

# Instructions for Completing the Country Questionnaire for the Assessment of Agricultural Statistical Systems in Pacific Island Countries

## Objective

The Country Questionnaire for the Assessment of the Agricultural Statistics System is a tool developed under the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics through a global consultative process. The tool has been adopted across all regional to assess and monitor capacity of countries to produce agricultural statistics. This can also be used to gauge the impact of capacity building interventions over time. The capacity indicators built on the basis of response to this standard questionnaire will be reported to Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics, and will be useful for inter-regional and inter-country comparison. At country level it can inform the decision on priority area of intervention.

In line with the scope of the Global Strategy, this questionnaire seeks to evaluate country capacity to produce agricultural and rural statistics on a wider definition of agriculture that is inclusive of crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry, water, and the environment.

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

### Definition of agriculture

The country assessments are designed for the entire agriculture sector. The Global Strategy defines the “agriculture sector” in broad terms to include crop, livestock, forestry, environment, aquaculture and fisheries, water resources and rural sub-sectors; because often the means of production are shared and the activities are carried out in a mixed manner. Because the CAQ’s scope is broad, it will be necessary to involve all of the national agencies responsible for collecting data in these subsectors in order to complete the CAQ.

### Focal points and the task team

In responding to this Country Questionnaire, it is desirable that inputs are provided by all key data producing agencies (including both the National Statistics Office and the relevant line ministries) and where applicable the users of the agricultural and rural statistics in the country.

Each contributor should provide their details in the space provided, and note the areas of their contribution to the questionnaire.

Before submitting the questionnaire to the Regional Coordinator (Mr Allan Nicholls), respondents should meet to:

- ensure all questions have been answered;
- eliminate contradictory responses;
- ensure completeness of the questionnaire; and
- ensure that the responses reflect the nationally owned position, and not the views of an agency or a person.

## SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

### Section 1: Institutional infrastructure

#### 1.1 Legal and administrative framework for the collection of statistics

**1.1.1** This question refers to the overall framework for collecting statistics as enshrined in the legislation/act/law of the country. The intention here is to know whether any such overarching law exists that covers all or most statistical activities in the country.

**1.1.1a** The term “operational” means that it is an active law which could be enforced or used to issue decrees and administrative orders relating to the collection of statistics. Assessing the force or effectiveness of the law is not the intention here.

**1.1.2** The legal basis for collecting agricultural statistics can come from the general law on statistics or there may be a specific law for agricultural statistics. The question here refers to the general law for all types of agricultural statistics including current statistics, and does not refer to specific laws which cover isolated activities like an agricultural census.

**1.1.2a** The law will be considered “fully” adequate if all the necessary authorities and responsibilities relating to agriculture statistics are clear and unambiguous and no legal hurdles have been experienced. The answer should be a single consensus response from all those agencies involved in agricultural statistics, reflecting the general situation. Specific details could be added in the comments sections.

**1.1.3** The main purpose of this question is to determine whether there is any coordination among subsectors for agriculture. This question addresses “formal arrangements”; totally informal and ad hoc type arrangements do not have the same standing and thus are not to be reported.

**1.1.3a** Please indicate “yes” if the Council, Board or Committee is active and discharging its functions and “no” if it is not.

**1.1.4** These questions aim to provide some information about the scope and coverage of the national statistics council, board or committee. Please select all that apply.

*1.1.4.a Crop statistics*

*1.1.4.b Livestock statistics*

*1.1.4.c Forestry statistics*

*1.1.4.d Fishery statistics*

*1.1.4.e Aquaculture statistics*

*1.1.4.f Environment statistics*

*1.1.4.g Water resources statistics*

*1.1.4.h Rural development statistics*

#### 1.2 Strategic framework

**1.2.1** If there is a Strategic Plan for development of statistics in the country (NSDS/Master Plan/etc.), report “yes”; if not, please report “no”.

**1.2.2** Please choose one or more selections from the list of options that best describe the agriculture statistics programme.

**1.2.3** This refers to any document which contains a vision for the development of agriculture statistics and which has been adopted by the government as the guiding document for programme planning and resource allocation. This may be a separate document specifically focusing on the agriculture sector or it may be a part of the overall national plan or strategy for the improvement of statistics.

**1.2.4** The integration of the agriculture statistics sector strategy in the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) means that the issues, challenges and vision for the development of agriculture statistics have been well considered in the NSDS. This may be verified by looking at the NSDS or a similar document. It is, however, quite possible that while there is only a limited mention of agriculture in the NSDS, a separate plan or strategy has been prepared exclusively for agriculture based on the vision contained in the NSDS. Integration of

sectoral statistics in the national strategy also means that statistical activities in the agriculture sector are not isolated from the rest of the statistical activities.

**1.2.5** Please select the answer from the available options that best describes the current situation. *Use Codes: 1=Under development ; 2=Planned; 3=Not planned*

### **1.3 Dialogue with data users**

Dialogue with data users implies that there is a two-way exchange and discussion of issues and viewpoints. The mandate for a forum for dialogue will normally have a mechanism to assess data users' needs and their perception about the quality and timeliness of the data.

**1.3.1** The “formal forum for dialogue” means that the forum has been established through legislation or an administrative order and that its members have been selected or nominated.

**1.3.2** The word “regular” refers to the periodicity established by the order or terms of reference under which the forum was constituted. If the order does not specify the periodicity of the meetings, the regularity may be assessed subjectively, taking into account the level of activity and the needs.

**1.3.3** An “informal forum” may not have been established formally. One such forum may be a web-based discussion group, or they also could be ad hoc meetings with changing participants in different meetings.

**1.3.4** This question refers to the degree to which the data producers make themselves accessible to the general data users who wish to provide feedback or obtain additional information regarding the statistics. The question specifically asks if the statistical office or unit offers a web address (www/http), e-mail or telephone number where data users can send their inquiries.

**1.3.5** It is recommended that there be a consensus response from the contact persons in all agencies with responsibilities for agriculture statistics, and the response should be reported by the National Focal Point.

**1.3.6** For questions 1.5.6a to 1.5.6l, please select all options that best describe the situation.

## SECTION 2: CORE DATA AVAILABILITY

### 2.1 Availability of current agricultural statistics

This table records the overall availability, quality and timeliness of the current (usually annual) agriculture statistics. The focus of this section is on availability of data, irrespective of source, rather than the statistical activities, which are examined in Section 3 of the questionnaire on Statistical Methods and Practices.

To complete this section, the focal points should refer this table to all of the identified institutions engaged in collecting agriculture statistics. The contact persons in these institutions should complete the part of the table that is relevant to them. The final response should be prepared by amalgamating the information from the different sources; this might require discussion in order to reach a consensus.

The codes provided at the end of the table should be used, wherever applicable, for the responses. In cases where there are multiple institutions producing statistics on the same data item, the response to questions on frequency, sources of data, geographical coverage, quality and reliability should relate to the most commonly used source of statistics.

When responding to questions in this section, it is recommended to follow the steps listed below:

- **STEP 1:** Complete column 1 on the availability of data. If the data item is not applicable to your country, then the data item should be marked “NA” or not applicable. All respondents involved in producing agricultural and rural statistics should be involved in this process.

To decide the availability of generic data items, such as crops or livestock, refer to the most important species of crop or livestock. If possible, the species should be noted in the Note column.

- **STEP 2:** Following the completion of the “Availability” column, respondents are encouraged to provide details for each available data item including the year of the most recent data and the overall quality perception (based on the scale provided below).

#### Rubric for responding to questions on overall quality perception

<b>1. Highly Reliable</b>	Data is complete, valid, consistent, timely, accurate, and is applicable for a policy use
<b>2. Reliable</b>	
<b>3. Acceptable</b>	
<b>4. Workable</b>	
<b>5. Unacceptable</b>	Data is incomplete, unverified, inconsistent, untimely, and is not applicable for policy use

- **STEP 3:** When complete, all respondents should meet to validate the merged table

#### Example of how to complete Section 2 – Availability of core data:

Statistical Domain	Availability	Year of most recent data	Overall quality perception	Note
<b>PRODUCTION</b>				
<b>Crop</b>				
Crop production: quantity	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA		Choose an item.	
Crop production: value	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA		Choose an item.	
Crop yield per area	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA		Choose an item.	
Area planted and/or harvested	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA		Choose an item.	

## DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN THE TABLES OF SECTION 2

### Agricultural subsidies

Payments by the government to producers of agricultural products for the purpose of stabilizing food prices, ensuring plentiful food production, guaranteeing farmers' basic incomes and generally strengthening the agricultural segment of the national economy. Subsidies may also be paid to input suppliers to increase the affordability of agricultural inputs by the producers.

### Biomass

Refers to the total weight of a group of living organisms or of any specific portion, within an area at a given time.

### Crop production value

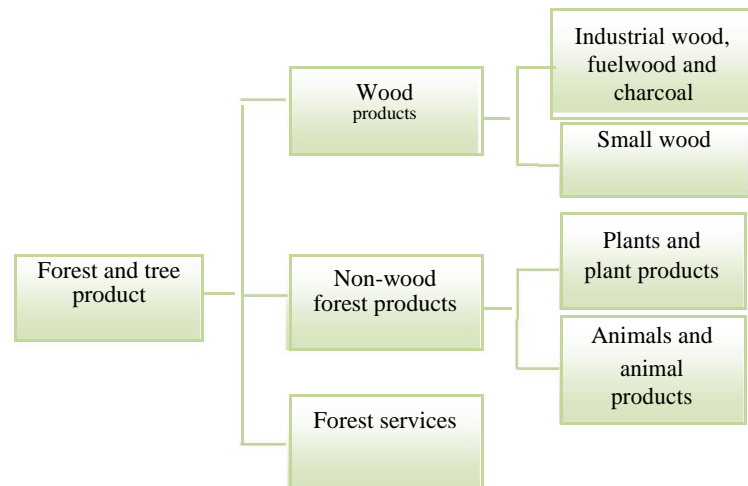
Refers to the statistics of value of production.

### Crops

Normally these data should be collected by species because in some countries data for certain crop production may be available while others may not be available. However, these questions refer to the most important crops of the country. The importance of crops should be determined, for example, by the contribution to gross domestic product, exports or food security.

### Forest

The forest produces a number of products and services. The term “product” refers to goods, which are tangible, whereas the “services”, which are used but are non-tangible. Forest product is the output of forestry and logging activity. Forestry and logging products can be wood in the rough and non-wood forest products.



### Livestock

Normally these data should be collected by species because in some countries, data on production of meat from beef cattle may be available, but data on meat from poultry production may not be available. However, these questions refer to the most important livestock in the country. The importance of specific livestock is to be determined, for example, by the contribution to gross domestic product, exports or food security.

### Maximum level of disaggregation of estimates

Refers to the lowest level of administrative or geographical breakdown for the country for which estimates are available.

### **Non-wood forest product**

Includes both food and non-food items. Examples of food products include: game meat, insects, insect eggs, bamboo shoots, berries, etc. Examples of non-food products are gums and raisins collected freely from forest tree.

### **Public investment in agriculture**

There are two different types of investment: public and private. Public investment has its origin in the government's plans for the various economic sectors, while private investment is carried out by individual enterprises or groups of enterprises. Investments by individual farmers in land improvement, farm buildings and high value machinery are all examples of private investments.

### **Wood products**

These include industrial wood (timber), fuelwood, charcoal and small woods. Whereas industrial wood is used after industrial processing, other types of wood, such as fuelwood, charcoal, wood chips and round wood, are used in an unprocessed form (e.g. pit-props, pulpwood).

## SECTION 3: MAIN STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

### 3.1 Population census

**3.1.1** Please answer “yes” if a population census has been conducted in the last ten years or is planned within the next two years.

**3.1.2** Please enter the year of the most recent population census.

**3.1.3** “Agricultural and other related activities” refers to crops, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture, forestry and other rural paid activities.

**3.1.4** If the year has been identified for the next population census, please enter the year. If no date has yet been selected, enter “not applicable”.

### 3.2 National Accounts Statistics

**3.2.1** Please enter the year for which the most recent national accounts data are published.

**3.2.2** Please choose from the selection of accounts which ones comprise the suite of accounts in the produced and published System of National Accounts (SNA).

*3.2.2a Production account*

*3.2.2b Generation of income account*

*3.2.2c Use of income accounts*

*3.2.2d Capital and finance accounts*

*3.2.2e Balance sheet*

**3.2.3** Please respond either “yes” or “no” to the question about the preparation of quarterly accounts.

**3.2.4** Please choose from the three versions of the SNA (1968, 1993, 2008) which one is the most recent version used in the country, and enter it in the box.

### 3.3 Adoption of International Classifications

Adoption of international classification systems and standards is the first step in integrating data within the country, establishing exchange protocols with other international agencies and facilitating the unambiguous preparation of the country’s national accounts. This ensures that the national data are comparable to the data from other countries.

In this question, the second column of the table seeks information on the extent to which international classifications are used in the national system. The international classification systems are built on a hierarchical coding system, as shown in the examples below. The greater the number of digits, the more detailed the data. In the second column, please report the number of digits of international classifications used in the corresponding national classifications. The ‘*Extent of adoption (number of digits)*’ refers to the maximum number of digits used in the country for building national classification systems for each of the classifications. In the third column, please report the most current version of the classification system being used in the country.

For example, the ISIC is as follows. The more digits in the codes, the more detailed the data:

01 - Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities

011 - Growing of non-perennial crops

0111 Growing of cereals (except rice), leguminous crops and oil seeds

The Central Product Classification (CPC) is as follows:

Section: 0 - Agriculture, forestry and fishery products

Division: 01 - Products of agriculture, horticulture and market gardening

Group: 011 - Cereals

Class: 0111 - Wheat

01111 - Wheat, seed



## 01112 - Wheat, other

The Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) is as follows

Section: 0 - Food and live animals  
Division: 04 - Cereals and cereal preparations  
Group: 041 - Wheat (including spelt) and meslin, unmilled  
041.1 - Durum wheat, unmilled  
041.2 - Other wheat (including spelt) and meslin, unmilled

### 3.4 Price indices

When answering the questions on price indices, it is not necessary that all the indices be based on national coverage. There will be situations where the national price index may be calculated based on prices collected in only one part of the country.

- 3.4.1** Please choose which of the options (i.e. Yes/No) best describes the situation.
- 3.4.2** Please choose which of the three options (i.e. Yes/No) best describes the situation. Please respond “yes” if there is a published Consumer Price Index of the key food crops (e.g. maize, cassava/manioc, rice, wheat or chicken) which are usually consumed directly after only home cooking.
- 3.4.3** Please respond “yes” if there is an agriculture input price index compiled and published for items such as chemicals fertilizer, pesticides, seeds, farm tools and equipment, and respond “no” if there is not. To respond “yes”, it is sufficient if an index on these items is published for any type of prices (e.g. wholesale prices).
- 3.4.4** Please choose from the three answer options the one that best describes the situation. “Terms-of-Trade” for agriculture refers to the movement of prices for goods sold by the agriculture sector to other sectors relative to the movement of prices for goods purchased by the agriculture sector from other sectors of the economy. This index is usually a ratio of indices of prices of two sets of commodities.
- 3.4.5** Please choose from the options the one that best describes the situation. A Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is based on price data collected from the wholesale trade of commodities, including agricultural commodities. The intention here is to know whether the WPI is available for broad agricultural commodity groups or not. It is sufficient to know that a system to monitor bulk prices and inflation is in place.
- 3.4.6** If the answer was “yes” to question 3.4.5, please respond to 3.4.6a, 3.4.6b and 3.4.6c regarding the components of the WPI. The response to each of these three questions may be different.
- 3.4.7** Please answer “yes” if there is a Producer Price Index (also sometimes referred to as a Farm Product Price Index) and “no” if there is not.

The Producer Price Index is an index of the transaction prices that farmers receive when they sell their agricultural products. It can be the price that they get from either: the local market, a market stand that they themselves operate, a wholesaler who buys their product at the farm or a processor of agricultural products who buys their product either at the farm or at the door of the processing plant. The transaction price for calculating producer prices is often referred to as the “*farm gate price*” because it is the price at which the agriculture product is sold and leaves the possession of the farmer.

- 3.4.8** If the answer was “yes” to question 3.4.7, please respond to 3.4.8a, 3.4.8b and 3.4.8c (regarding the components of the Producer Price Index. The response to each of these three questions may be different.

### 3.5 Food and agricultural surveys

#### 3.5.1 Agriculture census

**3.5.1.1** Please respond “yes” if there has been an agriculture census in the last 20 years and “no” if there has not.

**3.5.1.2** If you answered “yes” to question 3.5.1.1, please indicate the year of the most recent agriculture census, and if you answered “no”, skip to question 3.5.1.5.

**3.5.1.3** Please choose from the options presented in questions 3.5.1.6a through 3.5.1.6h the agriculture and related activities for which the agriculture census collected information.

**3.5.1.4** Please indicate from the list of selections in questions 3.5.1.4a through 3.5.1.4c the answer(s) that best describes the programme coordination and operational relationships between the population census and agriculture census projects.

**3.5.1.5** Please record the year for the next agriculture census. If the date has not been established yet, please respond with a “no”.

### **3.5.2 Agriculture surveys conducted during the last five years**

Questions 3.5.2.1 through to 3.5.2.5 are presented in the form of a table. The rows identify specific surveys that are normally conducted on an annual basis to meet the current requirements of statistics. They are common to the statistical programmes of many countries in some form or other; however, not all countries are likely to have all the surveys in the list.

There are seven questions to be answered for each survey that a country conducts, and all but one (i.e. the year of the most recent survey) can be answered with a “yes” or “no” response.

### **3.5.3 Agriculture market information system**

The Global Strategy defines food and agriculture price data as “core statistics” for improving agriculture and rural statistics. The indicator for market information is based on the existence of price data collection systems and the level of representation of agriculture in the collection and dissemination of price data.

**3.5.3.1** Please answer “yes” if there is a statistical programme in place to collect and disseminate price and related information from the wholesale markets and “no” if not. The purpose of the question is to determine if “actual price levels” prevailing in the market are collected and disseminated. The periodicity of disseminating these prices is usually daily or weekly.

**3.5.3.2** If you answered “yes” to the existence of an information system for prices for wholesale markets and related data, please indicate the coverage of subsectors by this system. There may be different markets identified and selected for collecting prices of different crop, livestock, fish and forest products. Also indicate the number of markets from which prices are collected for products of each of the subsectors.

## **3.6 Household budget Survey**

**3.6.1** Please answer “yes” if estimates of rural household income are available.

## **3.7 Availability of derived statistics and indicators**

**3.7.1** Please answer the questions in the three columns with respect to food balance sheets.

**3.7.2** Please answer the questions in the three columns with respect to “agro-environmental indicators”.

## **3.8 Information technology**

The IT infrastructure provides an indication of the degree to which the statistical offices and their personnel are equipped to process, analyse, disseminate and archive information. Although the presence of equipment and employees’ accessibility to computers is not a measure of how effectively they are used, the availability of IT infrastructure is a necessary prerequisite for data quality assurance and efficient data processing and a key indicator for assessing the capacity of

the statistical office and its statistical programmes.

**3.8.1** Please respond “yes” if there is a web site hosting agriculture statistics, and “no” if not.

**3.8.2** Please respond “yes” if there is a database for agriculture statistics, and “no” if not .

**3.8.3** If you answered “yes” to question 3.8.2 and the database is accessible to external users through the Internet, please respond “yes”; respond “no” if it is not accessible.

**3.8.4** Please describe, as best as you can, the IT software and related systems used in collecting, compiling, disseminating and archiving agriculture statistics by choosing from the option(s) offered in the 14 questions 3.8.4a through 3.8.4i, with particular reference to activities for data analysis, data processing and database management.

- 3.8.4a SPSS
- 3.8.4b SAS
- 3.8.4c STATA
- 3.8.4d ACCESS
- 3.8.4e CSPRO
- 3.8.4f PC-Axis
- 3.8.4g SDMX
- 3.8.4h Excel
- 3.8.4i Other, please name

**3.8.5** This section addresses the technology used for the collection, entry and transfer of survey data.

Please describe, as best as you can, the data collection and field collection operations in the agriculture statistics programmes by choosing from the option(s) offered in questions 3.8.5a through 3.8.5h. The data collection technologies used by statistical offices and ministries indicate the degree to which they have been able to acquire and use advanced equipment and digital technologies for their field data collection operations.

Please respond either “yes” or “no” regarding the following”

3.8.5a	Computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI)
3.8.5b	Personal data assistant (PDA) or Computer/Tablet-assisted personal interview (CAPI)
3.8.5c	Paper-based personal interview and manual data entry into computer
3.8.5d	Paper-based personal interview and scanning of questionnaires
3.8.5e	Geographical Position System (GPS)
3.8.5f	Compass and measuring tapes
3.8.5g	Wireless transfer of data from the field
3.8.5h	Others (Please specify.....)

A pilot trial of a technology should not be considered as being used. Say “yes” to the use of a particular technology if it is used on a regular basis for any surveys. To respond “yes”, it is not necessary for the technology to be used on *all* surveys; in fact, different surveys may use different technologies. Also, there may be various combinations of technologies (e.g. wireless data transfer from the field can be done using different technologies). The type of technology is not important for answering the question.

**3.8.6** The questions in this section seek information on the number of computers available for agriculture statistics activities and their distribution between Headquarters and the Field Offices.

**3.8.6a** Please estimate, as accurately as possible, the total number of personal computers in the organization that are in the Headquarters and Field Offices.

**3.8.6b** Please estimate, as accurately as possible, the number of personal computers in the organization used primarily for agriculture statistics that are available to Headquarters personnel and those available to Field personnel.

**3.8.7** Please estimate, as accurately as possible, the number of computer servers in your organization that have been installed for data storage and communication.

### **3.9 General statistical infrastructure**

It is necessary to have a general statistical infrastructure (e.g. up-to-date cartographic material, lists, registers and frames) in order to design and implement surveys. The quality and availability of this type of material often determines the quality and reliability of the results of statistical activities. This question helps to assess the capacity of statistical methods and practices.

**3.9.1** Please answer “yes” if up-to-date, digitized, topographic maps – complete with the country’s administrative jurisdictions – are available for use.

**3.9.2** Please answer “yes” if the digitized maps are available to the government’s statistical offices and agencies, including availability on a cost-recovery basis.

**3.9.3** Please answer “yes” if the country has established an office or unit to process satellite or other remote sensing data in order to monitor crop conditions and production forecasts.

**3.9.4** Please answer “yes” if the MOA, NSO or other government agency maintains an up-to-date list (e.g. Farm Register) of large agricultural farm operators.

**3.9.5** Please answer “yes” if survey enumerators are provided with detailed large-scale maps to assist them with their data collection duties.

**3.9.6** Please answer “yes” if there is an up-to-date list of agricultural households (e.g. Master Sampling Frame or Farm Register) available to the agriculture statisticians who design and select agriculture samples.

**3.9.7** Please answer “yes” if the location of statistical units is geocoded. The statistical units may be households, agricultural holdings or land parcels. For some units which are scattered (e.g. agricultural holdings), it may be sufficient to have geocoordinates of the headquarters.

### **3.10 Financial resources**

**3.10.1** Please answer “yes” if there is a separate line in the budget for the following projects or activities, and answer “no” if there is not.

*3.10.1a Separate line for agriculture statistics in the NSO budget.*

*3.10.1b Separate line for crop/livestock statistics in the MOA budget.*

*3.10.1c Separate line for statistical activities in the Ministry/Department of Fisheries budget.*

*3.10.1d Separate line for statistical activities in the Ministry/Department of Forestry budget.*

**3.10.2** Please select a response from the option(s) offered in 3.10.2a through 3.10.2e that best describes the percentage of the budget designated for activities relating to agriculture statistics that are funded by the government budget. Please consider the average situation of the last three years, and ignore an abnormal situation such as a year when an agricultural census was undertaken through external support. External budgetary support for an agricultural census could be separately indicated in the comments sections.

*3.10.2a 0 – 20%*

*3.10.2b 20 – 40%*

*3.10.2c 40 – 60%*

*3.10.2d 60 – 80%*

*3.10.2e 80 – 100%*

### **3.11 Human resources and training for statistical staff**

Questions 3.11.1 and 3.11.2 request information in a two-column table regarding the number of people – both those at the professional/officer level and those in technical support posts – who

are involved in agriculture statistics activities.

Questions 3.11.3 and 3.11.4 seek information in a two-column table regarding training opportunities both abroad and in-country for personnel at the professional/officer level and in technical support posts.

**3.11.1** Please provide your best estimate of the number of posts established for agriculture activities at both the professional and technical support levels.

**3.11.2** Of the posts reported in response to question 3.11.1, how many of the posts are filled?

**3.11.3** Please answer “yes” if there is a regular government programme or training policy available to agricultural statisticians for training in-country and/or abroad.

**3.11.4** For the number of people (both professional and technical) reported in question 2.2.1, please indicate how many were sent on a training course during the last 12 months, irrespective of the source of funding

## **SECTION 4: CRITICAL CONSTRAINTS IN THE AGRICULTURE STATISTICS SYSTEM**

### **4.1 Critical constraints**

The table has a list of constraints that must be evaluated independently by the NSO and MOA. The national situation will be obtained by averaging the two sets of responses.

Please use the response codes indicated below for grading:

(1) Not at all; (2): Somewhat; (3) Relevant; (4) Significant; (5) Dominant constraint.

A “dominant constraint” means that that any improvement in the situation will dramatically improve agricultural statistics. On the other hand, “Not at all” means that the constraint is inconsequential, and an improvement in this will not significantly affect the ability of the organization to provide the minimum set of core data, the quality or timeliness of the agricultural statistics or the sustainability of the agriculture statistics programme. The other codes reflect the situation in between the two extremes.

## **SECTION 5: EMERGING ISSUES AND BEST PRACTICES IN THE PACIFIC**

This section is designed to identify best practices in agricultural statistics in different countries which could be useful for applications or adaptation in other countries. This section may also be used in elaborating agency specific issues and needs which FAO may consider for inclusion in its future work program.

**5.1.1** Respondents are encouraged to share experiences or best practices used in your country for the improvement of agricultural or rural statistics. These experiences may include: (1) the development of strong coordination mechanisms between producers and users, (2) effective institutional mechanisms for ensuring the quality of agricultural and rural statistics, (3) and any other practices that you feel may be relevant.

**5.1.2** Respondents are asked to list the key emerging issues in your institution that you would like FAO to consider in the future programme of work in the areas of (1) training, (2) workshops, (3) methodological publications, and any other relevant areas.

## **SECTION 6: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS**

Based upon country experience in implementation of Global Strategy activities in the selected countries and other regular work programmes of FAO, a list of technical assistance activities has been prepared. The list is only indicative and countries are encouraged to specify if an activity is not covered in the list.

**6.1** Respondents are requested to select the domain of technical assistance in the country under three categories: (1) Institutional Infrastructure (ie. SPARS, Coordination mechanisms), (2) Human Resource Development (ie. Trainings), and (3) Statistical Methods and Practices.

**6.2** Respondents are encouraged to identify the sub-sectors of agriculture for where technical assistance activities would be most effective.

**6.3** Of the technical assistance activities listed, Respondents are requested to rank the activities in order of importance of 1 to 12 where 1 is the most important activity to your agency, and 12 is the least important. Respondents are also encouraged to identify other technical assistance activities not listed and/or indicate items that may not be relevant by giving a rank of 0.