over by data users within relevant PICTs.

Building a sustainable agricultural statistical system is a long term process. This process started many years ago in the Pacific and it will continue after the lifetime of P-SPAFS. P-SPAFS will therefore endeavour to help the agricultural sector engage and articulate their requirements in the development of their National Statistics Development Strategies. It will also report to and participate in activities within TYPSS, such as working groups and intra-regional cooperation. The ultimate indicator of the success of P-SPAFS will be that a separate

coordinating mechanism for agricultural statistics is no longer required but is fully included in TYPSS and national statistical systems.

8. Duration

Sustainable statistical development is recognised as a long-term process. The P-SPAFS is, therefore, conceived as a ten year strategic plan (2017-2026) with a phased implementation programme. The 10 years are divided into four phases: a Preparatory Phase (2017), Phase 1 (2018-2020), Phase 2 (2021-2023) and Phase 3 (2024-2026).

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Preparatory	Phase 1			Phase 2			Phase 3		

2017 will be a preparatory phase and will use existing resources available within SPC, PAPP, the Global Strategy and FAO sub-regional programme. It will continue to be coordinated jointly by the Secretariat of the current TWG. This phase will be about endorsing and commencing implementation of the P-SPAFS; entrenching the appropriate governance system, securing new funding and establishing the core set of indicators for defining the statistics collection activities under Objective 1.

Phase 1 of the P-SPAFS will be three years from 2018-2020 inclusive. Phase 1 is designed to be aligned with the Phase 3 of the TYPSS in order to maximise opportunities for co-ordination and collaboration. A draft activity matrix for 2018-2020 is provided in Annex 1 and is based on the priority action areas identified through the development of P-SPAFS and will be further consolidated and defined in the Preparatory Phase.

Towards the end of Phase 1 of P-SPAFS, a review will take place which will tie in with a review of TYPSS and provide direction for Phase 2 of P-SPAFS and a possible integration with any follow-up to TYPSS.

9. Governance

An appropriate governance structure for P-SPAFS will be established in the Preparatory Phase but it should be structured in such a way as to facilitate easy co-ordination with TYPSS and other relevant regional frameworks. P-SPAFS is therefore anticipated to have a Steering Committee to provide strategic oversight and a Coordinator to support management of the framework.

An independent panel of senior agricultural statisticians will also be established to review key aspects of the work throughout the life of the P-SPAFS on an 'ad hoc' basis. Technical working groups will also be established on an as needed basis to address and support individual activities within P-SPAFS.

9.1 Steering Committee

The Steering Committee should be comprised of regional agricultural statisticians and planners. It should also include representatives from regional non-governmental and private sector organisations. It should be balanced to represent the different sub-regions within the Pacific and to include PICTs with both large and small agricultural sectors and differing statistical capacities. The Steering Committee should report to the Heads of Agriculture and Forestry. Reporting should also be made to Heads of Planning and Statistics via the appropriate channels. Initial endorsement for the Strategy will be requested at the Heads of Agriculture and Forestry and the Heads of Planning and Statistics meetings.

9.2 Co-ordination Unit

Management of the P-SPAFS should be done through a designated Co-ordinator. The Co-ordinator should be responsible for: supporting reporting on P-SPAFS and steering meetings; the collection and dissemination of the P-SPAFS core regional indicators; coordinating communication and advocacy on agricultural statistics; and providing support to capacity building activities. It is proposed that the Co-ordinator be housed by SPC in order to link with the coordination of TYPSS. The budget provides a specific provision for the Co-ordinator but the activities the person would oversee are included in the relevant activity lines.

9.3 Roles and responsibilities

There will be no central management of the budget for P-SPAFS activities. Implementing partners will manage their own financial contributions and report their activities under the appropriate P-SPAFS objectives to the Steering Committee (via the Co-ordinator).

The FAO sub-regional statistician for the Pacific will be responsible for managing all agricultural statistics activities conducted by FAO, will sit within the steering group, and will report activities to the P-SPAFS Co-ordinator. This Statistician will also be called upon to provide technical assistance and leadership where appropriate in the implementation of activities.

Development partners contributing to P-SPAFS will be expected to shape the provision of their assistance to further the objectives of P-SPAFS. Furthermore the onus will be on National Statistical Offices and Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to be active participants in delivering and adopting initiatives under P-SPAFS. Regional non-governmental and private sector organisations will also be key partners in regards to implementation.

10. Budget

All activities undertaken in the Preparatory Phase, 2017, have committed funding under existing programmes of support.

A draft budget has been provided in Annex 3 which is based on the draft 2018-2020 workplan and logframe. It is currently estimated to cost approximately US\$7 million over 3 years for the implementation and management of all activities. The budget for Phase I will be finalised in the Preparatory Phase along with the workplan and logframe. This is a provisional budget for planning purposes and will be revised and amended as appropriate at the commencement of Phase I of P-SPAFS.

11. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

The monitoring, evaluation and learning system aims to identify progress towards the outcomes and objectives of P-SPAFS as set out in the monitoring and evaluation framework. A monitoring system will be setup at the start of Phase 1 and six-monthly progress reports will be prepared by the coordination unit. A more formal evaluation and review will take place towards the end of the second year of implementation of Phase I at the same time as the final review of TYPSS.

A draft logframe for Phase I of P-SPAFS is available in Annex 2. This will be revised at the end of the Preparatory Phase and agreed by the Steering Committee.

12. Risk management and sustainability

12.1 Risk management

The major risks identified are:

- Commitment of national governments to improving the agricultural statistics system (medium)
- Commitment of development partners to support national programmes to improve agricultural statistics systems at the national level (medium)
- Coordination of technical assistance (medium)
- Availability of resources at national level (medium)
- Timely delivery of P-SPAFS work programme (low)

These risks will be monitored by P-SPAFS coordinator and Steering Committee, national governments and development partners.

12.2 Sustainability

Demonstrated programme sustainability will be a major indicator of the success of P-SPAFS. This will be achieved through advocacy and the integration of activities in the national statistical systems and regional frameworks such as TYPSS. In addition P-SPAFS highlights the important role of capacity building in the region in preparing the next generation of statisticians and also preparing future policy makers and program implementers to be able to understand and use statistics.

Annex 1: Draft Activity Matrix (2018-2020)

Objective	Output	Activity- 2018-2020 (Phase I)
A. Significantly increased availability and quality of a core set of regionally comparable statistical indicators related to food security, agriculture, fisheries, and natural resources.	<p>A1. Core set of regionally comparable agricultural statistics indicators regularly compiled and disseminated publicly</p> <p>A2. New and existing data collection mechanisms and methodologies supported to meet data requirements of the core minimum dataset</p> <p>A3. New data collection technologies adopted</p>	<p>A1.1. Annual updates of data in core minimum indicators</p> <p>A1.2. Disseminate core indicators through existing appropriate websites</p> <p>A2.1. Continue to support new data collection methodologies (e.g. market surveys and production surveys) as required to fill core minimum data sets</p> <p>A2.2. Continue to support agricultural statistics working groups under TYPSS to develop and use common standards and classifications</p> <p>A2.3. Technical and financial assistance for conducting agricultural censuses and surveys</p> <p>A3.1. Continue support for use of CAPI for data collection</p> <p>A3.2. Support for regional solutions to access to ICT technology for CAPI</p>
B. Agricultural Statistics fully integrated into national statistical systems with robust coordinating mechanisms established through the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) or other appropriate frameworks	<p>B1. P-SPAFS integrated into TYPSS work plan</p> <p>B2. Agriculture adequately integrated in new and revised NSDS</p>	<p>B1.1. Co-ordinator of P-SPAFS reports to TYPSS PSSC on activities</p> <p>B1.2. Co-ordinator of P-SPAFS participates in TYPSS working groups</p> <p>B1.3. Coordinator of P-SPAFS participates in planning for next TYPSS</p> <p>B2.1. Support agricultural stakeholders to identify their data needs and actively participate in the NSDS process</p> <p>B2.2. Support the review of legislation related to the collection and dissemination of agricultural statistics as identified through the NSDS process to ensure an appropriate legal framework is in place</p>

	<p>B3. Strategic plans for agricultural and rural statistics prepared for countries that are part of the Global Strategy</p> <p>B4. Support integration of agricultural statistics into existing national censuses and surveys</p>	<p>B3.1 Support for finalisation of Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics</p> <p>B4.1 Provide TA as required to countries on integrating agricultural statistics into the PHC</p>
<p>C. The better use of agricultural statistics through improved data dissemination systems and tools and increased awareness by policy and decision makers of the data collection sources, processes, data quality and data limitation</p>	<p>C1. Public awareness and advocacy events conducted on the regional agricultural statistics strategy and the importance of agricultural statistics</p> <p>C2. Publications using agricultural statistics to highlight current market trends in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and household food and nutrition</p>	<p>C1.1 Training on communication and advocacy of agricultural statistics conducted</p> <p>C1.2 Advocacy events for P-SPAFS and agricultural statistics conducted</p> <p>C1.3 Support for national level advocacy of agricultural statistics</p> <p>C2.1 Core regional agricultural indicators infographic factsheets produced and promoted</p> <p>C2.2 Thematic infographic factsheets from HIES and other relevant collections (e.g. PHC) produced and promoted</p> <p>C2.3 Produce and promote annual national sector analysis 'State of Agriculture, Forestry and fisheries'</p> <p>C2.4 Produce and promote quarterly national 'agriculture market trend' publication using market data</p> <p>C2.5 Support for regular publications of price and volume data from market surveys</p> <p>C2.6 Develop, produce and promote publication on 'Household food and nutrition outlook' using household income and expenditure survey</p> <p>C2.7 Other analysis as required for policy maker priorities</p>

	<p>C3. Research tools and outputs for the region generated and promoted</p> <p>C4. Data dissemination strengthened by improving access of stakeholders to agricultural statistics</p>	<p>C3.1 Support for the application and use of research developments produced through the GS (possibly administrative data and GIS).</p> <p>C4.1 Establishment of regional database for agricultural statistics</p> <p>C4.2 Review NSO and MoA dissemination and data access policy to maximise data use</p> <p>C4.3 Support the dissemination of data through national websites</p> <p>C4.4 Support the documentation of censuses and surveys within the IHSN catalogue</p> <p>C4.5 Support the use of GIS maps as a data dissemination tool</p>
<p>D. Increased capacity to collect, compile, process, interpret, analyse and disseminate agricultural statistics on a sustainable basis and to use a wide range of data and information for evidence based policy and decision making</p>	<p>D1. Training and technical assistance to data producers to collect and compile agricultural statistics provided</p>	<p>D1. 1 Review skills/capacity building needs for informing design of regional trainings</p> <p>D1. 2 Provide training in support of the implementation of new data collection methods required to fill critical data gaps such as production data and market information</p> <p>D1.3 Roll out training for extension officers on data collection methods</p> <p>D1.3 Provide technical assistance to create sustainable capacities within ministries of agriculture to collect and compile agricultural statistics</p> <p>D1.4 Promote South-South capacity building within the Pacific region/twinning arrangements, wherever possible</p> <p>D1.5 Working groups established prior to national censuses and surveys</p> <p>D1.6 Promote professional attachments to neighbouring countries for support and experience prior to running censuses and surveys</p> <p>D1.7 Training and guidelines on the compilation of the core minimum indicators</p> <p>D1.8 Handbooks and guidelines on other relevant training areas identified produced</p>

	<p>D2. Technical assistance or training provided to data users to analyse and use data for policy making</p> <p>D3. Institutions strengthened to provide training on agricultural statistics</p> <p>D4. Respondents better informed on the purpose and specific data requirements of agricultural censuses and surveys</p>	<p>D2.1 Support training on data analysis of HIES and support agriculture publications</p> <p>D2.2 Support training on analysis and use of agricultural statistics from the PHC</p> <p>D2.3 Provide training on the use of the core minimum indicators/creation of publications</p> <p>D2.4 Provide technical assistance to ministries of agriculture to create a sustainable capacity to access, analyse and use agricultural statistics</p> <p>D3.1 Support integration of modules on agriculture into USP degree level official statistics, agriculture and economics courses.</p> <p>D3.2 Network of trainers established</p> <p>D4.1 Build respondent information and data awareness programmes into census/survey implementation plans</p> <p>D4.2 Training of farmers on data collection for farm management through schools, colleges and training institutes</p>
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Annex 2: Draft Logframe 2020

ID	Intervention Logic	Verifiable indicator	Means of verification	Assumptions
Impact	To contribute to effective support to the agricultural and fisheries sectors to strengthen food security, increase the sustainability of rural livelihoods and promote economic development through trade			
Outcome	To strengthen the use of evidence in the policy making process for the agricultural and fisheries sectors	Number of national, sectoral and sub-sectoral strategies which demonstrate rigorous use of evidence in their development and implementation	Review of national policies, Agriculture Policy Bank.	Use of evidence will increase the effectiveness of support services to the agriculture and fisheries sectors.
Objective A	Significantly increased availability and quality of a core set of regionally comparable statistical indicators related to food security, agriculture, fisheries, and natural resources.	Core set of regional indicators identified, compiled annually and disseminated.	Online database of indicators	Existing database of NMDI will continue, regional frameworks will remain relevant
		TA for 3 Agricultural Censuses and Surveys Provided	Census analytical reports	Government funding is provided
		2 new data collection mechanisms (market surveys, administrative data) established	Data analysis, project reports	New data collection methodologies are required to meet core indicator needs
Objective B	Agricultural Statistics fully integrated into national statistical systems with robust coordinating mechanisms established through the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) or other appropriate frameworks	CAP training conducted and at least 1 survey conducted using CAPI.	Training report, Survey report.	Use of ICT remains a viable option in the Pacific for data collection
		P-SPAFS activities reported in TYPSS workplan	PSSC meeting minutes and workplan	PSSC continues as coordinating mechanism of TYPSS
		Agriculture appropriately considered in national statistical plans	Final NSDS	Countries still have NSDSs in development.
		4 strategic plans for agriculture and rural statistics (Samoa, Fiji,	SPARS documents/ implementation reports	Countries continue to see requirement for detailed agricultural statistics strategy

		Tonga, PNG) established and being implemented.		
		Agriculture module included in 3 PHCs	Census analytical reports	Countries use PHC for agriculture data collection
Objective C	The better use of agricultural statistics through improved data dissemination systems and tools and increased awareness by policy and decision makers of the data collection sources, processes, data quality and data limitation	Communication and advocacy strategy developed	Communication strategy	Advocacy works remains a priority
		Training on communication of agricultural statistics conducted in 2 PICTs	Training reports	Staff within governments are made available and support the training
		2 new HIES factsheets completed.	Publications, factsheets and research papers	Data is available on time
		Food security analysis done for 3 PICTS		
		2 new publication series launched		
		One new piece of research based on Global Strategy research	Research document	A suitable research piece for application to the Pacific is identified
		All National Agriculture Census conducted included in Pacific survey catalogue	Pacific survey catalogue	The correct metadata is compiled during census implementation
		Extended database of agricultural indicators available online	Online database, user analytics	Existing databases are maintained and new ones established through other programmes
		Agriculture statistics available on POPGIS for all new agriculture censuses	PRISM/POPGIS website	Sufficient geographical information is collected

Objective D	Increased capacity to collect, compile, process, interpret, analyse and disseminate agricultural statistics on a sustainable basis and to use a wide range of data and information for evidence based policy and decision making	Training for data collectors piloted in 3 PICTs	Training report	Countries continue to see value and provide time and resources
		Training on compilation and use of core regional indicators piloted in 1 PICT	Training report	Countries continue to see value and provide time and resources
		Module on agriculture statistics integrated into the USP national official statistics course	USP curricula and training materials	There is sufficient demand from students for agricultural statistics
		1 public awareness campaign conducted prior to a national census/survey	Public announcements, newspaper articles	A national census/survey is conducted

Annex 3: Draft Budget 2018-2020

Objective	Output	USD (\$)
A. Significantly increased availability and quality of a core set of regionally comparable statistical indicators related to food security, agriculture, fisheries, and natural resources.	A1. Core set of regionally comparable agricultural statistics indicators regularly compiled and disseminated publically	-
	A2. New and existing data collection mechanisms and methodologies supported to meet data requirements of the core minimum dataset	1,779,000
	A3. New data collection technologies adopted	60,500
	Objective A TOTAL	1,839,500
B. Agricultural Statistics fully integrated into national statistical systems with robust coordinating mechanisms established through the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) or other appropriate frameworks	B1. P-SPAFS integrated into TYPSS work plan	-
	B2. Agriculture adequately integrated in new and revised NSDS	372,000
	B3. Strategic plans for agricultural and rural statistics prepared for countries that are part of the Global Strategy	156,000
	B4. Support integration of agricultural statistics into existing national censuses and surveys	-
	Objective B TOTAL	528,000
C. The better use of agricultural statistics through improved data dissemination systems and tools and increased awareness by policy and decision makers of the data collection sources, processes, data quality and data limitation	C1. Public awareness and advocacy events conducted on the regional agricultural statistics strategy and the importance of agricultural statistics	360,800
	C2. Publications using agricultural statistics to highlight current market trends in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and household food and nutrition	610,000
	C3. Research tools and outputs for the region generated and promoted	55,000
	C4. Data dissemination strengthened by improving access of stakeholders to agricultural statistics	492,000
	Objective C TOTAL	1,517,800
D. Increased capacity to collect, compile, process, interpret, analyse and disseminate agricultural statistics on a sustainable basis and to use a wide range of data and information for evidence based policy and decision making	D1. Training and technical assistance to data producers to collect and compile agricultural statistics provided	921,400
	D2. Technical assistance or training provided to data users to analyse and use data for policy making	288,000
	D3. Institutions strengthened to provide training on agricultural statistics	110,000

	D4. Respondents better informed on the purpose and specific data requirements of agricultural censuses and surveys	-
	Objective D TOTAL	1,319,400
Sub-total		5,204,700
<i>Coordinator budget</i>		1,901,040
TOTAL		7,105,740

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