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# **The Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural Statistics: An Implementation Plan for Latin America the Caribbean**

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# What is the Global Strategy?

- An initiative of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) to address the current dismal status of Agricultural Statistics
- Long-term plan to respond to the statistical needs of the 21st century (a living document)
- Feasible and sustainable for developing countries
- Basis for a renewed initiative of capacity building in agricultural statistics: mobilization of resources
- Partnership between International Agencies, developed and developing countries
- Twin-track intergovernmental process for its adoption:
  - UNSC and National Statistical Offices
  - FAO Governing Bodies and Ministries of Agriculture



# Why a Global Strategy?

- **Declining capacity of producing basic agricultural statistics**, especially in developing countries
  - **Emerging data needs**, linking the economic, environmental and social dimensions (impact of agriculture on environment; income and livelihood of rural household; bio-fuels; water and land use, etc.)
  - **Agricultural statistics not integrated in the National Statistical System** (Agriculture left out of NSDSs; Forestry, fisheries outside of national and agricultural Statistical systems)
- ➔ Lack of sound statistics for the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of food security and agricultural development policy**

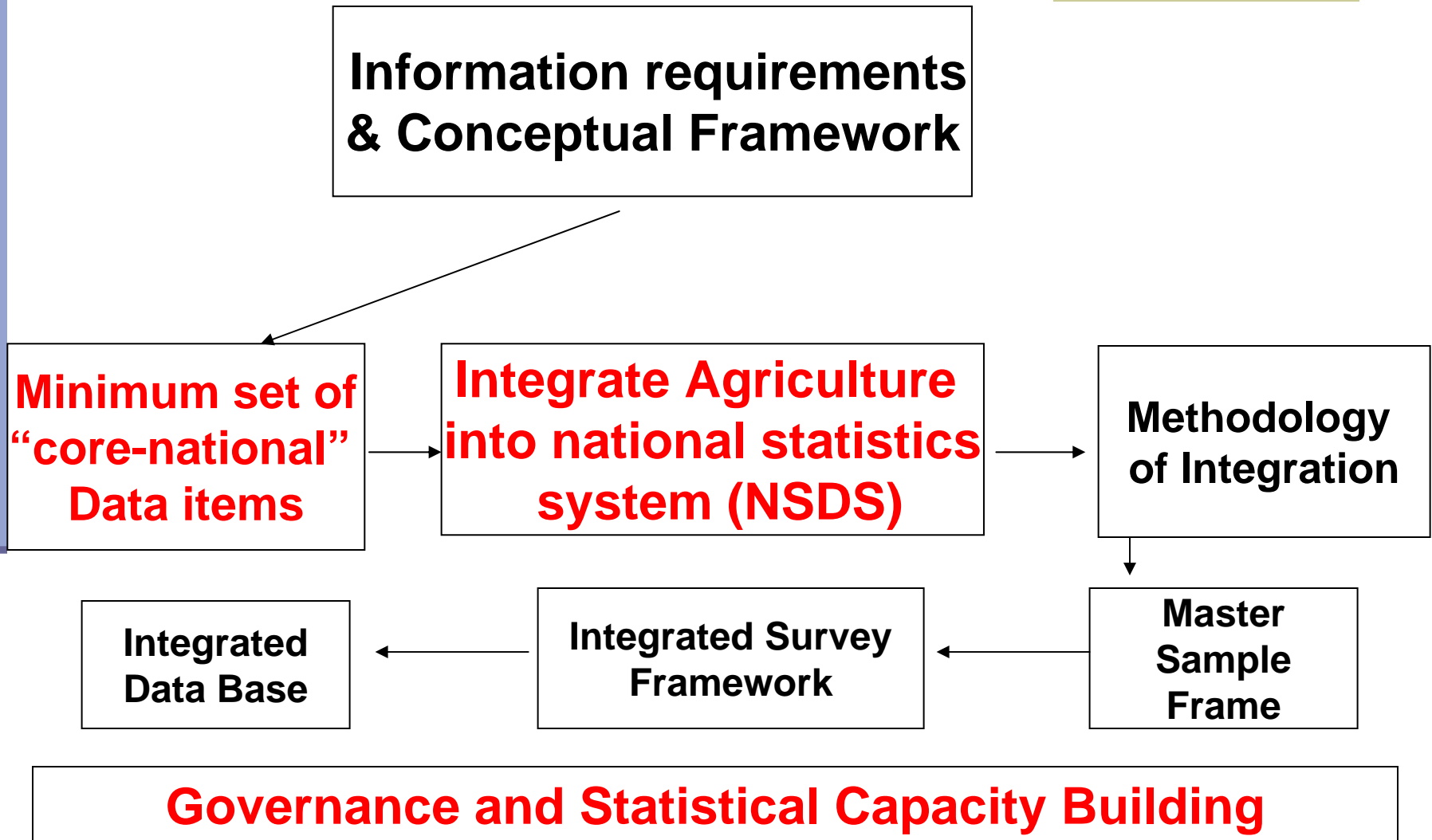


# Agriculture Statistics & the NSDSs

- 60 out of 78 IDA countries (77%) are implementing or designing a NSDS (43 countries implementing a NSDS)
- Only 4 countries have included agriculture statistics in their NSDS (10 countries partially) → **only 10% of all IDA countries**
- **Sub sectors**
  - Crops are better covered (in 33% of strategies)
  - ... than livestock (20%)
  - Fisheries, forestry and agro-industry are ignored
- **Domains**
  - production (25% of the NSDS)
  - prices (15%)
  - other domains (trade, marketing, resources, consumption) are ignored for more than 90% of the existing strategies



# Pillars of the Global Strategy





# Information Requirements:

## Key Policy Issues

- Agriculture as a key instrument for economic and rural development (increasing productivity etc.)
- Improve income and well-being of the rural population, reduce poverty
- Provide food security and reduce hunger
- Reduce Market Volatility
- Evaluate the effect of agriculture on the environment and global warming
- Measure impact of Climate Change on Agricultural activities (e.g. decrease of yields, use of input, change of crop pattern, etc.)
- Ensure the sustainability of land and water resources



# Pillars of the Global Strategy

## Minimum set of core data

- Information requirements exceed what any country can provide; On the other hand many data items are overlapping
- Need to define a minimum set of internationally comparable core data that countries should provide on a regular basis.
- Criteria to select core data items and associated data for **international reporting** are provided in detail
- Evaluation of **national** needs to adjust the **international** list (core items are not present in every countries) and select additional items of importance to their economy.
- Guidelines to help countries establish the core and additional items they will include in their national statistical system, the frequency they will be provided, and the scope and coverage



# Pillars of the Global Strategy

## Integrating Agricultural Statistics into the National Statistical System

- **1<sup>st</sup> TOOL: Master sample frame for agriculture surveys**
  - Purpose: linkage between the agricultural holding, rural households, and land use.
  - Different pathways to create the master sample frame taking into consideration different levels of statistical capacity across countries.





# Pillars of the Global Strategy

- **2<sup>nd</sup> TOOL: Integrated data collection & survey framework**
  - Purpose: sample and survey design framework that provides a linkage across the economic, environmental, and social dimensions.
  - Need to link agricultural holdings with their respective households and their use of land.
  - Use of administrative data and other data sources
  - Flexible approach to take into account national capacity



# Pillars of the Global Strategy

## ■ 3<sup>rd</sup> TOOL: Integrated Data Base

- User driven - providing comparable data across countries, and data analysis to help users to understand statistics
- Data Warehouse of Official Macro Statistics
  - Harmonized definitions and classifications
  - Each item appears only one time (i.e. one official number for everything from population, GDP, to production)
- Micro data—long term view
  - Connect same sampling unit across surveys & over time
  - Increase analytical capabilities



## 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the UNSC

- **The UNSC endorsed the technical content and strategic directions of the Global Strategy**
- **Urged FAO and the Friends of the Chair on Agricultural Statistics to expedite the development of the Implementation Plan**
- **Recommended** that a comprehensive **Technical Assistance** program, an articulated **Training** program and a well targeted **Research Agenda** as well as clear indications on funds management and **Governance Arrangements** at the global, regional and national levels be included



# Process

- **FAO and the FOC to draft the Global Implementation Plan**
  - Establishment of 4 Task Teams: Country Assessment of Agr. Statistical Systems; Technical Assistance program; Training program; Research Agenda
- **Involvement of Regional partners:** drivers of the regional implementation plans
  - Leading role of Africa: AfDB and ECA Regional coordinators
  - ESCAP Committee of Statistics requested to develop an IP for Asia and the Pacific
  - Initial steps in Latin America and the Caribbean
- **Global and Regional Consultations**
  - First global discussion at the Int. Conference on Agr. Stat - ICAS V, held in Kampala, Uganda, 13-15 October 2010



# Country Assessment

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- Development of an assessment framework on agricultural statistics based on DAQF
- 1<sup>st</sup> step for the Implementation Plans
  - Assess National Agricultural Statistical System in terms of basic infrastructure and capacity to produce the minimum set of data
  - Create target groups of similar countries
  - Basis for the selection of statistical tools
  - Basis for prioritization of activities



# Research Component

- Objective: Produce guidelines and tools on advanced methodologies for data collection and management / define a Reference framework

## GLOBAL

- Coordinating research activities across regions and across organizations
- Fostering Research on topics of global interest
  - New tools & methods for data collection (use of remote sensing)
  - Improvement of Administrative data
- Anticipating and adapting emerging issues in developed countries
  - Environmental impact of farming: indicators, survey methodology and estimation

## REGIONAL

- Survey among African countries identified a number of priority areas, some specific to Africa (estimation of mixed cropping, nomadic livestock, etc).
- Issues to be identified in LA: Concept of Rurality could be one?



# Detailed Research Agenda

- Reference framework: mainstreaming agriculture into the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS); implementation of an Integrated Survey Framework.
- Master frame for integrated survey: Use of technology such as GPS, linking area frames with list frames; use of remote sensing.
- Data collection methods: Estimation of crop area, yield and production; cost of production; enumerating nomadic livestock; Adoption of new technologies; forestry and deforestation; crop forecasting; Inland fishery, aquaculture;
- Food security: estimation of food balance sheets, food stocks and edible forest products, nutrition indicators, use of households surveys/LSMS for food security indicators.
- Market information: estimation of farm gate prices, collecting rural and border market prices,
- Data analysis: reconciliation of census and survey data, use of small area estimation methods for improving agricultural statistics.
- Administrative data: improvement and use of administrative data



# Training Component

- Strengthen existing training institutions
  - Establish regional centers of excellence for advanced training
  - Decentralize initial training to National Institutions
- Improve the curricula existing courses and develop new ones
  - Specialized courses (use of remote sensing)
  - Develop a broad package of training courses (initial/advanced, general/specialized, long/medium/short duration; formal/on the job, etc.)
- Promote e-learning & distance learning
- Strengthen real demand for training / Develop a training market





# Technical Assistance Component

- Improve institutional and organizational aspects of the agricultural statistical systems (coordination for agricultural data producers & users)
- Mainstream agricultural statistics in NSDS
- Areas of assistance to countries
  - Plan and management of agricultural census/ link with the Population Census
  - Develop master sample frame / design integrated survey frameworks
  - Improve the quality and use of agricultural administrative data
  - Support data analysis/forecasting
  - Data Dissemination (integrated databases)
  - Document good practices



# Governance

- **Global governance structure:**
  - Global Steering Committee
  - Global Office
  - Technical Advisory Committee
- **Regional governance structure**
  - Regional Steering Committee
  - Regional Secretariat
  - Technical Advisory Committee
- **National governance structure**
  - Existing Institutional coordination mechanisms



# Governance

- **Role of global governance structure**
  - Set global standards/Ensure harmonization across regions
  - Coordinate with other Global/Regional Initiatives
  - Communication strategy/Advocacy
  - Resource mobilization
  - Support weaker regions
- **Role of regional governance structure**
  - Execute the plan
  - Allocate resources to Countries
  - Monitor the implementation
  - Assess progress of countries



# Global and Regional consultations

## To discuss the Global and Regional IPs

- Global IP at FAO Conference – June 2011
- IP for Africa, AFCAS, October 2011
- IP for Asia, APCAS, April 2012
- IP for Latin America, IICA, 2012 ???
- Global and Regional IP's, 43<sup>rd</sup> UNSC, Feb 2012
- Other regional/international meetings



# Resource mobilization strategy

- Communication and advocacy tools to be developed
- Meetings with donors
  - ICAS-V donors' meeting - October 2010
  - Bilateral meetings with donors (US and Europe) - February/March
  - FAO donors conference - 1 March 2011
  - Paris 21 Board meeting - April 2011
  - Donors' conference in Rome - July 2011
- Global Trust Fund hosted by the World Bank
- Regional Trust Fund hosted by AFDB and other regional development banks



# LA and the Caribbean Region

- AD hoc Assessments of AgriSTAT systems
  - Brazil, Columbia, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay
  - Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, Venezuela
  - Bolivia, Paraguay, Cuba, DR
- Draft implementation plan for 5 years for **Technical Assistance** foresees:
  - Budget of about US \$ 9 million
  - Core team: Coordinator, Data Management expert, Associate expert
  - Consultants (South-south, North-South)
- Implementation Plans for **Training and Research** to be developed



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- **Thank You!**
  - **Welcome ideas for implementation in this region**
    - **partnership as Regional coordinator(s)**
    - **governance structure**
    - **regional priorities**
    - **resource mobilization strategy**
    - **Way forward**
  - **Target date for presentation of plan: Feb 2012**