



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



APCAS/24/3.1

ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

AGENDA ITEM 3.1

Overview of FAO's statistical activities in
Asia and Pacific and achievements of key
recommendations of the
29th Session of APCAS

30TH Session 19–24 May 2024
Kathmandu (Nepal)



AGENDA ITEM 3:
FAO's activities in food
and agricultural
statistics in Asia and
the Pacific, and follow-
up recommendations
from APCAS29



AGENDA ITEM 3.1

Overview of FAO's statistical activities in Asia and Pacific and achievements of key recommendations of the 29th Session of APCAS

Presenters: Sangita Dubey, Guy Oswald Obama



Agenda Item 3: FAO's activities in food and agriculture statistics in Asia and the Pacific, and follow-up to recommendations from APCAS28 (1/2)

APCAS/24/3.1

Recommendations from APCAS29

- improve coordination and collaboration with development partners in supporting countries;
- continue support to integrate agricultural statistics and SDGs into national statistical systems;
- further invest in Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) and regional normative work; *and*
- provide to countries on data collection methodologies in the context of SIDS (Small Island Developing States), including use of RS, EOs, GIS measurement, administrative data, etc.

Actions taken since APCAS29

- Collaborations and coordination with:
 - National (donor) government: Australia, Canada, European Union, France, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, United States of America, United Kingdom.
 - Development Partners: Asian Development, IMF, UN Women, WorldFish.
- Integration of global SDG indicators into national indicator frameworks
- Advanced MOOC modules for CAPI/Survey-Solutions; how-to-guidelines edited for SDG 2.4.1, under way for 2.3.1/2.3.2
- Subregional Pacific SIDs training on farm-based SDG indicators including components on use of RS/EO

Agenda Item 3: FAO's activities in food and agriculture statistics in Asia and the Pacific, and follow-up to recommendations from APCAS28 (2/2)

APCAS/24/3.1

Recommendations from APCAS29

- facilitate the improved and timely transmission of information requested in the FAO questionnaire through its regional, sub-regional, and country offices; *and* focus questionnaires better to the appropriate focal person/department/ agency/ ministry.
- support countries in implementing farm-based surveys and using appropriate data collection methods and tools to compile nationally representative data and indicators including SDG indicators;
- provide technical assistance to measure food losses at the national level; and
- provide focused assistance to Pacific Islands countries on SDG reporting

Actions taken since APCAS29

- Stronger intra-FAO and FAO-country collaborations to improve questionnaire response rates
- Regional, sub-regional and national workshops on SDG indicators, and country level trainings and technical support (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Samoa, Thailand and Timor Leste);
- Training/ technical assistance on food loss measurement (virtual and in-person) – Bangladesh, Malaysia, Viet Nam – including questionnaire development and testing
- Sub-regional Pacific SIDS SDG workshop (fall 2023), and targeted country support.

Recommendations from APCAS29

- **The Commission recommended** countries to consider use of virtual learning and remote data collection methods (CAWI, CATI, mail) in censuses and surveys of agriculture.
- **The Commission recommended** FAO to provide guidance to countries for FIES data collection before and after implementation of the survey.

Actions taken since APCAS29

- Countries continue to move towards CAPI and CATI (survey solutions, CSPro), and integrate remote learning into training provided by FAO
- FAO training (on-line, in person) to countries to incorporate FIES into data collection vehicles, with on-going support for compiling and validating FIES results

Agenda item 5: Challenges and methodological development for collecting SDG indicators in Asia and Pacific (1/2)

APCAS/24/3.1

Recommendations from APCAS29

- provide technical support to member countries in the preparation of their Voluntary National Review (VNRs) for assessing progress towards the SDG targets and interpreting the associated results;
- develop tools and methods to integrate alternative data sources to disaggregate SDG indicators;
- provide technical assistance to member countries for the production of SDG indicators disaggregated by relevant dimensions;

Actions taken since APCAS29

- Continued support to countries in preparing and developing their VNRs, including Fiji, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and others, through the lens of FAO's areas of work and SDGs custodial responsibilities;
- Production of Indicator Compilation Manuals and associated indicator compilation syntax, most notably on SDG indicator 2.4.1; and support of the use of alternative data sources to inform farm-based SDG indicators, such as EO data to produce agricultural land area estimates and inform SDG indicator 2.4.1;
- Continued support to Asia and Pacific countries (Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste) on the collection and compilation of SDG indicators (2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, 5.a.1 and 12.3.1);

Agenda item 5: Challenges and methodological development for collecting SDG indicators in Asia and Pacific (2/2)

APCAS/24/3.1

Recommendations from APCAS29

- continue to provide technical assistance to countries anonymizing and publishing microdata;
- continue delivery of technical assistance to Pacific stakeholders via partnership between international and regional partners, such as SPC;
- conduct further research on the collection and processing of data on food consumption away from home; and
- provide technical assistance to build capacity to:
 - simplify and adapt AGRIS questionnaires based on country needs and circumstances;
 - adopt CAPI methods for data collection; *and*
 - compile SDG indicators from AGRIS.

Actions taken since APCAS29

- 2022 expert group meeting/training - requires more investment/ commitment;
- Partnerships now an established modality for TA in Pacific
- Collaboration between FAO and SPC on the inclusion of an agricultural module and SDG indicators 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 5.a.1 in Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)
- Fish consumption survey (Timor Leste) with food away from home component; Samoa's experiment in measuring the calories in the meals people are eating outside their homes (HIES 2023)
- AGRIS questionnaire adaptation, simplification, CAPI use, and SDG compilation integrated into 50x2030 initiative, and modelled in other countries (Timor Leste AP survey)

Recommendations from APCAS29

The Commission recommended FAO to:

- support countries in adopting and scaling up innovative and cost-effective methodologies for agricultural surveys, including technology use;
- improve clarity over the onboarding processes for countries joining the 50x2030 initiative and materials (standardized reporting tools, templates, definitions, etc.);
- show understanding and flexibility, especially regarding current world economic context and challenges posed by pandemic and specific countries' budgeting rules; *and*
- support to countries on design of CAPI system, sampling design and the compilation of SDG indicators for the implementation of AGRIS

Actions taken since APCAS29

- Continued support for implementation of agriculture surveys in 50x2030 countries, and use of cost-effective & innovative methodologies:
 - Rotating module approach
 - Use of CAPI data collection mode
 - Introduction of AI as support to capacity building for data processing
- Supported onboarding process in 50x2030 countries:
 - Simplified Program Implementation Plan;
- Streamlined & standardized survey materials:
 - Refined data collection templates
 - Produced simpler Statistical Bulletins *in lieu* of bulky traditional Survey Report.
- Supported 50x2030 countries with adaptative solutions during the pandemic:
 - Remote/virtual trainings,
 - Adapted fieldwork procedures using , with flexible timeline, etc.
- Continued to support 50x2030 countries with CAPI programming, sampling design and compilation of SDGis.

Agenda item 7: Use of earth observation (EO) data for producing agricultural statistics

APCAS/24/3.1

Recommendations from APCAS29

The Commission recommended FAO to provide countries with technical assistance to use EO data in production of environmental and agricultural statistics and transfer tools and knowledge.

Actions taken since APCAS29

- Regional expert group meetings on EO data and ground truth surveys (virtual – September 2022; in-person – November 2022);
- Country level support and technical assistance to Timor Leste (area measurement); Indonesia (rice area/yield estimation); Vietnam (rice mapping and area measurement)
- Discussion paper/ regional experiences in EO governance; ground truth surveys; regional publication (in progress)
- FAO co-leadership of UN joint task force on EO data; member of International Expert Committee on remote sensing for agricultural statistics created to advise China's Global Big Data Hub (on EO data);

Agenda item 8: Enhancing fishery, aquaculture and forestry data – achievements and challenges

APCAS/24/3.1

Recommendations from APCAS29

The Commission recommended FAO to:

- coordinate efforts with development partners to support countries in the improvement of fisheries and aquaculture statistics;
- support countries to adopt sound data collection methods according to international standards and improve the collection and production of data on small-scale fisheries and inland fisheries; *and*
- Improve the methodology to estimate the volume of aquaculture production by species.

Actions taken since APCAS29

- Development of technical guidance for the creation and implementation of national fisher registry
- Development of guidelines for the collection of inland fisheries (in progress); guidelines of fish loss assessment (in progress)
- Collaboration with 19 different organizations for the development of a dedicated handbook on aquaculture statistics by the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics
- Collaborations with:
 - World Fish to improve fish consumption and nutrition measurement (Timor Leste); Worldfish and Duke University for the development of an approach on the collection of Small Scale Fisheries (Illuminating Hidden Harvest report)
 - World Bank on capacity building activities and on the development of modules for the collection of fishery statistics (in progress)

Proposed Recommendations for APCAS30

Recommendations for FAO

- Continue to collaborate with development partners to mobilize resources and technical assistance, including south-south cooperation
- further invest in how-to and hands-on trainings (SDG indicators, CAPI, etc.)
- Establish thematic APCAS expert groups to leverage country expertise: EO data, agricultural censuses, SDG indicators (5.a.1/5.a.2; 12.3.1.a; 2.4.1; etc.)

Thank you for your attention!

