



Overview of FAO's Activities in Asia and the Pacific Region and follow-up of the recommendations of the 27th Session of APCAS

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Support to Agriculture and Food Security Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

- Combination of normative work and technical assistance undertaken under guidance of the Regional Statistician for Asia and the Pacific, the sub-regional Statistician for the Pacific Islands, and various divisions in FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy (FAO-HQ).
- Coordinated by the Office of the Chief Statistician, based in FAO-HQ)
- The Regional Statistician also serves as Secretary for APCAS, based in the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP) in Bangkok, Thailand.
- The sub-regional Statistician for the Pacific Islands is based in the FAO Sub-regional Office for the Pacific Islands (FAO-SAP), in Apia, Samoa.

Main Areas of Work in Agriculture & Food Security Statistics since March 2018

- Asia and Pacific Commission on Agriculture Statistics (APCAS)
- World Census of Agriculture 2020 Round (WCA)
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Monitoring and Indicator Framework
- Global and Regional Conferences, Seminars, Training Workshops, Expert Group Meetings
- Support to Member States on Statistical Development Projects
- Other Activities

Asia and Pacific Commission on Agriculture Statistics

- In 2018, the Regional Statistician published the report of the 27th Session of the APCAS held in Nadi, Fiji
- Led the APCAS Secretariat in supporting the Host Government of Indonesia in preparing and organizing APCAS28, held in Bali, Indonesia (10-14 February 2020)
 - Development of the APCAS28 Agenda, in consultation with FAO-HQ, member states and development partners
 - Organization of 2 side events (SDG Indicator 5.a.1; Use of Earth Observation data for agriculture statistics)
 - Mobilized resources to support APCAS28 and its two side events.

World Census of Agriculture 2020 Round (WCA2020)

- Bangladesh, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Timor Leste: among the first countries in Asia and the Pacific to have implemented data collection under the WCA2020 round.
- Bangladesh completed census listing in 2019, and use of Intelligent Character Recognition technology, published report 3 months after
- Bhutan and Timor Leste completed Agriculture Census data collection (Renewable Natural Resources (RNR) Census in Bhutan), Bhutan now launch national report, Timor Leste finalizing data processing and analysis.
- Lao PDR conducted joint Economic and Agriculture Census listing, and finalizing sampling strategy for their Agriculture Census long-form.

World Census of Agriculture 2020 Round (WCA2020)

- Bhutan and Timor Leste were among the first countries in the region to use CAPI-based data collection for their WCA2020 round census, and Lao planning to follow suit
- In the Pacific, Fiji begins its Agriculture Census data collection on 10 February, the inaugural day of APCAS28; and Samoa is soon to follow. Both countries have also elected CAPI-based data collection.
- As more countries prepare for their Agriculture Census, FAO's regional office for Asia and the Pacific and sub-regional office for the Pacific Island expect an increase in the request by countries for technical assistance (Nepal, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand).

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Monitoring and Indicator Framework

- Marked increase in interest from countries in building capacity to collect, compile and disseminate SDG indicators.
 - This was enhanced by all the 21 indicators under FAO custodianship – including all five farm-based indicators – in Tier II status by 2019
 - Several indicators moved to Tier III status (no established international methodology) to Tier II status (established international methodology)
- SDG Technical Cooperation Programs aimed primarily or exclusively at improving capacities with regards to the SDG 2 (end Hunger) food security indicators.
- Collaboration with FAO-HQ focal points and the Office of the Chief Statistician essential in ensuring high quality guidance and support

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Monitoring and Indicator Framework

- November 2019: New regional TCP on **Strengthened evidence-based decision making and monitoring of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals through improved national capacities: *Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Timor Leste.***
 - 30 December 2019 – 3 January 2020 training of State-level officials in New Delhi, India, on select SDG Indicators under FAO custodianship;
 - 17-19 February 2020 Expert Group Meeting in Bali, Indonesia on the *Use of Earth Observation Data for Agriculture Statistics.*
- National advocacy and training workshops and technical assistance to countries, in collaboration with FAO-HQ focal points and the Office of the Chief Statistician

Meetings & Regional Training Workshops

- **Global Events:** Global Strategy Final Conference in November 2018 and the Eighth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS VIII) in November 2019.
- **Regional events:** seminars organized by UN-ESCAP and UN-SIAP for the Heads of the National Statistics Offices the Gender Statistics working group; and the Technical Working Group on Statistics responsible for strategic planning and implementation of the Regional Review and UN Reform.
- **Regional training workshops:** 5 regional training workshops under the Global Strategy in collaboration with development partners; expert group meeting on the use of ICTs for agriculture statistics; expert group meeting on gender and environment

Global Strategy Regional Training Workshops in 2018

1. FAO-SIAP Training Workshop on Food Loss Statistics and SDG 12.3.1, October 2019, Chiba, Japan
2. FAO-SPC Training Workshop on the Use of GIS for Agriculture Statistics, November 2018, Noumea, New Caledonia
3. FAO-SAARC Training Workshop on Master Sampling Frames for Agriculture Statistics, November 2018, Kathmandu, Nepal,
4. FAO-SIAP Workshop on SDG 5.a.1 and 5.b.1 – Women’s secure access to agriculture land, December 2018, Bangkok, Thailand
5. FAO-AIT workshop on the Use of GIS for Agriculture Statistics, December 2018 Bangkok, Thailand

Cooperation and Partnerships with Development Partners

- FAO is represented in regional meetings on statistics, including those organised by UN-ESCAP, UN-SIAP and UN Women:
 - ESCAP's Committee on Statistics and governing bodies of UN-SIAP
- Participate and co-organize regional training workshops with UN-SIAP and SPC
- Partner with ADB, AIT, ESCAP, SAARC, SPC and UN Women in the organization of expert group meetings on statistics related to gender, the environment, fisheries, (micro) data dissemination, and the use of cost-effective technologies.
- Contribute to the Statistics Stream of the UN Regional Review

Technical Cooperation Projects (1/3)

- TCP/RAS/3618: Strengthening the capacity for monitoring Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture in the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2 and 12 in *Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam, 2017-2019*
- TCP/RAS/3602/C12: Creating Enabling Environments for Nutrition-Sensitive Food and Agriculture to Address Malnutrition, 2018-19
- TCP/RAS/3617/C12: Regional Technical Assistance Project on for conducting Ag Census, Laos and Pakistan, 2017-2019
- TCP/TIM/3608 - Preparatory Assistance for the First Timor-Leste Agriculture Census (TLAC), 2017-2019
- TCP/BGD/3608: Technical Assistance to Agricultural Census in 2018 to Bangladesh, 2017-2019
- TCP/BHU/3604/C2: Initial Technical Assistance Support to Planning of Technically sound Renewable Natural Resources (RNR) Census in Bhutan, 2017- 2018.

Technical Cooperation Projects

- TCP/PNG/3604: Strengthening Capacity for Data Processing, Analysis and Management in PNG, 2016- 2019
- TCP/AFG/3606: Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock to perform Policy Gap Analysis, 2018-19
- TCP/AFG/3704: Technical Assistance for strengthening institutional capacity in SDG2 Targets, 2019-2020
- TCP/AFG/3706: Strengthening capacity of the National Government to use geospatial technology for evidence based decision making, 2019-210
- TCP/BGD/3710: Strengthening capacities to track sustainable development goal 15 on protection, restoration and promotion of sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, 2019-2020
- TCP/CMB/3703: Technical support to the Cambodia Intra-Censal Agricultural Survey (CIAS) 2019

Technical Cooperation Projects

- TCP/INS/3705/C1: Technical Support for planning of upcoming Agriculture Census 2023 of Indonesia
- TCP/LAO/3701: Developing capacity for implementing 2019/20 Lao PDR Agricultural Census, 2019-2020
- TCP/MYA/3702/C2: Capacity building support for Myanmar Agricultural Census 2020
- TCPF: Technical Support to Prepare Project Document for upcoming Agriculture Census of Nepal 2021/22
- TCP: Creating Enabling Environments for Nutrition-Sensitive Food and Agriculture to Address Malnutrition
- TCP/RAS/3617/C12: Strengthened evidence-based decision making and monitoring of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals through improved national capacities, 2019-2021
- TCP/MAL/3702/C2: Reinforcing capacities to improve the measurement of food losses

Select Highlights

- ADB-FAO Massive Open Online Courses on Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing
- ADB-FAO Handbook on Tablet-based Data Collection with CSPro
- ADB-FAO Handbook on Tablet-based Data Collection with Survey Solutions
- FAO-UN Women Collaboration on SDG 5.a.1 – women and men’s secure access to agriculture land
- Growing partnership with ADB, AIT, Private Sector and UNSD on use of Earth Observation Data for agriculture statistics



Overview of FAO's Activities in the Pacific Region

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Support to the Agriculture and Food security statistics in the Pacific



Technical assistance to countries contributed to the objectives of the Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics (P-SPAFS):

- Analysis and dissemination of:
 - FSM Integrated Agriculture Census 2016
 - Solomon Islands National Agricultural Survey 2017
- Planning and implementation of the agriculture censuses in Fiji, Niue and Samoa
- Processing and analysis of the food consumption data collected in household income and expenditure surveys (HIES) in Solomon Islands (HIES 2013), Tonga, Cook Islands, Niue, Tuvalu (2015) and Samoa (2018)
- Analysis of FIES data collected in FSM Integrated Agriculture census 2016, Solomon Islands National Agricultural Survey 2017, Samoa HIES 2018 and validity checks for preliminary data collected in Fiji, Vanuatu and Kiribati

Training, Workshops and Meetings

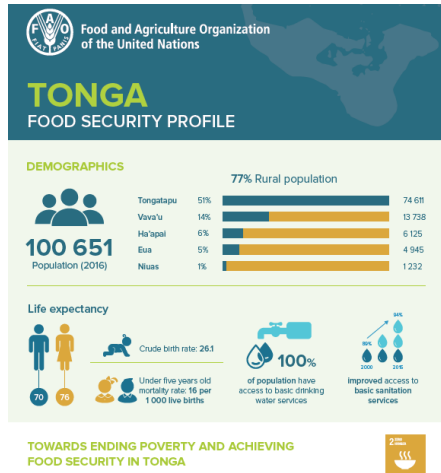
- ✓ Regional Workshop on Planning and Conduct of Agricultural Census in partnership with NASS, USDA for Fiji, Samoa and PNG (March 2018)
- ✓ The technical workshop on SDG Target 2.1, organized in Tonga (May 2018)
- ✓ Regional awareness workshop on strengthening PICs capacities to monitor SDG Target 2.1 (September 2018)
- ✓ Regional workshop for PICs on exploring SDG 14.b and its indicator 14.b.1 (April 2019)
- ✓ FIES Training for Samoa and Tonga (April 2019)
- ✓ Technical training on analysis of national household survey data to inform SDG Target 2.1 indicators for Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, Niue and Tuvalu (November 2019)
- ✓ In depth training of one statistician from Samoa Bureau of Statistics on analysis of survey data and FAO methodologies and tools to estimate SDG Target 2.1 indicators
- ✓ Numerous CAPI and STATA trainings for census planning countries

Partnership with regional organization

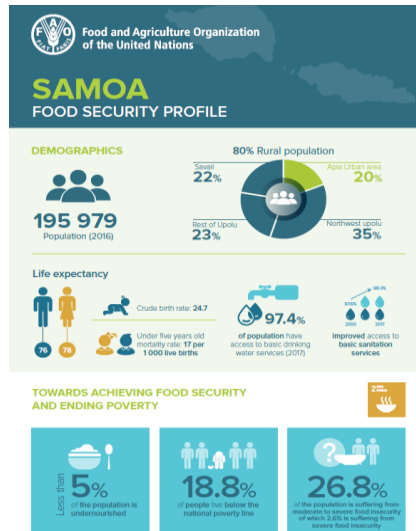
The activities are performed in close collaboration with SPC Statistics for Development Division:

- In depth training of SPC statisticians on analysis of survey data and FAO methodologies and tools to estimate SDG Target 2.1 indicators
- Pacific Nutrients Database has been reviewed, aligned with COICOP and expanded for further use in processing of HIES in PICs
- Tools, methodologies and training materials have been reviewed and agreed with SPC
- Analysis and presentation of the results of the 2018 RMI experiment presented to the 3rd meeting of the Pacific Statistics Methods Board

Advancing SDG 2.1 Monitoring in Pacific



❖ The first estimate of SDG 2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment (PoU) for Tonga and the first ever for the region based on food data collected from national survey



❖ Samoa will report in VNR 2020 (second for the country) on SDG 2.1.1 and SDG 2.1.2 coming from the same recent survey

❖ Assistance with estimation of SDG 2.1 indicators from national surveys will be provided to Fiji, Kiribati, RMI and Vanuatu by the end of 2020

Technical Cooperation Projects

- TCP/FIJ/3503 & TCP/FIJ/3701 (Phase II) - Development of Agricultural Information for Policy
- TCP/SOI/3602 - Solomon Islands National Agriculture Livelihood Survey (SINALS)
- TCP/FIJ/3703 - Technical assistance to support the National Agriculture Census 2019
- TCP/NIU/3701 - Technical assistance to support the 2019 Niue Agriculture Census
- TCP/SAM/3702 - Developing capacity for implementing Agricultural Census 2019
- TCP/SAP/3705 - Strengthening the capacity of Pacific Island Countries to monitor SDG Target 2.1
- TCP/SAP/3707/C4 - Strengthening capacity to monitor SDG 14 (targets 14.4, 14.6, 14.7 and 14.b)



Follow-up of the recommendations of the 27th Session of APCAS

Main Recommendations	Action taken
<p>more help be provided to Pacific Island countries to complete FAO questionnaires.</p>	<p>Ongoing support from the sub-regional statistician for the Pacific Islands, and FAO-HQ focal points.</p>
<p>FAO and countries continue to improve coordination mechanisms, maintain up-to-date national focal point(s), endorse and implement new methodological guidelines, and peer-review data and methodologies</p>	<p>FAO has focal points for SDG indicators and FAO questionnaires; new methodological guidelines (and tools) launched for Food Balance Sheets; on-going peer-review of data and methodologies via bilateral discussions and expert group meetings.</p>
<p>FAO pilot multiple-mode data collection, such as online questionnaires, and that a few member countries volunteer to pilot new data sharing technologies with FAO.</p>	<p>FAO is exploring alternative data collection mechanisms</p>
<p>acknowledged the need and importance for countries to align their national indicator framework to the global SDG indicator framework; and recommended that member countries work towards this alignment.</p>	<p>FAO provides technical assistance to countries to review their SDG indicators and ensure alignment with global indicators and methodologies.</p>

Main Recommendations	Action taken
<p>FAO pursue the implementation of the second phase of the Global Strategy, which should focus on dissemination, provision of technical assistance and training on methodologies and tools developed under the first phase.</p>	<p>FAO is launching Phase 2 covering the recommended topics, though the focus will be on the Africa Region.</p>
<p>a Working Group for Pacific Island Countries be set up to address specific issues and challenges of the region and approved its Terms of Reference.</p>	<p>Implemented in partnership with SPC</p>
<p>member countries undertake at least one agriculture census during the period 2016-2025 and provide funding for it in their budget.</p>	<p>Bhutan and Timor Leste completed agriculture census data collection; underway in Bangladesh, Fiji, Lao PDR and Samoa in 2020; planning started in India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Papua New Guinea</p>
<p>FAO support countries in resource mobilization to ensure the implementation of censuses in the region.</p>	<p>FAO has supported all countries in the Asia Pacific in implementation of their agriculture census through FAO technical cooperation projects and resource mobilization</p>
<p>member countries consider using new technologies such as Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI), drones and remote sensing, in their agricultural censuses and surveys.</p>	<p>Most countries in the region undertaking Agriculture Censuses under WCA2020 or modular agricultural surveys are using CAPI and remote sensing. Technical assistance is provided through a combination of national training workshops, technical assistance, and MOOC courses.</p>

Proposed Recommendations for APCS28

- Improve coordination and collaboration with other development partners in supporting countries, particularly with: UNFPA with respect to Census linkages.
- Continue support to integrate agriculture statistics and SDGs into national statistical systems
- Further invest in MOOC courses and regional normative work

Thank you!

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