



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

---

2011/ATCWG/WKSP/002

## **Overview of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics**

Submitted by: FAO



**Workshop to Assess and Improve  
Agricultural Data Collection and  
Dissemination by APEC Member  
Economies  
Manila, Philippines  
27-28 October 2011**



## Overview of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics

FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

*APEC Workshop on Agricultural Data Collection  
Manila, 27-28 October 2011*

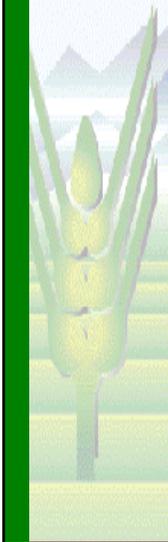
1



### Agriculture poorly integrated into NSDS

- In 2009, a Paris21-review found that only 10% of International Development Association (IDA) economies had included agriculture less appropriately in the NSDS process.
- In general, NSDS quality regarding agriculture is extremely low, including those that cover vital areas such as food security.

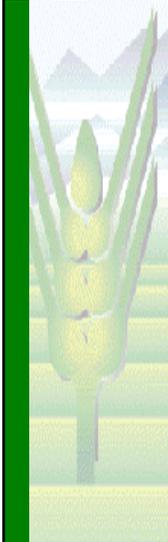
2



### Underlying factors for poor integration

- In many economies the first generation NSDS was NSO-centric.
- Lack of coordination between NSOs and MoAs or deficient intra-sector coordination.
- Agriculture activities often part of informal economy → not well covered by statistics reporting systems.
- Statistical legislation covering the whole statistical system not always appropriate or laws are neglected.
- Ministries of Agriculture have low technical capacity, including a lack of adequate technical tools, statistical methodologies and survey frameworks to support data production efforts

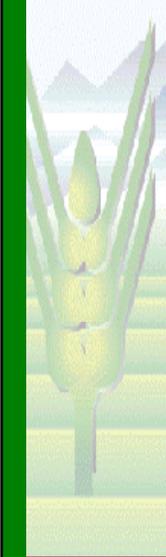
3



### Underlying factors for poor integration

- Insufficient funding
- Statistical legislation covering the whole statistical system not always appropriate or laws are neglected;
- Low profile of statisticians in agriculture ministries; disorganized statistical functions.

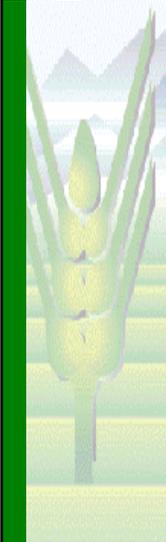
4



## Other challenges to national agriculture statistics

- Growing demand to monitor MDGs, especially on food security.
- Emerging issues such as biofuels, global warming, environment impacts.
- Rising food prices and lack of reliable market information for monitoring price volatility.

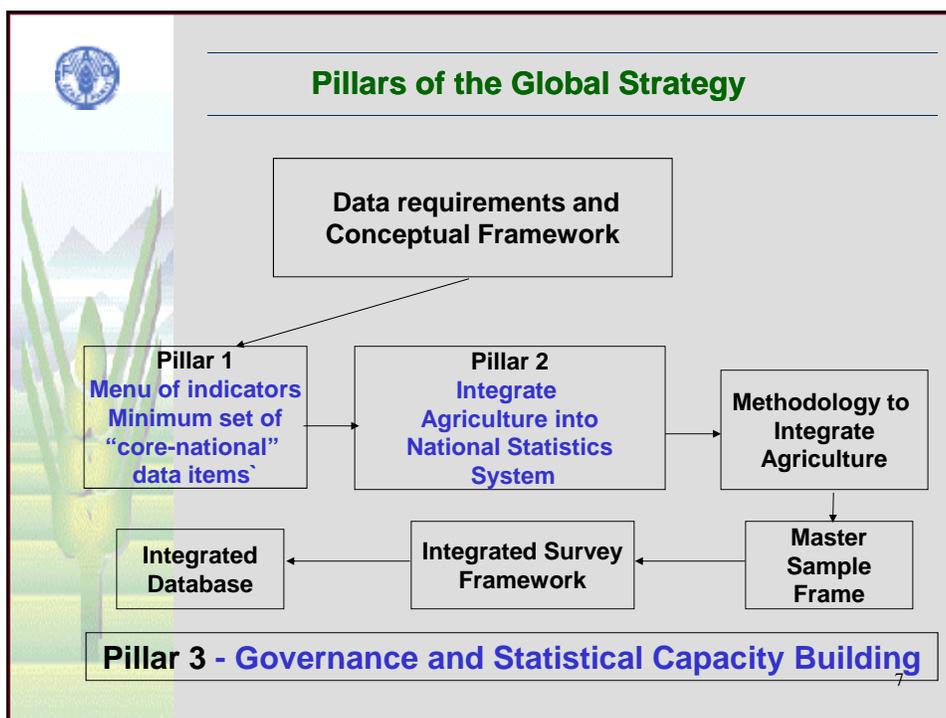
5



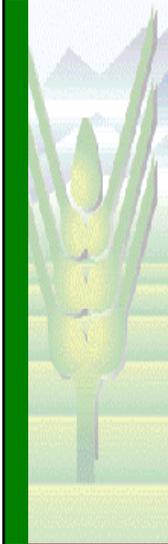
## The Global Strategy

- In the light of this, the 40th UNSC session (2009) asked World Bank and FAO to lead the preparation of a “[Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics](#)”.
- After an in-depth assessment of the status of agricultural statistics, the Global Strategy prepared based on 3 pillars:
  - 1. Minimum set of core national data items:** e.g. about 10 crops and 4 livestock species account for over 95% of world production of cereals, meat and fiber.
  - 2. Integrate agriculture into national statistics system:** common sampling frame, a survey & census programme framework, integrated databases.
  - 3. Better governance and capacity building:** e.g. establish a National Statistics Council to coordinate stakeholders’ efforts; programs, training, equipment, systems and procedures, products and services.

6



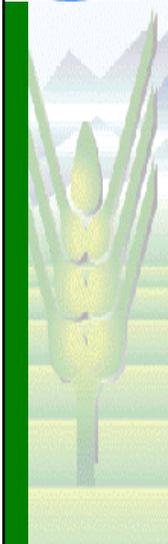
- 
- Global Strategy: adoption and planning**
- A key recommendation of the GS: agriculture be integrated into national statistical systems.
  - The GS was adopted by UNSC in Feb 2010.
  - UNSC urged FAO to lead the preparation of an implementation plan for the GS.
  - The Implementation Plan to include the following components:
    1. a comprehensive technical assistance programme;
    2. an articulated training programme; and
    3. a well targeted research agenda.
  - FAO proposed a twin approach: a global plan and coordinated regional implementation plans.



## The regional implementation plans (IP)

- A Global Action Plan was developed in 2010.
- African implementation plan (IP) was also developed in 2010 (FAO, AFDB, UNECA, others).
- In Dec 2010, ESCAP Committee on Statistics endorsed FAO's proposal to develop an IP for Asia and the Pacific.
- Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics (SGAS) was established under Steering Group for the Improvement of Economic Statistics.
- It includes 15 members economies, ADB, DFID, IFAD, SPC, IASRI. ESCAP-FAO joint secretariat.
- Chair elected. Electronic discussions held since Oct 2011. Work plan currently being discussed.

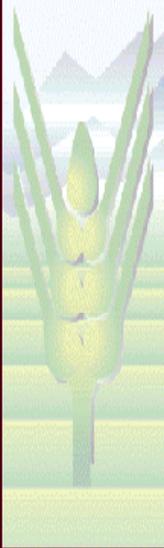
9



## Regional IP: the way forward (Sep-Feb)

1. Undertake economy assessment: basis for preparation of IP components.
2. Preparation of technical assistance, training and research components of the regional IP.
3. Preparation and adoption of regional IP (bringing the three components together).
4. Undertake in-depth economy assessments and formulate of economy proposals.
5. Resource mobilization and execution of regional IP.
6. Recommend governance structure for the implementation of the regional IP.

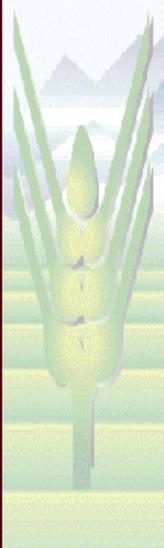
10



## Conclusions

- The regional IP of the GS is an historical opportunity for economies to develop sustainable statistical systems.
- It would require dialogue and cooperation among data producers to avoid duplicating efforts when integrating agriculture into the NSDS.
- economies should be closely associated with the formulation of the regional IP to ensure that their needs and requirements are duly covered.
- Donors are encouraged to participate in the process and support the IP.
- Funding will go a long way in supporting the monitoring the MDGs and ensuring food security.

11



**Thank you for your attention**

12