6.3 APPENDIX – COMPLETE PRESENTATIONS

Strategic Planning for Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics in the Pacific Island Countries

5-8 October 2015, Nadi, Fiji

Summary of Presentations

Key Definitions

Acronym	Explanation
GS	The *Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics* (GS) initiative is the outcome of an international effort endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission and is implemented in the Asia Pacific region by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The GS aims to rebuild the capacities of statistical systems producing agricultural statistics to meet the core and emerging data requirements and to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These objectives are guided by the three pillars of the GS which outline a multi-pronged approach through technical assistance, training and research. Details: www.gsars.org
RAP	Implementation of the GS in Asia Pacific is guided by a Regional Action Plan (RAP) for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) with an initial target to reach 20 countries by 2017. Implementation has thus far started with in-depth country level assessments of capacity to produce agricultural and rural statistics in 15 countries, including Samoa, Fiji and Papua New Guinea in the Pacific area. Since 2013 considerable experience has been gained and lessons learnt while undertaking in-country work in the Asia and the Pacific region. It has been widely recognized that institutional arrangements for coordinating statistical activities and sharing responsibility between national statistics offices (NSOs) and line ministries significantly impact the development of agricultural statistics in the countries.
NSOs	National statistics offices (NSOs) are typically located in each country. Country profiles of statistical systems are updated by National Statistical Offices worldwide.
SDGs	The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, are an inter-governmentally agreed set of targets relating to international development. They follow on from the Millennium Development Goals.
TYPSS	The overarching framework for statistics work for Pacific Islands is provided by the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS). In the Pacific, many of the smaller islands struggle with limited manpower and financial resources and the emphasis of the TYPSS is on employing regional solutions to address national statistical development challenges. Areas of overlap between the TYPSS and the GS are: collection of a core set of agriculture indicators through the National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDI) database; assisting countries to develop cross sectoral (including agriculture) National Statistics Development Strategies (NSDSs); and the inclusion of agriculture questions into regular household surveys and censuses (e.g. household income and expenditure surveys and the population census). Despite this, agricultural statistics remains a weak area for many Pacific countries and urgently requires the attention of regional policy makers.
NSS	A country's National Statistical System (NSS) is a coordinated national effort aimed at improving the mechanisms and processes needed to produce relevant statistics. This effort is embodied in a strategic planning process known as the "National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)".

NSDS	The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) is expected to provide a country with a strategy for developing statistical capacity across the entire national statistical system (NSS). It enables developing countries to build a reliable statistical system that produces the data necessary to design, implement, and monitor national development policies and programmes. An NSDS also helps countries meet their regional and international commitments with respect to statistics SDGs (Strategic Development Goals), regional integration processes, etc. An NSDS provides a country with a vision of the development of statistics and a detailed, costed action plan over a period of 5 to 10 years that covers the production of all official statistics. More details follow from Paris site: http://www.paris21.org/NSDS Online booklet: http://www.paris21.org/sites/default/files/NSDS_booklet_en.pdf
SPARS	The Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS) guidelines are the result of a comprehensive effort to develop a standard methodology to design strategic plans for agricultural and rural statistics in line with the NSDS methodology developed by PARIS21. Some essentials for a SPARS: mainstreamed into the NSDS national process (if any); cover the whole agricultural and rural sector; to be backed by political support so nationally led and owned; taking into account what is in place and international commitments; also drawing on international statistical standards (etc). Details: http://www.gsars.org/spars-guidelines/
WCA	FAO has prepared its next World Programme for Census of Agriculture (WCA 2020) which will guide the agricultural censuses during 2016-25. The programme proposes new approaches to establish a system of integrated surveys and cost-effective ways of data collection. In tandem, a number of technical developments are taking place as part of research component of the GS.
AGRIS	AGRIS, a survey system, has been developed to serve as a model survey system for many countries. A number of other guidelines and research outputs are available to countries for strengthening their systems.

1.0 DAY ONE – OPENING SESSION

1.1 Key Discussions – Day One

1. Discussed how the agriculture sector is a major source of income and employment for most Pacific islands and plays a vital role in supporting food security, sustainable livelihoods and economic growth. The Pacific has approximately 11 million people of which nearly 8 million live in rural areas (73%) and largely rely on agriculture and fisheries for their livelihoods, despite their vulnerability to disasters, climate change, food security and other factors. Improved statistics enables countries to better understand how population growth, demand for natural resources, and the effects of extreme weather and climate change will impact on their food security, poverty and well-being. That information can be used to develop smarter, evidence-based initiatives to help governments make better decisions.
2. Delegates spoke about how this forum is important to share information, progress, challenges and success stories plus investigate the best sub-regional strategy to improve agricultural and fisheries statistics in Pacific Island countries. This event is an historic opportunity to help countries develop sustainable statistical systems which will produce accurate and reliable agricultural and rural data – comparable over time and across countries for use by decision-makers.
3. Statistics are only valuable if they are **used** by the key stakeholders in our countries. So need to ensure statistics align with national priorities and their insights 'translated' for ease of understanding by non-specialist audiences.
4. Participants urged to use the workshop opportunity to network, collaborate, and strengthen their partnership given there are relatively few events within the Pacific bringing together representatives from the Statistics Offices and their colleagues in the ministries of agriculture and fisheries.
5. The Global Strategy on Agricultural and Rural Statistics (GS) is a ground breaking effort to improve agricultural, rural and fishery statistics systems, with three countries in the Pacific sub-region selected for support in the GS Regional Action Plan (RAP): Samoa, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea.
6. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - the follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – will need quality statistics to monitor their progress and to inform national policies and programs. The Monitoring Framework for the SDGs, to be finalized soon, recognizes the need to build the capacity of statistical systems. The SDGs were approved on 25 September, when the UN General Assembly approved the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The SDGs comprise 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets.
7. Need to acknowledge that the GS Regional Action Plan (RAP) is only for five years, until 2017, so there is a funding gap to achieve the goals of Global Strategy that will require additional complementary efforts. In particular, a necessary condition for the Strategy to succeed is the political will and commitment of Pacific Island governments, to demonstrate ownership and commitment by funding regular statistical services that produce a minimum core set of data.
8. Initial discussions about whether there are gaps in the existing approaches, frameworks and initiatives and thus a need to develop a regional plan for agricultural statistics, e.g. a Pacific Strategy on Agriculture and Fishery Statistics.
9. Any regional approach needs to be well harmonized with ongoing strategies such as the Ten Year Pacific Strategy on Statistics (TYPSS). The role of the TYPSS is to coordinate and ensure there is a harmonised system that everyone should use across the region.
10. Fiji recently formulated the Fiji 2020 Agriculture Policy Agenda with a key objective to improve the delivery of services and project implementation by the Ministry of Agriculture, for which effective use of data will be critical.

11. Future challenge is “how can we transform agriculture so it becomes profitable, sustainable and resilient?” Fiji raised the discussion about how statistics have been used for years but with little impact, ie on the Fiji rice sector, and so change is needed and better more reliable data is needed and, most importantly, for that data to be understood by policy makers and decision makers then **used** to make and monitor the right interventions.
12. In the Pacific agriculture and fisheries will remain key sectors for European Union (EU) support in its cooperation programmes currently being prepared for up to 2020, via funding from the new 11th European Development Fund (EDF). In 2016 EU will launch new rural development agriculture programmes in Vanuatu (Euro $25m), Solomon Islands (Euro $10m) and Fiji (Euro $20m). In addition, there is Euro $35m support for the sustainable management of oceanic and coastal natural resources project starts next year led by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA).
13. Delegates were not all aware of International Statistics Day on 20 October 2015 and discussed how this is an important day for stakeholders to use to promote the importance of statistics.
14. Delegates discussed how there are limited funds dedicated to statistics. According to the 2015 annual report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), only approximately 0.24% of Official Development Assistance in 2013 was allocated to supporting statistics. This support was largely provided by a small number of providers. The European Commission (and in particular it's statistics service EUROSTAT) is the world's top development cooperation donor in the field of statistics, followed by the World Bank, the UNFPA and FAO. The EU alone provides roughly a quarter of the global funding for statistics development.
15. While statistics in the Pacific attract low investment they have a particularly high impact on decision making processes. Decisions about aid and/or investment efforts to foster agricultural growth need to be based on sound information, and these factors can only be effectively measured and evaluated with appropriate statistics. Yet in Pacific countries less than 5% of national budgets are allocated to the agriculture sector, and a minute portion of those funds to agriculture statistics. (Globally EU estimates only 0.24% of global aid funding goes towards agriculture statistics.)
16. Regionally harmonised statistics are important as statistics become more meaningful when they can be compared across countries and in regular time intervals. Delegates discussed how the regional dimension of the event was another important advantage of this workshop. Monitoring the sustainable management of, for example, fisheries or the effects of climate change and food security, necessitates regionally, and even globally, harmonized statistic systems.
17. The European Union has declared 2015 the European Year for Development. This month's theme is "Food Security", with the EU citing this workshop and the PAPP programme, with its focus on improving food security for Pacific smallholder communities, as an excellent example of a quality collaboration in the field.
18. Statistics need to be relevant. To get ‘knowledge’ from data it needs to be accessible to non-specialist audiences. Statisticians need to provide easy to understand data and information to their colleagues who are making policies and allocating national finance budgets and, subsequently, statisticians need to attend policy making and planning meetings to ensure data collection is targeted to national priorities.
19. Policy development. Cannot develop policies unless we have the evidence based data to show the gaps that we are working on.
20. Coordination and collaboration: More coordination is needed between statistics offices and planning offices, as well as private sector, NGOs, etc.
21. There is much agricultural data available already that is not being maximally used. Agreement among delegates that need more and improved data but also need to increase the use of data already available.

22. Capacity is not just about manpower but about technical expertise, such as providing methodological approaches.
23. Development of the GS supported National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) guidelines in Pacific Island countries needs to include agriculture as a core component.
24. NSDS is important for advance planning and ensuring the collection of statistics specifically focuses on some of the policies that each country is aiming to drive as part of its core development processes. NSDS can also help ensure each country develops statistical approaches it can monitor over time and that answers key questions when it comes to policy decisions, and ensuring those decisions are based on evidence base data.
25. It is important that statisticians do not work in isolation but rather in partnership with ministries, especially policy makers and budget decision makers across ministries. Then, as discussed by Samoa, communicate to ministers and ministries the cohesion between national priorities and sector needs. Need to convince senior 'champions' of the importance and success of having decisions driven by a strong evidence base of data.
26. Discussion about the usefulness of TYPSS' technical assistance to a National Statistics Office (NSO), including the provision of a spreadsheet of an NSO's needs. Samoa commented: "so if you have your strategy in place and you know your capacity then the TYPSS allows you to plan in advance… the TYPSS allows us to request far in advance so the regional office can help us if there is a resource need." Solomon Islands commented that TYPSS is very important given it is planning to do a census next year "but we don't have the funds and we don't really know what type of questions to ask or how we are go about it on the technical side, so the TYPSS idea of standardization is very useful… and probably there are some cost savings there too."
27. GS research is focussing on 15 themes and 25 topics.
28. Criteria and unit standardisations are difficult, and more standardised definitions may be useful. It is difficult in the Pacific to clarify some units (ie baskets versus kg of production) or criteria, such as demarcating between rural and urban areas. The GS research will provide a definition (agreed common criteria in the absence of an international consensus) of what is rural versus urban areas.
29. Technology is being considered by countries in relation to their census plans, ie GIS and 'drone' helicopters to view where crops being grown. However, there are pros and cons of drones, ie issues of drones flying where they should not given privacy issues, however, the GS team was very interested to hear about any application of these drones.
30. Discussion about the need for countries to 'own' and manage their approach to statistics, and a wariness of having an external "technical advisor come in, lead then leave". Samoa explained: "we did it ourselves and we owned the document and that made the difference for us (did get technical assistance but created the document ourselves). Agreement from GS team and delegates that it is important for a country to own its plan, and only defer to an international consultant on an ad hoc basis for specific technical inputs as required., but overall ownership and design stays with the govt.
31. NSDS needs political support, and having a high level advocate or champion is useful, e.g. in Samoa the high level advocate was the minister (also prime minister) and this was helpful to have high level ministers realise the importance of statistics, however the challenge remained the need to garner departmental support. Another challenge is donors coming in with specific statistical agendas that do not link with the national priorities "and we get off track."
32. In terms of capacity and collaboration, NSO's and agriculture departments can, for example, garner the support of agriculture extension officers to potentially collect regular high quality data on agriculture production. Some countries are already taking this approach.
33. In 2011 the initial GS assessment found many Pacific countries have small and weak statistical systems, with low capacity and technical skills, coupled with a shortage of financial resources. Often activities ad hoc rather than planned, and subsequently are often not continuous or ongoing systems

for getting regular agriculture statistics. There is a heightened awareness currently in the Pacific for better agriculture statistics, and for donors to support this need. This is a unique time and opportunity for statistics in Pacific countries. (The FAO's 2011 GS capacity assessment was a pilot assessment used to prepare its Regional Action Plan (RAP).)

34. An analysis of country based agriculture policies indicated that only four of six policies analysed were considered to have used data in a consist way, which means two were lacking in evidence based analysis. This gives an indication that statistics in country are not being used by policy makers despite there being data in existence that could be used, coupled with the opportunity to improve data. This highlights the need to ensure reports are used (rather than sitting in filing cabinets) and that more emphasis is needed to ensure people know what data exists and that they use that data.
35. GS focus is on sustainability, with integration into existing in-country systems central to its sustainable approach. In the past there have been a variety of statistical initiatives supported by development partners but these were typically focused on single statistics activity rather than integrating into existing systems and approach, and as a result the initiatives were not sustained longer term. The FAO's Global Strategy aims to address this issue through its Technical Assistance (TA) strategy that focusses on assisting to strengthen existing systems, including capacity, in the Pacific.

1.2 Presentations

PRAYER: PAPP CHAIRMAN: Patrick Arioka

WELCOMING REMARKS BY SPC: Ken Cokanasiga, Deputy Director of the SPC Land Resources Division (LRD)

SESSION: OPENING REMARKS
OPENING REMARKS BY FAO: On behalf of Gavin Wall, FAO Sub-regional Coordinator for the Pacific delivered by Mukesh Srivastava, Senior Statistician, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

SUMMARY
Coordinator for the FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands, Gavin Wall was unable to attend the event, and Mukesh Srivastava, Senior Statistician - Economic, Social and Policy Assistance Group (ESP) FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, spoke on his behalf about the FAO's ground breaking Global Strategy effort to improve agricultural, rural and fishery statistics systems.

Mr Srivastava said: "The availability of these statistics is crucial to monitor progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and to inform national policies and programs. This meeting will result in the initiation of a comprehensive long-term plan for building capacities of statistical systems for monitoring the attainment of these goals for the people and communities of the Pacific. The main purpose of this meeting is to inform countries in this region of the developments at the global and regional levels, and consider adapting them to the needs of this region for implementation through a Strategic Plan that is well harmonized with on-going strategies such as the Ten Year Pacific Strategy on Statistics (TYPSS)."

The Global Strategy (GS) is a ground breaking effort to improve agricultural, rural and fishery statistics systems, with three countries in the Pacific sub-region selected for support in the GS Regional Action Plan (RAP): Samoa (2013), Fiji (2014), and Papua New Guinea (2015). Mr Srivastava explained the GS Regional

Action Plan funding gap as support is available only until 2017 so there will be a need for additional complementary efforts to achieve the GS goals.

The GS links to the monitoring of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that need quality statistics to monitor their progress and to inform national policies and programs. FAO's main mandate is to combat hunger and malnutrition, and monitor progress thus the FAO focus is on SDG 2, "End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture", though other SDGs also relate to FAO's work. The SDGs Monitoring Framework, being finalized, recognizes the need to build the capacity of statistical systems.

"This is an historical opportunity to help countries develop sustainable statistical systems which will produce accurate and reliable agricultural and rural data – comparable over time and across countries for use by decision-makers. However, a necessary condition for the Strategy to succeed is the political will and commitment of your governments."

PRESENTATION

The Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Fiji, Inia Seruiratu, Ambassador Andrew Jacobs, EU Head of Delegation, Distinguished Participants and Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure to extend, on behalf of the Director-General of FAO and on my own behalf, a warm welcome to the participants of the "Workshop on Strategic Planning for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics for the Pacific Island Countries".

I am delighted to acknowledge the participation of country representatives from some 13 Pacific countries, as well as from the European Union, SPC and our other FAO colleagues. I am thankful to the SPC for co- organizing of this event with FAO, and for your interest in supporting the Global Strategy on Agricultural and Rural Statistics and for travelling long distances to participate in this event despite your busy schedule. I do hope that your active involvement in guiding this global initiative in the Pacific will ensure the relevance, effectiveness and impact of our activities at the sub- regional and country level.

I am happy to note that many international organizations are collaborating to improve agricultural statistics. FAO is privileged to take a part in this joint effort and host the secretariat. I am pleased to acknowledge as well the contributions of our partner institutions, – UNESCAP, SIAP, ADB, SPC, ASEAN, and SAARC – in this global initiative. Working together using our comparative advantages and pooling of knowledge and financial resources will indeed have a lasting impact on agricultural statistics systems.

The Global Strategy is a ground breaking effort to improve agricultural, rural and fishery statistics systems. The availability of these statistics is crucial to monitor progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and to inform national policies and programs.

The Regional Steering Committee for the Global Strategy has selected 15 countries in the region as the priority countries as of January 2015 out of a larger number which volunteered to be selected. Regarding the Pacific sub-region, the RSC has selected 3 individual countries, including Samoa (2013), Fiji (2014), and Papua New Guinea (2015). Technical assistance and training activities have been implemented in these countries, according to the guidelines of the Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy.

This meeting is of particular importance as it will provide a forum to share the information/progress and challenges/good examples of the GS project with Pacific countries and the stakeholders in this region, and

discuss the appropriate sub-regional strategy to improve agricultural and fisheries statistics in Pacific Island Countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen:
You are aware that FAO's main mandate is to combat hunger and malnutrition, and monitor progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, especially MDG one, which aims to reduce hunger by half by 2015. The Asia-pacific region has achieved the largest reduction in the absolute number of undernourished people at 236 million. However, this was not sufficient to meet the target set by the World Food Summit of halving the number of undernourished people by 2015. Nearly 12 percent of the region's total population who have been left behind and have not shared completely in the benefits of economic growth. Without supporting this population, we cannot achieve 'Zero Hunger' in the region.

This unfinished agenda has been taken up under SDG 2, "End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture". A number of other SDGs relate to FAO's work on Food, Nutrition, agriculture, livelihoods and gender issues. FAO's new Strategic Objectives focus on sustainability of agriculture, reduction of rural poverty, and increasing resilience of livelihoods to threats and crisis. Polices and regulatory frameworks prepared through inclusive approaches in the food systems will contribute to achieving these objectives at the country level.

Needless to say, monitoring progress towards these Global Goals places new demands on the data systems, as well as the current unmet data gaps. In some leading countries, only 25 to 50 percent of data required for preparing SDG progress indicators is available. The Monitoring Framework for the SDGs, which will be finalized soon, recognizes the need to build the capacity of statistical systems. I expect that this meeting will result in the initiation of a comprehensive long-term plan for building capacities of statistical systems for the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals for the people and communities of the Pacific.

Ladies and Gentlemen:
The Global Strategy recommends that agriculture be integrated into national statistical systems. The Regional Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific defines the areas of support that the Asia Pacific region needs in terms of technical assistance, training and research to strengthen national capacities in a sustainable way. We need to ensure its success by contributing our best.

We must acknowledge that the Regional Action Plan has a funding gap and support is available only until 2017. The plan thus needs additional complementary efforts to achieve the goals of Global Strategy. The main purpose of this meeting is to inform countries in this region of the developments at the global and regional levels, and consider adapting them to the needs of this region for implementation through a Strategic Plan that is well harmonized with on-going strategies such as the Ten Year Pacific Strategy on Statistics (TYPSS).

Ladies and Gentlemen:
This is a historical opportunity to help countries develop sustainable statistical systems which will produce accurate and reliable agricultural and rural data – comparable over time and across countries for use by decision-makers. However, a necessary condition for the Strategy to succeed is the political will and commitment of your governments. Governments need to demonstrate ownership and commitment by funding regular statistical services that produce a minimum core set of data.

I am convinced that with our strong partnership with regional organizations such as SPC, our member countries and other leading partner institutions present here such as the European Union, together we will improve the evidence base of policy making of the agricultural sector in the region.

Finally, let me acknowledge the hard work of the secretariat staff in SPC and FAO in the preparation and organization of this meeting. I would also like to thank our colleagues and partner organizations for the presentations they will make to assist our understanding and discussion.

I wish you all success in your deliberations, and a pleasant stay in Fiji.

Thank you.

SESSION: FORMAL OPENING
FORMAL OPENING: The Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Government of Fiji, Inia Seruiratu

SUMMARY
The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Fiji Government, Inia Seruiratu, welcomed local and overseas guests to workshop.

Minister Seruiratu added that: "I am a strong advocate for better use of statistics and data within the agriculture sector and look forward to hearing our combined recommendations from this meeting on how best to develop a regional plan for our approach to statistics. The effective use of data will be critical in meeting the objectives in our new Fiji 2020 Agriculture Policy Agenda, which promotes sustainable community livelihoods." FAO and PAPP provided support for the Agenda, and are helping Fiji to develop an implementation plan plus also its own Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Rural Statistics, along with other activities including staff training.

However, given nearly three quarters (73%) of the Pacific population lives in rural areas and in Fiji the sugar industry alone supports the livelihoods of 200,000 Fijians, Minister Seruiratu repeatedly questioned delegates about: "How can we transform agriculture so it becomes profitable, sustainable and resilient?"

He explained that "year in and year out" Fiji has been producing data and other activities to transform agriculture but "where is the effect? How are we improving?" He said change is needed and for that to happen "we need big data and we need reliable data."

"Participants and organisers should remember throughout the workshop that statistics are not useful unless they are used by the key stakeholders in our countries. Statistics must therefore be aligned with our national priorities and emphasis placed on making the insights they reveal accessible to non-specialist audiences. Secondly, there are relatively few fora within the Pacific which bring together representatives from the Statistics Offices and their colleagues in the Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries. I would urge all participants at this workshop to use the opportunity to network, collaborate, and strengthen their partnerships. Strengthening the partnership between regional organisations, government and key institutes will enable key stakeholders to effectively use statistical tools and promote innovative ideas."

He concluded that "we can make the right interventions if we have the right data and that is why statistics are important."

PRESENTATION (Draft Speech)

Distinguished Guests:
EU Head of Delegation Ambassador Andrew Jacobs;
Dr Ken Cokanasiga, Deputy Director of SPC's Land Resources Division (TBC);
Representatives from FAO (Global, regional and sub-regional office);
Members of National Statistics Offices and Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries from around the Pacific;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here today to officially open this workshop on "Strategic Planning for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics".

The agriculture sector is a major source of income and employment for most Pacific islands and plays a vital role in supporting food security, sustainable livelihoods and economic growth. Nearly three quarters (73%) of the Pacific population lives in rural areas and in Fiji the sugar industry alone supports the livelihoods of 200,000 Fijians.

We are gathered here this week to learn from new methodologies and share lessons learnt, on how statistics can be used to support evidence based policy in our agriculture and fishery sectors. Effective use of statistics ensures that our support to these sectors is relevant, and that we are providing valuable services to our farmers. We also have the opportunity to discuss developing a regional strategy on agriculture and fishery statistics to ensure continued improvements over the long term.

I am personally a strong advocate for better use of statistics and data within the agriculture sector in Fiji. Fiji recently formulated the Fiji 2020 Agriculture Policy Agenda with the vision to build sustainable community livelihoods through competitive exports and food security. One of its key objectives is to improve the delivery of services and project implementation by the Ministry of Agriculture. Effective use of data will be critical in meeting that objective.

Furthermore, in 2014 I instigated a Baseline Survey of all farmers in Fiji in recognition of our need for clear and reliable data on where our farmers are, what they're producing, and the challenges they are facing.

I would like to acknowledge the support of both FAO and the European Union supported SPC Pacific Agriculture Policy Project (PAPP) on agricultural and rural statistics in Fiji. FAO has provided support for Fiji's 2020 Agricultural Policy and is in the process of finalising its multi-year country programme framework. It is also helping Fiji to develop its own Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Rural Statistics. PAPP will support the development of a costed implementation plan for Fiji's 2020 Agricultural Policy along with the development of other sub-sectoral policies. On statistics PAPP will support analysis of Fiji's Baseline Survey and has already supported training to my staff on agricultural statistics including a 10 day course by SPC on the use of CS Pro (a statistics collection and analysis software).

Let me also commend the European Union for their ongoing support. The EU and Fiji are currently engaged in the development of an Euro 20 M programme to support agriculture and the sugar sector in Fiji from 2016-2020.

I would like to conclude with two final thoughts.

Firstly, the participants and organisers should remember throughout the workshop that statistics are not useful unless they are used by the key stakeholders in our countries. Statistics must therefore be aligned with our national priorities and emphasis placed on making the insights they reveal accessible to non-specialist audiences.

Secondly, there are relatively few fora within the Pacific which bring together representatives from the Statistics Offices and their colleagues in the Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries. I would urge all participants at the workshop to use the opportunity to network, collaborate, and strengthen their partnerships. Strengthening the partnership between regional organisations, government and key institutes will enable key stakeholders to effectively use statistical tools and promote innovative ideas.

I now declare this meeting open.

SESSION: HONOURED SPEAKER
HONOURED SPEAKER: EU Head of Delegation Ambassador, Andrew Jacobs

SUMMARY

Addressing the audience during the workshop opening, the Head of the European Union Delegation for the Pacific, H.E. Ambassador Andrew Jacobs, said "Strengthening agriculture statistics in this region is challenging, given the limited resources and the informal nature of agriculture. However, I believe this workshop has the potential to make a difference by bringing together representatives from both agriculture ministries, fisheries ministries and statistics offices, which often work in isolation. Strengthening cooperation between both will be a key to the development of sustainable statistics and development in the region, more generally."

Ambassador Jacobs explained how the European Union (EU) is currently preparing cooperation programmes up to the year 2020, via funding from new 11th European Development Fund (EDF), and in the Pacific agriculture and fisheries will remain key sectors for EU support. In 2016 EU will launch new rural development ag programmes in Vanuatu (Euro $25m), Solomon Islands (Euro $10m) and Fiji (Euro $20m). In addition, Euro $35m support for the sustainable management of oceanic and coastal natural resources project starts next year led by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA).

He said “today, statistics play a fundamental role in development” yet limited funds are dedicated to their development. “As this workshop is all about statistics, I'll happily oblige and provide you with some figures. According to the 2015 annual report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), only approximately 0.24% of Official Development Assistance in 2013 was allocated to supporting statistics. This support was largely provided by a small number of providers. The European Commission (and in particular it's statistics service EUROSTAT) is the world's top development cooperation donor in the field of statistics, followed by the World Bank, the UNFPA and FAO. The EU alone provides roughly a quarter of the global funding for statistics development.”

Regionally comparable and harmonised statistics are also important, which is why this regional workshop is of particular importance.

PRESENTATION

It is a great pleasure to participate, together with our colleagues from SPC and FAO, in the opening of this workshop on "Strategic Planning for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics".

Agriculture and fisheries are crucial sources of economic growth in the Pacific. Agriculture is furthermore an essential sector in the fight against poverty, given the large proportion of households in many countries relaying on subsistence farming.

Over many years, the EU has supported Pacific Island countries in developing these key sectors through our bilateral and regional programmes.

The Pacific Agriculture Policy Programme (or PAPP Programme), a co-organiser of today's workshop, is an excellent example of a successful regional programme in the agriculture sector. The programme is funded by the EU and implemented by the SPC, with an overall budget of 8.6 MEUR. It provides assistance from the macro level, i.e. policy making and strategic thinking, to the micro level, with support directed to smallholder farmers.

The project seeks to improve food security for Pacific smallholder communities by addressing three policy areas:

1. Strengthening regional agricultural development strategy;
2. Improve the dissemination and adoption of applied agricultural production research technologies;
3. Contribute to agricultural enterprise development through improved market linkages;

Together with our Pacific partners we are currently preparing our future cooperation programmes for the period up to 2020. These programmes will be funded via national and regional envelopes of the new 11th European Development Fund. In the Pacific, agriculture and fisheries will remain key EU intervention areas.

In 2016 we will launch new rural development and agriculture programmes in Vanuatu (€25M), in Solomon Islands (€10M) and in Fiji (€20M). In addition, our 11th EDF Pacific regional programme foresees a total of €35M for supporting the sustainable management of oceanic and coastal natural resources. The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) has been tasked to lead the discussions for the development of this future project, which will start next year.

Recognizing the importance of sound public financial management and reliable statistics for the implementation of any development project, the 11th RIP foresees a total of 6 MEUR for public financial management reform, including statistics support.

Today, statistics play a fundamental role in development. In two weeks, on October 20th, it will be the International Statistics Day. And two weeks ago, on September 25th, the UN General Assembly approved the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, comprising of 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets. Reliable and timely statistics will be essential to manage and monitor the achievement of the new SDGs. However, despite the increased focus on statistics in development, funding for strengthening statistical systems and capacities remains very limited.

As this workshop is all about statistics, I'll happily oblige and provide you with some figures. According to the 2015 annual report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), only approximately 0.24% of Official Development Assistance in 2013 was allocated to supporting statistics. This support was largely provided by a small number of providers. The European Commission (and in particular it's statistics service EUROSTAT) is the world's top development cooperation donor in the field of statistics, followed by the World Bank, the UNFPA and FAO. The EU alone provides roughly a quarter of the global funding for statistics development.

Strengthening agriculture statistics in this region is challenging, given the limited resources and the informal nature of agriculture. However, I believe this workshop has the potential to make a difference by bringing together representatives from both agriculture ministries and statistics offices, which often work in isolation. Strengthening cooperation between both will be a key to the development of sustainable statistics and development in the region.

The regional dimension is another important advantage of this workshop. Statistics become more meaningful when they can be compared across countries and in regular time intervals. Monitoring the sustainable management of fisheries or the effects of climate change and food security, necessitates regionally and even globally harmonized statistic systems.

The European Union has declared 2015 the European Year for Development. This month's theme is "Food Security". I believe the PAPP programme, which focuses on improving food security for Pacific smallholder communities, and this workshop, which targets agriculture and fisheries statistics, are excellent examples for our joint work in this field.

As the exchange of knowledge and best practices between partner countries is at the centre of our PAPP programme, I look forward to the workshop's discussions, the good work done by our colleagues from SPC and FAO as well as the contributions of many of you coming from neighbouring islands.

The Pacific region and its agricultural sectors are very well represented today and this is a recipe for an excellent workshop to take place over the next 3 days.

I wish you all a fruitful discussions and exchanges.

SESSION: GROUP ACTIVITY
GROUP ACTIVITY: Each delegate introduced themself.
(Refer to Appendices for Participant List)

SESSION: MORNING TEA

SESSION: PANEL OF SPEAKERS
PANEL FACILITATOR: Chair of the PAPP Steering Committee, Mr Patrick Arioka

SESSION 1: STATISTICS FOR POLICY MAKING ON AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL SECTORS IN PACIFIC COUNTRIES
PRESENTATION: Linking Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics with Policy, Vili Caniogo, PAPP Team Leader, SPC

SUMMARY
There is a shortage of funding for the agricultural sector especially for statistics – on average Pacific countries allocate less than 5% of their national budgets to the agriculture sector – so the challenge is to make good use of the funds given via the use of statistics to drive smart investments. Key messages:

- The availability and quality of agricultural statistics is one of the key challenges now facing the sector.
- Decisions about aid and/or investment efforts to foster agricultural growth need to be based on sound information; these factors can only be effectively measured and evaluated with appropriate statistics.

Based on an inventory of 15 countries' agriculture policy and key documents, eight countries mentioned agriculture statistics and research as important but "accessing data is a serious challenge", and only four national agriculture sector plans included data or information as evidence to inform policy (based on data used from Agriculture Census, Trade data, HIES and other sources). Comments from the policies, in relation to statistics, included: "accessing data is a serious challenge"; "there is a lack of data and poor understanding in this area"; and "without reliable data… monitoring production trends is severely constrained." The inventory also looked at how are policies across countries are linked.

In addition to the need for more data, are the challenges of ensuring data is relevant, and that is understand and used by policy makers and other non-specialist audiences. There is also the need to better "connect" policy people with statisticians to ensure they are best equipped with the data and knowledge they need to develop evidence based policy, and to guide national finance budgets.

Discussions followed the presentation about how, through the inventory, for the first time we are seeing cohesion between countries in the Pacific, ie 13 policies highlighted coconuts, which makes it easier to know the areas of need and to identify and collaborate on the evidence based data gaps to prioritise. Also discussion around how, through the GS that runs to 2017, there is a lot of room for better structuring the policies and using better data and tools within the policies.
Delegates also talked about the need to measure the progress of the policies and plans, and to have budget to continue the policy and its monitoring.

PRESENTATION
[POWERPOINT]
PAPP project:

- Aims to strengthen engagement of smallholder farmers in the Pacific with markets through:
  - Strengthening regional agricultural strategies
  - Improving the dissemination of applied research & technologies
  - Contributing to enterprise development

Importance of data:

- Data and statistics, crucial element of all PAPP KRAs:
  - Provides evidence for policies
  - Understand the baseline situation
  - Identify priorities for action
  - Targeting and effectively managing that action

TABLE: Inventory of 15 (12) countries and current ag statistics document (Sample only of complete table)

Country	Title of Document	Type of document	Status	Mid-term review	Terminal review	PAPP Assistance
Cook Islands	Ministry of Agriculture Business Plan 2014/15 Matairangi Purea	Agriculture agency business plan	Current			Started
Fiji	Fiji 2020 Agriculture Sector Policy Agenda "Modernizing Agriculture"	National agriculture sector policy	Current	Mid-term (2017)	End term (2020)	Started

- PAPP started with baseline (inventory) of all the ag policies or frameworks in the region, at the national level. Each had a document, at different stages, and in different forms.

PAPP activities:

- Inventory of National Agriculture/Forestry Sector Policies
  - 15 countries

- Inventory includes summary of content of national agriculture sector plans: goals, objectives, issues, commodities etc
- Analysis of the documents to identify the issues raised most frequently

Findings of inventory:

- Four major themes
  - Food Security
  - Economic Development
  - Sustainability
  - Effective Institutions

DIAGRAM: Inventory continued (economic development)
Example: ie access to finance

DIAGRAM: agriculture statistics a key issues
Ie extension services, research and development, ag statistics (8 countries mentioned this as important in their policies), etc

What the policies say:

- "Accessing data is a serious challenge"
- Subsistence activity: "there is a lack of data and poor understanding in this area"
- "without reliable data… monitoring production trends is severely constrained"

How data is used:

- Four Pacific national agriculture sector plans include data or information as evidence to inform policy *(already stats being used to better formulate policies and have evidence-based policies)*
- Data is used from:
  - Agriculture Census
  - Trade data
  - HIES and other sources

DIAGRAMS:
Census data, ie Vanuatu % of households growing cash crops (key commodities in Vanuatu – each has its own commodity policies)
Trade data, ie FSM used ag exports 2000-2009 trade data

Agriculture census data:

- Baseline and Comparison: "(Cook Islands) An Agriculture Census was conducted in 2011. The Census gives a snapshot as compared to 2000 when the previous Census was carried out"

Commonly mentioned commodities:
(13) Coconut - ie 13 policies mention coconut
(11) Taro
(10) Fruits and vegetables
(8) Cassava
(7) Banana; traditional food crops
(6) Root crops; vanilla

The message:

- "*The availability and quality of agricultural statistics ….is one of the key challenges now facing the sector. "*
- *"Decisions about aid and/or investment efforts to foster agricultural growth need to be based on sound information……these factors can only be effectively measured and evaluated with appropriate statistics."*

-In all our countries less than 5% of national budgets are allocated to the ag sector. That is not a lot and the challenge is to make good use of what we are given, through good statistics and good tools so we can make good value decisions and also for govt to process claims for further investment.

DIAGRAM: Understanding Policy Linkages
Ie Vanuatu. SDGs at the top, then links to policies and departments who run those policies, then links to status, and sub-sector policies or planning documents.

Additional PAPP activities:

- Other emerging activities for PAPP include:
  - Agriculture Public Expenditure Reviews.
  - Knowledge dissemination
  - Youth and women engagement in agriculture
- Better collection and use of data required in all of these areas.

Concluding comments:

- Need to keep in mind the key themes in policies- statistics **need to be relevant**
- To get 'knowledge' from data it needs to be accessible to non-specialist audiences (colleagues who are making policies, and who are connected with national finance budgets, need to understand the data statisticians are producing)
- Working towards a regional strategy on agriculture and fisheries statistics to meet these needs

DISCUSSION/ QUESTIONS:

- Vili introduced the 'Policy Bank' on the PAFPNet site. Ie showed the Vanuatu page
- FAO comment (Mukesh). Always a close link between policy and data. Good to see the listing of policies in the region and the potential policy and data gaps.
- Tonga fisheries: recently standalone fisheries sector approach. Risk fisheries absorbed into ag and how does it as a sector ensure it has a strong connection, and doesn't get missed out.
- Vanuatu: Any plans to measure the progress of the policies and plans, how measure effectiveness of policy goals etc? Also need to budget to continue the policy and its monitoring.
  Response: This inventory is just the first steps, for project that's here till 2017. There is a lot of room for better structuring the policies and using better data and tools within the policies.

SESSION 1: STATISTICS FOR POLICY MAKING ON AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL SECTORS IN PACIFIC COUNTRIES

Discussion led by Mukesh Srivastava on data for monitoring the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)

SUMMARY

The new SDGs have 17 goals with about 169 sub-goals and many indicators (approx. 350). They will also have a focus on monitoring from the outset, moreso than their predecessors the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The monitoring framework is expected to be finalised by March 2016.

This means central to the SDGs planning process are discussions on how prepared and able are statisticians to meet the requirements of monitoring progress of the SDGs, ie in developing countries. Key messages from the SDGs meeting in Bangkok are that:
1. Demands for data are very heavy for monitoring the SDGs. Even developed countries like Japan estimate they can only meet 60% of the data requirements. Non developed countries likely to only meet 25%.
2. Data from national stats offices is very limited. So need to look at non-official sources, ie private sector, NGOs civil societies, and how can best source information and data for SDGs monitoring.
3. Capacity of many NSOs is limited so need to focus on partnerships between national statistics bodies and sector ministries, planning agencies, private sector, NGOs, civil societies, etc.

Disaggregation of data is also an emphasis for the SDGs, ie gender, geography, social groups, etc.

Discussions followed the presentation raised concerns about the weaknesses in Pacific Island countries to provide the SDGs data required. FAO explained that there are 100's of indicators and targets, and this is because the SDGs are global and so not all those indicators will be relevant to Pacific countries. However, they do provide a range so countries can find the indicators that best connect and link with their national framework - that is the beginning stages to know what indicators are most applicable and can be collected, in relation to the SDGs.

PRESENTATION
-17 goals with about 169 sub-goals and many indicators (approx. 350)
-part of SDGs planning was to discuss how prepared and able are statisticians to meet the requirements of monitoring progress of the SDGs (don't think any ag stats representatives there). In past with MDGs didn't think about monitoring until after they were launched, but for SDGs this is pre-planned.
-Expect monitoring framework to be finalised by March 2016.
-for indicators need to determine what is required at national level, regional level and global level.
-understand Fiji and Samoa representatives of the Pacific, to liaise with other countries, to indicate what indicators should be adopted.
How do we reach finalization of the monitoring strategy by Feb?

Key messages from meeting in Bangkok:
1. Demands for data are very heavy for monitoring the SDGs. (People talking about huge demand of data for SDGs and a possible data revolution). Even developed countries like Japan felt can only meet 60% of the data requirements, other countries only 25% and likely other are less.
2. Data from national stats offices is very limited. So need to look at non-official sources, ie private sector, NGOs civil societies, and how can best source information and data for SDGs monitoring.
3. Capacity of the national statistics bodies. Ie the capacity of the line ministries like ag, fisheries and livestock. So a big effort is needed to build the capacity. Partnership being seen as the main strategy for no only achieve he goals but also from its continuous monitoring. ie govt, private sector, NGOs civil societies, etc.

Disaggregation of data: Also an emphasis on disaggregation of data ie gender, geography, social groups, etc.

Adoption: Many ministries were not aware of process of adopting the goals. Message is that there is a need between the national statistic office and the planning agencies responsible for creating development

plans keeping in view the SDGs. It is the national planning agencies in each country that likely to be at the forefront of monitoring and reporting.

Coordination: More coordination needed between stats offices and planning offices, as well as private sector, NGOs, etc.

Capacity: Discussions around long term plan to build capacity, ie in ag. At the country level when implementing the SDGs have a look at your requirements for implementing but also monitoring, as perhaps need for capacity development of national systems to be considered.

DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS:

Fiji: From our side of the world what do you mean about indicators for us, are we having different indicators? Ie can we only meet 25% of statistical demand.
Response: 25% just an average for some countries, not specific to the Pacific. Each country will look at and adopt the SDGs as part of their development planning – so not all countries will select all 17 SDGs. Then they can adopt the monitoring framework (understand plans are for one singular framework for country, regional and national levels).
-Cook Islands: Data revolution; there is much data available with our ag dept ie crops, livestock, and moreso one of the areas lacking is the policy development area. There is much capacity in Cooks. Role of the statistics office is to inform the policy making decisions but our Ministry of Ag already has a lot of data and if they need more they come to us, ie conduct a census (talk with stakeholders about what questions to include). Household census data quite different sample to ag census.
-SDGs: Over 160 indicators. Saw a report on MDGs and there were a lot of Pacific counterparts who have done really well, so doing the SDGs shouldn't be too hard but in saying that they may require new indicators. But if we have baseline data that can be used. Not all the indicators will not be relevant to all our countries, ie what works in Mongolia may not work in the Pacific.
Response: There are concerns that we have a huge demand for data coming, but that is also an opportunity. Maybe an opportunity to request assistance to develop capacity. There is much capacity, ie in ag, but this has to include not just manpower but also capacity to undertake methodology or other aspects that are missing – or the other way around. Should think about a 10 year plan - already looking at this sort of model for Samoa to collect the maximum amount of data in a cost effective fashion (representing Samoa, a govt statistician has been part of the SDGs meetings). For the SDGs it was decided that the national framework in a country would be the guiding factor that would allow each country to customize the indicators - about 330 indicators and over 100 targets - and cause it is global not all those indicators are relevant to us but it gives us a range. Doesn't mean that if there is one target and six indicators that you use all six, for example, you can find the indicators that best connect and link with your national framework, then that is the beginning stages to know what indicators are most applicable and can be collected, in relation to the SDGs.
-Samoa: We are not comparable to developed countries, we have our limitations, but if what we are collecting is in that list then we can tick it off and include it – at least we have those indicators.
Samoa SDGs preparation: Oct 20 Samoa already has program ready to rollout the SDGs, so we would like to bring in parliamentarians to also get their inputs to the SDGs, as well as sector coordinators and we can work with them to go through SDGs and identify the data gaps, and identify who will be responsible for monitoring (as not everything will be the responsibility of the statistical office). How can we decide on which indicators are best for us to use and who will be responsible?

PNG SDGs challenges: When compiling data for MDGs we had a major problem. We do not have a good system for the collection of data. We have a big problem in terms of logistics and having consistent data

collection. Our national stats office. in terms of doing the collection, is faced with the challenges of securing enough resources to run the surveys or census. We have a multitude of problems: big geographic size, literacy, culture, cost, other problems. We may have the same problem of not being able to meet some of the key indicators, for the SDGs as the MDGs. Tried to tailor some of those indicators that were more applicable.
PNG Ag census challenges: Not done for about 50 years in PNG now. NSO does not have a specific branch for ag. In ag it is a skeletal unit, and not as strong as before as fisheries has broken away and is running its own authority, so what is left in ag is crops and livestock. Doing Inception Report now. Also told ag census maybe in 2020, when also having a population census. Before that expect to have Household income (HIES) census. Was thinking of having an ag census in next few years but it is a major undertaking.
Response: In this kind of situation what counts is the first two words in the name of this workshop: "strategic planning" and what you can do and what choices can be made to assist with the process. There is centralized and decentralized approaches. Stats for the country should link directly to national planning processes, they should be linked and they reinforce each other – or identify gaps.

Tonga doing census and ensuring policy is linked: Doing an ag census. Incorporating all sectors in ag: handicrafts, livestock, fisheries, crops. Data is still being processed and not yet at analysis stage. Expect to finish analysis by Nov and release outcomes by Dec via Dissemination Plan.

SESSION: GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS
Allan Nicholls, An overview of the Global Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Statistics and the Regional Action Plan

SUMMARY
The Global Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Statistics and its associated Regional Action Plan (RAP) is a huge undertaking, but necessary as there has been an increase in data needs but a decline over time in capacity and funding. Samoa and Fiji are engaged countries from the Pacific. The GS has three pillars:

1. **Establish a minimum set of core data** that countries will disseminate on a regular basis to meet current and emerging demands (the GS has set up core data, but not relevant to all countries)
2. **Integrate agriculture into National Statistical Systems (NSSs)** to meet the emerging requirements that statistical information be linked across the economic, social and environmental domains (link across sectors - coordination between ag and ag sub-sectors and between the NSO is important and through the GS process, ie Samoa and Fiji, the coordination between ag and NSOs is improving. This includes setting up governance mechanisms that need to stay in place for the longer term so the GS approach is implemented longer term. Collaboration is increasingly important to reduce duplication)
3. **Foster the sustainability of agricultural statistical systems** through governance and statistical capacity building.

The GS Regional Action Plan (RAP) is based largely on the GS Country Assessment Questionnaire completed for most countries in 2011-12, and runs to 2017 with the initial focus on research and now moving more towards training activities.

It is hoped the GS Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS) becomes the building block for NSDS, as this creates a sustainable and long term plan to develop national plans in countries. Most important is to ensure agriculture is included in SPARS to raise the profile of agriculture and thus its likelihood to get more funding over time.

Discussions followed the presentation about how for smaller nations there are limited resources, ie people, and so it can be a drain to have many steering committees overseeing inter-sectoral coordination. FAO's GS recognises smaller countries have some difficulties and some of its processes would not work, and so it is looking at other additional options, ie strategic plan for Pacific island countries. Key to this workshop is to explore some of those options and to seek feedback from participants about whether a Pacific strategy may be feasible.

Collaborating and linking at all levels is important, ie between NSOs and agriculture and fisheries ministries. When GS goes into countries to set up a Working Group it aims to have a mix of stakeholders, including central banks, planning depts., etc all involved to help develop the strategic plan and identify the data gaps. We foster those linkages.

How can country representatives mobilise national govts to increase the low levels of funding for agriculture statistics? Discussion around the GS potentially being extended beyond 2017, given strategic plans are now being put in place but then there is the need to assist in the implementation of those plans. Through the GS process, whether directly or indirectly, countries that have increased their ag statistics funding include Fiji, Bhutan and Indonesia. Samoa, currently developing its NSDS, commented that through the GS it has become easier to access increased funds: "*For us it has been a positive experience to have these strategic plans in place. If you go before cabinet committees and you can link what you are doing to the national framework then it makes it a lot easier to get the money to do the work*."

Background to presentation: The *Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics* (GS) aims to rebuild the capacities of statistical systems producing agricultural statistics to meet the core and emerging data requirements and to monitor the sustainable development goals. These objectives are guided by the three pillars of the GS which outline a multi-pronged approach through technical assistance, training and research.
Implementation of the GS in Asia Pacific is guided by a *Regional Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific* (RAP) with an initial target to reach 20 countries by 2017. Implementation has thus far started with in-depth country level assessments of capacity to produce agricultural and rural statistics in 15 countries, including Samoa, Fiji and Papua New Guinea in the Pacific area.
The GS initiative is the outcome of an international effort endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission and is implemented in the Asia Pacific region by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

PRESENTATION

Presentation Outline:

- Why are agricultural and rural statistics important?
- Why do we need a Global Strategy?
- What is the Global Strategy?
- Impact, Outcome and Outputs
- Three pillars of the Global Strategy
- Governance Mechanisms
- Implementation Process and Outputs
- Progress in Asia Pacific
- Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS)

Agriculture sector:
Is important for :

- Eliminating hunger and reducing poverty
- Providing food security and livelihoods
- Better appreciation of environment and climate change issues

Governments recognize promoting sustainable agriculture is a priority.
Good relevant statistics are needed to inform governments and assist with policy decisions

Why a Global Strategy to improve ag and rural statistics
Developing countries increasingly face:

- Declining Quality of Agricultural and Rural Statistics over time
- Declining capacity of Statistical Systems to meet growing data demands
- Inadequate integration of Agriculture into NSS
- Limited use in planning and policy formulation
- Duplicated efforts in data collection and dissemination
- Resource crunch for data collection => Low priority

Existing data collections do not permit cross cutting analysis across sectors
Speaker Notes:
-Been an increase in data needs but decline in capacity and often funding, over time
-Collaboration increasingly important to reduce duplication (resourcing and avoid confusion)

What is the Global Strategy?

- An initiative of the United Nations Statistical Commission
- Developed through an extensive consultation process
- Provides a conceptual framework for integrated approach to data collection
- To be implemented in 90 countries in the world and
- 20 countries in Asia Pacific region over 5 years
- Focus on Strategic Planning and Capacity Building
- Basis for a renewed initiative of capacity building in agricultural statistics: mobilization of resources

Speaker Notes:
-covers ag and rural statistics, incl. fisheries, crops, livestock, etc
-idea of strategic plan being introduced at the end, is primarily about resource mobilization (funders more likely to provide funds if evidence base for the need)

Impact and Outcome:

- IMPACT
  - Improve evidence-based decision making for poverty reduction, increased food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development
- OUTCOME
  - Enable target countries to develop sustainable statistical systems for production and dissemination of accurate and timely agricultural and rural statistics, comparable over time and across countries.

Speaker notes: sustainability important esp. over time with the implementation of the strategic plan

Global outputs

- Effective governing bodies set up and functioning at global and regional levels

- Coordinating bodies of the NSS, legal frameworks and strategic plans established (by the countries) in target countries to enable the integration of agriculture into the NSS
- New cost effective methods for data collection, analysis and dissemination developed and made available to countries
- Increased capacity of agricultural statistics staff in regional training centres and target countries

Speaker notes:
-Effective governing bodies set up and functioning at global and regional levels (Will be setting up national bodies too, not just at regional and global levels.)

The three pillars

1. **Establish a minimum set of core data** that countries will disseminate on a regular basis to meet current and emerging demands (global strategy has set up core data, but not relevant to all countries)
2. **Integrate agriculture into NSSs** to meet the emerging requirements that statistical information be linked across the economic, social and environmental domains (we need to link across sectors)
3. **Foster the sustainability of agricultural statistical systems** through governance and statistical capacity building

Governance mechanisms

- Effective governing bodies set up and functioning
- At global level
  - Global Steering Committee
  - Global Office to support GSC at FAO Rome
  - At Regional level
  - Regional Steering Committee in each region
  - Regional Office to support RSC
  - Asia Pacific Regional Office at FAORAP Bangkok
  - At National level
  - Selected Country identifies a Lead agency and nominates a senior official as National Strategy Coordinator
  - Task Force to be constituted to oversee process

DIAGRAM: Implementation Process and Outputs
-indicates different stages of Global Strategy across countries, and could classify countries in terms of capacity and other factors, also develop roadmap for long term strategy of how to develop and continue the Global Strategy. A number of the priority assistance tasks have started to be implemented using global strategy funds, though have limited funds so other funders also assisting. Long term strategic plan, which is one of the key outputs from this process, and in doing so synergise work with partners ie SPC, EU etc and use complementary resources

Global Strategy: Asia-Pacific Region

- Regional Action Plan (RAP) has been developed and approved
- Regional Steering Committee (RSC) is established and meets regularly to guide implementation of the RAP
- Country assessment questionnaire completed for most countries in 2011-12
- Each year 4-6 countries are selected
- Training activities have begun

- In addition, in 2015 a trial of a simplified Global Strategy implementation process will be conducted in the Pacific (this workshop will inform that process)

Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS)

- *Long Term Strategy to improve ARS at the national level*
- *Derives its basis from NSDS which mainly focused on the NSS and NSOs*
- *Building block of NSDS*
- *Linked to development Planning process of the country*

Speaker notes: hoping the SPARS becomes the building block for NSDS.
Number of sector plans, and need to link strategic plan for ag to the sector plan, and importantly cover the statistics. Plus link to the NSDS (and if stat still missing then need to talk with the NSO – National Statistic Office).

Why do we need SPARS?

- *To bring a long term vision for development of Agricultural statistics system*
- *To mainstream Agriculture in NSS/NSDS*
- *To raise the profile of agriculture statistics in the decision making process*
- *Capacity development to produce and analyse agriculture statistics on a sustainable basis*
- *To improve coordination (within sub-sectors) and between agriculture and NSO*
- *Harmonized data on agriculture for policy / decision makers*

Speaker notes: Need a long term plan if we are going to develop national plans in countries. Important to ensure agriculture is included in that SPARS to raise profile of ag and its likelihood to get more funding.
(Coordination between ag and ag sub-sectors and between the NSO is important; through the Global Strategy process the talk and coordination between ag and NSOs is improving. This includes setting up governance mechanisms; these need to stay in place for the longer term so the strategy is implemented longer term).

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Global Strategy website: www.gsars.org

DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS:

Governance: are there any linkages between your institutional framework, between ag and statistics?
Response: at all levels we try and involve the NSO and the ministries, so mix of representatives. When GS goes into countries to set up a Working Group we aim to have this mix of stakeholders, including central banks, planning depts., etc all involved to help develop the strategic plan and identify the data gaps. Very important we recognize the NSO is partly involved in ag, not just in producing stats but also in the infrastructure. At all levels there are linkages between ag and NSO and we foster those linkages.

Vili: Some countries are very small; so instead of national are there other options to scope out best way to source data. (So many steering committees a big drain on smaller nations).
Response: Realise smaller countries have some difficulties and some of our processes would not work, and so we are looking at other options, ie strategic plan for Pacific island countries. Key to this workshop is to seek feedback from participants about whether a Pacific strategy may be feasible. This workshop is intended to explore some of those options.

Vili: Lack of global funding for statistics, but also lack of national funding – any examples of national govts providing an increase in funding? How do we mobilise national govts to budget/fund more towards ag stats?
Response: There is talk about extending the Global Strategy beyond 2017. Now we have strategic plans in place, the question is how can we assist in the implementation of those? Examples of countries increasing funding, ie Fiji, maybe prompted by or coincidental with the Global Strategy. Ie In Bhutan recommended that more centralized collection activity, so govt provided additional staff position (small investment but will have a significant impact). Ie Indonesia - have done in-depth country assessment - had a fuel subsidy and this was recently eliminated and a portion of those excess funds given to ag to fund the bureau of stats to undertake an extra ag data collection. Have a far better chance of receiving funding if have a well documented plan.

Ken: Discussion useful esp. for organization like SPC.

Mukesh: SPARS will provide a clear direction to move forward. Also bilateral with the countries. Likely the global funding will increase. All people discuss the scarcity of resources and statistics, but what I did in the country I worked in, was I focused on ag development and advocated that statistics are part of the development process and that helped me get statistics, ie this is working in the Phillipines. Statisticians need to connect with policy makers but if this relationship is weak then it can affect the advocacy and thus the funding for statistical collections.
Response: 3 statisticians are working for FAO to assist in the process, plus there are other resources. Focus is on building existing systems, and integrating into systems, moreso than create new approaches.
Pacific members are Samoa and Fiji, and SPC. The GS has 4 sub-regions in Asia Pacific and 2 countries from each sub-region.

Tonga: In ag ministry we want specific stats for ag, and we collaborate with stats dept. Up to the countries to know who should sit in which committees.

Samoa: Samoa is in the developing its NSDS, and soon we will be in the field doing our ag survey. When I went before the cabinet development committee it was easier to get funds, because I could connect to the plans already endorsed by the govt. When we were planning our survey and dates, we looked at how these linked to the national framework – one of the national priorities is to grow ag - and to the NSDS, and so that made it easier to highlight the link and seek govt support and endorsement for funding.
“For us it has been a positive experience to have these strategic plans in place. If you go before cabinet committees and you can link what you are doing to the national framework then it makes it a lot easier to get the money to do the work. “

Timor Leste: Since independence we have done census in 2004, 2012 and 2015 but no ag census yet because of lack of financial support. Did some activity in 2007 but not continued due to funding.

Tonga: when we look at the ag sector most of the Pacific Islanders are sharing the same challenges. Statistics is very important (economies and food security largely based on ag).

SESSION 2: GLOBAL STRATEGY TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS
PRESENTATION: Carola Fabi, FAO Rome, TA and Training Coordinator - Global Strategy

SUMMARY

The idea of the GS RAP is to seek what is available (country practices, methodologies, etc) and make the best use of scarce resources. Initially the focus for GS has been on research but now, at the mid-point of the GS that runs to 2017, we move into the second half of the RAP and turn our attention to the second phase of training materials, capacity development and technical assistance. The third phase aims to ensure linkages between the completed research topics, and that research outputs are living documents.

Research is at its maximum now, and will reduce, while technical assistance is now starting to increase along with the training component that builds on available methods and materials. Research is running on 15 themes (10 themes already confirmed with work underway) and 25 topics, so depending on the nature of the research some is internal and some is outsourced to universities. Major results (critical mass of reports coming online: www.gsars.org/publications) are:

Technical reports (TR)
- 6 technical reports published
- 2 undergoing editing
- 8 additional reports for end 2015

Guidelines (GL) and Handbooks (HB)
- 8 published
- 4 additional publications for end 2015
- 3 Guidelines produced under the AMIS project

Working papers in 2015
- 3 published (admin, Post Harvest Losses, Crops)

Publications planned for 2016
- 8 Technical Reports
- 8 Guidelines
- (Also planning a knowledge repository by theme before 2017)

Discussions followed the presentation about the need to ensure the GS includes considerations such as handicrafts within agriculture, and similarly gender issues especially relating to women and their contributions to agriculture and house income. Another issues raised was the difficulty in demarcating between rural and urban, with the GS also addressing this "grey area" as its research will aim to create and agree on a set of definitions to clarify rural v urban, given there is no international consensus and still much debate on this topic.

Samoa queried FAO's annual fish statistics, and how it addressed the issue of missing data. FAO explained that it imputes the missing data to build regional aggregates, so in fish statistics you will find some aggregated data. On the research component, the question is how to capture small scale fisheries but, given a funding gap, that specific topic is not a focus at the moment.

Fiji raised the issue of there being momentum at the global level but less at the country level such as dealing with data collection on a daily basis, with limited technical capacity of data collection officers and frustration among farmers who get duplicate surveys requests from various agencies. FAO explained that the SPARS is useful in this case, as when priorities and needs of a country are very clear then it is easier to provide technical assistance and for countries to better plan.

PRESENTATION

Outline:

- Recalling the goal of research programme
- Implementation modalities and progress
- Major results and new developments
- Challenges
- Requested feedback

Goal of the Research programme

DIAGRAM: Action plan, how does it work?

-contribute to *significant improvement in quality, reliability, cost- effectiveness of agricultural statistics in developing countries*

By providing*:*

- developing cost-effective methods (new methodological and technological developments)
- documenting, consolidating and disseminating good practices
- inputs for developing guidelines, handbooks and training materials for Technical Assistance and Training

Notes: the idea is to seek what is available (country practices, methodologies, etc) and make best use of scarce resources.

-initially focus been on research, and now at mid-point (of first 5 years) turning attention to training materials

Implementation modalities: (Research running on 15 themes and 25 topics, so depending on the nature of the research some is internal and some is outsourced to universities.)

Several approaches adopted in 2014 will all continue:

- outsourcing through LoAs to universities
- complementarity and synergy with other research initiatives
- FAO partner divisions, direct implementation

Electronic publications for immediate access and use of :

- Technical reports: reviewed by SAC (goes through several stages of revision and checking)
- Working papers: a new series of expert-reviewed papers (as research may take 2 years these provides information as time goes by)
- Advanced draft guidelines and handbook(ie fi reach 60-70% of progress then start sharing rather than wait months-year for final document)
- Joint publications with other partner institutions (WB - LSMS, JRC, UNSD, etc)
- Handbook and Guidelines

Progress by theme:

THEME 1: Framework for agricultural statistics

  - SEEA-Agri: Handbook on System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Agriculture-Forestry-Fisheries
  - Integrated Survey Framework: Guidelines
  - AGRIS: integrated survey toolkit

THEME 2: Improving methods for MSF

- 3 Technical reports
- Handbook on MSF: *by Dec 2015*
- Country practices: *by Dec 2015*

- Field Tests: started in 2015. Nepal, Rwanda, Guatemala.
- Open souce Software package. Development started in 2015.

THEME 3: Improving data collection methods

- Cost of Production: *Draft Guidelines published*. Training material under development
- Post Harvest Loss:
  - Report 1: literature review.
  - Report 2: A review of methods for estimating grain post-harvest losses: *Available*
  - Report 3: methodological options, and protocols for field testing the proposed methodologies.
- Technology for data collection: CAPI developed by World Bank/LSMS team with support of GS. Available and fully functional. Use in Ag censuses and surveys will be tested in 2015

THEME 4: Improving methods for estimating livestock and livestock products

- Livestock and livestock products (UNE):
  - Report 1: Literature review. Available
  - Report 2: Gaps analysis and proposals. Available
- Guidelines on Nomadic Livestock: To be published by Dec 2015.

THEME 5: Improving food security statistics methods

- Improving Methodology for Food Balance Sheets: *Draft TR by Dec 2015.*
- Improving methods for measuring food consumption: *Collection of research paper by Dec 2015*

THEME 6: Improving methods for crop estimates

- Estimation of crop area, yield, and production (IASRI):
  - Report 1: Literature review. *Under editing.*
  - Report 2: Gap Analysis and Proposed Methodologies. *Available*
  - Pilot tests being organised
- Methods for estimating yields of root crops (WB/LSMS):

THEME 7: Improving the methodology for using remote sensing

- Cost-efficiency of remote sensing in developing countries: *Technical report under editing.*
- Methods for using land cover/land use databases: *Technical report available*

THEME 8: Improving quality and use of administrative data

- Report 1: Literature review. *Published*
- Report 2, 3: Administrative Data in Developed Countries, Agricultural Administrative Sources used by Developing Countries. *Available*
- Report 4: Data Gaps and proposed improvements. *Available*
- Pilot tests being organised

THEME 9: Indicators and collection methods for small scale fisheries

- DRAFT Guidelines to Enhance Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics Through a Census Framework *published*

THEME 10: Better integration of geographic information and statistics:

Spatial disaggregation and integration of various kinds of geographical information and geo-referenced survey data: *published*.

Major results (critical mass of reports coming online):

Technical reports (TR)

- 6 technical reports published
- 2 undergoing editing
- 8 additional reports for end 2015

Guidelines (GL) and Handbooks (HB)

- 8 published
- 4 additional publications for end 2015
- 3 Guidelines produced under the AMIS project

Working papers in 2015

- 3 published (admin, Post Harvest Losses, Crops)

New developments:

New Themes (continue moving towards sub-sectors).

- AGRIS methodology finalisation and testing
- Gender disaggregated data
- Rural statistics (brings together ag, forestry and fisheries)
- Farm typologies
- Horticulture
- Data reconciliation of censuses and surveys
- Forestry Products Statistics (due end 2016)

Publications planned for 2016

- 8 Technical Reports
- 8 Guidelines

Some challenges:

- Funding gap: Rural statistics, Agri-environmental indicators, Funding Agriculture stats, Users needs, Data dissemination
- Limited availability of high level expertise in some fields
- Organising country pilot tests: timing, synergies, national priorities
- Connecting research topics that are running independently (topics being developing in parallel and at the end of the research, need a 3rd phase where link all this research with each other; interlink)
  - Research outputs are living documents

DIAGRAM: Scenarios in the second half of the Action Plan
Thank You: www.gsars.org/publications
-planning a knowledge repository by theme

DISCUSSIONS / QUESTIONS:

Tonga: handicrafts maybe should be included, also about gender balance. Men and women are involved. May I propose you also include that in this region?
Response: This is a very important dimension to capture and it comes with rural statistics, when you see 80% of households connected to ag but only 50% of income. That is one aspect that the 'rural statistics' research is aiming to focus on.

Simil: Also need to address urban agriculture and not just rural. We are looking at the 2020 census and its definitions may be useful, as sometimes collect data in rural areas or / only urban areas.
Response: The GS research will define what defines rural v urban areas, as there is no international consensus, only agreed common criteria and even within that agreement there is much discussion.
It will aim to create and agree on a set of definitions to clarify rural v urban. That will be the first area of work to address that grey area.

Mukesh: Urban areas can be seen in 2 ways: living in urban and doing some garden ag, or living in urban area but doing ag in rural area. Take into account these things in census, ie in Tonga breadfruit grows in urban yards and need to account for these.
Cook Islands: Hard to demarcate between rural and urban areas. For simplicity in Cook Islands urban is all of the main island of Rarotonga and rural is the rest of the islands, but there is still debate over this as if I amout of town from Rarotonga then I consider it to be rural.
-technology being considered, ie GIS and 'drone' helicopters to view where crops being grown.
Response: Pros and cons of drones, ie issues of drones flying where they shouldn't. It is an issue that keeps coming. On opposite would be very interested to hear about any application of these drones, in some form of country practice.

Samoa: Interested in annual fish stats provided to FAO.
Response: Noted request for technical assistance. Implications of missing data; at FAO level is to impute the missing data to build regional aggregates, so in fish statistics you will find some aggregated data. On the research component, the question is how to capture small scale fisheries and this was a bit in the funding gap and unless we have more funds that specific topic is not a focus at the moment.

Fiji: There is momentum on the global strategy but I don't feel the same pace at the country level. We are dealing with data collection on a daily basis, I think we need assistance to do these small steps and have capacity building for officers going out into the field – these officers do not always have the understanding of statistics that we talk about. Can frustrate farmers as we go out today then someone else goes out and gets the same data tomorrow from the farmers.
Response: It's about having clear technical assistance available, and we want to address these needs from the countries before the development of the SPARS. When priorities and needs of a country are very clear then we want to assist, whereas the SPARS are more long term. But where you have a system and you know where the weakness is then that should be addressed, and this can be before the SPAR.
Mukesh: when the SPARS is prepared you take into account all the user needs including those for FAO and other agencies (ie 8-9 annual surveys). So you can have an outline of the type of stats needed this year and surveys planned, and can do planning around that.

Mukesh question for Fiji and Samoa: What types of data demands did you consider for the core data sets?
Samoa: we have our own data, ie market learnings, and so for FAO requirements we just fill in their forms. We also have some requirements from SPC. What I was hoping is for FAO to look at the stats they would like us to provide, and give us help financially and technically to gather this data – if they want this data then they provide us with financial and technical help to get this data.

SESSION: TYPSS
PRESENTATION: Key features of TYPSS and agricultural statistics, Simil Johnson, Chair of TYPSS (Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy) Action Plan

SUMMARY
The Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) Action Plan is a 2011-2020 regional strategy for statistics. Its role is to coordinate and make sure there are harmonised systems that everyone should be using across the region, so that across Pacific Island countries we are "talking the same language."

Through TYPSS it is important we bring sectors together, and help countries with the development of their NSDS, in particular to collaborate with SPC and FAO. Assistance has included responding to requests for technical assistance from various National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the Region.

As chair of TYPSS, Mr Johnson said that together we have to take this to another level and we need to do that when we return to our respective countries. "It is important that we work together."

Discussions followed the presentation and in particular comments from countries about TYPSS:
- Samoa: *"I like as an NSO that you get a spreadsheet of what may be your needs, so if you have your strategy in place and you know your capacity then the TYPSS allows you to plan in advance so the region can free up resources and help you. Ie we have a survey now but the TYPSS allows us to request far in advance so the regional office can help us if there is a resource need (I have just completed the form requesting / indicating resource needs in future)."*
- Solomon Islands: *"The idea of TYPSS is to me, very important because we are planning to do a census next year but we don't have the funds and we don't really know what type of question to ask or how we are go about it on the technical side, so the TYPSS idea of standardization is very useful… they can assist us with what sort of questions to put in there. We have to work together and learn from each other and probably there are some cost savings there too."*

Other discussions were around the specifics of the TYPSS services, with Vanuatu querying whether they would assist with sea cucumber or other fisheries data collection, and it was clarified that TYPSS covers administrative data, household surveys, with a focus mainly on identifying what data is available and how do we measure those.

SPC commented on how TYPSS is a 10-year strategy and that its rationale to provide services on statistics at a regional level makes sense – the next question is whether we need something more at a regional level and, specifically, take the extra step to define additional requirements for agriculture and fisheries? Discussions followed about the need to work more together within and across countries, and about the proposed regional strategy.

Background to presentation: An overarching framework for statistics work for Pacific Islands is provided by the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS). In the Pacific, many of the smaller islands struggle with limited manpower and financial resources and the emphasis of the TYPSS is on employing regional solutions to address national statistical development challenges.

PRESENTATION
The Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) Action Plan is a 2011-2020 regional strategy for statistics.

The role of the TYPSS is to coordinate and make sure there is a harmonised systems that everyone should be using across the region. The rationale is to strive for further harmonization so across the Pacific Island countries we are talking the same language.

Assistance has included responding to requests for technical assistance from various National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the Region. There are 15 national minimum development indicators for TYPSS.

Through TYPSS it is important we bring sectors together, and help countries with the development of their NSDS, in particular to collaborate with SPC and FAO. The aim is to together roadmap for development of statistics in each country, with a regional outlook.

Together we have to take this to another level. We need to do that when we return to our respective countries. It is important that we work together.

(ONLINE BACKGROUND ON TYPSS)
TYPSS plan outlines six strategic objectives to guide statistical development in the Pacific over the decade to 2021, these strategies are:

- implementing a regular census and core survey program;
- producing a core set of statistics;
- addressing capacity constraints;
- improving data access and utilisation;
- more consistent and comparable statistical approaches; and
- effective governance.

Progress to date:

- Census & HIES rounds underway with support from SDD
- Standardisation of questionnaires & methodologies is progressing; also with support from SDD
- Work on improving national accounts & key economic statistics is progressing slowly but steadily across the region; supported primarily by PFTAC with support from SDD
- But there is a feeling amongst NSOs that progress needs to be enhanced to boost momentum in other aspects of the strategies

Taking TYPSS forward:

- In particular greater emphasis is need towards implementation of the TYPSS strategies for:
- capacity building,
- data access and utilisation, and
- Governance; need more emphasis
- In addition more NSOs should aim to prepare their own National Statistics Strategies as they have agreed under Paris 21
- Discussion paper aims to provide a basis for giving TYPSS the desired boost

DISCUSSIONS / QUESTIONS:
Vanuatu was measuring sea cucumbers in relation to exports – that type of fisheries biological data is being collected by TYPSS. (Fisheries monitoring has national and regional approaches incl. survey, samples, database so quite specific and not overall data).
Response: TYPSS covers administrative data, household surveys, focus mainly on identifying what data is available and how do we measure those.

Mukesh: There is a gammit of tools available and NSDS needs to be aware of this. How effective TYPSS has been for ag statistics is something we need to know. We don't want to duplicate but to complement TYPSS and what it is doing regionally with statistics.

Anna: Thanks to Simil for presenting, as chair of TYPSS. It is a 10 year strategy and the rationale is that sometimes in the Pacific it makes sense to provide services on statistics at a regional level. That is why we are all here to ask, do we need something more at a regional level? Simil mentioned that there are national minimum development indicators (15 indicators) for TYPSS as well as tools, so there are applications for all of the sectors, the question is do we need to be further defining within that parameter additional requirements for ag and fisheries – are the indicators and tools meeting the demands we have in ag and fisheries or do we need to take an extra step and develop a specific ag and fisheries plan.

Cook Islands: Has developed a CSDS plan (similar to NSDS except called 'Cook Islands' rather than 'national') and awaiting cabinet endorsement.

Patrick: Involved in Cook Islands NSDS. Want to make sure agriculture is not left out. We want to know how we can develop something we can keen monitoring over time, and that answers our questions when it comes to policy decisions and whether those decisions are based on evidence based data. We want to make sure we specifically focus on some of the policies that are aiming to driving development processes. Although we are making up policies we still need strong evidence based data to convince our ministers that those are the correct policies and issues beings addressed.
I am trying to picture where does ag sit in between all these programmes so we can draw on some support. Allan talked about the institutional framework, and then there is the TYPSS.
Bottom line is we need to be cohesive with the statisticians and policy makers. Often we work on our own as we know what we want, and they know what they want – we are trying to sit where we sit in this whole framework of different stats, etc in the region.

Nauru: For NSDS in Nauru we had problems with linkages, even with fisheries we really need to put together these two officers to come up with a proper indicator and have it in the NSDS and then we know as planners and statisticians what we need to look for. We need to come up with a common understanding of the indicators we need to produce at a national scale.

Samoa: TYPSS is for 10 years, and one of the components is getting technical assistance. I like as an NSO that you get a spreadsheet of what may be your needs, so if you have your strategy in place and you know your capacity then the TYPSS allows you to plan in advance so the region can free up resources and help you. Ie we have a survey now but the TYPSS allows us to request far in advance so the regional office can help us if there is a resource need (I have just completed the form requesting / indicating resource needs in future).

Solomons: We have an NSDS secretary, and they have produced papers and reports. The idea of TYPSS is to me, very important because we are planning to do a census next year but we don't have the funds and we don't really know what type of question to ask or how we are go about it on the technical side, so the TYPSS idea of standardization is very useful. Ie we get the funds next year to run the 2016 ag census and they can assist us with what sort of questions to put in there. We have to work together and learn from each other and probably there are some cost savings there too.

SESSION 3: STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS (SPARS)
Guidelines to SPARS, Carola Fabi, FAO Rome, *TA and Training Coordinator - Global Strategy*

SUMMARY

Delegates were provided with further information about the Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS), that provides countries to establish policy priorities; to identify data needs, gaps, deficiencies, duplications and inconsistencies; to define future short and long-term statistical programs and interventions; and to use SPARS as a building block in the NSDS.

An overview of the phases of SPARS was provided, from launch (including preparation) to assessment and planning. Some essentials for a SPARS include: mainstreamed into the NSDS national process (if any);

backed by political support, nationally led and owned; funded by governments for its implementation; covering the whole agricultural and rural sector; and taking into account what is in place and international commitments.

There should also be an Action Plan underpinned by a Core Budget.

Discussions followed the presentation about a country creating a SPARS when it already has an NSDS in place, and it was agreed that if an NSDS exists then it is up to the SPARS to fit into the existing NSDS, and focus on the NSDS agriculture component especially during review. This is the case in Samoa where NSDS has existed since 2011 and so it has decided to have SPARS as a document within the next NSDS, rather than as a standalone document now, and in the interim embed it into the agriculture sector plan that is currently being reviewed. Response:

Delegates also discussed issues around contracting an (overseas) technical advisor (TA) to assist with the SPARS and/or NSDS and the consensus was that it is best for a country's own staff to lead, and important for government to own the process. Samoa commented that they created their own document and with some technical assistance: "We did the NSDS ourselves and we owned the document and that made the difference for us." Cook Islands shared a similar view for its NSDS (referred to as its CSDS) which is a "living document" in which "SPARS just adds more variety… our focus is on making sure stakeholders buy into it… and that it's a Cook Islands strategy and not a statistics strategy." Cook Islands has also costed its CSDS plan, detailing costs for each sector – now and in recurrent budgets – to get the plan going.

This TA issue also highlights the need for statisticians to have regular training and including this in the planning phases, and if technical assistance is needed it may be on an ad hoc, as required basis.

Delegates again discussed the benefit of having a champion or advocate at the national level, such as in Samoa, who understands that improving statistics is about national development and not just a statistics issue. Samoa commented that: "It's true at the political level our ministers realise the importance of statistics, but the challenge is more at the department level to move forward, or when donors come in and we get off track from the strategic plan." FAO commented that: "to make the SPARS more sellable to management you need to highlight two-way linkage between NSDS and the SPARS? How is the NSDS going to support agriculture stats? Look at the complementarities between NSDS and SPARS in the planning stage."

PRESENTATION:

Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS) objectives are to provide countries with a basis for:

- Establishing policy priorities
- Identify data needs, gaps, deficiencies, duplications and inconsistencies
- Define future short- and long-term statistical programs and interventions
- Use SPARS as a building block in the NSDS

For a country it is good to have NSDS and SPARS coordinator as the same person.

Regional characteristics:

Large territories, small population, remoteness and long distances

- Small statistical capacity: 6 Pacific states have 1 and 10 staff in their respective NSO's

- High survey costs:
  - High per capita cost of data acquisition: dispersed territory unevenly or sparsely populated.
  - Relatively larger samples required to obtain valid results in statistical surveys.
- "respondent fatigue" results in increasing non-response to surveys.

Overview – design process:

1. **Launch Phase**
   - Understanding, acknowledging, committing
   - **Preparing**
   - Integrating the SPARS in the NSDS
2. **Assessment Phase**
3. **Planning Phase**
   - Vision and Mission
   - Strategic Goals and Outputs: building a logframe
   - Action Planning

Launch phase:

Advocacy work for national stakeholders:

- to understand the importance of statistics to the economy of the country and that the current systems do not always meet demand for information
- to recognize that strategic planning is necessary to bring change to collectively manage critical weaknesses and effectively use scarce resources

Preparing phase:

i. decide **WHO** is managing the overall process of the SPARS:
   - Clarify role`s or the MoA and NSO as soon as possible. One agency to lead.

ii. build a **constituency** on several (2) levels;
   - A Steering Committee on Agriculture Statistics (SCA): relevant representatives of significant stakeholders
   - A Technical Working Committee on Agriculture Statistics (TWA) : permanent Secretariat of the SCA, SPARS coordinator, sub-sector representatives
   - Build on existing coordination structures (National Council for Statistics of NSDS Inter-Agency Committee)
   - Assign Roles and Responsibilities, **ToR**

iii. establish a **small Design team:** TWA nominates the SPARS coordinator and Design Team members.
   - One national consultant
   - Support from an international consultant
   - **SPARS Coordinator**: a high level manager to lead the team, be the focal point in the TWA, represent agriculture in the **NSDS** interagency committee

iv. identify and engaging stakeholders. **One high profile champion** for advocacy, policy and strategy:
   - increase funding, extending use of statistical information to policy and decision-making

v. clarify how the SPARS will be **integrated** in the **NSDS** process;
   - The approach will depend on the **NSDS status**: whether in place, under design or not in place ..

vi. Integration with the NSDS should help:
   - Developing a master sampling frame and a common data management system

- Align calendars
- The Design team prepares a **roadmap** to develop the SPARS: organise work with activities, schedule, resources.
- what to do, who, when, how?
- Design phase needs a budget and potential sources;
- Participatory and inclusive: stakeholders and subsectors

- present the draft roadmap to stakeholders;
- final roadmap endorsement in a **validation workshop**.

Assessment phase:
Assessing the agricultural statistical system is a **key phase:**

- input in setting strategic objectives and action plans
- benchmark to measure progress
- advocate support and capacity building among national and international partners

Planning Phase:
Results-based management approach in 4 levels:

1. Start with your **vision** and **mission** statements
2. Set your **strategic goals**/outcomes contributing to the vision and mission
3. Define the corresponding **outputs**
4. Design an **Action plan** describing the **activities** to produce the outputs

Use the results chain as a logframe to plan, monitor and evaluate results

Planning phase: Vision and mission
Where do we want to be in 5-10 years?
What is our business?

- Build a **compelling vision** for your future that contains goals, values, beliefs and expected outcomes
- The mission that creates a **commonality of interest,** that describes the purpose, customers, products, markets, philosophy.

Planning phase:
Strategic goals and outputs
Goals = accomplishments to achieve

- what is absolutely important and feasible not what is desirable
- Structural changes, linked to weaknesses in the evaluation
- Remember that performance will be measured against strategic goals

Strategic goals -> outputs -> activities

Example: Peru
Vision: to develop, generate and disseminate agricultural statistics of high quality in an integrated and harmonized manner in order to satisfy users' demand
Mission: to become a consolidated and sustainable system able to support the decision making process in the agricultural sector
Goals:

- Strengthening statistical processes and operations and improving their quality
- Investing in statistical and physical infrastructure

Planning phase: Action Plan:

- tools for internal business management;
- tool to negotiate resources with government/donors

Structured document including:

1. Core action plan
2. Overall budget
3. Calendar of censuses and surveys
4. Advocacy-Communication Plan
5. (M&E framework)
6. (Financing Plan)

The core action plan:

- Must be **realistic**. Focus on few priorities
- Must take into account the **ongoing statistical programme,** activities in the **NSDS** and the changes
- Detailed in the first 2 years, can be approximate in later years
- Must cover a **list of activities organized by outputs**
  - Who will do what? When? How? In which order? For what?
  - Dependencies in activities must be identified for a better schedule

N.B. The Action Plan is a living document

The Core Budget:

The Action Plan must be underpinned by a **Core Budget**

- Split current costs/investment by implementing action
- Describe how resources will be used, by main expenditure items,
- Break-down by sub-sectors and activities
- Specify the expected burden on the national budget or external financing requirements

Costing the SPARS can be difficult

DIAGRAM: Calendar of Censuses and Surveys Example: Tanzania

Advocacy and Communication Plan:

The SPARS is an opportunity for **statistical advocacy**

- Focus on the design phase to support discussion on ownership, users/producers dialogue, funding and governance

The **plan**

- must reinforce confidence from the public, raise awareness and inform stakeholders of the challenges ahead
- must identify target audiences and adapt the messages

An advocacy and communication plan is demanding and costly

The Financing Strategy:

- Joint strategy with the NSDS where possible
- Statistical development is a political matter, decisions taken at the highest level.
  - Must be envisaged at the beginning of the process and combined with advocacy at high level
- dialogue to set an optimal balance between national and external resources

Monitoring and Evaluation:

A full M&E plan can be very demanding

Monitoring

- Integrated in the logframe
- Chosing **indicators** is key: indicators must be well specified and require collection of basic information for the **baseline**
- **Frequency** and responsible **officer** must be clearly identified

Evaluation will judge the relevance, performance, and success of the SPARS

- takes place at few points in time
  - Mid-term evaluation
  - Final evaluation
  - Peer review

Action plan in phases:
Bottom-up approach

1. List of costed activities at sub-sector level by outputs
2. Synthesis of costed activities at sector level
   Then:
3. Preparing a draft calendar of censuses and surveys
   Then:
4. Preparing the advocacy/communication plan
5. Designing the M&E framework
   Then:
6. Finalizing a financing strategy
   Then:
7. Consolidating the SPARS document
8. Validation by the Technical Working group
9. Organisation of a national workshop
   Then:
10. Preparing the final SPARS document
11. Validation by National authorities

Adapting SPARS:

- Simpler process
- Quick evaluation
- Governance: fewer committees, small working groups
- Focus on few priorities
- Regional approach:
  - one resource person (SPC) to tour islands and help building national plans
  - Harmonize processes
  - Build capacity: using the same experts ensures comparability / consistency

DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS:

Mukesh: Need to consider strategic choices early in the planning phases. Statisticians needs regular training and need to consider what is your strategy for training, ie regular training planning or scholarships? To make the SPARS more sellable to management need to highlight two-way linkage between NSDS and the SPARS? How is the NSDS going to support ag stats? Look at complementarities between NSDS and SPARS in the planning stage.

Samoa: Creating a SPARS when already have an NSDS in place: those are the things in our NSDS now.

The challenge we have is that our NSDS is live, since 2011, so now may not be the time to put in a SPARS but I think it would be best housed as a document within the next NSDS, rather than as a standalone document. My thought now is to embed it into the ag sector plan, currently being reviewed, so can get something in place now (not wait for next NSDS).
Wary of an 'overseas' technical advisor coming in to lead then leave – we did the NSDS ourselves and we owned the document and that made the difference for us (did get technical assistance but created the document ourselves).
Samoa has a high level advocate in the minister (also prime minister). It's true at the political level our ministers realise the importance of statistics, but the challenge is more at the department level to move forward, or when donors come in and we get off track from the strategic plan.
Response: If NSDS is in place you are right that it is up to the SPARS to fit into the existing NSDS, so question is whether the NSDS has an ag component and when the review comes up review that ag component.

Response on technical assistance: It is very important to own the plan; the idea is more that an international consultant provide TA on ad hoc and as needed basis but ownerships stays with the govt.

Cook Islands: I have the same view as Samoa. CSDS (same as NSDS) will be a living document, so adding SPARS just adds more variety. Focus on making sure stakeholders buy into it. It's a Cook Islands strategy and not a statistics strategy – under one big umbrella. Cooks has costed the CSDS plan, and how much for each sector it would cost – now and in recurrent budgets – to get the plan going.

PNG: We started this about 2 weeks ago. Started the workshop with all the stakeholders. Our next thing after the workshop we got the consultants to make assessments of some of the stakeholders and statistics, to then put together a roadmap and action plan. It will give us an idea of difficulties we may face in terms of finding a champion (for ag dept we are broken into 3-4 different entities).

Mukesh: It is ideal to find a champion or advocate. I emphasise a point made by Samoa that the minister (also PM) was the champion. Focus should be on it being a national development issue and not a statistics issue.

SESSION 3 (continued): STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS (SPARS)
Overview of Global Strategy work in Pacific Countries and experience in other Asian Countries
Allan Nicholls, Regional Coordinator of the Global Strategy in the Asia-Pacific Region

SUMMARY

FAO provided further insights on the Global Strategy and its implementation across Asia Pacific targeting 20 countries selected based on the 2011-12 pilot Country Capacity Assessment questionnaire sent to 51 countries of which only 50% of Pacific countries responded (75% overall in Asia Pacific). Each of the selected 20 countries receives GS Technical Assistance on specific activities along with an In-depth Country Assessment (IdCA), short-term Country Proposal paper, and development of a roadmap for SPARS development as part of the country's long-term strategic plan.

Progress in Pacific Countries includes: Samoa where the IdCA and Country Proposal paper were endorsed by government in November 2014, NSDS exists and SPARS is in the development stage; Fiji where the IdCA

and Country Proposal paper were recently revised, NSDS does not yet exist and the SPARS is in the development stage; and finally PNG where GS just completed its first mission.

General findings at the country level indicate coordination is not always good between an NSO and Ministries or within a Ministry and the GS consultative process is working to improve this situation. Also there is a lacks of qualified statistical staff and the GS process is helping to identify specific training needs, though this issue is compounded by insufficient budgets with suggested GS approaches including more coordination of data collection activities, the adoption of more efficient collection methodologies, and rationalization of scarce skilled resources.

In conclusion, the involvement of all stakeholders is key especially donors (better the planning then the more attractive to donors) with flexibility needed to adapt the process to suit each country's unique situation.

PRESENTATION

Presentation Outline:

- Implementation Strategy in Asia Pacific
- Summary of Main Steps for Technical Assistance
- Progress in Pacific countries
- General Findings
- Conclusions

Implementation Strategy in Asia Pacific:

- For all countries
  - Pilot Country Assessment
- For 20 Selected Countries
  - National Governance Mechanisms set up
  - Roadmap for SPARS development agreed
  - In-depth Capacity Assessment
  - Short-term Country Proposal paper
  - Technical Assistance on specific activities
  - Long-term Strategic Plan (SPARS)

Summary of Main Steps:

- Pilot Country Assessment
  - Conducted in 2011-12 using a pilot questionnaire mailed out to 51 countries
  - Self completed, but only 50% of Pacific countries responded (75% overall in Asia Pacific)
  - Minimal follow-up
  - Insufficient data to report on the "Resources" indicator
  - Output is a Capacity Indicator Report
  - Subsequent to this exercise
    - The questionnaire has been modified and simplified where possible
    - Instructions for completing the questionnaire have been improved
    - Indicator derivation has since been refined
- National Governance Mechanisms
  - Well advanced in 12 countries, and started in 2 others
  - Critical to guide implementation and to encourage coordination

    - High-level Steering Committee to oversee all GS related work
        - May be institutionalised after GS
    - Technical Working Group
- Roadmap for SPARS development
    - Completed in 5 countries, well advanced in 7 others
    - Agreed plan for work required to develop SPARS
    - Output is the Roadmap
- In-depth Country Assessment (IdCA)
    - Completed in 7 countries, well advanced in 4 others
    - Comprehensive assessment of a range of aspects of statistical capacity
    - Identification of areas needing improvement
    - Output is an IdCA report endorsed by government
- Country Proposal paper
    - Completed in 6 countries, well advanced in 5 others
    - Based on IdCA information
    - Prioritized list of short-term activities needed to improve agricultural and rural statistics
    - For each activity, objectives, outcomes, tasks and costs are described
    - Output is a Country Proposal paper endorsed by government
- Specific Technical Assistance
    - Well advanced in 4 countries
    - For activities identified in Country Proposal paper
    - GS can fund some of these activities
    - Other FAO funds may also be available
    - Donor support may be needed
    - Common areas requiring technical assistance (for each area, different types of assistance required depending on current methods)
        - Improvements to the way crop statistics are produced
        - Improvements to the way livestock statistics are produced
        - Improvements to administrative systems
        - Capacity building (skills of staff)
- Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS)
    - Started in 6 countries
    - A long term (10 year) strategy document
    - A key output from the Global Strategy
    - Intended to be compatible with
        - national strategies for the development of statistics, and
        - national development plans
    - Output is a Strategic Plan endorsed by government

Progress in Pacific Countries – Samoa:

- IdCA and Country Proposal paper were both endorsed by government in November 2014
- FAO provided TCP funding to undertake most activities identified in country proposal paper, well advanced
- SPARS is in development stage
- Key issues
    - Lack of regular agricultural data collections, largely due to lack of funding
    - Need for capacity building
    - Coordination between MoA and SBS (Samoa Bureau Statistics) is improving

Progress in Pacific Countries – Fiji:

- IdCA and Country Proposal paper were recently revised to take into account new collection activities within the Ministry of Agriculture
- SPARS is in development stage, no NSDS in Fiji
- Key issues
  - General lack of availability of quality agricultural data
  - Extension officer program has the potential to collect regular high quality data on ag production
  - No up-to-date survey frame

Progress in Pacific Countries – PNG:

- First mission has just been completed

General findings (country level):

- Coordination is not always good
  - Between NSO and Ministries
  - Within a Ministry
  - Nature of GS consultative process has improved the situation
- Administrative data deficiencies
  - Wide range of issues affecting quality
  - Specific activity in some countries to address this aspect
- Surveys not on a probability basis
  - Specific activity in some countries to address this aspect
- Lack of qualified statistical staff
  - GS process will help identify specific training needs
- Insufficient budget – need to
  - Adopt more efficient collection methodologies
  - Rationalise use of scarce skilled resources
  - Coordinate data collection activities

Conclusions (country level):

- Involvement of all stakeholders is critical
- Involvement of donors is important (better the planning then the more attractive to donors)
- Flexibility is needed to adapt the process to suit the situation in different countries

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DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS

No questions.

SESSION 3 (continued): STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS (SPARS)
Rationale for a Pacific Strategy for Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics
Mukesh Srivastava, Senior Statistician, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

SUMMARY

The agriculture sector has to be well coordinated with a country's development and other plans, such as its NSDS. Better coordination creates efficiencies, improves planning and opportunities to seek assistance, and most importantly results in a greater likelihood of getting a champion (ie national minister).

TYPSS provides an inspirational approach, but maybe does not provide the region with all the statistics required and so perhaps there is a need for an action plan such as a long term plan of 5 to 10 years, that should be well harmonized with the TYPSS and the Global Strategy (and taking advantage of its research outputs). This kind of plan can work on the basis of a common minimum plan across all countries, whereby one-on-one TA is replaced with FAO supporting multi-country tools, standards of questionnaires, common training materials, document and information sharing via south-south collaboration, etc.

PRESENTATION

-Services should be equal to all, but have funding for 20 countries over 5 years with the Global Strategy.
-"I have been inspired by TYPSS – maybe we can have a specific Pacific strategy to support SPARS, like TYPSS."
-In 2011 the GS assessment found many Pacific countries have small and weak statistical systems, and the capacity and technical skills are not as required plus there is a shortage of financial resources. Often activities are ad hoc rather than planned, and there is a lack of continuous systems for getting regular ag statistics.
-"Now, there is heightened awareness now for need for better ag stats and from donors to support this. This is a unique opportunity for Pacific countries."
-TYPSS maybe does not provide the region with all the statistics required and so perhaps there is a need for an action plan. Our vision, which is hazy but by the end of the workshop we will be clearer on the idea, is to establish a long term plan of 5 to 10/15 years, that should be well harmonized with the TYPSS and the Global Strategy (and taking advantage of its research outputs). This kind of plan can work on the basis of a common minimum plan across all countries. Ie FAO supports tools, standards of questionnaires, etc.
-There may not be a need for one on one technical assistance but a group of countries can use common instruments, ie common training materials. Also opportunity for cost effective south-south collaboration, ie share Tonga pre-prepared documents with, ie PNG or other countries.
- Why is the Global Strategy different and why was it conceived? A lot of development partners were doing a lot of work in the past, but why did that work not last? We were focusing on single statistics activities rather than integrating into existing systems and approaches – that is why we didn't sustain. So had to change our TA strategy to sustain itself after our TA. That is why GS was developed.
Key messages:
-The agriculture sector has to be well coordinated with your development plan and then there is a greater likelihood of getting a champion.
-Cook Islands commented that NSDS a living document, so if a SPARS comes in it is considered an expansion of an NSDS. The linkage between the two should be clear and explicit, to ensure buy-in from policy makers at the top level.
-Carola mentioned the roles of different agencies need to be very clear to ensure smooth implementation. Often the documents are prepared and just remain a document; but if each country creates a shared document that is linked to its NSDS, etc then that is helpful. So if in the planning process we identify roles of different agencies that will go a long way.

SESSION: CLOSING REMARKS, Anna Fink, SPC

SUMMARY

-Today has been a patchwork of acronyms and plans. Have heard clearly that we need improved ag data and we have all these strategies attempting to meet those needs, and one of our tasks is to decide if they are meeting those needs or do we need to add, remove or improve those.

-Tomorrow (Tuesday) going to look more at tools and innovations already available and being used in the Pacific, so a bit more "hands on".

-On Wednesday come back to talking about the idea of a regional strategy. What can we do as a region to make sure we are funding the information that we need?

2.0 DAY TWO – Workshop Sessions

2.1 Key Discussions – Day Two

36. The Global Strategy (GS) is important as previously Technical Assistance was often ad hoc and did not result in any legacy to the country involved, and therefore no sustainability, but for GS sustainable capacity building and working with existing systems is key. For this reason the GS approach, or Regional Action Plan (RAP), is based on the initial GS 2011 baseline questionnaire survey results to assess systems and capacity within countries.
37. A follow-up Capacity Assessment Questionnaire is now being distributed to countries (has 4 dimensions, and within those 23 elements), based on the initial GS 2011 baseline questionnaire survey results.
38. For the Capacity Assessment Questionnaire no single ministry (or person) is expected to complete the Capacity Assessment Questionnaire, as there are questions that will relate to information sourced by different ministries. The GS team discussed with delegates how ideally, in country, one person should take the lead and coordinate people and agencies to complete the questionnaire.
39. For the Capacity Assessment Questionnaire it is important that countries complete all parts, even if specific information is unavailable then a country needs to mention or explain that capacity gap - leaving questions blank affects the indicators and means FAO has no explanation or understanding about how it may act on those insights. The GS team emphasised to delegates how this is a capacity questionnaire and what is most important is knowing what information countries have and do not have – in the first GS questionnaire in 2011 some agencies only partially completed the questionnaire (and did not ask other agencies to complete the rest) and this resulted in poor results and insights.
40. There is a need for improved coordination between ministries and agencies, for example with the work that FAO is undertaking and SPC's work on guiding census and household surveys. SPC mentioned that is has a portal whereby you can access the questionnaire and metadata from all the census in the region, though there is room to improve the presence of agricultural data on the site. Also the PRISM site has IHSN (International Household Survey Network) available to share and sort core data – it is an innovative way to share data across the region.
41. Through the initial 2011 Capacity Assessment Questionnaire process the FAO recognised a need to improve communications between the FAO office and countries completing the surveys. FAO is now dedicated more resources to assist countries complete the questionnaire and to encourage more dialogue and information exchange throughout the process.
42. Discussed the levels of guidance available to countries on how to support implementation of the World Agriculture Census 2020 (WCS), which is the foundation for all agriculture statistics in most nations. There are also strong links between the GS and WCS – each supports the implementation of the other.
43. Conducting an agriculture census is a complicated process and good preparation is needed, as explained to delegates using the example of this year's Tonga Agricultural Census. Of the challenge and difficulties encountered in Tonga, number one is preparation time as it is not a simple collection process, but requires the development of many manuals and forms, training, maps, plans, and many other factors. In the Pacific there are additional challenges such as remoteness – for the Tonga census there were two remote islands one of which has only one flight every fortnight and a grass runway which, if it is raining, then the plane cannot land.
44. To prepare for an agriculture census the FAO recommends 18 months to prepare (two years including initial planning and approval time). To start early is the main thing – ideally such planning is many years in advance as part of a country's statistical calendar or perhaps part of its Statistics Act where

legally the govt must perform regular census. It was noted that the FSM's last Agricultural Census was in 1969. FAO added that there is an e-learning course to learn more about census, and how to use population census for agriculture census.

45. Discussion around the difficulties of units of measure, ie units of measure such as "baskets" or "bundles" are more commonly used in the Pacific than typical census measures of kg or tonnage. FAO will soon provide guidelines on use of international classifications.
46. Gathering production data in the Pacific is challenging. There was discussion about the pros and cons of production data collection via a census versus survey collection; the issue of irregular surveying and thus the difficulty of comparing data over time; how units of measure vary (ie "bundles" of produce); and many households have subsistence and/or shared farming so there is often double-counting and other associated issues.
47. FAO discourage countries to rely on an agriculture census to document production data (with some exceptions) because production changes year by year but only have a census every 10 years or more. Also, it is difficult for farmers to give an estimate of their production for the whole year (ie may be multiple crops over the period of a year so difficult for the farmer to remember and estimate).
48. FAO emphasised that AGRIS (surveys) complement an agricultural census.
49. AGRIS collects 65% of the MSCD and makes a large contribution to SDGs monitoring. AGRIS, being a 10-year integrated survey program, lays the foundations for the creation of an efficient agricultural statistical system. Discussed the importance of census but how surveys, such as ad hoc surveys, can be highly specialized and helpful, ie surveys for sea cucumber.
50. Discussed how the AGRIS is particularly relevant to Pacific countries given its flexibility and adaptability. It is modular in structure, has a system with unit options, plus a toolkit is provided with generic questionnaires and guidelines, including software – these toolkits are useful even if a country is not doing the full AGRIS. The AGRIS framework enables the collection of about 65% of the minimum core data set, as currently defined, and is being piloted in a few countries for rollout next year. It includes some funding options and technical assistance.
51. Discussion on the complicated aspects of fisheries statistics and how there is no single instrument that can collect all the relevant fisheries data. Need a variety of approaches to address the three areas for fisheries statistics: industrial, artesanal, and inshore fisheries (incl. aquaculture). In the Pacific, inshore fishing is the least regulated and least understood but the most important for food security and livelihoods in the Pacific. For this reason, fisheries statistics and data collection includes social and economic aspects of the industry as well as environmental issues, especially given the growing need for socio-economic data in relation to inshore. In this respect, HEIS can add value to fisheries data and complement fishing monitoring that is occurring.
52. For fisheries discussed the "classic problem" of different data between the export licence and customs data.
53. Computer assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) raises the issues of traditional paper based methods versus new CAPI technology. CAPI has a high cost and long set up but after that many benefits, as being demonstrated through the current SPC pilot. There are opportunities to link this with GS co-funded CAPI system trials being undertaken by the World Bank (suggestion if SPC is still in the early stages of development then give some consideration to that system).
54. POPGIS is an online tool to assist with map-based presentation of data in various forms. It is flexible and easily accessible, with SPC offering support to countries to access and use the system. POPGIS also has the capacity to depict maps from a broad to low geographic level, e.g. pinpoint towns or houses, depending on what the user requires and associated privacy or confidentiality factors.

2.2 Presentations

SESSION: OPENING REMARKS
PRESENTATION: SUMMARY OF DAY ONE, Anna Fink, SPC

SUMMARY

Event co-organiser Anna Fink, SPC, provided an overview and brief analysis of Day One's presentations, which focused on the need for improved statistical approaches for Pacific Island countries to guide evidence-based policy creation for economic development, food security, and sustainable livelihoods.
This included PAPP's inventory of Pacific countries' agriculture policies of which some were considered to lack evidence-based analysis giving an indication that many existing statistics in countries are still not being used by policy makers, so the process of ensuring people know that data exists and getting them to use it is still a hurdle to overcome. In addition to encouraging improved usage of statistics, is the challenge of emerging data needs, such as international reporting to be required for the SDGs.
Anna also provided an overview of the many approaches - and their acronyms – discussed on Day One including GS, SPARS, NSDS, TYPSS, NMDI and NSS.
In summary of Day One, and to kick-off Day Two, Anna posed the question to delegates: "Taking all statistics into account, and mapping those against data demands, are we meeting our demand or is there a rationale for something else, ie a regional level strategy to look specifically at agriculture statistics?"

PRESENTATION

-On Day One, delegates heard about the inventory of Pacific countries' agriculture policy and key documents, from SPC PAPP. All the agriculture policies mentioned statistics as a key constraint in terms of enacting those policies, and also of the policies analysed there were some considered to lack evidence-based analysis – that may have happened in background but it was not evidenced in the policy document. so this gives an indication that statistics in countries are not being used by policy makers (and that speaks to my experience). There is much data available, ie on reports in cupboards, etc but the process of ensuring people know that data exists AND getting them to use it is still a hurdle to overcome.
-Speakers yesterday talked about the three of the key areas of focus for statistics and development: economic development, food security, and sustainable livelihoods
-Discussed emerging data needs, such as international reporting to be required for the SDGs.
-Acronyms:

GS – heard about the Global Strategy and its guidelines and research products.

SPARS - production of SPARS at the national level (long term plans that get everyone who produces agricultural data in the country to coordinate when they are doing certain activities and collecting data. Benefits: good way to ensure efficient allocation of existing resources, also very good way of signaling to people in country and regionally that you are taking statistics seriously and thus garner support of partners in that area.

NSDS – similar to SPARS in that the long term plan brings together all the agencies in a country that deal with statistics, but for ALL sectors. Ie SPARS would sit inside an NSDS – important these processes support each other and are complementary.

TYPSS – Regional strategy to provide regional public goods to help countries harmonise and standardise their statistical collections, so we can compare ourselves within the region and can compare our statistics across regions globally.

National Minimum Data Indicators (NMDI) – an activity through TYPPS that SPC collates, ie % household income from ag, or % labour force from ag, etc. SPC is updating that methodology will seek country feedback.

-Question: Taking all statistics into account, and mapping those against data demands, are we meeting our demand or is there a rationale for something else, ie a regional level strategy that will look specifically at agriculture statistics. Thus, at the regional level, within the existing TYPSS agriculture is included by default but not explicitly in many areas and, at the national level, have details in the SPARS but perhaps lacking that link between detailed agriculture stats we are generating at national level and what we could aggregate at the regional level.

SESSION 4: ASSESSING COUNTRY CAPACITY TO PRODUCE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS (INCLUDING FISHERIES)

Capacity assessment framework for the Global Strategy and findings of the FAO 2011 baseline survey, Mukesh Srivastava, Senior Statistician

SUMMARY:

For the FAO 2011 baseline survey Capacity Assessment (Questionnnaire) for agricultural and rural statistics there are 4 dimensions, as follows, of which each has various elements that are assessed (there are 23 elements within these 4 dimensions): institutional infrastructure; resources – financial and human; statistical – methods and practices; and availability of statistical information. The speaker also discussed in detail the indicators for the four dimensions and 23 elements, and gave examples of questions to be asked (refer to the presentation).

Based on this analysis of the questionnaire responses received from 13 countries in the Pacific sub-region (half of FAO and ESCAP member countries in the Pacific), the FAO 2011 Baseline Survey concluded: “Many countries in the sub-region produce less than a quarter of the minimum core data items” and “responses received were often insufficient to establish a proper baseline for the Pacific…”.

Lessons learned for FAO from the process for the Pacific include the need to simplify the questionnaire and support it with guidelines and increased FAO assistance, as well as communicate more clearly to countries that this is a measure of capacity so reporting weaknesses is useful and not negative. Mukesh explained that: “These are indicators and not precise measures, so when you are applying these questions you need to be honest as that will be more useful as tool for FAO to see the weaknesses and strengths and then make informed decisions (glean guidance) on key areas of need, etc.” The 2015 questionnaire takes a country about 2 hours to complete, plus 4-5 hours to compile the indicators.

Discussions followed the presentation about whether the FAO plans to send the questionnaire to just one agency for completion or several agencies, ie in the case of Fiji there are at least 3 agencies who should be contacted. FAO explained “this is a major problem in some countries” as some agencies just half filled the questionnaire and did not ask other agencies to complete the rest. “Found that in Asia-Pacific the coordination between agencies is the real issue. So suggest should be one person who takes the lead, and coordinates people and agencies to complete the questionnaire.”
Kiribati explained that it has a country island baseline survey from 2010, but it includes only a few of its 33 islands so could it receive funds to complete the FAO questionnaire? FAO explained that the capacity assessment questionnaire will not need extra funding, as part of its purpose is actually to help us determine a country’s capacity and funding needs – so if a country is unable to complete all the questionnaire due to lack of resources then that is an important finding and part of the objective of the questionnaire. Guidelines for the questionnaire indicate there must be 8-10 important items answered in the questionnaire, and after that there are a suite of questions the country can choose depending on what is relevant to their country.

PRESENTATION:

[POWERPOINT]

OUTLINE:

- Background
- Capacity Assessment Framework
- Country Capacity Indicators
- Results from the FAO 2011 baseline survey
- Lessons Learnt

BACKGROUND: BUILDING A FRAMEWORK FOR CAPACITY ASSESSMENT:

Defining Capacity

- Capacity is a state or inherent condition of a system. Outcome of a complex combination of institutional infrastructure, organizations, commitments, attitudes, resources, strategies and skills.

Needs for Capacity Assessment

- A nation's capacity to produce coherent, reliable and timely ARS is **key to effective agricultural planning** and programs
- Agricultural development is vital to **achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**
- Assessing the statistical capacity of countries is the **first step** in implementing the ***Global Strategy Action Plan***

Basis of the Assessment Framework

- Built on concepts from the IMF Data Quality Assessment Framework, the World Bank Capacity Assessment Indicators, and PARIS21's *Capacity Assessment Framework*.

DIAGRAM: Dimensions of Capacity Assessment for Agricultural and Rural Statistics

-4 IMPORTANT dimensions (and then 23 elements within these 4 dimensions):

1. Institutional infrastructure
2. Resources – financial and human
3. Statistical – methods and practices
4. Availability of statistical information

ELEMENTS (23) OF THE 4 DIMENSIONS:

1.Institutional infrastructure – elements (prerequisites)

- 1.1. Legal Framework
- 1.2 Coordination in the Agricultural Statistical System
- 1.3 Strategic Vision and Planning for Agricultural Statistics
- 1.4 Integration of Agriculture in the National Statistics System
- 1.5 Relevance of data (user interface)

2.Resources – financial and human (input dimension)

- 2.1 Financial Resources
- 2.2 Human Resources: Staffing
- 2.3 Human Resources: Training
- 2.4 Physical Infrastructure

3.Statistical – methods and practices (throughput dimension)

- 3.1 Statistical Software Capability
- 3.2 Data Collection Technology
- 3.3 IT infrastructure
- 3.4 General Statistical Infrastructure

- 3.5 Adoption of International Standards
- 3.6 General Statistical Activities
- 3.7 Agricultural Market and Price Information
- 3.8 Agricultural Surveys
- 3.9 Analysis and Use of Data
- 3.10 Quality of Surveys

4.Availability of statistical information (Output dimension)

- 4.1 Core Data Availability
- 4.2 Timeliness
- 4.3 Usability of data
- 4.4 Data Accessibility

INDICATORS FOR ASSESSING STATISTICAL CAPACITY:

Indicators for 4 dimensions and 23 elements are:

- built on a **common understanding** of the concept of capacity
- ensure meaningful **comparisons between and within countries** over time
- derived for each element of capacity **based on a set of "key issues"**
- presented on a **scale of zero to one hundred**, though a few indicators can take only three or four possible values on this scale
- generally based on a number of questions and the scoring criteria **normally assign equal weight to all questions** in the indicator
- The element-level indicators can then be aggregated **using simple averaging** to build indicators on each of the four dimensions
- It is also possible to construct user defined indicators from the data

Speaker Notes:

-zero does not mean there is no capacity in the country, just that it is at a low level.

-Africa Development Bank able to rank countries, ie can determine of 54 countries these are the 10 countries where the manpower is the weakest or strongest. Tool for planning for development assistance and building capacity.

DIAGRAM: FOUR DIMENSIONS OF COUNTRY CAPACITY

DIAGRAM: INDICATOR 1 – INSTITUTIONAL INFRASTRUCUTRE

Speaker Notes:

Types of questions to ask the countries:

Legal -*Is there a legal basis for statistical activities? Operational? How Adequate?*

Coordination - *Does your country have a coordinating. Board, council, or committee? What Areas of does it cover?*

Strategic vision and planning - Does your country have a national strategy for statistics? Has it been planned?

Integration of ag into NSS - Does the national strategy for statistics include a strategy specific to agriculture. What sectors does it cover?

DIAGRAM: INDICATOR 2 – RESOURCES

Speaker Notes:

Financial resources - *To what extent does your agency rely on external funding For the production of statistics?*

Human resources staffing - *Does your agency have an adequate Number of staff to perform your Mandated tasks?*
HR training - *What percentage of your staff Receive regular opportunities For training?*
Physical infrastructure - *Does your agency have adequate Facilities to perform your work?*

DIAGRAM: INDICATOR 3 – STATISTICAL METHODS AND PRACTICES
Speaker Notes:
Statistical software capacity - *What statistical software does your agency utilize? SPSS? STATA?*
Data capture technology – *How does your agency collect data? Personal Interviews?*
IT infrastructure - *Does your agency possess enough computers/ servers to adequately produce statistics?*

International classifications - *Does your country use internationally recognized standards to categorize collected data? ISIC? CPC?*

General stats activities - *Does your country provide what we call a minimum set of"core statistics"? Population census, national accounts, CPI indices, household income?*
Ag price information - Does your country provide what we call a minimum set of "core statistics"? Population census, national accounts, CPI indices, household income?
Specialised ag survey - *Does there exist An agricultural census in your country? Have there been specialized surveys for crops, livestock, fishery, water, or forestry related areas?*
Does your country posses price Indices that cover important Agricultural commodities? Crops? Livestock? Fisheries?
Analysis and use of data - *Does your country have an Analytical framework to integrate and reconcile different data sources? A system of national accounts? Food Balance sheets?*

DIAGRAM: INDICATOR 4 – CORE DATA AVAILABILITY
Speaker Notes:
Timeliness - *What is the frequency of availability? Monthly? Quarterly? Annually?*
Core data availability - *Of the 73 indicators we consider to be core, how many does your agency produce that is seen as reliable?*
Quality, reliability and consistency of data - *How reliable do YOU believe your data is?*
Data accessibility - *How easy is it to access your data? Is there a public website?*
Quality consciousness - *Do you provide public access to your Methodology? Reports on sampling errors or Post-enumeration surveys?*
RESULTS FROM THE FAO 2011 BASELINE SURVEY: INSTITUTIONAL INFRASTRUCRE

- DIAGRAM: "Many countries in the sub-region lack proper statistical legislation and mechanisms for the production of agricultural and rural statistics."
- Modified current version of questionnaire based on the results of 2011
- 2011 helped us to design our regional action plan and to select the countries, based on their profile of capacity.
- Found that 6 countries were particularly weak, of the 13 countries who supplied information to FAO. Ie scores below 60% was more than half of the countries, thus weak on institutional infrastructure. Only 1 country was near perfect and another was a little closer.

RESULTS FROM THE FAO 2011 BASELINE SURVEY: RESOURCES
Issues of Non-response in 2011-12 round

- Only a few countries provided a complete enough response for the derivation an indicator score for Resources
- Complexity of the questions asked was seen as one factor for the non-response

Revisions in later rounds (IdCA, and PSPARS Workshop)

- Questions with reference to human and financial resources simplified
- During the IdCA process, the resources indicator was derived separately for key data producers

RESULTS FROM THE FAO 2011 BASELINE SURVEY: STATISTICAL METHODS AND PRACTICES

- DIAGRAM: "Many countries in the sub-region have weaknesses in key statistical products such as the agricultural census, national accounts, sub-sector surveys, and price statistics. Many also lack the infrastructure and resources needed for the production of these statistics."

RESULTS FROM THE FAO 2011 BASELINE SURVEY: AVAILABILITY OF STATISITICAL DATA

- DIAGRAM: "Many countries in the sub-region produce less than a quarter of the minimum core data items."

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE 2011 ROUND OF COUNTRY ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRES

Indicators provide a Benchmark for the Improvement of Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics in the Pacific

- In 2011-12, FAO received responses from 13 countries in the Pacific sub-region. Roughly half of FAO and ESCAP member countries in the Pacific.
- Responses received were often insufficient to establish a proper baseline for the pacific sub-region

Interpretation of Indicators

- Indicators are not "Measures of Country Capacity" in absolute terms. They are simple yet sensitive enough to be a reliable means to identify countries with weak capacities

Improvements to Questionnaire Design

- Questionnaire has been modified and simplified where possible
- Guidelines developed to guide respondent
- Derivation of indicators refined

Speaker Notes:
-Sending/sent updated questionnaire to countries – this is the bare minimum questionnaire used to prepare the indicators, there is no possibility of deleting the questionnaire. Results used at forum in Feb 2016. Also used guidelines to accompany the questionnaire – estimated 2 hours to complete the questionnaire if country has all data available to them.

CONTACT US:
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DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS:

Samoa: What are the requirements of SIDS in terms of capacity to complete the assessment?
Response: 2011 was the pilot round, and this information has guided us to prepare the Regional Action Plan (RAP), and helped us realise there is a lot of work to be done in this sub-region and that is why SPC incorporated in this process. These are indicators and not precise measures, so when you are applying these questions you be honest as that will be more useful as tool for FAO to see the weaknesses and strengths and then make informed decisions (glean guidance) on key areas of need, etc.
Fiji: Any strategy to monitor results?

Response: Questionnaire, plus also a Guide for filling questionnaire. More detailed version of Guidelines used when doing in-person country assessments. This is the first step. The aim to use this tool every 2 years, but countries may want to use it every year.
Perhaps takes 2 hours to complete the questionnaire, another 4-5 hours to compile the indicators.

Fiji: Have ministries of ag, of fisheries and of statistics (3 offices). When you did the pilot did all these 3 complete this or just ag?
Response: This is a major problem in some countries. Some agencies just half filled the questionnaire and did not ask other agencies to complete the rest, indicating a lack of coordination between agencies. **Found that in Asia-Pacific the coordination between agencies is the real issue. So FAO suggests there should be one person who takes the lead, and coordinates people and agencies to complete the questionnaire.**
Ie manpower capacity may be good at national stats office but poor in ag dept, so each country needs to gather data across agencies and aggregate this at a national level.
In some countries the concept of ag stats systems does not exist, so only look to the ag dept (not to a system of different agencies and sources, as a whole).
(Fiji comment that initial questionnaire contained a bit of duplication so unclear which dept completed which part, but the 3 did work together to try and complete the questionnaire – believe next questionnaire is more simple and clear.)

Kiribati: Country has island baseline survey 2010, and has 33 islands, in this baseline only have several islands included and not all the islands. Question is that we are ok to do the ag census but we need the funds to reach all the islands. Is it possible for us to get funds to help?
Can we have more questions more relevant to our country? We found the FAO questionnaire difficult as some questions not relevant to our country, and we tried to make if more realistic to our country. We ask "why these kind of questions" (we translated them to our local people, and they were not relevant to our people and we asked why do we include this and told they are the questions FAO wants to ask.)
Response: This capacity assessment questionnaire will not need extra funding, as part of its purpose is actually to help us determine your capacity and funding needs; that is part of the objective of the questionnaire. Guidelines for the questionnaire indicate there must be 8-10 important items in the questionnaire, and after that there are a suite of questions the country can choose depending on what is relevant to their country.

SESSION 4: ASSESSING COUNTRY CAPACITY TO PRODUCE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS (INCLUDING FISHERIES)

Capacity assessment questionnaire: 'Country Questionnaire for the Assessment of Agricultural Statistical Systems in Pacific Island Countries', Anthony Burgard, FAO Consultant

SUMMARY

Consultant for FAO Anthony Burgard went through the FAO's 2015 questionnaire, explaining each questions and highlighting that even if a country does not have an answer, to still provide a response explaining why it cannot answer (that information is of significant use for a capacity assessment).

The main goal of the GS is to build sustainable capacity of the statistical systems to meet the requirements of data for monitoring developments. For the purpose of monitoring the impact of work done under GS, and well as for designing appropriate interventions, a global framework for assessing and monitoring capacity has been developed including the standard questionnaire.

Discussions followed the presentation about the lack of a confidentiality notice on the questionnaire (ie that information provided will remain confidential) and FAO explained this is because information is not being asked of an individual but of a country, so no need to have the confidentiality notice.
One person is not expected to complete the whole questionnaire, as discussed in the previous presentation, FAO is implementing lessons learned from the initial 2011 survey and these include the need to encourage agencies to better coordinate to complete the questionnaire together. Also, this time FAO is encouraging more communication between its office and countries completing the surveys.
Tuvalu explained that it has now agriculture census and so finding information to answer the questionnaire will be difficult. FAO explained that is there is a question not applicable to your country then say that, and explain that – don't leave it blank as then the indicators are affected. FAO has never received a perfect questionnaire! Typically best to work through the answers with respondent.

PRESENTATION

Contents of the Questionnaire (available on the PAFPNet website):

PAGE 1 – contact details
SECTION 1- institutional Infrastucture
-asks about NSDS and other factors.
SECTION 2: CORE DATA AVAILABILITY
-asks about current availability of current ag statistics, goes into sub-sectors within ag, ie fisheries, forestry, etc. Discussed that each country may need to assess what data is available, ie maybe just provide data for the most important crops and can't provide for all the crops in the country.
SECTION 3: MAIN STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES
-includes questions about existing and planned household, ag, etc surveys and census activity.
SECTION 4: CRITICAL CONSTRAINTS IN AGRICULTURE STATISTICS SYSTEM
SECTION 5: EMERGING ISSUES AND BEST PRACTICES IN THE PACIFIC
SECTION 6: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS IN THE PACIFIC

DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS:

-Confidentiality – there is no notice included on the questionnaire as the information is not being asked of an individual but of a country, so no need to have the confidentiality notice. However, if there is a question or information that you think is confidential to the nature then let us know. This questionnaire is not asking for numbers but about systems.
-This is like the entry point, for assessing at the national level, the capacity rather than the first steps of conducting a national census or questionnaire. Just a way to assess capacity of national systems, to help determine next steps.
-What next? After assess the countries in the region, then what next? Ie if determine a significant weakness from the capacity assessment then can plan next steps.
-Legal factors are included in the assessment.
-Discussed that each country may need to assess what data is available, ie maybe just provide data for the most important crops and can't provide for all the crops in the country.
-One person not expected to complete the whole questionnaire.
-Initial 2011 survey did not have much communication between the FAO office and countries completing the surveys, but now FAO is encouraging this as it has more resources to answer questions and for follow-up - keen to get the dialogue going.
-FAO never received a perfect questionnaire! Typically best to work through the answers with respondent.
-Tuvalu: We have no ag census only the population census so how are we going to get this data?
Response: If not applicable to your country then say that, and explain that – don't leave it blank as then the indicators are affected but if there is an explanation then FAO has an understanding and can act on

those insights. These are the key indicators, ie like feeling the pulse of a person to check their health; that is the most important thing(s) you need to do to check their 'health and capacity' and this questionnaire aims to do the same thing.

SESSION 5: AGRICULTURAL CENSUS AS THE MAIN PILLAR OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
New features of the FAO World Programme of Census of Agriculture (WCA) 2020 (presented on behalfof Castano Jairo, FAO)
Main features and changes of the WCA 2020

SUMMARY

In preparation for the WCA 2020 the FAO has held **extensive consultations** over 2013-14 with census stakeholders (countries in the regions, FAO divisions and DOs, the International Advisory Group on FAO Statistics (IAGFS) about the implementation of the WCA 2010 and other experiences and inputs.

Beginning with 1950, the FAO World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA) has been helping countries to carry out their national agricultural census at least once every decade using standard international concepts, definitions and methodology. The programme assists countries by providing guidelines to generate internationally comparable figures on variable defining structure of agriculture, such as number and area of farms by size, number of livestock by type and age/sex classification, land tenure and land use, crops grown and agricultural inputs. FAO encourages countries to develop their programmes of censuses and surveys, keeping in view their priorities, practices and resource availability within the framework of a modular approach advocated in WCA 2010. Details: http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-wca/en/

WCA 2020 will have close linkages to the Global Strategy. Other aspects include the introduction of two new themes: 'Fisheries' and 'Environment/GHG emissions' plus the theme 'Agricultural practices' has extended the items on sustainable agriculture. Also there will be an increased emphasis on 'Use of information technology (IT)' such as use of IT in data collection, processing and dissemination.

PRESENTATION

About to launch

So any country doing a census during this period will be part of this program. There are guidelines to be published soon, and each census program carries some innovation.

BACKGROUND OF WCA: PREPARATION WORK

- 2013-14: **extensive consultations** held with census stakeholders: countries in the regions, FAO divisions and DOs, the International Advisory Group on FAO Statistics (IAGFS).
- **Methodological review** of countries' reports and experiences in the implementation of the WCA 2010 (next presentation).
- Critical **feedback** for the development of the first draft of the WCA 2020 guidelines.

FEEDBACK FROM COUNTRIES:

- **Modular approach, linkage** with **population census**, **gender data** and **community-level** survey still relevant
- **Need** to improve clarification and operational guidance on approaches
  - E.g. FAO/UNFPA Handbook on Linking Population and Agricultural Censuses (2012)

- **Improve** the approach to gather gender-related data and the concepts on sub-holding and sub-holder
- **Increased** use of new technologies (e.g. CAPI, GPS) - advantages for census taking: timely and more frequent data, data accuracy, cost efficiencies, reduction of non-sampling errors
- **Countries** without a regular survey programme **rely on census** to collect wider range of data to meet needs
- **Calls to increase** scope of data collection but also increase efficiency, timeliness and frequency of data, minimize response burden and costs
- **Provide guidance** to countries collecting fisheries data in the census of agriculture (>15 countries)

FEEDBACK FROM FAO AND STAKEHOLDERS:

- **Close linkage** to the "Global Strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics" (2010). Cross-reference to publications
- **Further stresses** the need for an integrated statistical system, composed of:
  - Census of agriculture
  - Periodic agricultural surveys
  - Administrative data
  - Where necessary household surveys, population & housing census, etc.
- Bring the **food security** theme in line with the approach developed by FAO's "Voices of the Hungry" project
- Extend the list of items on sustainable practices (breakdown of "use of good agricultural practices")
- Provide guidance to countries collecting and reporting data on greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from agriculture (EU 31, Costa Rica, Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil)
- Increased emphasis on the access to and use of results: documentation, archiving, and dissemination of census results.
- **Strengthen** criteria (items) to identify farm typologies (e.g. family farming based on legal status, main purpose of production, labour use).
- **Update** classifications in line with current international standards

WCA 2020 MAIN FEATURES:

WCA 2020 envisaged in two Volumes:

Volume 1 ''Programme, Concepts and Definitions'' (print) - Deals with methodological and conceptual aspects of the census of agriculture:

- Objectives and uses of the census
- Methodologies
- Relationship with other censuses (population, aquaculture, others)
- Themes and items
- Community-level data
- Tabulation and dissemination

2. **Volume 2 "Operational guidelines on implementing Census of Agriculture''**- Will deal with the practical details on the steps involved in actually conducting an agricultural census. A revised and updated edition of ''Conducting Agricultural Censuses and Surveys'' (FAO, SDS6, 1995)

- Modalities to census taking
- Census framework (institutional, legal, quality)
- Preparation and execution (census preparation, data collection, processing, analysis, dissemination)

- Main steps and toolkit recommended for each census modality

1. Close linkage to the **Global Strategy** to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics:
   - Census of agriculture is a source for the **minimum set of core data** of the GS (first pillar).
   - The census contributes to **integration of agriculture into the national statistical system** through the master sampling frame and an integrated census-survey programme (second pillar). *AGRIS* will be instrumental in this.
   - The census involves a comprehensive **capacity building** exercise (third pillar)
   - The reader will be referred to the Global Strategy's publications.

2. Discusses four modalities of conducting an agricultural census:

a. **Classical approach** *(still widely used)*

One-off operation, conducted with a single/set questionnaire(s), including all essential/structural items plus some additional items.

- *Appropriate for countries having integrated census-surveys programme or wishing to collect some "additional" items at low administrative level.*

b. **Modular approach** *(introduced in WCA 2010)*

With a clearly distinguishable core module (full enumeration) and supplementary module(s) (on sample basis). Core module serves as the frame for the supplementary module(s).

- *Useful to countries where the census-survey programme is not well developed and the conduct of modules over a period of time can lay the foundations for an integrated agri-census & survey programme.*

c. Use of registers and administrative records

Registers and other administrative sources can be used as a source of census data, depending on their content and quality.

- *Appropriate for countries where some census information can be obtained from administrative sources. The most complete use of registers will be when all the ''essential'' census items can be based on administrative sources.*

d. Integrated census and survey programme

Aims to re-enforce the integration of the census of agriculture in a multi-year census/survey programme.

- *Uses AGRIS, a modular survey programme, which is to be articulated with the agricultural census programme and conducted on an annual basis over a ten-year time frame between two censuses.*

3.**Census items:** distinction between essential, frame and additional items :

- **Essential items (23)** – for national purposes and international comparability. All countries recommended to collect regardless of the census modality.
- **Frame items (15)** – necessary for the establishment of frames for supplementary modules under the modular approach or follow-up surveys.
- **Additional items (96)** – to collect more in-depth supplementary data on specific themes. Apply to any census modality.

In response to increasing demands for data, the WCA 2020 has also increased the number of census items. However, some 'additional' items could not be considered as 'structural' (not changing rapidly over time) and might be better suited to the statistical survey programme.

4.Introduction of **two new** Themes: **'Fisheries'** and '**Environment/GHG emissions**'. The Theme **'Agricultural practices'** has extended the items on sustainable agriculture.

5.Use of information technology (IT) - increased emphasis on IT in data collection, processing and dissemination. Examples:

- Computer- assisted personal interview (CAPI), e.g tablets
- Geo-referencing
- Use of interactive outputs and web-based data
- Access to anonymized micro-data

Four other features were retained in the WCA 2020:

6.Emphasis on **integration** of the agricultural census within the overall framework of the **system** of agricultural censuses and surveys.

7.Linking Population Censuses with Agricultural Censuses is re-emphasized *(FAO/UNFPA Guidelines, 2012)*

8.Community-level data: Strong demand for and increased used of this kind of data vis-a-vis marginal cost .

9.Collection of **gender-disaggregated** data. The approach has been improved to facilitate the collection of such data.
(Part of powerpoint slide missing)

THE WAY FORWARD:

- WCA 2020, Volume 1 in print
- Volume 2 in preparation
- WCA 2020 will be disseminated to countries through regional roundtables during 2016-2018

Speaker notes:
-Helen Scott include from this region but others interested in contributing to this document, are welcome to nominate.

DISCUSSIONS / QUESTIONS:
(Refer below, as discussion for this and the next presentation merged together.)

SESSION 5 (continued): AGRICULTURAL CENSUS AS THE MAIN PILLAR OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
FAO World Programme of Census of Agriculture (WCA) 2020 - The Global Strategy and the Planning of an Agricultural Census
(Chapter 2 of WCA 2020), Anthony Burgard, FAO Consultant

SUMMARY
FAO consultant, Anthony Burgard, provided additional background context to the WCA 2020 and explained the strong linkages it has with the GS. In terms of context, a general decline in the overall quality

and availability of agricultural statistics has been observed by FAO, compounded by the fact that many countries are not adequately including agriculture statistics (including Agricultural census) in the national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS). There is also a need for more reliable and timely statistical data with emerging needs pointing to data on climate change, environment, land and water use; and data on rural poverty

The WCA agricultural census contributes to the Global Strategy's implementation through three pillars: minimum set of core data of the GS (first pillar); integration of agricultural statistics into the national statistical system (second pillar); and capacity building exercise (third pillar). In turn, the GS contributes to census by providing operational aspects and research documents including a Master sample frame; integrated census and surveys programme (AGRIS); documentation and software on CAPI and the use of remote sensing; elaboration of SPARS (AC one of the pillars of the agricultural surveys programme; etc.
The WCA 2020 programme makes cross references to relevant parts of the Global strategy, including referring the reader to the disseminated publications of the Global Strategy

Discussions followed the presentation about how the FAO mandate is for agriculture statistics globally, whereas SPC is focused on the Pacific. However, both organisations share information and have a good working relationship, plus FAO has recognized through its 2011 capacity questionnaire that the Pacific statistics are weak and there is a need to additionally assist countries in this Pacific sub-region. In terms of information sharing, SPC has a statistics portal where countries can access the FAO questionnaire plus also metadata from all the census in the region (notably the representation of agriculture across these sector census is weak and is an area for improvement). There is also the PRISM site for data, and the IHSN (International Household Survey Network) available that shares and sorts data.
WCA details: http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-events/wca2020/en/

PRESENTATION
[POWERPOINT]
INTRODUCTION:

- The context:
  - Observed general decline in the overall quality and availability of agricultural statistics
  - Many countries had failed to adequately include agriculture statistics (including Agricultural census) in the national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS)
  - Increased need for reliable and timely statistical data with emerging needs pointing to data on climate change, environment, land and water use; and data on rural poverty
- The "Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics" provides a blueprint for a coordinated and long-term initiative to address the decline in national agricultural statistics systems

Contribution of the Agricultural census to the Global Strategy implementation (how does census contribute to GS?):

- Minimum set of core data of the GS (first pillar):
  - Agriculture census is not the primary source for the set of core data. However, it can contribute to many of them;
  - Agriculture census is specifically important for countries without an established and well functioning annual survey programme;
  - Can provide about a third of the Global Strategy's core data in the year of the census (in absence of annual survey programnme).
  - Can provide a provide a frame for specialized surveys for more than half of the core data items

- Integration of agricultural statistics into the national statistical system (second pillar)
  - Development of a master frame for agriculture – an essential element; Census of agriculture – one of the main data sources for building the master sampling frame
  - Development of an Agriculture and Rural Integrated Survey programme (AGRIS) – to assist countries to move towards a fully integrated approach. Census modular approach facilitates the transition.
  - Census of agriculture is broadly used for benchmarking for agricultural statistics surveys; main reference for reconciliation of data from different surveys and sources.

- Capacity building exercise (third pillar)
  - Agricultural census can strongly contribute to the overall goal of building/ strengthening capacity in the domain of agricultural statistics.

Contribution of the Global Strategy implementation to the Agricultural census (how does GS contribute to census?)

- Global Strategy provides operational aspects and research documents including on:
  - Master sample frame
  - Integrated census and surveys programme (AGRIS)
  - Documentation and software on CAPI and the use of remote sensing
  - Elaboration of SPARS (AC one of the pillars of the agricultural surveys programme
  - Providing access to agricultural microdata
  - Improving data collection methods
  - Improving data dissemination methods
  - Improving quality and use of administrative data;
  - Indicators and data collection for agri-environment
- WCA 2020 programme makes cross references to relevant parts of the Global strategy
- Volume 1 makes reference to:
  - Chapter 3 : Master sample frame for agricultural surveys
  - Chapter 4 : Agriculture and Rural Integrated Survey programme (AGRIS) and census Modular approach as a transition to the integration
  - Chapter 10: Providing access to Agricultural Microdata (A Guide)
- Volume 2 will refer the reader to the disseminated publications of the Global Strategy

RESOURCES:

- FAO Statistics World Programme for the Census of Agriculture
  - http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-events/wca2020/en/
- Past meetings
  - Technical review meeting on the 2020 World Programme for the Census of Agriculture

DISCUSSIONS / QUESTIONS:

-The website has technical documents plus other resources (ie each country census and report, like a census bank) http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-events/wca2020/en/

-Use of IC for activity coding (ie 9810 primary subsistence activities, also household chores) in HIES found good practice to address uncertain classifications. Is the recommendation to use IC solely or also use CISCO.

-SPC is doing work on guiding census and household surveys, so does FAO and SPC liaise and coordinate with what is already there?

Response: SPC stats site has a portal whereby you can access the questionnaire and metadata from all the census in the region. The representative of ag in that portal is weak, and is one component to think about improving. Makes sense
Also IHSN (International Household Survey Network) available to share core data from the surveys and so you can go onto the website and do your own data queries, ie from census. SPC's PRISM site also has links. Innovative way to share data across the region.
-This is a global survey planned by FAO for 2020, and is all the Pacific planned for inclusion?
Response: FAO mandate is for ag stats, while SPC is for all stats in the Pacific. Good for both organisations to share information, just be wary of crediting the source then no copyright problem.
In this region it has been recognized that the Pacific statistics are weak and there is FAO recognition that we need to assist countries in this sub-region.

SESSION 5: AGRICULTURAL CENSUS AS THE MAIN PILLAR OF AGRCICULTURAL STATISTICS
An example of Integrated Crop, Livestock, Fish and Handicraft Census, Mana'ia Halafihi, National Project Coordinator (NPC) - 2015 Tonga National Agricultural Census

SUMMARY
Tonga has just completed its 2015 National Agricultural Census and is about to analyse the results. It conducted an agriculture census in 1985, 2001 then 2015, so there are big gaps that the government would like to see reduced – ideally it wants to have one census every 10 years to generate more reliable data. Mr Halafihi explained it is important to Tonga to know that the residents of the country have enough food as food security is very important. The third agriculture census for Tonga was conducted from with assistance FAO.

Coordinating a census is a complicated exercise, especially compared with a survey that can be quick and much simpler. Need a timeline, supervisors (including recruitment processes and training manuals and support), spreadsheet of crops and their codes plus also English and Tongan names, down to details such as types of fishing ie reef gleaning, hand fishing, etc; summary forms to summarise census responses; village forms also created as most villages have a town officer who knows the economic information for the village. And even after using all the forms and training and running the census it is still good to "actually go the bush so you can compare what they have versus what (information) they give to you" such as measure the actual areas of the plantations.

Many challenges such as allowing sufficient preparation time (FAO recommends 2 years planning and implementation time); getting the right people and providing the right training; remoteness of some geographic locations (ie Tonga has two remote islands closer to Samoa, one has flight only every fortnight and a grass runway which disallows landing in rain}, and even national events and traditions such as Tonga's recent coronation for which the census was postponed.

Most Pacific countries heavily rely on agriculture for their economies and, for Tonga, this census will provide basic information for sector economic plans and to update the economy and enable the government to make well informed decision. It also will help attract assistance from aid agencies.

Discussion following the presentation focused on recommendations include allowing significant preparation time; providing public information campaigns; having annual surveys between census years to have estimated benchmark data for the next census program; reduce the gap of census interval to not more than 10 years period; allow sufficient time for supervisors' and enumerators' training.

PRESENTATION

[POWERPOINT]

INTRODUCTION:

What is Agricultural Census?

An **agricultural census** is the procedure of systematically acquiring and recording **information** about households of a given **population** with all their **agricultural** productions, assets, activities and processed products

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CENSUS AND SURVEY?

CENSUS	SURVEY
Census involves asking questions from the entire population	Survey involves taking out samples from the population that represent the population best from the point of view of the goal of the survey
Census is time consuming and takes a long time to generate results	Survey is quick and gives results quickly
Census is an enormous exercise requiring lots of money and a high number of personnel	Survey is rather inexpensive
Census is obviously more accurate	Survey is somewhat less accuracy
More General	More specific and more details

WHY AGRICULTURE CENSUS IS IMPORTANT IN TONGA?

- Provide benchmark information for Food Security purposes
- Provide basic information for Sector Economic Plan
  - Enable Government to make well-informed decision on agricultural development policy for Tonga
  - Enable international agencies (FAO; World Bank; IMF; etc) to make well-informed decision on investment in Tonga's agricultural sector
  - Enable growers/farmers to make well-informed decision on agricultural development/investment
- Provide Update and Realistic information for Policy and Administrative Decision Makers
- Enable Government to have an up-to-date census frame that could be used to design annual sample survey
- Contribute to the developments of Agricultural Census in other Pacific islands

2015 TONGA NATIONAL AG CENSUS METHODOLOGY:

- Preparatory Stage: proposals, budget & planning, resources and equipments, etc.
- Set Project Timeline
- Supervisors and Enumerators
  - Recruitments
  - Responsibilities
  - Trainings
  - Manuals
    - Supervisor , Enumerators , Appendix 6, Appendix 7, Area
- Census Instruments
  - Questionnaires
  - Listing Forms
  - Village Forms
  - PES Form
- Confidentiality of public data

Uses of Codes

- Less writing required
- Easy to decipher when decoding through data entry
- Long writing is prone to errors

Household Lists and Maps

- Household Lists
- Household map

WHAT TO BE CAPTURED FROM AN AG CENSUS?

- 1. IDENTIFICATION
  - Holding ID: Village No. + Census Block No. + Household No.
  - Village Name
  - Head of Household
- 2. DEMOGRAPHIC HOUSEHOLD BIODATA
  - Names of household members
  - Gender
  - Age of household members
  - Relationship to Head of Household
  - Educational Level

A1 CROPS

- Land Issues – status of ownerships, leased and rented, number of parcels
- Tax Allotments – Town/Bush Allotments, Size of Land area (poles, acres, etc.), Land tenure, Land Locations, Land Use
- Existing Crop Varieties – List of all crops in the cropping area, Method and Type of planting, Size of crop area (acres)
- Harvested Crops – List of harvested crops in the last 12 months, and quantitative estimations of harvested produces

A2 LIVESTOCK

- Breeds: Cattle, Horses, Pigs, Goats, Chickens, etc.
- Life stages: e.g. Pigs: piglets, weaner, barrow, sow, boar)
- Numbers: individual counts for each life stages category in each livestock breed

- Disposal: Consumed, Social Obligations, Sold, Lost
- Veterinary Services: Yes or No

A3 FISHERIES

- Fishing Type: the type of fishing the household is engaging, Avg. weekly no. of trips, Avg. person hour/trip, Avg. weekly catch, Avg. weekly value of sold fish
- Main purpose: the main purpose of the household fishing activity
- Main species harvested: list of main species catches (e.g. tuna & pelagic fish, lobster, shellfish, sea cucumber, seaweed, ornamental fish, reef finfish, sea urchins, others)
- Type of fishing habitat: the fishing ground e.g. flat reef, lagoon, sea grass, reef slope, open sea)
- Time of fishing: when fishing are done e.g. day, night or both

A4 FORESTRY

Numbers and Intended Use of trees/shrubs in Holding e.g. food sources, timbers, soil improvements, high value woods, fuel, shade/shelter/windbreaks, boundaries, handicrafts, medicinal, conservations, ornamentals, etc

A5 HANDICRAFTS

- Raw Material productions: Proportions of raw materials buy or selling
- Total handicrafts produced: Proportions of Total finished products sold and values
- Engaged in group productions of handicrafts for the purpose of *katoanga* and estimated values if yes

A6 OTHER INFORMATION

- Labour: Use of group or permanent labours, labour gender, working hours, rate and benefits if paid
- Machinery & Equipments: List of all equipments owned in Farming, Fishing, Transport, Energy supply, and Livestock activities
- Agricultural Income and Loan: Proportion of income comes from the agricultural sector activities, loan amount, sources, purposes and rate of repayment
- Opinions and prioritising current Challenges in the agricultural sector: Lack of production inputs, lack of finance sources, lack of management skills, lack of markets, lack of new technologies and infrastructures

CHALLENGES AND DIFFICULTIES

- Unpreparedness
  - results in frequent delaying of census activities
  - may have an impact with the collected data accuracy
- Spatial distances and Remoteness
  - may affect communications and trip arrangements
- National events
  - may draw away large population from outer islands e.g. coronation and church conference events in July
- Delays due to resources unavailability
  - unavailability of resources (human, funds, tools, etc.) may delay all planned census activities

LESSONS LEARNED

- Preparation time should be sufficient:
  - required much time in preparations (e.g. 2 – 3 years ahead in preparations)
  - public familiarisations with the questions to be asked
  - census promotions and publicity required much time
  - budget allocations should be in hand
- Stability of implementing staff to conduct the census
  - keep and use the same staff throughout the census during implementations
  - be neutral throughout the census period
- Get the right people, the right time, and right tools and equipment

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Give sufficient time in preparations for an agricultural census
- Promotion exercises and public programs should be very active in outlining the questions to be asked to get the public familiar with the questions as to give the most accurate information
- Carry out annual surveys between census years as to have estimated benchmark data for the next census program
- Reduce the gap of census interval to not more than 10 years period
- Require sufficient time for supervisors' and enumerators' training

DISCUSSIONS / QUESTIONS:

-FAO recommends 18 months to prepare for a census (2 years including initial planning and approval time). To start early is the main thing.

-FAO view on frequency of census; planning ahead helps the govt resource and budget in advance. In some countries there is a Statistics Act where legally the govt must perform regular census.

SESSION 5: AGRICULTURAL CENSUS AS THE MAIN PILLAR OF AGRCICULTURAL STATISTICS
Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Integrated Agriculture Census

SUMMARY

FSM last Agricultural Census was in 1969 and since 2012 been trying to have another, and currently in process of finalizing plans to have a census next year but needs further funds to enable this process (FAO committed US$200,000; SPC committed US$150,000; FSM Congress committed US$50,000 but current estimated funding gap of US$389,399 would prevent implementation of a full census but would allow a 15% sample).

Thus funds are available for an Agricultural Survey (Plan B) but stakeholders have requested that time be allocated for identification of additional funds for a Census (Plan A).

FSM is keen for an agriculture census to provide: baseline data on the structure of agriculture, especially for smaller farmers/fishers**;** policy makers with minimum set of core data, for evidence-based policy development and project monitoring and evaluation purposes; benchmarks to improve current crop and livestock statistics (GDP, etc) and to provide sampling frames for follow-up agricultural sample surveys; and to establish a sustainable plan for ensuring regular updating of agriculture, forestry, fishery and livestock data (at least every 2 years) through integration with other national survey tools.

Discussions following the presentation included an FAO suggestion that, for cost effectiveness, may be best to work in with the 2020 Population Census as, whilst this has the usual constraints versus having a standalone agriculture census, it guarantees the gathering of data. In addition, for agriculture FAO can also assist with direct technical assistance to help develop a more cost effective census, plus it offers an e-learning course to learn more about census, and how to use population census for ag census.
Also discussion around the ongoing challenges for Pacific countries to have census, such as in Vanuatu the difficulty in measuring mountainside plantations and in Tonga units sizes (ie baskets instead of kilograms). Agriculture production data may be best gathered via surveys than to rely on agriculture census because production changes year by year (and hard for farmers to give a longer term estimate given crops change), and census typically only every 10 years or less.

PRESENTATION
[POWERPOINT]
Ag sector policy 2012-16 objectives and indicators (table shown)
AG CENSUS V SURVEY:

- FAO committed US$200,000 to Agricultural Census
- SPC committed US$150,000+ to Agricultural Census
- FSM Congress committed US$50,000 to Agricultural Census
- Current estimated funding gap of **US$389,399** would prevent implementation of a full census (but would allow a 15% sample)

Funds are available for an Agricultural Survey (Plan B) but stakeholders have requested that time be allocated for identification of additional funds for a Census (Plan A).

AGRICULTURE SECTOR POLICY OBJECTIVES:

- 1.1.1 *To ensure continued policy relevance and facilitate policy deepening priority attention will be focused on strengthening agriculture and socio-economic data and capacity to analyze agriculture policy issues. The offices responsible for agriculture will work closely with the national statistical services to strengthen data collection systems and reporting. An appropriate level of staff time and financial resources will be devoted to maintenance of good data systems. Priority actions include:*
    - **Conduct a national integrated agriculture census.**
    - Collect and publish representative farm production (area and yield) data for key crops.
    - Improve information on domestic market trade, volumes and prices.
    - Provide better quality and more timely trade statistics.
    - Improve gender disaggregated socio-economic data on farm households.

BACKGROUND ON THE FSM INTGRATED AG CENSUS:

- FSM requested FAO, through the Country Partnership Framework between FAO and FSM (2013-17) to set aside US$200k of its country allocation for an Agricultural Census
- FSM communicated to FAO in mid-2014 that the agricultural census was a priority project for FSM, that they had been granted US$50k by Congress, and requested FAO begin implementation
- FAO secured services of a Statistics Consultant to begin consultation and planning, in Nov 2014
- FSM national stakeholders met in December 2014 to discuss institutional arrangements for implementation
- A planning workshop involving state and national stakeholders took place in Palikir February 23-26 2015

WHAT IS A CENSUS OF INTEGRATED AG?

- Data is collected at a household and an agricultural holding level for all or part of country
- Includes info on size of holding, land tenure, land use, crop area harvested, irrigation, livestock numbers, fishing and agro-forestry activities, use of labour and other agricultural inputs (and more).
- Can include additional topics of policy interest (experience of natural disasters, adoption of environmental management techniques, etc)

TYPICAL THEMES IN AN AG CENSUS:

- Theme 01: Level of engagement in agriculture, commercial or non-commercial orientation
- Theme 02: Land (management, tenure, etc)
- Theme 03: Water management (ditching, raised beds, irrigation)
- Theme 04: Crops (tree, temporary, food security and export)
- Theme 05: Livestock
- Theme 06: Agricultural practices (traditional, new technology)
- Theme 07: Services for agriculture (extension, finance, seedling)
- Theme 08: Demographic and social characteristics
- Theme 09: Work on the holding/use of labour
- Theme 10: Intra-household distribution of ownership on the holding
- Theme 11: Household food security (home gardens)
- Theme 12: Aquaculture
- Theme 13: Forestry
- Theme 14: Fishery
- Theme 15: Environment/Climate Change

WHY IS AN AG CENSUS IMPORTANT FOR FSM?

1. To provide baseline data on the structure of agriculture, especially for smaller farmers/fishers. **Last Agricultural Census was in 1969.**
2. To provide policy makers with minimum set of core data, for evidence-based policy development and project monitoring and evaluation purposes
3. To provide benchmarks to improve current crop and livestock statistics (GDP, etc) and to provide sampling frames for follow-up agricultural sample surveys
4. To establish a sustainable plan for ensuring regular updating of agriculture, forestry, fishery and livestock data (at least every 2 years rough integration with other national survey tools)

Implementation Plan – Phase 1 (March-July 2015)

- Project Establishment (FSM R&D)
- Formation of Committee(s)
- Securing of funding and cooperation
- Recruitment of additional staff
- Establishing logistical plans
- Planning workshops (FSM R&D and SBOC)
- Preparation of detailed budget

Implementation Plan – Phase 2 (August 2015-July 2016)

- Household sample selection (SBOC and FAO)
- Questionnaire Consultation (FSMR&D, SBOC, FAO & SPC)
- Pre-test Operation (FSMR&D SBOC FAO)

- Enumeration (FSMR&D, SBOC and States)
- Development of Enumeration materials (as above..)
- Shipping/distribution of materials
- Recruitment of field workers
- Training of (FSM R&D, SBOC, FAO and SPC)
    - Trainers
    - Field staff
- Deployment of field workers
- Interviewing of Households

Implementation Plan – Phase 3 (August 2016 – March 2017)

- Data Processing (FSMR&D, SBOC & SPC)
- Data Entry
- Data Cleaning/Editing
- Tabulations
- Data Analysis (FSMR&D, SBOC, States, SPC & FAO)
- Data Dissemination (FSMR&D, SBOC, States, SPC & FAO)
- Users Workshop(s)

Implementation Plan – Phase 4 (April 2017 -)

- Development of agricultural information system sustainability plan
- Development of core agricultural 'module' to be included in future national surveys
- Development of on-line searchable database for agricultural data
- Training of agriculture, fisheries and forestry extension and other staff on collection of 'administrative data'

AG CENSUS V SURVEY:

- FAO committed US$200,000 to Agricultural Census
- SPC committed US$150,000+ to Agricultural Census
- FSM Congress committed US$50,000 to Agricultural Census
- Current estimated funding gap of **US$389,399** would prevent implementation of a full census (but would allow a 15% sample)

BUT progress being made

- FSMR&D have identified possible additional donor partners (e.g. India)
- States/Federal authorities indicated that approx. US$63,000 in kind resources could be made available to census
- States indicated that they may be able to contribute resources from unallocated Compact funds
- Additional commitment of funds by Congress may help mobilise these funds

NEXT STEPS:

- Funds are available for an Agricultural Survey (Plan B) but stakeholders have requested that time be allocated for identification of additional funds for a Census (Plan A).
- FSMR&D taking the lead on establishing Steering Committee, consultation with potential stakeholders/partners
- FSMR&D nominate a National Project Co-ordinator
- Will officially contact State Governors and ask them to nominate State Focal Points, and to formalise offer of in-kind contributions; and consider direct contribution of funds
- FSMR&D will approach Foreign Affairs, donors, Congress to help meet resource gap

- Decide by July 2015 whether to proceed with Census or Survey
- Next technical mission from FAO to begin implementation (survey instrument design, household list) late 2015

DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS:

-next population census may be 2020. Working with statistics office to determine ag households to survey.
-FAO commented there is an e-learning course to learn more about census, and how to use population census for ag census.
-FAO will soon provide guidelines on use of international classifications.
-Vanuatu challenge to measure ag areas, ie plantation on side of mountain.
-Tonga: Have to ask the farmers to estimate their harvest numbers, ie how many cassava or baskets of cassava in that area? Give the farmer a question so can give estimate.
-Mukesh: FAO discourages countries to rely on ag census to document production data. Some exceptions. This is because production changes year by year, and don't have census every year, and also hard for farmer to give an estimate for the whole year (ie may be multiple crops over the period of a year so difficult for the farmer to remember and estimate).
-FAO suggested it maybe a good idea for cost effectiveness to work in with the population census, within some of the usual constraints. FAO can also assist with direct technical assistance to help develop a more cost effective census.

SESSION 6: RECENT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ADVANCEMENTS IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES STATISTICS

Recent Developments on Agriculture Integrated Surveys (AGRIS), Carola Fabi, TA and Training Coordinator for the FAO Global Strategy – Rome (*on behalf of François Fonteneau, Program Coordinator, FAO Statistics Division)*

SUMMARY

AGRIS collects 65% of the Minimum Set of Core Data (MSCD) for the Global Strategy and makes a large contribution to SDGs monitoring, but importantly it can be used as a cheaper and faster ways countries to collect statistical data on the agricultural and rural sector. AGRIS, being a 10-year integrated survey program, lays the foundations for the creation of an efficient agricultural statistical system. It complements the Agricultural Census.

Discussions followed the presentations about implementing AGRIS in a country via one of two channels: Via negotiation and targeting 6-7 countries over 10 years so that by end of the project it's owned by the respective country; or via a country making a specific request through the Global Strategy and/or SPARS. For implementation, there was also discussion about how to run AGRIS where there are separate agencies all collecting agriculture data and, while FAO clarified this is an issue where you just need to work collaboratively, delegates from several countries said this is ideal in theory but there are many challenges.

Delegates discussed whether AGRIS may assist with the challenges of collecting production data such as for subsistence households, for example in Samoa they are looking to add 7 production questions or a module to the population census next year though there is resistance as the surveys then become long - curious to see the type of questions or ideas from GS. FAO explained AGRIS is something different in that it suggests standalone, annual surveys for agriculture (as opposed to census) rather than adding to existing non-ag surveys (and not suggest production is added to non-ag surveys, such as household surveys). (Though that not assist us to measure production more effectively annually.)

PRESENTATION

[POWERPOINT]

RATIONALE:

- Need for more, better, cheaper and faster statistical data on the agricultural and rural sector
- Data collection still weak in many countries
- DIAGRAM: AGRIS to be implemented and owned by nat. agencies
- Global Strategy Minimum Set of Core Data : AGRIS collects 65% of the MSCD ; large contribution to SDGs monitoring
- AGRIS data will inform policy design and implementation, improve market efficiency and support research
- AGRIS, being a 10-year integrated survey program, lays the foundations for the creation of an efficient agricultural statistical system. It complements the Agricultural Census.

Relevance of multipurpose farm surveys for the Pacific countries:

- high transportation costs
- (in general) limited capacity to conduct regular surveys
- (in general) small populations and small samples, high response burden
- linkages with the regional and national statistical plans
- demand for a regular flow of data to inform policy, vs a discontinued flow based on 10 years censuses

METHODOLOGY

Modular Structure	**Synchronized with the Agricultural Census and operates over a 10-year cycle.** **Core Module: yearly data collection on current agricultural production (crop and livestock) integrated with economic and socio-demographic statistics (roster)** **Rotating Modules : thematic data to be collected with lower frequency (2-5 years): economy, labor, machinery & equipment, production methods & environment.**
Statistical Units	All agricultural holdings • household sector • non-household sector
Sample design	Versatile sampling strategy, able to meet the different country situations. Multiple waves for data collection recommended (labour, economy, core (?))

Data collection process	Face-to-face interviews Rely on Global Strategy data collection methods – including GPS, CAPI, etc.

METHODOLOGY CONTINUED:
DIAGRAM: **Proposed data collection set-up**
Topics covered and data items

- AGRIS covers technical, economic, environmental and social dimensions of agricultural holdings (Toolkit: generic questionnaires)
- AGRIS collects sex-disaggregated data on key topics:
  - to identify male / female headed holdings
  - to assess women's contribution to agriculture:
    - labour
    - access to and control of productive assets, resources and services

DIAGRAM: METHODOLOGY – CORE MODULE

DIAGRAM: METHODOLOGY – ROTATING MODULE 1: ECONOMY, QUANTITIES, TYPES AND AMOUNTS
1. Land tenure
2. Property of livestock
3. Other gainful activities
4. Main commercial networks for the production
5. Credit and access to financing
6. Insurance
7. Income
8. Costs of production
9. Access to information

DIAGRAM: METHODOLOGY – ROTATING MODULE 2: LABOUR FORCE

DIAGRAM: ROTATING MODULE 3 - MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT: QUANTITIES, TYPE AND OWNERSHIP
DIAGRAM: ROTATING MODULE 4 - PRODUCTION METHODS AND ENVIRONMENT, QUANTITIES, TYPE AND AREAS

METHODOLOGY:

- Data access: in-line with national policies and central catalog with FAO
- AGRIS toolkit: methodological resources, guidelines and software/code:
  - Planning and design
  - Data collection
  - Data processing, analysis, archiving
  - Data dissemination

IMPLEMENTATION:

- Status:
  - Implementation at country level will start in 2016.
  - Methodology being developed and tested (questionnaires and sampling prioritized)

- National implementation and alignment with national priorities : NSDS – SPARS
- Global level (arrangements being finalized):
  - Training, TA, and funding opportunities
  - International coordination and linkages with WB-LSMS, USDA-CARDS

DISCUSSION POINTS RAISED:
- Relevance for Pacific countries
- Methodological issues
- Prospects for implementation

DISCUSSIONS / QUESTIONS:

-How may this be implemented in countries?

Response: 2 channels. 1st under negotiation and target 6/7 countries over 10 years so that by end of the project it's owned by the respective country. It would be a regular implementation with shared costing. 2nd channel is when a country requests adoption of regular ag surveys and, through the Global Strategy and/or SPARS technical assistance capacity – countries run and own the surveys with TA support.

-Mukesh: Countries have their own survey calendar, depending on resources etc. Countries where the Global Strategy is targeting (Samoa, Fiji and PNG) there is a big opportunity in particular.

-Mukesh: This concept as a whole for the Pacific, I personally see a lot of scope for this work in this sub-region.

-Samoa (Edith): It is difficult to collect production data from subsistence households. Integration of ag modules or questions on other surveys can be met with resistance, as then that survey becomes larger. We are at this stage right now but the point I want to raise is what I'm finding right now is that it's a bit difficult, especially production data, where most households are subsistence production farming. We are going to try our best for production data and we want to collect for all crops but given difficulties just going to collect for core crops. Population census next year – asked if we can add a module or some questions into that census (esp. production data)? How can we ask the census team to add 7 production questions into their census as it is a lot to ask. Be curious to see the type of questions or ideas from GS. Second part, is that in our planned ag census can our staff collect the data properly? Ask the right questions?

Response: AGRIS suggesting something different, in that suggesting an annual survey for ag – not adding to existing non-ag surveys. (Though that not assist us to measure production more effectively annually). Not suggesting we add production to non-ag survey.

-Mukesh: Estimating production from subsistence farmers but could be techniques to do it in a cost effective manner, but for that you need census type of information. Can find patterns and trends; that is our game.

-Fiji: How can we plan implementation in a country such as Fiji where we have separate agencies all collecting ag data?

Response: This is an issue where you just need to work collaboratively. It will also be a case that an ag census may be run by a statistics office where a production survey may be run by the ag office and this should not be a problem, provided you are working together through the whole thing.

-Simil: I still think there are issues and challenges there. Within the national priorities in a country, ie the national statistics system (NSS) not necessarily working closely with the national stats office and while we are making sure that collaboration exists, I hear and understand the challenges Fiji is highlighting. I understand that census is undertaken by stats offices in the region.

SESSION 6: RECENT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ADVANCEMENTS IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES STATISTICS

Collecting fishery data through agricultural census, Mukesh Srivastava, Senior Statistician FAO

SUMMARY

The presentation provided a broad overview about collecting fishery data through agricultural census, with fishing activity divided into the broad categorization of: Industrial fishing; semi industrial and artisanal or small scale fisheries – this category in particular highlights how fisheries has environmental and social indicators.

FAO's World Agriculture Census (WCA) 2020 has a section dedicated to fisheries, developed together with the FAO Fisheries Division.

Discussions followed the presentations about the fishing sector not being homogenous and that there are many types of activities and sub-sectors so need to be creative for optimal use of resources, such as dividing the fisheries sector into segments, ie Household fishing has a focus on social questions whereas deep sea fishing does not, and for production data deep sea fishing focuses on landing reports but households it would differ. Also sample surveys can be helpful, including ad hoc surveys that can be highly specialized and beneficial such as for sea cucumbers.

In relation to the many types of activities and sub-sectors, Tonga discussed its own recent agriculture census experience where it highlighted how fisheries is not just fish, but also other species like octopus, seashells, seaweed, etc that are critical for local food security and also for conservation.

PRESENTATION

[POWERPOINT]

FISHERY AND AQUACULTURE DATA

- **Monitoring Sustainability through Socio-Economic-Environmental dimensions**
- Resource Dimension
  - Status and changes of fishing/aquaculture operations
  - Status and changes of targeted resources (esp. fishery)
  - Status and changes of non-targeted biological environment
  - Status and changes of physical environments
- Contribution of fishery and aquaculture sector:
  - Food security
  - Social aspects (number of people supported by sector)
  - Economic aspect (contribution to national GDP, directly and indirectly)
- Impacts from other sectors and environments:
  - Interaction with other sectors (e.g. inputs, outputs, competitions)
  - Shift and changes of environments supporting fishery sector (e.g. habitat deterioration, climate changes impacts)
- Potential for culture:
  - Water bodies by type of water
- Fishery Vs Aquaculture
- Aquaculture
  - Plant and Animals

EXAMPLES OF FISHERY DATA:

- Capture Fish data

  - Production by species (comes from several sources)
- Aquaculture data
  - Type of facility (hatchery, fattening, cages, hapas)
  - Location of facility (fresh water/brackish water/ coastal; river/lakes/ponds/man-made)
  - Seed production: quantity/value
  - Breeding stock
  - Employment
  - Production of different products (plants/animals/pearls)
  - Cost of production
- Social data
  - Fishermen population
  - Households dependent of fishing: livelihoods
  - Income (cash) and non-cash earning from fishing
- Monitoring throughout whole product chain, including processing
- Trade data on fish
  - **No single data collection instrument can collect all data**
  - **We need to segment the whole sector for use of different approaches to data collection**

ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS:
-INDICATORS - water availability, ie inland water area (km2)
-INDICATORS – fish production, ie Inland fish production (tonnes), Percentage of inland fish production from aquaculture – quantity,, etc

SOCIAL INDICATORS:
-INDICATORS – employment & livelihood, IE Overall number of inland fishermen & aquaculture farmers (persons)
-INDICATORS – nutrition, ie Estimated annual quantity of proteins supplied by inland capture fisheries and aquaculture (kg)

BROAD CATEGORIZATION OF FISHING ACTIVITY:

- **Industrial fishing vessels** are obliged to register an can only fish with a license, they are obliged to report their catch, this can be through ***catch logbooks*** or through ***port landing report*** or through both
- **Semi industrial vessels** are also almost everywhere ***registered*** and fish with a ***license***, landings/catches are obtained through ***obliged reporting*** as is the case in industrial fisheries.
  - But in a number of countries **catch by species** is obtained through stratified sample based data collection schemes, whereby the register/licensing scheme provides the sampling frame
- **Artisanal or Small scale fisheries** which dominates in the developing countries can only be covered through stratified ***Sample Survey*****.** A prerequisite is the existence of a sampling frame. This sampling frame is normally obtained through a frame survey (full census of all Fishing units) *frame surveys are expensive* and not regularly updates. Fortunately in a number of countries also the artisanal vessels increasingly are being registered an licensed. Often by simply implementing the fishing laws and regulations
  (Mukesh – this is where the sample survey can help a lot. Experience has been this is rarely done, as limited resources usually put towards development initiatives rather than sample surveys.)

SURVEYS ON FISH:

- Statistical Survey:
  - based on a questionnaires used for individual reporting units (household or company),
  - containing at least one information to link with other survey modules as well as to core data frame
  - Level of details of data to be collected will vary according to the purpose of surveys.
- Census:
  - providing a one-time snap-shot covering full spectrum including small scale, secondary, as well as subsistence activities,
  - giving a scaling factor to estimate values inter censual other surveys.
- Regular fishery survey:
  - sample survey at landing sites, and any data collection required for implementation of fishery management.
  - collect quite detailed information, especially on production aspects, but is more focused on industrialized and commercial sectors.
  - This gives time-trend measurement on resource productivities to be used for imputation on non-monitored components.
- Administrative data such as registries, licensing, have quite good coverage including relatively small scale operations. This data can provide key structural data between census years to help updating of sampling frame
- Ad-hoc field surveys and case studies conducted.
  - By specifically asking to collect several key information, the information collected under such ad-hoc activities can be integrated into overall core data framework and utilized to adjust imputation.

Speaker notes:
-ad hoc surveys can be highly specialized and beneficial, ie for sea cucumber.

STRATIFICATION FOR SURVEY DESIGN:

- **Major strata:** Subdivisions based on administrative, geographical or temporal criteria, which are imposed on the data collection programme for reporting purposes and are therefore not under the control of the survey designer. Conventionally, this type of subdivision is referred to as a major stratum. Major strata are for example: provinces of a country, the months of the year. Major strata may be based on any combination of such criteria, for example, administrative, regional and seasonal. Major strata are only used for administrative classification, and **major substrata** are added to classify for ecological reasons.
- **Minor strata:** Within a major stratum there are usually subdivisions based on criteria that are chosen by the designer for the sole purpose of increasing the accuracy of the derived estimates. These subdivisions are chosen in such way as to partition the population into homogeneous subsets. They are conventionally called minor strata.
  - Examples of minor strata include fishing grounds, lunar versus dark periods, Estimates of population parameters are always calculated at minor stratum level. Totals at major stratum level are simply aggregations of estimates and counts from the minor strata involved.
- Then in each Minor strata we sample the different fishing units, Which is a **type of canoe** with its **principal gear.** For each fishing unit we take 50-75 samples, for daily catch by species per month in a landing survey, this normally provides a target relative error of 15% at a probability level of 90%
- Further we take samples on the **fishing effort for each type of fishing unit** through **daily effort survey (CPUE-Catch per unit of effort)**

DIAGRAM: Coverage of different surveys

THEME 14 OF THE FAO'S 2020 WCA:FISHERIES

- Developed together with Fisheries Division, FAO
- Around 15-20 countries have included items on fisheries in the WCA 2010 round, in the main questionnaire or pre listing
- Built on WCA 2000 item on 'existence of fisheries activities on the holding'
- WCA 2020 covers fisheries activities on the holding or for countries wishing to conduct a wider agricultural census in households
- Target group: Capture fisheries at household level
- Unit of enumeration holdings or non agricultural production households for countries with a wider agricultural census (chapter 5)

DATA ITEMS (7) ON FISH IN WCA 2020:

- All are additional items: countries decide whether these should be included based on need
- One Identifying item and six basic structural items
- These are also the items most commonly collected by countries who already include these in the census

•1401 ENGAGEMENT IN OWN ACCOUNT CAPTURE FISHING ACTIVITY
•1402 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS (PERSON MONTHS) ENGAGED IN FISHING AND GENDER
•1403 NUMBER OF FISHERS (PERSON MONTHS) EMPLOYED BY THE HOUSEHOLD AND GENDER
•1404 TYPE OF FISHING
•1405 MAIN PURPOSE OF HOUSEHOLD FISHING ACTIVITY
•1406 TYPE OF FISHING VESSEL USED
•1407 TYPE OF FISHING GEAR USED: International Standard Classification of Fishing Gears (ISSCFG)

FIELD APPLICATION:

- The entry point to the holding is the household which is visited routinely
- Identification of the agricultural holding requires all the households to be screened to identify holdings, therefore it is possible to identify also households with fishery activities
- Several ways to include item (s) for traditional and modular approaches:
  - Identifying item can be included in the listing or short questionnaire or as part of the census questionnaire
  - Item identifying own account household capture fisheries plus some basic structural questions on household capture fisheries

Notes:
If you think that perhaps 50% of ag households involved in fishing then may design a separate detailed fishing survey to be applied later.

RATIONALE:

- In line with the broader conceptual framework of the Global Strategy, as
  - it addresses the interactions between economic, social and environmental issues related to agriculture
  - broader conceptual framework the scope of agricultural statistics "includes aspect of forestry, fisheries and land and water use"
- Capture fisheries is recognized as important for food supply and security and household income

• All aquaculture and capture production employment, and food security information will be within the scope of agricultural statistics
• Rural households fall within the scope of agriculture statistics and the coverage of agriculture statistics should be as exhaustive and comprehensive as possible

DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS:

Speaker notes: Need to divide fisheries into sub sectors to apply suitable surveys.
Tonga: Not just fish, what about other species like octopus, seashells, seaweed – not just fish. In Tonga census covered a lot of sea and aquaculture varieties. Need to know status for food security but also for conservation.
Solomons: Wondering about estimations for total production of fish, ie in a province. It doesn't sound easy and perhaps quite technical.
Response: Fishing sector is not homogenous and there are many types of activities and sub-sectors. For optimal use of resources we have to divide the fisheries sector into segments. Ie Household fishing will attract social questions whereas deep sea fishing will not. Production will just be a landing report for deep sea fishing but for households it will be different.
Samoa: With the social data, can it include some factors from population census. When do we need to provide data again to FAO?
Response: When supply the data indicate what data source your information is based on (and if there is no estimation in interim) because data sources ie surveys or census only exist when they exist.

SESSION 6: RECENT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ADVANCEMENTS IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES STATISTICS

Fisheries data collection in the Pacific

Michael Sharp, Economic Adviser (Household Surveys), Statistics for Development Program - Secretariat of the Pacific Community

SUMMARY

The SPC's Michael Sharp gave an overview of fisheries data collection based on the context of their being three categories of fisheries in the Pacific: Industrial, artisanal and inshore. Some trends raised for fisheries include: the dramatic increase in tuna catch volumes since per seine introduced in 1980; in Tuvalu its GDP is perhaps 60-70% from tuna fishing license; the SPC tagging programme is comprehensive with about 500,000 fish tagged to monitor over fishing and other trends.

For fisheries monitoring there is comprehensive scientific monitoring (also economic monitoring (price), but limited financial monitoring) for industrial fisheries with 100% observer coverage of purse seine (independent observer coverage/person on every boat so very comprehensive) plus 5% (target) observer coverage of longline, full log sheet coverage (in theory should have 100% of longline log sheets excluding smaller vessels), and other monitoring.

Artisanal tuna fisheries has ongoing monitoring in some countries - not without coverage challenges - and other project based monitoring, such as Fish aggregating device (FAD) monitoring. Main issue with monitoring is that many artisanal vessels are not based in urban areas but rural areas so cannot glean 100% logsheet data making it difficult to monitor these vessels.

Inshore fisheries monitoring is ad hoc and with low coverage. There are many complexities of inshore fisheries: many species of fish, coral, invertebrates, etc so monitoring them takes a very specific approach and not a one size fits all model. Inshore is an area we perhaps least understand but one that Pacific communities rely most upon, ie subsistence fishing.

One thing missing from regional fishing monitoring is the socio economic aspects and the perhaps use of census for agriculture and HEIS can really add a lot to the fishing monitoring that is currently occurring. Mr Sharp commented that it is "good we are all in the room together with agriculture, fisheries and statistics (people) and I encourage us all going forward to collaborate more closely."

Some of the opportunities highlighted included: time series updates through use of the socioeconomic fisheries survey (small area estimation); use of census and HIES to complement fisheries catch and effort data (e.g., to facilitate extrapolation, CBEAFM); and the use of census and HIES to inform social and economic dimensions of fisheries.

Discussion followed the presentation about included questions about Mr Sharp's comments on export monitoring and how there is often conflicting data between export permit and customs data, and that this is both an issue and opportunity to have customs and fisheries better collaborate as that would be valuable from a fisheries management perspective. FAO commented that the difference in data provided from the export licence and customs data is a "classic problem for all sectors and not just fisheries", while delegates from a few countries raised this as an issue, including Tonga and Samoa who sought any case study solutions from other countries. Tonga explained it is keen to link market surveys and CPI by trying to work with the statistics office to streamline current duplications (ie by selecting just a few varieties from fisheries, based on the household survey Tonga can see there is a change in what is being consumed in households – some are being missed out in the CPI basket of goods). "For us it is something new and we are working towards improving it" and this includes collecting better quality market data – fisheries collects data not just from the market but also the roadside sellers.

PRESENTATION

[POWERPOINT]

FISHERIES IN THE PACIFIC

INDUSTRIAL FISHERIES

- Low participation
- Few species
- Limited gear
- Single purpose / multi market
- Geographically dispersed

ARTISANAL FISHERIES

- Moderate participation
- Moderate species
- Moderate gear
- Multi purpose / market
- Geographically dispersed

INSHORE FISHERIES

- High participation

- Multi species
- Multi gear
- Multi purpose / market
- Geographically dispersed

INDUSTRIAL FISHERIES MONITORING:
- Comprehensive scientific fisheries monitoring
    - 100% observer coverage of purse seine (independent observer coverage/person on every boat – VERY comprehensive)
    - 5% (target) observer coverage of longline
    - Full log sheet coverage (in theory should have 100% of longline log sheets, excl. smaller)
    - Vessel monitoring scheme (satellite transmission, so can cross-check log sheets)
    - Tuna tagging program (understanding movement of tuna across region and total amount of fish being captured (biomass portion)
    - Biological sampling (ie ear bone of fish, to understand their age. In tuna r'ship between age and length but different for snapper)
    - Ecosystem monitoring (feeds into climate change)
- Economic monitoring (price), but limited financial

(Speaker notes also in brackets)
- Tuvalu perhaps 60-70% GDP from tuna fishing license.
-tuna catch: since 1980 dramatic increase since per seine introduced
-SPC tagging programme comprehensive: tagged 500,000 fish so a lot of investment D(Diagram showing spatial distribution of dispersal of fish. Indicators of over fishing.

ARTISANAL (TUNA) FISHERIES MONITORING:
- Artisanal tuna fisheries monitoring program
    - Biological and economic orientation
    - Ongoing monitoring in some countries, however not without challenges (coverage)
    - Log sheet, length frequency, activity counts
- Other project based monitoring, such as:
    - Fish aggregating device (FAD) monitoring
    - Small pelagic fisheries (new push by SPC to improve food security via sardines, but limited)
    - Sports fishing based tourism

INSHORE FISHERIES MONITORING:
- Ad hoc with low coverage
- Biological and ecological orientation
- Difficulty with extrapolation
- Examples include:
    - Underwater visual census (SPC doing swimming and counting fish! Expensive and impossible to cover the whole region, so small and ad hoc)
    - Creel and market survey (only one off snapshots and ad hoc, then use statistical techniques based on the limited data we have, and if not implemented over a sustained period then difficult to track)
    - Export monitoring – conflicting data (trade data is reliable, usually, but as need export permit that often not matches customs data – it's an issue and opportunity to have

customs and fisheries better collaborate as can be valuable from a fisheries management perspective – more sharing of data is being encouraged.)

– Aquaculture (sector that has potential for significant growth; limited insights as so hard and costly to reach inner regions to monitor ie PNG)

Speaker notes (also in brackets)
-many issues with this, mainly many artisanal vessels not based in urban areas but rural areas, that target stocks we want to monitor, if don't have 100% logsheet data then difficult to monitor these vessels.
-complexity of inshore fisheries: many species of fish, coral, invertebrates, etc so monitoring them takes a very specific approach and not a one size fits all model. Inshore is an area we perhaps least understand but one that Pacific communities rely most upon. So this is usually ad hoc and with low coverage. Mainly biological and ecological but very little social data, even though the socio-economic aspects are significant, ie subsistence fishing.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Time series updates through use of the socioeconomic fisheries survey (small area estimation)
- Use of market survey data to facilitate production estimates from HIES (bundles and strings), and CPI updates
- Sharing of official and fisheries trade data
- Use of census and HIES to complement fisheries catch and effort data (e.g., to facilitate extrapolation, CBEAFM)
- Use of census and HIES to inform social and economic dimensions of fisheries

Speaker notes (also in brackets)
-Example: Samoa socioeconomic fisheries survey report
-one thing missing from regional fishing monitoring is the socio economic aspects and the use of census for ag and HEIS can really add a lot to the fishing monitoring that is currently occurring. Good we are all in the room together with ag, fish and stats and encourage you going forward to collaborate more closely.

DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS:

- Mukesh: The difference in data provided from the export licence and customs data is a classic problem for all sectors and not just fish. What maybe is happening is they got the licence but could not catch and then did not export. Or they are under-reporting. These sorts of things need to be investigated.
-From one year to the next, with no change in fishing effort you can have a change in fish caught (ie weather and other environment impacts).
-Tonga (Salome): Difference in stats versus customs data – if any country has managed that problem please share.
-Tonga (Salome): Market survey, and linking to ie CPI, we are trying to work with statistics on that given it is a duplication, by selecting just a few varieties from fisheries. Based on the household survey we can see there is a change in what is being consumed in households – some are being missed out in the CPI basket of goods. For us it is something new and we are working towards improving it. For fisheries, we are collecting better data, ie for market data not just go to main market but also to roadside sellers (whereas stats office only go to market).
-FAO: recognize can't change the basket for CPI but doesn't mean you can't work with the statistics office to rationalize the CPI, but not easy as different goals in what you are trying to collect.
-Fiji: Fisheries data collected by fisheries officers is where we derive our sample for fisheries. We can carry out surveys yearly, based on the production data based on various depts.

SESSION: TECHNOLOGY
Use of Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing in the Pacific: CAPI / Mobile – Android
Pierre Wong – SPC

SUMMARY
An overview was provided about the traditional 'pen and paper' versus tablet data collection modes, including the benefits and disadvantages, based on the current pilot, such as technology based interviews taking more resources to set-up but then offering considerable time and potential cost savings long term, but then GPS is not as good as manual systems (though results can improve with user training).

Some features of the pilot include the hardware ($350 for the Samsung Galaxy Tab 4) as well as the design, including 11 selected EA (Enumeration Area), 365 households, and run in Parallel as silent observers.

Experiences and results found tablets are currently best deployed for limited areas for simple and complex studies; that use is simple and enumerator errors are reduced; screens can be difficult to read in the sunlight (an unexpected issue); development time takes longer than traditional methods and needs much longer for testing and planning. Need to select the right collection mode, CAPI or tablet.

Discussion followed the presentation about a funny example in Palau where the technology was used and it started to get data streams every 5 minutes then stopped so, concerned, coordinators tracked the staff by GPS and found the staff taking a "very" long lunch.
Multi-media aspects of technology are very useful, such as use of SMS or being able to take pictures, and can have capacity integrated into the system to map out an average size farm in 10 minutes (though this is at a basic level currently).
Delegates also liked that CAPI is instantly stored, so there is data security which is invaluable when dealing with remote locations where data collections can get lost in the post or on the boat.
FAO mentioned that a CAPI system being developed through Global Strategy but two constraints: programming and connectivity to server. GS has co-funded CAPI (or TAPI software) and has a lot of similar features. Runs on androids but has some different characteristics: uses 'software solution', user oriented, adapts to new questionnaires easily; only simple computer skills needed (like Excel); GPS not as good as manual systems and so having the same problems as SPC, etc.

PRESENTATION
[POWERPOINT]
OVERVIEW:

- Collection modes (traditional and tablet)
- Household listing exercise
- About the pilot
- Development and deployment
- Experiences and results
- Picking the right collection mode

INTRODUCTION:

- Benefits of the traditional method (paper and pen!)
  - Proven
  - Low cost per project (for CAPI need one table per surveyor)
  - Ability to make quick changes with a stroke of a pen
  - Ability to make notes besides related fields

  - Short development time
  - Semi durable and printed medium can be weather proof
  - Portable and wider area of deployment

- Benefits of technology based interviews
  - Better data quality
  - Improved data turnaround
  - Improved data management
  - Ability to make and implement consistent changes quicker
  - Moving with times – more sociably acceptable
  - Potential cost savings over the long run

Notes:
-post survey analysis is much faster.

HOUSEHOLD LISTING EXERCISE:

- What is the Household Listing Exercise
  - is an exercise aimed at obtaining specific management information data items.
    - Number of enumeration areas;
    - Number of management areas;
    - Estimated households in each area;
    - Estimates of potential travel requirements;
    - Intelligence about problem areas;
    - Obtain geographic coordinates for study linkages.
- Why is this important
  - Proper planning
  - Provides geographic information without adding burden and time
  - Can be used as a sampling frame

Notes:
Once you use this exercise you "know the playing field" and can plan your (more expensive) pilot much better.

ABOUT THE PILOT

- Why trial a CAPI application
  - Regional New Technology Issues surrounding
    - Development
    - Deployment
    - Data management
- Design
  - 11 selected EA (Enumeration Area)
  - 365 households
  - Run in Parallel as silent observers
  - 14 household level data items; no person level information

Notes:
-limited internet access (ie low 3G or 4G) so have to ease our way into this in Pacific.

DIAGRAM (MAP) ABOUT THE PILOT:

- Hardware ($350)
  - Samsung Galaxy Tab 4 – Key features:

        - Android OS 4.4 KitKat
        - Communication: Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, LTE, 3G, Infrared and USB
        - A-GPS, GLONASS (global satellite)
        - 7 inch touch screen
        - 3.5 MP Camera
        - 4000mAh – Battery
    - Battery bank to provide an additional 6 hours continuous use.

DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT –
-CSPro Android:

- Widely used
- Quick development
- Supported many NSOs and organizations
- Fast
- Light on hardware
- Utilization of device's communication protocols.

SMS Data Management App:

- Why Develop a Separate Application?
    - Use of SMS protocol
    - Any smart phone can act a server
    - Instant tracking
    - Secure Data
- Downside of SMS data management.
    - Limited 140-character text data
    - Does not cover all populated areas
    - App is currently project specific

EXPERIENCES AND RESULTS:

- Tablets can be effectively be deployed in limited areas for simple and complex studies.
- There are associated costs that should be considered.
    - Plans should be implemented to resale or add value to purchased equipment.
- Use is relatively easy because, we limit enumerator decisions.
- GPS receiver is not as accurate but can deliver enough accuracy for our needs.
- Screen content is difficult to read in direct sunlight. (unexpected)
- Development time is much longer and need testing and planning.
- Although we provide the tools to improve quality it is still dependant on field work.

Discussion:
-pilot (before the pilot) in Koro 365 dwelling all came back successfully (100%)
-benefit of geo-tagging pictures: pin-pointing Pin-pointing actual dwellings can reduce survey error; Better weighting
- Tablet GPS receiver vs Garmin Handheld GPS receiver
-Circular Error Probable (CEP) – 50 percent @ 3 meters (and comparing 2 GPS units – 6 meters is good)
Tested GPS feature: handheld v tablet.
50% of handheld good within 3 metres.
-GPS and tablet not as good as manual systems but with good training results can improve. Training really helps.

LINKING AG COLLECTION ACTIVITIES:

- Simplifying collections by hiding complex calculations from the user.
- The ability to use multi-media to add value and quality to the data collected.
  - Prompt cards (e.g., fish identification)
  - insect infestation or plant disease
- Improve collection quality and time especially when collecting enumerator based observations such as area measurements.
- The SMS feature can be used with the recommended FRAME items because of its small data packet size.

PICKING THE RIGHT MODE:

	Uses Paper Instrument		**Computer Instrument**	
	Traditional	**Scanning**	**CAPI**	**Tablet**
Deployment Coverage	100% Populated Areas	100% Populated Areas	Limited to Environment & Infrastructure	Limited to Environment; Wider than CAPI
Time to Develop	Short	A bit longer than Traditional	Longer than Scanning	Longer than Scanning
Difficulty to Develop	Easy	A bit harder than Traditional	A bit harder than Scanning	A bit harder than CAPI
Data Quality Before Batch	Good	Same as Traditional – can introduce errors	Better than Scanning	Better than scanning
Question-naire Management	Hard	Hard	Easy	Easy
Data Turn Around	Long	Faster than Traditional	Faster than Scanning	Faster than Scanning
Other Benefits	Human Capital Develop-ment	Use of equipment for different purposes	Use of equipment for different purposes	Use of equipment for different purposes

DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS:

-CAPI system being developed through Global Strategy (Carola): 2 constraints(1) programming and (2) connectivity to server. GS has co-funded CAPI (or TAPI software) and has a lot of similar features. Runs on androids but has some different characteristics: uses 'software solution', user oriented, adapts to new

questionnaires easily; simple computer skills needed (like excel); GPS not as good and we are having the same problems as SPC: etc
-Samoa: Can capture and take pics of a farm.
Response: To pinpoint a household is integrated into a system. To map the area of a farm is more difficult. Possibility of using multiple tools (not just CSPro). Maybe 10 minutes to map out whole average size farm.
-Tonga: Remoteness: information can get lost in the post or on the boat getting info from one island to another. Like that CAPI is instantly stored. Data security also there.
-Aust: many areas don't have mobile phone reception so if at household has no internet can still store in device until have access. In Aust we had some staff safety concerns and could track enumerators and where they were – also if they miss households can catch the while they are there. Logistics issues can be resolved.
Response: Same experience in Palau; was starting to get data streams every 5 minutes then stopped. Tracked staff y GPS and found out staff taking a "very" long lunch.

SESSION 6: RECENT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ADVANCEMENTS IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
Dissemination of Statistics: POPGIS 2.0, Pierre Wong – SPC

SUMMARY

POPGis is a mapping tool to produce and customize maps and that can be configured to your liking, ie if have fisheries information then can can upload it into this interactive system. Six countries have their POPGIS2 released (Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tuvalu, FSM, Kiribati, Vanuatu) and soon also Tonga and Cook Islands (scheduled November 2015): http://www.spc.int/popgis2

Can download maps from Google maps or Bing maps as a background layer to the data, which is a powerful and useful feature now incorporated into POPGIS. Also can pinpoint households or a whole nation, province or community – depending on needs or confidentiality restrictions. There are also visual indicators, and can use colour code or symbols or pie charts, as well as provide 'split maps' (ie Tongan islands are broadly dispersed but with split maps can crop and place them all on one page. Can also download geographic layers and datasets for more complex analysis with desktop GIS, plus can control security access to certain indicators or geographical levels (certain people can be nominated various levels of access).

Discussions followed the presentation about the system being open source but, at this level of usage a licence is required and SPC assists with that cost to give member countries access to the maps. Maps in the package are for the Pacific – the six countries currently online. Training has been conducted on the use of POPGis though so far targeting NSOs.

PRESENTATION

-mapping tool that can be configured to your liking, ie if have fisheries info can upload it into this interactive system.
-still preserve confidentiality as can't pinpoint specific household
-6 countries have their POPGIS2 released (Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tuvalu, FSM, Kiribati, Vanuatu) and soon also Tonga and Cook Islands (next release November 2015): http://www.spc.int/popgis2
-has an online mapping tool

-can download maps from Google maps or Bing maps as a background layer to the data. Good powerful feature now incorporated into POPGIS

DISSEMINATE / SHARE DATA
- User-friendly interface, visual appeal.
- Evidence-based decision making – specifically target areas.
- Assists donors and governments with resource allocation, planning for funding etc.
- A whole range of potential users:
- Government divisions, research institutions, development agencies, non profit organisations, schools

DIAGRAM: **A whole range of geographic levels: Eg. EAs, wards, constituencies, provinces**
-can get down to point level data (ie household) but due to confidentiality don't go that far. Can see whole nation or provinces, or community.
-visual indicators: can also colour code or symbols or pie charts depending on % results (to visually represent %) from the survey or census.
-can also offer 'split maps' so can see various indicators on one page (can see every region you want on one page). "Customised" geographic levels to enable comparison of geographies in small countries with highly dispersed populations
-Tonga recently used POGIS to do household sampling – all done online.

FEATURES
- Produce and customize maps
- Download geographic layers and datasets for more complex analysis with desktop GIS
- Control access to certain indicators or geographical levels (certain people can be nominated various levels of access)
- Import personal data
- "Search and selection" tools

Check the POPGIS tutorial videos: https://www.youtube.com/user/pacificstatistics
DATA SOURCES:
- Census
- HIES
- Agriculture Census
- Surveys (assuming sample size is large enough)
- Other sources of data (facilities, roads, factories, markets, hatcheries…)

DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS:
-Is it open source?
Response: Yes open source. But at this level need a licence. Trying to make access to these maps accessible for everybody and we would take up the cost of the licences and make that info available to our country members.
-Maps in the package are they only the Pacific?
Response: Yes. Only Pacific maps. Only data sets for 6 countries.
-Tim: Visualising data. But with sample surveys (not a full census) some areas of map will be blank.
Response: You will have blotches if no EA and need to take that into consideration with visual representation.
-done trainings (3 so far)and nominations mainly from NSOs.
-Cook Islands: POPGIS 1.0 could link map and graphs, so could build tables from the variables.
-Tonga: Give us the tools and we will finish the job.

3.0 DAY THREE – Workshop Sessions

3.1 Key Discussions – Day Three and Day Four

55. Discussed how collecting agricultural and fisheries data from the HIES has methodological and interpretative challenges but it is also a rich source of data which is hard to get through other means, particularly for countries that do not conduct agriculture or fishery household surveys or separate agriculture census. There are HIES modules that have been developed for countries to use, to simply insert an agriculture module into a country's HIES.
56. There are some challenges with the agriculture module for inclusion in the HIES:
    - It is a sample survey focused on households and not agriculture and so it will never be as good as an agriculture census, but it is an excellent interim of collecting data.
    - Units are not all standardized (ie in the Pacific households relate more to "bundles" than kg) whereas in an agricultural survey can spend more time explaining to farmers the options for units.
    - Sampling challenge in that this is a household survey, and so of the 10% population sample for the HIES there may only be a portion that actually undertake agriculture, and therefore complete the agriculture module (not every household will complete the 'optional' agriculture module in the HIES)
    - Production levels are not core to the household surveys, and other collection means are more suited.
57. Solomon Islands has used the HIES agriculture module and found the standardised questionnaire very helpful and recommended its use in other Pacific countries. SPC encourages other countries to use the 'optional' agricultural module in their standard HIES as it can complement (or kick-start) national data collection for agriculture and, over time, be comparable by year and across countries in the region.

Day three and four were primary focussed on discussions about the proposed Pacific Strategy on Agriculture and Fishery Statistics including suggested objectives, activities and next steps.

58. Group activity over Day Three and Day Four discussed the following objectives, or priorities, for the proposed Pacific Strategy on Agriculture and Fishery Statistics. To:
    - Harmonise the collection and dissemination of agriculture and fisheries statistics in Pacific Island countries and be guided by the use of standard tools and methodologies
    - Build capacity of countries to collect agriculture and fisheries statistics to meet the requirements of countries for national policy making and monitoring and for international commitments such as SDGs
    - Improve the efficiency of collection activities through continuing to improve existing and new technologies with more standardized planning (of survey and census schedules)
    - Integrate agriculture and fisheries statistics into National Statistics Systems (NSS)
    - Foster improved coordination between agencies involved in agriculture and fisheries statistics. This means ensuring the cooperation between international and regional and national agencies.
    - Improve awareness of the value of agriculture and fisheries statistics. It is critical to better communicate and 'translate' the meaning of statistical information to stakeholders such as policy makers, and to ensure they understand the data and use that knowledge to drive evidence-based decisions around important issues for Pacific development.

59. Suggested activities - on Day Four delegates discussed key activities that would be focus areas for the proposed Pacific Strategy on Agriculture and Fishery Statistics, and there was agreement that these could be listed under three key headings: statistics production process, statistics dissemination process, and actual use of statistics.
    - Continue to improve the adaptation and adoption of existing tools and methods for collection of a range of agriculture and fisheries statistics.
    - Continue to work with the Global Strategy (GS) on initiatives, being mindful of the unique aspects of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
    - Continue to link with existing systems and processes, and increase awareness of what is already "on the ground" – do this via existing approaches (rather than fund an intensive review) such as knowledge sharing via agencies, the GS capacity questionnaire (initial 2011 results and subsequent 2015 planned questionnaire)
    - Encourage broader adoption of the Agriculture Integrated System (AGRIS) in Pacific Countries.
    - Continue to develop and strengthen capacity development programs, including through "improved" South-South (or intra Pacific) knowledge sharing and collaborations (recognizing there are already many collaborative efforts already in existence to build upon).
    - Further harmonise standard tools, templates and approaches (including data sets) that can create efficiencies for countries, as well as be shared across countries.
    - Capacity development approaches to be multi-faceted with some focusing on data analysis and summarization, others on dissemination and communication, as well as improving the capacity of national stakeholders to use statistics in strategic planning, policy and other development activities.
    - Develop or share new tools, in particular with a focus on technology, such as CAPI and PopGIS and assist with their introduction to more countries. This includes investigating the possible sharing of IT resources (such as tablets) by Pacific Island countries.
    - Improve public awareness campaigns to enhance understanding of the value of agriculture and fisheries statistics, in particular to drive policy making and development planning decisions.
    - Continue to seek high level advocates for more systematic statistical approaches across countries, and the region, including donor support.
60. Final discussions involved delegates discussing details of the proposed Technical Working Group (TWG) for the proposed Pacific Strategy on Agriculture and Fishery Statistics, and actions to take forward following the workshop. Delegates nominated and agreed on nominated members, including a chair and vice chair, plus for the Secretariat to be a combination of FAO and SPC. Other actions discussed included the development of a Concept Note, suggestion to get high level endorsement of the strategy (ie Pacific Islands Forum) and to develop a timetable for development of the strategy.
61. [ENDS]

SUMMARY SESSION: OVERVIEW OF DAY TWO
Allan Nicholls FAO

Summary of key points provided from yesterday's speakers:

Background to the development of the Global Strategy:
-Heard how GS is important as previously technical assistance was often ad hoc and did not result in any legacy to the country involved, and therefore no sustainability. Now sustainable capacity building is key to the GS.

-There was a need to monitor progress and improvements for GS and so looked at ways to define capacity and came up with 4 dimensions, and within those 23 elements. The FAO's 2015 Capacity Assessment Questionnaire was developed to allow a derivation of those 23 indicators, and this questionnaire was emailed to people late last week (and discussed in a latter session). This questionnaire follows the initial 2011 baseline questionnaire, for which am overview of findings and lessons learned was provided.

2015 Capacity Assessment Questionnaire:
-This was reviewed question by question with delegates, to enable ease of understanding and completion by each of the countries attending the workshop.
-Highlighted the need:
-for various agencies to work together to complete the questionnaire (unlikely just one will have all necessary data and/or expertise to complete it).
-to answer all questions to avoid ambiguity, even if just to explain why can't answer the question.
-to seek help from FAO if unsure about a question.

Update on the World Ag Census 2020 (WCS)
-WCS is the foundation for all agriculture statistics in most nations. Provides some guidance on how that can be implemented in countries. Reviewed features and main changes since the last one in 2010.

Links between GS and WCS:
-Provided further background to the GS and the links between it and the WCS – they go hand in hand. Addressed each of the 3 pillars of the GS.

Tonga's 2015 Agriculture Census:
-Overview of the planning, challenges, and implementation of the agriculture census was provided (the census is completed with data now in the analysis phase)
-Tonga stressed the need for good preparation, ie some of the many manuals and forms needed to be developed, staff to be trained, spreadsheets of codes to prepare, etc.
-Of the challenges and difficulties encountered, number one is preparation time as a census, unlike a survey, is far from a simple collection process (FAO commented that 2 years should be allowed).

FSM planned 2016 Agriculture Census:
-Provided an overview about how planning for its first agriculture census since 1969 and how the process will support the country's agriculture sector policies.
-Raised the issue of funding shortfalls and there was discussion about cost savings approaches, such as seeking assistance from FAO or merging into other census and surveys.

Rationale for development of AGRIS:
-AGRIS framework: enables the collection of about 65% of the GS minimum core data set (MCDS), as currently defined.
-Provided an explanation about the usefulness and relevance of AGRIS to Pacific countries, such as it being modular in structure and therefore offering: inbuilt flexibility for modules and data collection methods.
-Toolkit provided with generic questionnaires and guidelines, including software – these toolkits useful even if not doing the full AGRIS.
-AGRIS is being piloted in a few countries, in preparation for its official rollout next year.
-Through GS there is some funding available for countries wanting to use AGRIS.

Fisheries overview and types of statistics needed for monitoring fisheries stocks:

-There are important social and economic aspects of the industry to consider during monitoring, as well as environmental issues
-Not all statistics are official statistics – often it is about monitoring fish stocks so more about conservation issues and not about statistics issues but, the byproduct is additional data that is useful information.
-Due to wide range of fishing activities there is no single instrument that can collect all the relevant data.
-Some common indicators relevant to fisheries was provided.

Fisheries in the Pacific:
-3 categories for fisheries in the Pacific: industrial, artesanal, inshore (incl. aquaculture) and the monitoring system for each of these 3 categories was outlined.
-Provided an overview of monitoring for each of the three categories, such as industrial having comprehensive monitoring (largest fisheries category by volume of product but not human participation), then artesanal tuna monitoring that largelynrelies on logsheets and this means coverage issues, then finally inshore fisheries with is the least monitored, the least regulated and least understand despite it having the most participants and being very important for the Pacific.
-Socio economic aspects of fisheries monitoring are not always well covered.

Computer assisted personal interviewing (CAPI):
-Discussed the current pilot exercise and subsequent findings of the benefits and disadvantages of CAPI versus traditional paper based methods (e.g. high cost and long set up but then longer term benefits).
-FAO advised of its GS co-funded CAPI system being undertaken by World Bank. It has different functionalities, in particular programming, that has been simplified for ease of use by non-experts and is currently being tested in a number of countries. Opportunity for GS and SPC to work more closely on CAPI.

POPGis overview:
-Provided an insight to this online tool to assist with maps-based presentation of data in various forms, and how its use is flexible and easily accessible.
-The system has the capacity to pinpoint geographic levels, e.g. houses, or otherwise it can depict provinces or nations including via 'split maps' so broadly dispersed islands in a country can be depicted on one simple-to-view page.

SUMMARY SESSION: RECENT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ADVANCEMENTS IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
Use of S-HIES for agricultural and fisheries statistics, Anna Fink, SPC Agricultural Statistician

SUMMARY
Delegates were provided information about the "off the shelf" agriculture modules that can be inserted into a standard Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES). This 'Standardised' HIES activity provides a standardised questionnaire, classifications, data processing system, and field work. It is aimed at achieving greater harmonisation of statistical systems and classifications, and comparable national statistics and indicators. For example, there is Module 1 – demographic (individuals, diary module) and also Module 4 – household and individual income (agriculture module).

Developed through ongoing technical working groups to revise and update the standardized modules, and has been used in Solomon Islands (2012/13); Nauru (2013); FSM (2013/14); Palau (2014) and is planned for: Tokelau (2015/16), Tonga (2015/16), Niue, Cook Islands and Tuvalu.

Discussed how collecting agriculture and fisheries data through HIES is never as good as an agriculture census, but it does offer many advantages including a consistently collected basic data set of information. Collecting agricultural and fisheries data from the HIES has methodological and interpretative challenges but it is also a rich source of data which is hard to get through other means particularly for countries which do not conduct agriculture or fishery household surveys.

Strengths and weaknesses were also discussed. Strengths include the approach being cost-effective for countries which cannot conduct a separate Agriculture Census; it is conducted over a 12-month period and that can 'smooth-out' seasonal fluctuations, plus it captures valuable subsistence production. For production information, the diary asks people to log information every day so typically for the first few days are good but then "things drop off" after a few days. There is also the issue of non-standardised units (ie 'bundles' or 'baskets' versus kilograms) and these have to be determined by countries (in an agriculture census can provide significant detail on this but as an inserted module in the HIES units need to be kept simple). Other weaknesses include: production, income received and expenditure by commercial entities and public entities (e.g. schools, hospitals) are not captured, though this is less important for many Pacific countries; and that the sample of the survey is limited as the agriculture module will only be completed by households who nominate themselves as being involved in agriculture, e.g. perhaps 6 in 10 (whereas a specific agricultural census would be targeted to 10 out of 10);

Discussions followed about the sampling, but there was an understanding that whilst it will never be as good as an agricultural census it still represents a sufficient sample size. Solomons Islands commented that "from our experience we think the questionnaire is very good. It is detailed and you can almost get everything you need. I have used it and used it successfully…" though added there could be some improvements to sampling. FAO agreed "this is a good initiative" and suggested a review of progress.

PRESENTATION

[POWERPOINT]

BACKGROUND:

- 'Standardised'- HIES. TYPSS activity.
  - Standardised questionnaire, classifications, data processing system, field work
- Aimed at:
  - greater harmonisation of statistical systems and classifications
  - Comparable national statistics and indicators

DIAGRAM SAMPLE – TONGA:

Module 1 – demographic (individuals, diary module)

Module 4 – household and individual income (agriculture module)

BACKGROUND:

- Solomon Islands (2012/13); Nauru (2013)
- FSM (2013/14); Palau (2014)
- Upcoming
  - Tokelau (2015/16)
  - Tonga (2015/16)
  - Niue

  - Cook Islands
  - Tuvalu
- Frequent Technical Working Groups- revise & update

Notes:
Working groups conducted:

- August 2011 – HIES methodology
- October 2012 – HIES methodology
- July 2013 – HIES and poverty issues
- March 2014 – Nauru HIES data
- June 2015

AG AND FISHERIES DATA

- Module 1: Individuals- ag + fishery activities (primary and secondary occupation)- age & sex
- Diary module: Home production consumed, sold or given away (kept by household over 2 weeks, including purchases or production, ie Tonga: what did your household harvest of consume)

Notes:
-can disaggregate data.

INFO FROM HIES
Module 4 household activities for agriculture, forestry, livestock, aquaculture, fishing & hunting on:

- Types of products grown, raised or caught
- Number of livestock raised
- Whether they're sold and the income received
- Expenditure on production

Notes:
-what are types of fish being caught, number of livestock begin sold (income?) or consumed
-kind of costs households are incurring to raise livestock or catch fish.

DIAGRAM: SECTION FROM HIES OF LIST OF CROPS (DETERMINED BY COUNTRY) –
Do you harvest it? Yes/no
How much do you get for it?
Etc

HIES QUESTIONS ABOUT 'WHO':

- Additional information on activities e.g.
  - Who within the household does the production
  - What methods were used for fishing (e.g. spear/trolling)
  - Frequency of fishing visits and time spent fishing
  - What the land tenure arrangements are
  - Participation in producer organisations
  - Use of microcredit
  - Number of visits from extension officers

Diagram: how many times on average do people in the household fish in a typical month

STRENGTHS

- Information on activities is hard to get elsewhere
- Also collects on processed foods and handicrafts

- Regionally comparable
- Aligned with international and regional classifications (e.g. ISCO, PAC-COICOP)

Notes:
-ie visits from extension officers – usually only can get that from officers so helpful to get it from the households
-handicrafts: want to understand how the raw products are being processed and value added.

DIAGRAM: HIES FACTSHEETS
-can use regional template to publish factsheets of results that are similar and comparable

STRENGTHS
- Cost effective for countries which can't conduct a separate Ag Census
- Conducted over 12 month period- smooths out seasonal fluctuations. *(Overall get more of an average as ask at different times of the year, rather than just one moment in the year when production may be high or low)*
- Captures value of subsistence production.

WEAKNESSES
- Primary use is for national accounts
- Samples households. Commercial and public sector not captured*.
- Niche or growing areas not captured
- Standard errors
- Production information has challenges.
    - Non-sampling error in diary component is high (respondent fatigue, enumerator skill)
    - Requires additional information to impute production. Units in diary are standard (e.g. kg) and non standard (e.g. 'hand', 'loaf')
- Identification of varieties limited by ability of households - Sorry biologists, we cannot differentiate between a redspot, pink-eared, red-streaked, purple-headed or a red-spotted emperor, even though it is the same species of emperor fish.

Discussion:
- Sample survey focused on households and not agriculture, so will never be as good as a specific agriculture census, and this includes the level of sampling. For example Module 4 focuses on agriculture and households will choose if this relates to them. There is a 10% sample wanted, but perhaps only 6 of 10 surveys conducted will involve households who choose to complete Module 4. So the sampling is variable whereas for an agriculture census it would be 10 out of 10, targeted.
- For production the diary asks people to log information. Production, income received and expenditure by commercial entities and public entities (e.g. schools, hospitals) are not captured. The importance of this will depend on the role these play in the agriculture and fisheries sector, for some countries this may not be significant.
- Sample survey- can't pick up new or niche elements of the sectors (e.g. aquaculture data likely to slip through the net)
- Standard errors for modules do rise (not everyone answers) but possibly not such an issue, most rural households engaged in some form of subsistence production. Doing research on how important increase in standard errors might be.
- In theory production could be captured through the diary by aggregating, home production consumed, sold, given away and used for livestock/wasted-but there is a high level of non-

sampling error in the diary component, clear drops in responses over the weeks, respondent fatigue and need high skill of enumerators to make sure respondents understand the diary component accurately.

- Units for diary data are also mixed- some are standard and others not. It's possible to get some additional information to estimate non standard measures (for example a hand of bananas) but this information does often differ throughout the year and based on availability (e.g. how long is a string of fish? ;)- for accuracy need standardised information over a long period of time.

SUMMARY:

- Collecting agricultural and fisheries data from the HIES has **methodological and interpretative challenges** but it is also a rich source of data which is hard to get through other means particularly **for countries which don't conduct** agriculture or fishery household **surveys**.

DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS:

Fiji: HIES standard questions, can they be included by any country in the Pacific?
Response: Yes, the tool is available for everyone in the Pacific to use, ie Fiji can use this in their next HIES.
Cook Islands: sampling error: how households are selected (ie 10% sample) but if only get 6 involved in ag then the sampling error increases. Can you build into design a 15% loss and so include extra households to ensure you achieve your 10% sample?
Response: the sample size is inclusive of extra "wiggle room" based on the core modules of the HIES. (ie Module 4 is for agriculture only, so if that household does not conduct ag activities, then they miss this module. So within the 10% sample not every household will answer the ag module).
Solomons: Solomons used this standardised questionnaire: from our experience we think the questionnaire is very good. It is detailed and you can almost get everything you need. I have used it and used it successfully, though there could be some improvements ie sampling error for income (this is true for us) so maybe do some sort of household income listing and sub-stratify households into income groups them may include income data. Also our cluster are EAs, so generic, so maybe use cluster sampling.
Response: Income aspect not an area of expertise so defer to SPC colleagues who specialize in this area.
Mukesh: Integration of surveys is a welcome thing, as can increase scope as well as save costs. But need to keep in mind the coverage (household and institutional) and also the sampling (is the sample we are using representative?). Need a well stated objective for the sample survey. Production levels perhaps can't be gathered from household surveys – so not a substitute. My recommendation is this is a good initiative, with strengths and weaknesses, but let this experiment be examined by an expert and how best it can be adjusted, ie Solomons suggestions (have recommended an FAO expert to do this).
Response: We would be keen to work in collaboration to look at some of the issues in relation to production.

SESSION 6: RECENT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ADVANCEMENTS IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
Population census for agricultural and fisheries statistics, Michael Sharp, Economic Adviser (household surveys) - Statistics for Development Division, SPC

SUMMARY

A regionally standardised questionnaire has been developed for the 2020 round of Population and Housing Census that includes a core and supplementary agricultural module (including fisheries, aquaculture, forestry and handicrafts). The speaker discussed how this workshop involving agriculture, fisheries and FAO experts is a great opportunity to gather feedback on the new questionnaire, which was

yesterday circulated along with the first draft of the census module for 2020, with feedback due by the end of the month.

In summary, there are recommended core questions and recommended supplementary questions (e.g. 4 questions for agriculture, 1 for livestock, 1 for management, 3 for fisheries, 2 for forestry, 2 for hunting, 2 for aquaculture).

The rationale for the inclusion of agriculture in census is three-fold: basic data requirements are not being met (e.g. capacity in agricultural statistics has declined since early '80s in terms of both collection and use of data); agricultural statistics are not integrated in the National Statistical System (e.g. typically there is a lack of coordination between NSO & Min. of Agriculture; lack of coordination can result in duplicated efforts in data collection or conflicting numbers); and emerging data needs (e.g. data for SDGs; impact of agriculture on environment, etc).

Briefly discussed the history of census that include fisheries, based on a review of about 40 past census with fisheries included, and not one country collected the same information over two consecutive census and so no chance of time series, also about 40% asked about fishing activity versus 5% production questions. Thus, good history but need for better consistency.

Discussion followed the presentation about whether more funding is needed to reach the rural sector, but the speaker explained that, whilst reaching rural communities is important, the greater issue is usually the non-sampling error and the solution to this rests with enumerators being better trained. For example, enumerators were asking questions about weekly expenditure and multiplying the result by 48 weeks (should be 52 weeks in the year – an elementary skill for enumerators). Enumerator training was further discussed in relation to better assisting people understand sample sizes e.g. explaining the standardized mode of units ('baskets' or kilograms), and ensuring a correct understanding of questions to avoid double-counting (e.g. in Samoa there is customary land shared so one family may "care" for cattle but not "own" the cattle but in the census they will say "yes we have cattle" and need both the questionnaire and enumerators to be more specific.) Similarly, as enumerators - and many respondents - are not agriculture specialists usually include only the easier agriculture questions in HIES, yet typically the sector needs some of the harder questions to be asked, e.g. not just "do you fish" but also "what type of fish" and "what is their value?" – this is a limitation but, still, this approach may be the only way a country can collect any consistent agriculture data and so is valuable.
Discussed whether, if HIES is used to collect this information and the population census collects other information, there is a resulting gap? How can identifying this need help, and working in collaboration across agencies, ensure everyone's needs are being met through the current schedule of census and surveys – that is the benefit of us all being in this room.

PRESENTATION
[POWERPOINT]
OVERVIEW
Regionally standardised questionnaire developed for the 2020 round of Population and Housing Census includes a core and supplementary agricultural (incl. fisheries, aquaculture, forestry and handicrafts) module.

1. Rationale for inclusion
2. Applications of census data in an agricultural context
3. Benefits and challenges
4. 2020 round of census: recommendations for the agricultural (for comment)

Notes:
-great opportunity today as have ag and fisheries experts in the room, plus FAO, so can see the recommended ag module and to provide feedback (due end of month)
-yesterday circulated the first draft of the census module for 2020

Rational for inclusion of agriculture in census:

- Basic data requirements are not being met,
  - capacity in agricultural statistics has declined since early '80s – both collection and use of data
  - there are a declining number of countries reporting basic production data
  - declining resources are being allocated to agricultural statistics
- Agricultural statistics are not integrated in the National Statistical System
  - lack of coordination between NSO & Min. of Agriculture
  - duplicated efforts in data collection > conflicting numbers
  - National Statistical Plans need to include agricultural statistics
- Emerging data needs (impact of agriculture on environment; investment in agriculture; food commodities use in biofuels; water and land use, climate change, etc.)
  Currently we lack a sound basis for agricultural development, food security policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

Notes:
-GS will raise the profile of this and encourage inclusion in national systems. Encourage more coordination between NSO, ag, fisheries, etc . Collaboration is really helpful.
-this is an opportunity to pick the key products produced by your country and include in HIES and in census, ie no point getting data on bananas if that not a key crop for your country.

DIAGRAM:

- Important in the Pacific
  - Economic
  - Social and cultural
  - Subsistence and food security
  - Employment
- SDGs
  - Poverty
  - Food security
  - Environmental sustainability

Notes:
-for example, estimates of food consumption per capita in the region – have low and high estimate – in Kiribati the lowest is 75kg and the highest is 200kg per capita but that is a huge difference – this supports the fact that we need a more standardized approach to collecting this information.
-40kg average of fish consumption versus 16kg global average.
-small scale fisheries contribution to GDP is very high. More difficult to estimate this contribution of small scale or subsistence contribution.

Discussion:
History of inclusion (fisheries) in census:
-reviewed about 40 past census with fisheries included: many did include fisheries but not one country collected the same information over two consecutive census (so no chance of time series)
-about 40% asked about fishing activity versus 5% production questions

Thus, good history but need for better consistency.

Types of questions asked:

- **Participation** - household participating in fishing (and aquaculture) activities
- **Equipment** – asset ownership
- **Activity** - type of fishing undertaken
- **Income** - income generated from sales
- **Location** - where fishing activity occurs
- **Purpose** - use of production
- **Species** - what species are targeted
- **Expenditure** – household expenditure on fish for consumption
- **Production** - volume

APPLICATION OF CENSUS DATA:

1. **Policy development and performance** (e.g., industrial vs small-scale)
2. **Development planning and performance** (e.g., FAD deployment; hatchery)
3. **Census may be the only source** (e.g., CBEAFM; WCPFC)
4. **Social and economic** (e.g., food use and security, livelihoods, cultural, poverty alleviation)
5. **Household listing for sample frames** (statistical validity) – ie for more sector specific surveys

Notes:
-Census may be the only source of info we can collect. Ie PNG highlands aquaculture can't be done by fisheries as too costly so rely on census.
-census should form the core module (key data gathering) of a more sector specific future census

INCLUDING AG IN THE CENSUS:
BENEFITS:

- Full coverage and access to household information
- Establish sampling frame for subsequent survey (participation)
- Opportunity to add supplemental module to replace agricultural census
- Fill existing data gaps
- Linkages (gender, age, education, income, employment status, health/nutrition, small area info, DRM, CC)

Notes:
-opportunity for cost efficiencies: opportunity to combine them and do it in one hit but this is a logistical challenge and should only be implemented if it is not going to impact the main housing challenge.ie Kiribati with high participation in fisheries is quite complementary to a census. Once you determine a frame, then can include supplementary module that is specific to the fisheries sector.

CHALLENGES:

- Land/pond size
- Holding, parcel, vessel information collected at the household level (double counting)
- Cumbersome questionnaire
- Competing user requirements (SPC wants the red spotted emperor example in the survey, but that may be too detailed for households so need to get a balance)

Notes:
-difficult survey to use to collect land size etc
-the statistical unit is tricky, ie 2 households may operate 1 boat so then double-count the boat.

RECOMMENDED CENSUS THEMATIC MODULES:

C Cover page (administrative detail) **R Roster**	**A. Household Forms** A-1 Housing A-2 Agriculture and Fishing	**B Individual Forms** B-1 Population Characteristics B-2 Disability B-3 Education, Languages, Literacy B-4 Economic Activities Last Week B-5 Fertility and Mortality

DIAGRAM: RECOMMENDED CORE QUESTIONS
DIAGRAM: RECOMMENDED SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS:

- AGRICULTURE -4 questions
- LIVESTOCK – 1 question
- MANAGEMENT - 1 question
- FISHERIES – 3 questions
- FORESTRY – 2 questions
- HUNTING – 2 questions
- AQUACULTURE – 2 questions

DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS:

FAO Allan: Sampling errors: HIES is designed for national account purposes so we cannot impact on that. But if seen as a higher vehicle such as for agriculture information then perhaps this ministry can provide more funding for the rural sector – usually skewed to urban areas. So if can provide more funds to the NSO to reach the rural sample then will not impact on the HIES objective but will impact on it for the purpose of ag purposes.

Response: Our greater error is the non-sampling error. How much training given to enumerators. Ie example asked for weekly expenditure and people were multiplying by 48 (elementary to multiply that number of 52). That is our greater concern. Need more investment for in-field support and follow up training.

Agreement that increased sampling in rural areas is an important area: though usually have relatively high participation.

Response: Important for countries to think about, if we are going to use HIES as core information for agriculture and fisheries, then need to look at that and ensure it is meeting the required needs. Ie if HIES is used to collect this information, and population census collecting other information, then what is the gap? Ensure everyone's needs are being met through the current schedule of census and surveys – that is the benefit of us all being in this room.

Fiji: Income and ministry of ag: our extension staff would normally have questionnaires and they say the farmers don't want to admit their income. Ie big disparity between what farmers say are their incomes even though 2 farms may be same size and crops (assume difference in their "truth" not production.)

Samoa: Through SPARS maybe can collaborate better. Plan out the SPARS to talk with our counterparts and who will be responsible for what, and that data is collected properly.

Inclusion of agriculture questions in HIES – usually just the easier questions are included. The questions needed most by agriculture are the questions that are hardest to ask (ie not just "do you fish" but also "what type of fish and what is their value?").

FAO requires total area of land use: in Samoa it is customary land and so operated by many families and so have the risk of double-counting (multiple families nominate use of same tract of land; one family may "care" for cattle but not "own" the cattle but in the census they will say "yes we have cattle".)

Response: Many subsistence farmers eat what they grow and have little knowledge of actual market value, and this is where training of enumerators can assist (they can talk with the farmer to give a best estimate – more accurate).
Response: HIES old v new: many improvements in the units that can be selected – to standardize the mode of units. This helps to have a huge reduction in errors, but enumerator training is still critical.
Samoa: We have an agriculture survey this year and a population census next year – we are trying to encourage them to add an agriculture module but they are reluctant as they think it is overbearing. We chose not to add the ag module into the population census in 2016 but to tabulate what is already there, and perhaps they just add 1 question (ie main activity or secondary activity). Mostly everything in the population census we can tabulate in different ways, ie equipment owned and used by household. Double-counting; maybe change wording "cattle you own" to "cattle you raise" to avoid double-counting, complemented by better training of enumerators.

SESSION 6: SESSION 6: RECENT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ADVANCEMENTS IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
Evidence-based policy-making in the Pacific: developing targeted food and nutrition policies using Household Income and Expenditure Survey data
Tim Martyn, Policy Officer - Food and Agriculture Organisation

SUMMARY
Provided an overview of the importance of gathering and, in particular, ***using*** HIES statistical data for evidence-based policy-making for food and nutrition policies, especially for food security and NCDs.

Research indicates the extra cost is minimal to convert the current un-nutritional diets to become nutritional, with a focus on some of the local super foods such as island cabbage. However, there is much work to prepare the data set to include nutrition in HIES.

Key messages from the presentation were that: HIES data provides policy-makers with an insight into food and nutritional security of households, by sub-population, in order to identify at risk groups; and HIES also identifies which foods contribute most to poor nutrition, and improved nutrition. This enables PICs to design and implement policies which effectively target policy interventions.

Next steps involve FAO working in number of PICs to use HIES to source food and nutritional insights to agriculture and health sector stakeholders, specifically Vanuatu (launching report October 2015); Samoa (launching November 2015); FSM (beginning Nov 2015; aim to launch Jan 2015), and Solomon Islands (beginning Nov 2015; launching Feb 2016).

PRESENTATION

WHAT ARE STATISTICS FOR?

- We know what statistics are
- Why do we collect them?
- **Informing effective, evidence-based policy**

Speaker Notes:

-nutrition now included as core element to the Pacific policies for SPC and other regional programmes plus also in FAO policies
-in the past been looked at as 'food poverty' to better understanding the cost and access to healthy diets
-what factors are driving poor nutrition? Location in urban areas and number of household dependents seems to be a core factor.
-foods that are causing the biggest issues may be defined and perhaps then targeted by policy makers, ie tariff reform, excise – what would be the impact on consumers and revenue (ie look at changes in consumption by looking at prices)
-extra cost is minimal to convert the current un-nutritional diets to become nutritional, with a focus on some of the local super foods such as island cabbage
-there is a lot of work in preparing the data set to do this (to include nutrition in HIES)

HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SURVEYS

- Households answer **demographic questions**, and complete **detailed income and expenditure diaries** (usually for a two-week period)
- Traditionally used to examine household **income and expenditure patterns across different segments of population** (location, employment type, household member education, etc) and estimate food and income poverty
- Internationally, used to investigate **diet and nutritional status of households**, given advantages over existing surveys (wealth of complimentary data; large sample size; two-weeks of entries rather than 24-hour recall

DIAGRAM: **Poor diet, nutrition and NCDS have increasingly come into focus among PICs**

DIAGRAMS: **Improving PIC resilience to food and nutritional insecurity, and reduction of NCDs, is a priority**
(Nutrition now included as core element to the Pacific policies for SPC and other regional programmes plus also in FAO policies.)

POLICY LENS NOW MOVING FROM 'BASIC NEEDS' TO ADEQUATE DIET:

- Minimum calories not the issue for many PICs (nutrition transition improved access to calories, impoverished diet) therefore need to move beyond kcal only food poverty lines to identifying populations not accessing an *adequate diet*
- Ask what is the cost (and who lacks access) to a diet sufficient to live in state of good health (taking into account age and sex, level of physical activity) including
- minimum and maximum daily intake for kcal, with the correct proportion from protein, fat and sugar;
- getting intake above minimum for range of micronutrients, like iron, vitamin a;
- not too much certain micronutrients, like sodium;
- **Use HIES to identify populations suffering poor diet and target policy interventions to improve nutrition/reduce NCDs**

METHODOLOGY FOR CONVERTING HIES FOOD EXPENDITURE TO NUTRITION INFO:
We adapted WB/FAO methodology to Pacific context:

- Included fat, sodium and protein in addition to calories (kcal), vitamin A and iron
- Establish ADER/RDI/UL for (by age and sex) based on average height and weight (BMI) and physical activity (PAL) (not 5% percentile)

- Convert food expenditure into nutrition information using Pacific Food Composition Tables (FAO/USP/SPC)
- Also provided more detailed investigation of sub-populations (location, household demographics, etc) combined factors important to livelihoods in Pacific context (subsistence income, gift expenditure, etc)

DOING THIS ACCURATELY IS A LOT OF WORK!
After establishing thresholds:
1. Match COICOP codes in HIES diaries with food composition table entries to define nutrients/calories per 100g estimate
2. Determine AME for each nutrient
3. Standardization of the quantities into grams (ie *3 bundles cooking bananas = how many kg or grams?)*
4. Adjustment for nonedible portions (ie *53% of watermelon edible (actually eaten) and rest rubbish not to be included in 'consumption of food per capita ' data)*

DIAGRAM Enables detailed dietary insight into sub-populations (location, income, education..
DIAGRAM: And which of these factors contribute most to poor dietary outcomes
DIAGRAM: HIES enables policy-makers to identify foods contributing most to obesity and NCDs
DIAGRAM: Also identify which foods most efficient at assisting households meet nutrition needs

Inform targeted policy interventions for assisting households most at risk of poor nutrition outcomes

- Pricing policies (excises) and tariff reform (for f and v) to encourage substitution
- Multi-sector programs improving access to nutritious food and beverages for targeted groups (households in hardship via e-vouchers; school fruit programs)
- Investing in improving efficiency of production and marketing systems for select foods most efficient at improving diet among at risk hhs

KEY MESSAGES:

- HIES data provides policy-makers with an insight into food and nutritional security of households, by sub-population, in order to identify at risk groups
- HIES also identifies which foods contribute most to poor nutrition, and improved nutrition
- This enables PICs to design and implement policies which effectively target policy interventions

ROAD AHEAD:
FAO working in number of PICs using HIES to provide food and nutritional security insights to agriculture and health sector stakeholders:

- Vanuatu (launching report October 2015)
- Samoa (launching November 2015)
- FSM (beginning Nov 2015; aim to launch Jan 2015)
- Solomon Islands (beginning Nov 2015; launching Feb 2016)

Looking forward to more opportunities for collaboration with PICs and technical partners

SESSION 7: LINKAGE BETWEEN NSDS, SPARS, TYPSS NAD Pacific SPARS
NSDS in Asia-Pacific: Lessons learnt and opportunities for integration, NSDS, Alan Nicholls FAO

SUMMARY

A National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) is expected to provide a country with a 5-10 year strategy for developing statistical capacity across the entire national statistical system (NSS), to enable countries to build a reliable statistical system that produces the data necessary to design, implement, and monitor national development policies and programmes. It provides a vision for the NSS.

Statistical development in recent times has been a bit disjointed so trust in data can be weak; the use of data in policy and monitoring has been minimal; often donors focus on specific needs rather than long term strategies. In combination, these factors result in systems that are not integrated or harmonized - NSDS turns the viscous cycle into a virtuous cycle to ensure a better overall, synchronised system rather than pockets of statistical systems.

An update on the status of NSDS was provided globally, and also in the Pacific, where 4 are being implemented (Samoa recently had a mid-term evaluation of NSDS, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, PNG), while and NSDS is being designed for 3 countries (Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands), and planned for another 3 (Tokelau (end of 2015), Tuvalu, Timor-Leste (2016).

Some of the benefits of the NSDS process in Pacific countries, so far, include transforming how NSS is managed, organized, and coordinated; and strengthened advocacy on statistics at the highest policy level as ministries better understand the strategic approach for statistics and their link to development and evidence-based policy. Another benefit of having a distinct and logical plan for development is that donors are more interested, and this is important as in the Pacific as there is a need for more agriculture statistics resourcing. However, coordination and data sharing arrangements among data producing agencies is still weak; and the standardization, harmonization of data is rarely addressed.

NSDS areas for improvement include the identification of key national indicators in the NSDS; alternative sources of statistics other than surveys and censuses (e.g., administrative data); strengthening of sector and subnational statistical systems (i.e., better integration in the NSDS); and improving resources for NSDS implementation including on sector-specific statistical concerns.

PRESENTATION

Speaker notes:
-statistical development in recent times has been a bit disjointed so trust in data can be weak, and the use of data in policy and monitoring has been minimal. Also, often donors focus on their own needs rather than the strategic long terms needs of the country (donors may dictate information required) – so often systems are not integrated or harmonized.
-NSDS turns the viscous cycle into a virtuous cycle – so better overall system rather than pockets of statistical systems. They begin to complement each other and work in synchronization.
-when there is a distinct and logical plan for development then donors are more interested, and this is important as in the Pacific there is still limited coverage of sector statistics and the need for more resources, ie for agriculture the GS assists but more is needed.

OUTLINE:

1. Overview of NSDS in Asia-Pacific

2. Lessons learnt in developing NSDS
3. Approach to mainstream sector statistics in the NSDS
4. 2015-2016 NSDS work in Asia-Pacific

OVERVIEW OF NSDS IN ASIA-PACIFIC:

- Provides a **vision for the NSS in 5-10 years** (medium to long-term)
- **Coherence framework and action plan** for capacity building and for funding decisions
- Emphasizes importance of **coordination arrangements** across National Statistical System (NSS) and between donors
- Highlights importance of **governance, leadership, and coordination** within the NSS
- DIAGRAM: **NSDS breaks the vicious cycle in statistical development**
- DIAGRAM: **NSDS turns the vicious cycle into virtuous cycle**

OVERVIEW OF NSDS IN ASIA-PACIFIC:

1. **Status of NSDS in Asia-Pacific (36 countries)** [1/]
   - Implementing NSDS – 42% (14)
   - Designing an NSDS – 25% (9)
   - Planning an NSDS – 22% (8)
   - Not planning an NSDS yet – 11% (5)
2. **Status of NSDS globally (109 countries)**
   - Implementing NSDS – 51%
   - Designing an NSDS – 24%
   - Planning an NSDS – 20%
   - Not planning an NSDS yet – 5%

3. Status of NSDS in Pacific

- Implementing NSDS (4) – **Samoa (recently had a mid-term evaluation of NSDS), Vanuatu, Cook Islands, PNG**
- Designing an NSDS (3) – **Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands**
- Planning an NSDS (3) – **Tokelau (end of 2015), Tuvalu, Timor-Leste (2016)**

LESSONS LEARNED IN DEVELOPING NSDS:

NSDS has:

- Transformed how NSS is managed, organized, and coordinated
- Strengthened advocacy on statistics at the highest policy level, across ministries
- Broadened dialogue and engagement with data users (e.g., media, civil society, academe)
- Facilitated better funding for statistics (i.e., MDGs)
- **In Pacific, there is still limited coverage of sector statistics:**
  - **4 countries** currently implementing and **3 countries** currently designing NSDS or strategic statistical plan, **have some strategies on agriculture statistics and other broad sector areas (economic, social, environmental)**
- Only major statistical activities (survey, census) are included
- Issues are raised regarding data quality, availability, capacity, gaps but often no specific strategy to address them on a sector level
- Funding for agriculture statistics is limited to Census of Agriculture, livestock census, national agricultural survey, and major crop surveys
- Administrative data sources rarely addressed
- Coordination and data sharing arrangements among data producing agencies still weak
- Standardization, harmonization of data rarely addressed

What needs to be improved in the NSDS:

- Identification of key national indicators in the NSDS
- Alternative sources of statistics other than surveys and censuses (e.g., administrative data)
- Strengthening of sector and subnational statistical systems (i.e., better integration in the NSDS)
- Resources for NSDS implementation including on sector-specific statistical concerns

APPROACH TO MAINSTREAM SECTOR STATISTICS IN NSDS:

- Review of National Development Plans to **identify key indicators**
- Roadmap preparation – **organize sector working groups** to oversee development of statistical strategies for specific sectors (example of Pacific NSDS formulation)
- **Country training on NSDS to include sector concerns** (i.e, FAO to be invited to present SPARS as a module)
- **In-depth assessment of sector statistics** that would feed into NSDS design (i.e, joint missions in the conduct of assessments/reviews, inclusion of assessment of agriculture sector in NSS assessments)
- **Formulate satellite sector statistics strategy consistent with NSDS**

2015-2016 NSDS WORK IN ASIA-PACIFIC:

- Countries designing (or planning to design) NSDS:
  - 2015: Afghanistan, Cambodia, Fiji
  - 2016: Timor-Leste, Tuvalu
- Mid-term assessment and/or updating of NSDS:
  - Samoa finalized its NSDS assessment in Q2 2015
  - Vietnam – 4th Quarter 2015
  - Lao PDR, Maldives, Philippines – 2016
  - 2nd Regional NSDS Training Course for Asia-Pacific countries – 4th quarter 2015

DISCUSSION

N/A

SESSION 7: LINKAGE BETWEEN NSDS, SPARS, TYPSS NAD Pacific SPARS

Integrating Agriculture into National Statistical Systems: Connection between NSDS and SPARS, Allan Nicholls FAO

SUMMARY

It is best to plan ahead if want to link results of different census or surveys. Described how integrating agriculture into National Statistical Systems (NSS) and bolstering links with NSDS and SPARS, can improve a country's overall strategic approach to statistics as well as agency coordination. Collaboration is important across agencies, firstly across agriculture agencies (fisheries, ag, forestries, etc), then extend this 'united agricultural approach' to collaborate with other agencies for better integration of agriculture into the National Statistical System (NSS), ie with National Statistics Office (NSO), etc.

If an NSDS is under development that is an ideal time to integrate with SPARS (SPARS is a cornerstone of NSDS if developed in parallel). Alternatively, if there is no NSDS a country can still develop SPARS, but with

a future view for it to be potentially and easily integrated into a future NSDS. TYPSS offers a similar relationship as NSDS/SPARS, but at a regional level.

The FAO's Mr Nicholls explained exactly what is meant by integration, starting with the integration of agriculture into the National Statistical System (NSS), whereby agriculture is part of the overall statistics planning and collection processes; there is the use of a master sample frame for agriculture and use of standard concepts, definitions and classifications; an integration of the Population Census and Agriculture Census. Also to consider is the integration of the survey process (sample design, questionnaires, methods of collection, analysis and estimation) and integration at the dissemination phase.

Discussions followed the presentation about countries' individual experiences with NSDS, starting with Solomon Islands that is in the process of implementing its 20 year 2015-2035 NSDS, starting by having a series of meetings with stakeholders to define 6 areas: vision, mission, values, strategic objective, budget, monitoring and evaluation that "took a long time… like trying to put in a law". Samoa started its NSDS work in 2010 "and it was quite a challenge… the hardest thing was to help our counterparts to understand the process, as it is decentralized but at first they thought they could "hand over" their collections and surveys to a centralized source." Cook Islands shared a similar experience, in that other agencies thought they could "hand over" their collections but soon they understood they retained the responsibility but in a more coordinated approach and with the NSO offering technical and other specialist support. This is working well for Cooks and for Samoa, which recently had the Ombudsman Office provide $70K to NSO to help conduct a survey – an ideal partnership and one to replicate with other ministries.
PNG commented that "this initiative is good for the country for data collection, as it brings together different agencies to profile their strengths and weaknesses in terms of the data they collect, and how much they rely on a central agency for technical assistance and support."
It was reiterated that it is important agriculture and fisheries ensures it is part of this process.

PRESENTATION
[POWERPOINT]
OVERVIEW

- What do we mean by integration?
- Why do we need integration?
- Approaches to Integration
- National Statistical System
- NSDS
- SPARS
- NSDS and SPARS
  - If NSDS exists
  - NSDS under development
  - No NSDS
- TYPSS and P-SPARS

Speaker discussion:
-best to plan ahead if want to link results of different census or surveys. If plan ahead and linking of variables are well defined then easier to integrate (set frame) results of different sources.
-ideally once set the frame (set information), then all agriculture-related surveys use that frame.
-collaboration important across agencies, firstly across agriculture agencies (fisheries, ag, forestries, etc), then can extend this 'united agricultural approach' to collaborate with other agencies for better

integration of agriculture into the National Statistical System (NSS), ie with National Statistics Office (NSO), etc.
-need to ensure statistics plans can be used in national development plans.
-if NSDS is under development that is an ideal time for integration with SPARS (SPARS a cornerstone of NSDS if developed in parallel). If no NSDS can still develop SPARS, but with a future view for it to be potentially and easily integrated into a future NSDS.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY INTEGRATION;

- Integration of Agriculture into the National Statistical System
  - Agriculture is part of the overall statistics planning and collection processes
  - Use of a master sample frame for agriculture
  - Use of standard concepts, definitions and classifications
  - Integration of the Population Census and Agriculture Census
- Integration of the survey process
  - Sample design, questionnaires, methods of collection, analysis and estimation
- Integration at dissemination phase

WHY DO WE NEED INTEGRATION

- Integration of agricultural statistics into national statistical systems is the second pillar of the global strategy
- Integration will enable
  - Production of coherent and comparable data
    - Through the use of standards
  - In-depth data analysis across sectors/collections
    - E.g. crop and livestock production are often drawn from separate collections. This provides no basis for analyzing characteristics of farms that produce both crops and livestock, or for comparing them to farms that specialize in one or the other
    - Social – economic – environment e.g. livelihood of farmers, are the small farms environmentally friendly, or the big farms?
- Integration will
  - Avoid duplication of effort
  - Prevent the release of conflicting statistics
  - Ensure the best use of resources
  - Reduce the burden of response
  - Enable agriculture to be an integral part of statistical planning and budgeting processes

APPROACHES TO INTEGRATION:

- *Ex Post* – try to link data from different surveys
  - E.g. link household data from Population Census to holding data from Agricultural Census
    - Very difficult if not planned in advance (one-to-many and many-to-one mapping)
- *Ex Ante* – plan relevant surveys so that linking variables are well defined
  - E.g. identify households/ag. holdings in Population Census to give a frame for household selection of Ag Census (list of agriculture households)
    - Update this frame periodically to serve as master sample frame
    - All agriculture surveys are based on this frame
    - Business Register to serve as institutional section of ag. census

- Use of pre-defined multi-stage sampling reduces the need for fieldwork for updating the frame

NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

- Many government agencies produce agricultural data
  - NSO for agriculture census
  - Ministry of Agriculture for crop and livestock surveys
  - Ministry of Fisheries for fishery and aquaculture surveys
  - Ministry of Forestry for forestry related surveys
- Sometimes there is cooperation and use of common standards, etc, but mostly not
- Integration of agriculture into the National Statistical System will require a high level of cooperation and commitment by a range of agencies
  - Can be achieved through establishment of coordinating bodies and technical working groups to avoid overlapping efforts
  - The Global Strategy process will assist this

NSDS

- National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS)
- Provides a medium to long-term (5-10 years) vision for the NSS as a whole
- Basis for activities to improve statistics over time
- Generally drafted by the NSO in conjunction with other producers of statistics
- Limited detail about individual sectors (eg agriculture)

-Revised strategy to encourage sector and sub-national views

SPARS

Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS)

- Provides a medium to long-term (5-10 years) vision for agricultural and rural statistics
- Basis for activities to improve agricultural and rural statistics over time
- Generally drafted by a working group including the NSO and all relevant ministries
- Reflects relevant national plans for agriculture
- May not necessarily have the title “Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics”
  - The guidelines for the development of SPARS follow the guidelines for the development of NSDS

NSDS AND SPARS

- NSDS process now encourages the mainstreaming of sector statistics into the NSDS
- Important that the NSDS recognises the existence of a SPARS – not critical that the SPARS is physically linked to the NSDS
- Relationship between the two depends on status of NSDS at time of preparation of SPARS

IF NSDS EXISTS:

- Ideal to have someone on the SPARS working group who worked on NSDS or is responsible for NSDS
- SPARS should be prepared in a consistent format/structure
- Ensure alignment with the NSDS and the main agricultural sector plans.
- Processes and institutional arrangements of existing NSDS must be taken into account.
- Sometimes NSDS supports ag statistics – SPARS should build on this support
- Sometimes aspects of NSDS may need expanding in the SPARS, eg

- If NSDS proposes introduction/ review of Statistics Law, SPARS should ensure the law covers ag stats
- If NSDS proposes development of a business register, SPARS should ensure that all units with any ag activity are identified
    - Usually only main activity of a business is coded

NSDS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

- Ideal time for integration
- Parallel development processes will enable consistency and effective coordination
- The SPARS must become a cornerstone of the NSDS.
- Opportunity to represent agricultural statistics in the governance bodies of the NSDS

NO NSDS

- The SPARS must be developed independently
- The SPARS should have an identical approach to that of an NSDS, as this will assist integration of SPARS as a cornerstone of a future NSDS
- Administrative data is important for agriculture but is not often mentioned in NSDS, so SPARS may ultimately influence the NSDS

TYPSS AND P-SPARS

- Similar relationship as NSDS/SPARS, but at a regional level

DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS

Solomon Islands is in the process of implementing NSDS: (Vanuatu, Cook Islands and Samoa already done this). Came up with 6 areas: vision, mission, values, strategic objective, budget, monitoring and evaluation. Held a series of meetings with stakeholders and together came up with a vision – took a long time "like trying to put in a law". It is a 20 year programme 2015-2035 in line with govt programmes and plans. Its NSDS been drafted for comments.

Samoa: Started the NSDS work in 2010 and it was quite a challenge as we were unsure about what is an NSS. The hardest thing was to help our counterparts to understand the process, as it is decentralized (at first they thought they could "hand over" their collections and surveys to a centralized source - had to explain that "no" this about helping them improve approaches). This message eventually filtered down to sectors. In working with other ministries and offering technical advice and expertise we had a recent experience where the Ombudsman Office, gave us $70K to conduct a survey in cooperation with them – this what we who can assist our ministerial or sector counterparts.

PNG: Strategy not yet endorsed – awaiting Dept Planning. Mainly work with Dept Planning; 1st time we get education and other sectors as well as core agencies like planning, all together. This initiative is good for the country for data collection, as it brings together different agencies to profile their strengths and weaknesses in terms of the data they collect, and how much they rely on a central agency for technical assistance and support.

Cook Islands: CSDS (not NSDS) in Cook similar experience to Samoa, in that initially agencies thought they were going to centralize (take over) collections but now they understand the central agency is there to offer technical support and coordination. Been offering this to stakeholders for a couple of years, ie health, education, and the collaboration is there – has been for a while – and the NSDS formalizes this. It is a document where everyone takes ownership. If agriculture gets behind CSDS then that makes it easier for agriculture and fisheries and forestries, especially with SPARS, and also helps them enhance some of the policies moving forward. Waiting for endorsement hopefully by end of Nov.

4.0 DAYS THREE AND FOUR – GROUP ACTIVITY

Refer to the Workshop Summary Report's section 3.0 'Pacific Plan for agriculture and fisheries statistics' for details of the Group Activity discussions and conclusions, in relation to the proposal to establish a Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics.

SESSION: GROUP ACTIVITY
DISCUSSION ABOUT PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A PACIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN FOR AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES STATISTICS

SUMMARY

The Strategic Planning for Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics for Pacific Island Countries workshop addressed the many issues faced by both smaller and larger Pacific Island countries. In particular, delegates discussed the gaps and opportunities for improved agriculture and fisheries statistics in the Pacific, and the proposal to establish a Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics (PSPAF).

Specifically, in the final sessions of the workshop, on Day 3 and Day 4, workshop delegates discussed considerations for the proposed strategy. This group work and plenary discussions focussed on a series of questions in relation to the strategy, which included:

- What are some of the critical agriculture, fisheries and rural data gaps, constraints and challenges in each country?
- What are the main objectives and considerations for a regional strategy on agriculture and fisheries statistics? (Refer to Section 3.5 'Objectives and Activities' for a summary)
- What key activities should be considered for the strategy? (Refer to Section 3.5 'Objectives and Activities' for a summary)
- Next steps for developing a strategic plan for agricultural and fishery statistics? (Refer to Section 3.6 'Summary of Next Steps' for details).

For more details refer to the following sections of this Workshop Summary Report:

- Section 3.0 'Pacific Plan for agriculture and fisheries statistics' for a summary of the outcomes and actions resulting from the group discussions, including the formation of the Technical Working Group.
- Appendix 6.4 'Group Discussions – New Strategy Challenges and Constraints' for a one-page summary of discussions, in relation to each of the questions
- Appendix 6.3 'Complete Presentations' for full details all activities and discussions held on Days Three and Four.)

SUMMARY OF FOUR QUESTIONS DISCUSSED DURING GROUP ACTIVITY

Workshop delegates discussed 4 key questions, with brief summaries of responses following (refer to Appendix 6.4 'Group Discussions – New Strategy Challenges and Constraints' for a one-page summary of discussions, in relation to each of the questions

QUESTION 1: Some of the critical agriculture, fisheries and rural data gaps, constraints and challenges in each country include: The need for better collaboration and harmonization across agencies plus also

national, regional and global approaches; Accessibility such as to remote islands or highlands; Human resources in terms of the number of staff as well as technical capacity of staff; Funding; Information Technology (IT) support; Reliability of data from the 'general public' given poor or non-existent record keeping especially from subsistence farmers coupled with inconsistencies of classifications (ie general "bundles" of produce versus specific kilograms).

QUESTION 2: The main objectives and considerations for a regional strategy on agriculture and fisheries statistics would be: The need for any regional strategy to be realistic in what it can achieve in the short term, and including decision making; Potential to expand into other areas such as forestry, livestock, environment and climate change; To align with other plans and strategies such as the SDGs; Have a coordinated approach at all levels from institutions (departments and donors) to coding (common regional tools and classifications); Improve technical resources capacity including Technical Assistant (TA) and training support; Be able to compare agriculture and fisheries statistics between countries in the region.

QUESTION 3: Key activities included in the strategy would be, or consider: Standard and consistent data collection methods; Improve data and dissemination systems; Promoting awareness programs about the importance and use of statistics; Enhancing collaboration Regional training and capacity building; Further establish mechanisms to integrate TYPSS and SPARS into countries, as well as coordinated approaches for countries to integrate into HEIS and use AGRIS; Promotion of new technologies like CAPI.

QUESTION 4: Next steps for developing a strategic plan for agricultural and fishery statistics should include: Nominate a group to draft and develop the strategic plan (perhaps consultant involved); Technical Working Group to follow the drafting of this plan and ensure deadlines are met; Implementation component should be included; Promote the plan to ensure the actual use of statistics and the involvement of cross-sectoral stakeholders from NSO and agriculture ministries; Circulate the draft to donors, SPC and others for feedback; seek high level endorsement such as from PIFS; Incorporate objectives of the plan with governments and regional development plans' objectives; Consider inviting PSSE to be involved.

PRESENTATIONS

GROUP SESSION – QUESTION 1:
What are the critical agriculture, fisheries and rural data gaps, constraints and challenges in your country?
Consider:
-Discussion on the 2011 Capacity Assessment
-Discussion on policy requirements and use of data
-What other constraints, gaps are being addressed by other strategies**?**

SUMMARY:
Common themes:
Need for better collaboration across agencies (includes lack of communication between agencies)
Accessibility ie transport between islands, or to highlands (ie PNG)
Human resources ie Training/capacity of workers/ train the trainers on statistics practices, understanding statistics, being able to extract data for stakeholder use
Political commitment / priorities

Funding ie govt commitment reflected in funding, also international aid funding limited for statistics
IT – technical support
Limited understanding of statistics!!! Ie Need to translate data to policy makers, perhaps have knowledge management focus, ie publications that are easy for farmers to read and understand, etc
'general public' record keeping is poor, so information they provide in response to ie census not exact (people just have to remember)

Uncommon themes:
Samoa: Need for better harmonization of specific data collected across agencies for exports.
Kiribati: Ongoing collection of data but data gap in use of data – Kiribati explained the gap between National Statistics and Agriculture division and the ongoing need to share data for analyzing and publication.

Tuvalu: decision making – always from the top
Cook: need better classifications and definitions, ie rural and urban data
Nauru: need to involve youth more in statistics and policy development

Interesting comments:
"More requests for data from students than govt" - SOI

GROUP PRESENTATIONS:

TONGA, FIJI (aka "LAU GROUP")
DATA GAPS:
Data availability – user needs
Ie socio-economic information.
Statistical infrastructure
Farmers disposal
Limited data:
Subsistence
Semi commercial
Commercial
Annual Production Data
Poor Integration of domestic markets
Subsistence
Commercial
Exports

CONSTRAINTS/CHALLENGES:
Accessibility
Human resources
Funding
IT – technical group
Integration of statistical systems
Lack of collaboration
Govt systems and process
Policies and statistics
Limited understanding of statistics!!!

NAURU, RMI, TUVALU, FSM:
GAPS
Lack of communication
Lack of data

CONSTRAINTS:
Capacity
decision making – always from the top
involving youth
domestic marketing
record keeping (people just have to remember)
govt budgeting / economics
lack transportation between islands
stagnant economy

CHALLENGES:
coordination and cooperation
remoteness / islands / countries
govt support limited due to small budget
motivation to engage

SOLOMONS AND SAMOA
Samoa:
Data gaps and constraints
Rural data
Harmonization of data between agencies , ie MAF, SBS, Central Bank
Solomon Islands:
Never had an ag census (out dated)
No baseline
Industrial fishing data / no inshore collection – SPARS
More requests from students for data than govt
General comments about "new" issues not highlighted by other countries:
-harmonising of data, especially for exports (fisheries, customs and central bank all collect export data – one of the constraints is to harmonise this data from different agencies)
-Planning: from planning phase need to involved responsible agencies and the right people, ie Samoa NSDS development we get to involve many agencies and so we know the gaps in the data, what we are collecting so it can be included in the ag and population census.

PNG, TIMOR LESTE, VANUATU
CHALLENGES / CONSTRAINTS
-Resources
-Geography/remoteness
-Political commitment / priorities
-collaboration of agencies (poor)
DATA GAPS
-Lack of data ie smallholding, production, livestock

-ad hoc survey/census

COOK ISLANDS, KIRIBATI, PALAU

-similar issues
Ongoing collection of data and not using it -Kiribati
No data in between census years (agriculture, fishery and forestry) – Cook Islands
Chance to move away from core questions in census – being able to define own sets of questions – Cook Islands
Not enough forestry questions in Ag census – Cook Islands
Agriculture census need to customize questionnaire – Kiribati (change crops data collected)
Classification of rural and urban data
Not full coverage of islands for AG census – financial
Priorities of government of the day – determines kind of questions asked
Is the data being used by its users – creation of mini profiles like crop, livestock, forestry, and fishery
Stakeholders not seeing eye to eye of topics to be added to census – need to come with financial resources to be able to do own surveys
Training/capacity of workers/ train the trainers on statistics practices, understanding statistics, being able to extract data for stakeholder use
Lack of funding/financial resources
Geographic location of islands – remoteness – costs a lot to get there – time consuming – less accessible
Respondent fatigue – not being too long.

ANNA - QUESTIONS TO THE GROUPS / COUNTRIES:

Question (Anna): Anything you've raised, ie issues that you think is unlikely to be addressed?
Tonga: We have a policy on refusal (human rights mean people don't have to respond). This not a challenge now but keen to raise this with other countries.
Cook Islands: Comment on Tonga comment about policy on refusal. Also consider response fatigue, and quality of information reviewers are collecting. Looking to legislate this requirement, so that information has the credibility to be used by the ministry. Something policy should consider, to build that into their system.

Ease of translation, understanding and presentation of data:

Cook Islands: In pubsing the reulst sof the census we sometimes forget that when we compare the report we are driven by tables and grahs nd they are not friendly for the public to read and understand them. After the publication of cenus results need another step. To make that information more friendly for farmers to absorb that information and realise how it is important to them, and how they can participate to achieve their own goals in their own business.

Definitions

Cook Islands: Definitions need more clarity such as urban v rural. Coconut plantations not plantations but crops – when carry out census we have to define such data sets.

Political commitment (and funding) necessary:

PNG: At planning and funding level, priority of govt is not on ag but on other issues, but Govt commitment needed. At grass roots level, rely on provincial set-up – used to be extension officers but they are no longer there. So every time we want to run a survey or census we need to recruit pople as no longer have extension officers, so big effort. .

Samoa: SOI been a long time since the census, and think that the NSDS and SPARS will remove that issue (have more regular and timely collections). But it costs money, and so need govt support and funding. We can have our development partners come and help us, but then if we don't have the govt support to move forward on their own then it becomes a big constraint and challenge. Samoa not done the SPARS but for us we think that may be the solution for that problem. For us it's not so bad in Samoa, but for other countries a lot more difficult as perhaps don't have that type of govt support to carry out 10 year plan.

David: Ideally ensure statistical legislation covers ag.
David: Some countries don't have population census for 5-6 years, no ag one for 10-20 years, so currently they have no strategy. Maybe we can get something down to get consolidated approach to get some data; need to do something in the interim unless could be here in five years and nothing has changed.
Mukesh: Despite NSDS existing. Perhaps the issue is the coordination: the comms ag between the ag people and the regional statistics office. SPARS could help raise the profile and help getting political commitment, awareness and resources. Also provide some sense of direction as there is no system.

GROUP SESSION – QUESTION 2:

What would be the main objective of a regional strategy on ag and fishery statistics?

To provide overall direction / vision or layout specific activities?
Who would the strategy primarily be for (audience)?
How do we achieve synergies with other strategies, ie SPARS and TYPSS?

SUMMARY:

Common themes:
Any regional strategy needs to be realistic in what it can achieve in short term, and including decision making.
Expand other areas left behind, ie forestry, livestock, environment and climate change, invasive species, NCDs, etc other small sub categories needs to be included in the objective.
Enhancing food production and security
Align plans / strategy to SDGs
Coordinated approach. Institutional integration. Coordinate different roles of ministries and NSOs. Include donors and development partners.
Money and technical support
Technical resources capacity (lack of capacity in the Pacific, ie for statistics and then at another level, ag and statistics)

Uncommon themes:
-Samoa: Considerations include Standardizing, harmonization, coding – common tools
-Tonga: Sustainable consumption and production – producers to grow more. Consumers to shift to nutritious and safe diets.
-SPARS awareness an objective, especially for high level ministers and planners.
-Cook Islands: To be able to compare Agriculture & Fisheries statistics between each/all countries in the region – to complement trade information between each trade partners

Interesting comments:
Nauru: Broadly, want inaugural improvement in ag and fisheries statistics.
FAO: GS has 3 components and that includes training.

[Observation: A few countries mentioned need for better statistics for SDGs but none (in this specific question) mentioned "for better policy and planning in our country". Thus are these responses "true" reflections?]

GROUP PRESENTATIONS:

TONGA, FIJI
Main objective: regional strategy – ag and fisheries statistics
1.Establish a policy – 3 main agencies
2.Institutional integration
3.Enhancing food production and security
-reduce /alleviate poverty
-zero hunger/eliminate hunger. Food security and nutrition – national level.
-Sustainable consumption and production – producers to grow more. Consumers to shift to nutritious and safe diets.
4.Make ag, forestry and fisheries stats/info more productive and sustainable
5.Align plans / strategy to SDGs

NAURU, RMI, TUVALU, FSM:
Main objective:
-Overall improvements
ag
fisheries
-Expand coverage:
forestry
livestock
environ
climate change
invasive species
NCDs
–Short term (10 years):
Realistic
Simple
Implementors
Decision makers
All stakeholders involved at all levels
Comments:
-wanted inaugural improvement in ag and fisheries statistics – broad objective.
-expand other areas left behind, ie forestry, livestock, environment and climate change, NCDs, etc other small sub categories needs to be included in the objective.
-considering the strategies for a short term period: keep it realistic, especially for all stakeholder involvement across all levels, and including decision making, to make sure this work is brought to attention by all.

SOLOMONS AND SAMOA
Objectives:
Money and technical support
Technical resources capacity

Coordinate different roles of ministries and NSOs
Providers:
Standardizing, harmonization, coding – common tools
Pacific audience:
Heads of ag and fisheries.
Heads of statistics
*Donors and development partners
Training:
Lack of capacity in the Pacific, ie for statistics and then at another level, ag and statistics

PNG, TIMOR LESTE, VANUATU (aka "Western Pacific)
Main objective of regional strategy for ag/fisheries:
Establish comparability of data
Build capacity to respond to SDGs
SPARS awareness
Coordinated approach
Comments:
-capacity building for PICs to respond to SDGs.
-SPARS awareness an objective, especially for high level ministers and planners.

COOK ISLANDS, KIRIBATI, PALAU
Main objectives of regional strategy for fisheries/ag:
1. To be able to compare Agriculture & Fisheries statistics between each/all countries in the region – to compliment trade information between each trade partners
2. Every PIC must have conducted an Agriculture census
3. The regional strategy will be used by the PICs to be able to link to donors resources

Comments:
-To be able to compare ag and fisheries stats across each country in the region. We want this option to complement trade info between trade partners in the pacific.
-every PIC must have conducted an ag census. Maybe an objective for the regional plan?
-when we get collaboration and coordination we should be able to link.

DISCUSSION
-Carola - FAO: GS has 3 components and that includes training. Look to collaborate with the sub-region to create and provide the training material (adapt it to region) and perhaps have a Pacific programme.
-Mukesh: research activity is technical work to see what good practices exist in the countries, including limitations. Maybe need some more technical assistance in the region before we move to standardizing tools and methods.

GROUP SESSION – QUESTION 3:
What would be the key activities included in the strategy?

SUMMARY:
Common themes:
Standard and consistent data collection method
Capacity building (strengthening institutions for statistics)

Improve data and dissemination system ie between ministries, also national and regional
Promoting awareness program
Enhancing collaboration through establishing steering committee
South South cooperation (resource sharing
Regional training /capacity building
Establish mechanism to integrate TYPSS and SPARS
Coordination protocol
Promotion of new technologies like CAPI apps on android and tablets – enable sharing of this technologies bought by the region as a whole (SPC)

Uncommon themes:
Nauru: Sharing of technology is important
Samoa: how integrate fisheries data into HEIS and population census
PNG: AGRIS
Cook: Ad-hoc surveys , Population census, the agriculture census would be the main key activities being run throughout the region
Cook: South-South cooperation to learn technical skills from TA whether from organisation like SPC or SIAP and even other country technical experts

Interesting comments:
Cook: we all should be putting combined efforts into other states without NSDS. Makes it easier for coordination if all countries have the NSDS. (Use and maximize existing mechanisms.)
Cook: "Sexy comment" about sharing of resources. Pollinating pacific partnerships through successful efforts across the PICs

GROUP PRESENTATIONS:

TONGA, FIJI
Standard and consistent data collection method
Capacity building (strengthening institutions for statistics)
Improve data and dissemination system ie between ministries, also national and regional
Promoting awareness program
Enhancing collaboration through establishing steering committee
South South cooperation (resource sharing)

NAURU, RMI, TUVALU, FSM:
Public awareness:
Tv
Radio
Consultation
Planning:
TWG
Logistics
Data gathering
Technology (sharing of technology is important)
CAPI
POPGIS

Capacity Building:
South-south collaboration

SOLOMONS AND SAMOA
(not provide a listing on 'butchers paper')

PNG, TIMOR LESTE, VANUATU
AGRIS – want systematic survey plan.
Regional training /capacity building
Establish mechanism to integrate TYPSS and SPARS – have these working better together
Coordination protocol – ie regional Steering Committee
Establish govt agency, MOU – formalize agreement across countries about this plan

COOK ISLANDS, KIRIBATI, PALAU
Ad-hoc surveys , Population census, the agriculture census would be the main key activities being run throughout the region
Promotion of new technologies like capi apps on android and tablets – enable sharing of this technologies bought by the region as a whole (SPC)
Combine efforts to help Islands states without an NSDS to develop their own inclusive of SPARS
Sharing of resources – Pollinating pacific partnerships through successful efforts across the PICs
South-South cooperation to learn technical skills from TA whether from organisation like SPC or SIAP and even other country technical experts
Comments:
-sharing of resources. Pollinating Pacific partnerships.

DISCUSSION
Mukesh: reinforce that countries without NSDS and SPARS should be supported. The preselection and funding – maybe 5 from pacific will be selected but what to do with the other countries, not sure. So perhaps those selected should support those who are not supported through GS.

GROUP SESSION – QUESTION 4:
What are the next steps for developing a strategic plan for agricultural and fishery statistics?
What are some of the upcoming events for achieving approval?
Who should we be involved in progressing the strategy?
What opportunities for resourcing are there?

SUMMARY:
Common themes:
Nominate a group to draft and develop strategic plan (perhaps consultant involved)
Have Technical Working Group, to follow the drafting of this plan and ensure content not missed (ie MAF, donors, SBS)
Deadline – draft a document / proposal mid-2016
Implementation component should be included
Statistics no good unless they are being used. Have a mixture of NSOs and ministry people, and much talk around getting the support and capacity we need but having talked a lot about USING the statistics – what will be the output of this plan?

Circulate draft to donors, SPC etc and seek endorsement, so we have a good chance of getting support for strategy
Now good time so heads of statistics can endorse these types of strategies we are trying to do for the Pacific.
Now is a good time for heads of statistics can endorse these types of strategies we are trying to do for the Pacific.
Endorsement at a higher level, ie take this concept to a higher level, ie endorsed or mandated by govt ministerial level but moreso by PIFS or another such forum, ensure include ie FAO, ADB, SPC, UNESCAP, STATS
Incorporate objectives of the plan and objectives of development plans of govt.

Uncommon themes:
Nauru: Suggest inviting PSSE to consider being involved in a Technical Working Group.
Fiji: Using existing platforms that are in place, and build on that and existing "champions".
CRGA in Niue

Interesting comments:
Fiji: Next 2 weeks have world statistics day so use that as a platform to raise awareness of ag and fisheries stats.
Tim: Good platform for the proposed higher level endorsement may be the Finance and economic minister meeting being held in Rarotonga October 2015 (FEMM)

GROUP PRESENTATIONS:

TONGA, FIJI
Incorporate the strategic plans in the national level
Use the World Statistics Day as the platform for statistics awareness on ag and fisheries (20 Oct)
Comments:
Try and incorporate objectives of the plan into development plans of govt.
Next 2 weeks have world statistics day so use that as a platform to raise awareness of ag and fisheries stats.
Using existing platforms that are in place, and build on that and existing "champions".

NAURU, RMI, TUVALU, FSM:
Establish appropriate steering committee (TWG) – already in place. (Takes a leading role to approve.)
-advisor
-after this workshop.
Comments:
Thought to have Technical Working Group then thought PSSE to consider being involved.

SOLOMONS AND SAMOA
Nominate a group to draft and develop strategic plan (perhaps consultant involved)
Have Technical Working Group, to follow the drafting of this plan and ensure content not missed (ie MAF, donors, SBS)
Deadline – draft a document / proposal mid-2016
Implementation component should be included

Statistics no good unless they are being used. Have a mixture of NSOs and ministry people, and much talk around getting the support and capacity we need but having talked a lot about USING the statistics – what will be the output of this plan?
Circulate draft to donors, SPC etc and seek endorsement, so we have a good chance of getting support for strategy
Now good time so heads of statistics can endorse these types of strategies we are trying to do for the Pacific.
Endorsement from appropriate forum ie FAO, ADB, SPC, UNESCAP, STATS

PNG, TIMOR LESTE, VANUATU (Western)
Develop a Concept Note
Get endorsement by Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)
Develop a roadmap
Govt ministerial endorsement
Coordination with FAO, SPC, etc
Comment:
Similar to Cook Islands recommend a Concept Note, perhaps endorsed by PIFS or another such forum

COOK ISLANDS, KIRIBATI, PALAU
Finance and economic minister meeting being held in Rarotonga October 2015 (FEMM)
Getting the objectives on the agenda
CRGA in Niue
Steering committee recommendation to next agenda to meeting
Comments:
Talked about taking it to a higher level, ie a forum or agenda from this meeting to push for our strategic plan as a form of a mandate to implement our regional programme for statistics. This means (a) more advocacy at a higher level, (b) more connection between offices to make this data available for policy decisions. Gives SPC a higher mandate to do what we have discussed at this meeting.

DISCUSSION
Mukesh: Adopt a channel of endorsing and seeking support at a high level.
Tim: Forum Economic Ministers meeting – there will be a topic on the 10-year plan for statistics from SPC. Perhaps opportunity for SPC to maybe include something on this or a progress on this in the presentation to the economic ministers, who are the ones who make decision on where budget goes.
Samoa: weakness of NSDS is that there is not a lot of detail about WHAT we are going to do with the ag statistics, which is why there still needs to be a SPARS and to have a clear roadmap of what we are going to do with ag stats. Currently the focus is on provision of high quality data moreso than on what will be done with the stats and that is a challenge, and why SPARS is important.
David: Under SPARS can expand moreso into the capacity building that is needed. Can help put in an action plan to support pre-planned surveys and collections, so then you have the whole picture and more than just doing a survey every 5-10 years and that is what the SPARS is all about.
[ENDS]

SESSION 9: ROUNDTABLE ON PACFIIC REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES STATISTICS
Discussion on identification of key features of a Pacific Strategy on Agriculture and Fishery Statistics Suggested Objectives, Activities and Next Steps,

SUMMARY

On Day Four, final discussions involved delegates discussing details of the proposed Technical Working Group (TWG) for the proposed Pacific Strategy on Agriculture and Fishery Statistics, and actions to take forward following the workshop. Delegates nominated and agreed on nominated members, including a chair and vice chair, plus for the Secretariat to be a combination of FAO and SPC. Other actions discussed included the development of a Concept Note, suggestion to get high level endorsement of the strategy (ie Pacific Islands Forum) and to develop a timetable for development of the strategy.

PRESENTATION

[POWERPOINT]

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES:

Group activity over Day Three and Day Four discussed the following objectives, or priorities, for the proposed Pacific Strategy on Agriculture and Fishery Statistics.

-Harmonise the collection and dissemination of agriculture and fisheries statistics in Pacific Island countries and be guided by the use of standard tools and methodologies.

Comments:

Vanuatu: we need to stress the strong message "strive to harmonise" to give a clear message.

Samoa: Linked to international best practice and standards. Strive sounds like we will try but we need to succeed.

Mukesh: Add international concepts, definitions, classifications and tools.

Ken: use "be guided by" standard tools rather than the "use of standard tools" by itself

-Build capacity of countries to collect agriculture and fisheries statistics to meet the requirements of countries for national policy making and monitoring and for international commitments such as SDGs
Improve the efficiency of collection activities through continuing to improve existing and new technologies with more standardized planning (of survey and census schedules)

Comments:

Tonga: Can bullet 1 and 3 be merged?

Allan: some duplication, though point 1 apart harmonization whereas point 3 about new.

Anna: 1st about standardizing and 3rd more about planning the schedule of survey and census. This seems to be something people are seeing as a key objective.

Vanuatu: continue to improve

Allan: activities will give greater clarity of the objectives

-Integrate agriculture and fisheries statistics into National Statistics Systems (NSS)
-Foster improved coordination between agencies involved in agriculture and fisheries statistics. This means ensuring the cooperation between international and regional and national agencies.
-Improve awareness of the value of agriculture and fisheries statistics. It is critical to better communicate and 'translate' the meaning of statistical information to stakeholders such as policy makers, and to ensure they understand the data and use that knowledge to drive evidence-based decisions around important issues for Pacific development.

Overall comments:

Tim: Focussing on collecting and improving capacity but we probably need to flag that last point moreso on creating awareness that we need to also investing ag ministries and other stakeholders using this information for communicating to stakeholder around important issues for pacific development.
Tonga:
Anna: Linkages to climate change
Mukesh: goals on top of everything food security, climate change and ?. Tim's suggestion of extra bullet point about "use" and awareness.
Samoa: bullet 4 'integration' already raises this, in some way the objectives should put in how we going to use those statistics. We collect a huge amount of data with different purposes so to integrate into NSS there is some data already collected and we need to see if any duplication.
Tonga: Like what Samoa mentioned, bullet 4, want to raise lack of cooperation between international and regional and national.
Cook: Informal collaborations also, and so need to formalize some of these ie send an email when get back to the office. Also, need to simplify length of objectives – too many words.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:
On Day Four delegates discussed key activities that would be focus areas for the proposed Pacific Strategy on Agriculture and Fishery Statistics, and there was agreement that these could be listed under three key headings: statistics production process, statistics dissemination process, and actual use of statistics.

- Continue to improve the adaptation and adoption of existing tools and methods for collection of a range of agriculture and fisheries statistics.
- Continue to work with the Global Strategy (GS) on initiatives, being mindful of the unique aspects of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- Continue to link with existing systems and processes, and increase awareness of what is already "on the ground" – do this via existing approaches (rather than fund an intensive review) such as knowledge sharing via agencies, the GS capacity questionnaire (initial 2011 results and subsequent 2015 planned questionnaire)
- Encourage broader adoption of the Agriculture Integrated System (AGRIS) in Pacific Countries.
- Continue to develop and strengthen capacity development programs, including through "improved" South-South (or intra Pacific) knowledge sharing and collaborations (recognizing there are already many collaborative efforts already in existence to build upon).
- Further harmonise standard tools, templates and approaches (including data sets) that can create efficiencies for countries, as well as be shared across countries.
- Capacity development approaches to be multi-faceted with some focusing on data analysis and summarization, others on dissemination and communication, as well as improving the capacity of national stakeholders to use statistics in strategic planning, policy and other development activities.
- Develop or share new tools, in particular with a focus on technology, such as CAPI and PopGIS and assist with their introduction to more countries. This includes investigating the possible sharing of IT resources (such as tablets) by Pacific Island countries.
- Develop improved public awareness campaigns to enhance understanding of the value of agriculture and fisheries statistics, in particular to drive policy making and development planning decisions.
- Continue to seek high level advocates for more systematic statistical approaches across countries, and the region, including donor support.

Overall comments:

Carola: prefer to “adapt and simplify existing tools” rather than develop tools
PNG: Bullet 4: to access sth sth firstly need to integrate SPARS into TYPSS
Anna: Bullet 1: suggest “adapt and adopt”
Ken: Bullet 1. This important as in objectives talk about ‘standard tools’.
Vanuatu: Bullet 1: still feel like we are saving we having been doing anything in ag stats. Important we know the work we have done. Ie
Cook: Bullet 3 amend “determine”. capacity development. Believe SPC run something on this so they know the capacity needs of NSO as I have completed a questionnaire, Not sure about ag and fisheries. Based on number of trainings we have been to so maybe some activities are duplications?
Nauru: Bullet 1. Small island stats different levels in PICS. Need to factor in these different levels.
Mukesh: no standard tools that you take and apply in an ag census. Ie just one standard questionnaire or instrument.
PNG: Missing is that some counties have done some work and others did but not working any more. So for standard tools and applying the strategy, need to make some “review and assessment of what is on the ground” – where do we fit this activity in, as perhaps a first priority.
Allan: It is about the amount of resources we want to spend on such a review. Yesterday we did gaps and constraints and that enough to guide us, It was a quick review but with the time and resources we have, plus SPC aware of what available in each country, don’t think can afford and intensive review.
Mukesh: there needs to be some review of exists before take any actions. This quite a broad programme that includes some country assistance. We have light assessment from the questionnaire and we will get a fair idea of what is existing in the countries. To start with, this light assessment wll be very useful to guide the planning of this approach.
Cook: Bullet 4 ie “improved”: sth sth already been developed and used by NSOs ie Cook working with Vanuatu. Also ‘sth sth’ not a term we use so much, perhaps east west collaboration of something!
Anna: agree sth sth an odd term for Pacific. With wording we need to be clearer that we are building on existing work, and many things that are already in existence and just ensuring that ag is fully integrated into that – underline and bold that.
Samoa: we thinking about our own countries but we need to keep in mind this is a regional strategy and we need to think high level. We need to keep it high level, including high level wording – one document to apply to everyone.
Mukesh: sth sth refers to global sth sth and is standard development terminology, and that we use as a strategy. Point is about greater linkage.
Ken: maybe replace sth sth with “intra Pacific”
Pierre: Missing bullet about “dissemination of data” Tim: Improving the capacity of national stakeholders to use statistics of strategic planning and policy development and other development activities (Tim)
Solomons: scanning should be included. We used it and it is a successful tool that can be used in big projects like census.
PNG: IT hardware “and software” – should be IT resource
Pierre: Trying to harmonise data sets or data frames, useful across countries (Pierre)
Michael: Capacity development in data analysis and summarization. This complicated and need a lot of input esp for weighted data sets. This links to dissemination.
Anna: Training for junior officers mentioned earlier in the week. So the next generation has basic tools and skills to do the data analysis, dissemination, etc. Both GS and TYPSS talks about capacity. Perhaps training at the USP. Perhaps short or long courses.
Cook: Bullets for Sth sth and “Pacific collaboration” bullet points seem similar.
Anna: using HIES for food security, how we can use what we are collecting to inform policy making so perhaps need “conduct research to inform policy making”

Tim: tweaking SDGs objective to some of the policy challenges we have in the Pacific. Anna made a similar point – figuring out what the activity may be. Generating information to inform indicators, ie much work done by enviro and health.
Carola: Training missing. Can be regional momentum and economics of scale.
Mukesh: These are starting thoughts we gathered and encourage countries to speak up and add what is not there. Ie capacity building is broad and training one component – then we reshape and perfect it further.

Anna: QUESTION FOR GROUP – In terms of clarifying the objectives, should we hang our hat on use and dissemination, the key linkage we often miss is between the collection and the use for the policy makers – message we getting from TYPSS and GS, so in terms of our "selling point" for the strategy is that what we perhaps want to target. Would people be happy with that as a guiding frame or do you want to keep I roader than that?
Samoa: Yes would emphasis how stats will be used. For NSOs here, the capacity development and data collection and quality is an avenue to get to that – so perhaps the selling point is the use. We have had different conversations this week, we all know stats is nothing unless it is being used by the policy planners and that is where the impact comes in and that is where the donor is interested. I think the impact comes from properly using the stats. What we are pushing for with training etc is an avenue to get to the final goal of better stats that will be actually used. Activities justify we can get to that end point.
David: Talking about stats being used but some countries don't have ag stats so how can the demonstrate value of use? How can they promote the value of the stats. So there are 2 schools here and need to remember some people here don't have much at moment.
Mukesh: 2 tings: Stats production process, stats dissemination process (and that audience able to use stats properly) and 3rdly the use of stats. Stats no good if not used for policy making so has to be some element to promote the use of states so achieve goals of food security, etc. Main thrust of this programme is on statistical production.
Samoa: respond to David – hard to imagine leader of country or NSO not wanting to do stats. If the strategy can provide a way for them to even start something that will be the catalyst to move forward.
TYPSS: whether or not this will establish a team to review the stats in the region. Would this be another suggested activity?
Samoa: like the 3 things
Mukesh raised – would we be able to construct our activities under those 3 levels:
Stats production process
stats dissemination process (and that audience able to use stats properly)
use of stats..
David: suggest adding bullet point about "seeking donor support" (and govt) as an activity
Anna: Maybe "seek donors" would be part of the next steps.
Fiji: Like suggestion from Samoa about having the 3 thematic areas. More coordinated response.
TYPSS: For TYPSS have similar coordinated approach.

NEXT STEPS

- Agreed - Nominate a Technical Working Group to take forward actions from this workshop
- Agreed - Composition of TWG
- Agreed – 7 nominated members of TWG
- Agreed – Chair
- Agreed – Vice Chair
- Agreed - Secretariat to be combination of FAO and SPC

- Noted – Suggestion to enlist the help of a consultant to act as faciliator
- Agreed - Develop a Concept Note
- Noted – Suggestions to get endorsement (of concept note) by Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) – or other suitable forum
- Noted - Develop a timetable for development of the strategy
- Noted - Circulate draft strategy to countries, donors, partners (eg SPC) and seek endorsement, so we have a good chance of getting support for strategy
- Noted - Obtain endorsement of the strategy from a suitable high level forum

Comments:
Samoa: TWG needs a TOR.
Samoa: Is TWG mixture of ags, fisheries and stats people. It should be that way. Also not just high level reps but also 'people who do the work"
Ken: points under the 1st bullet point may be included in TOR.
Group: Size: Want small and effective results oriented.
Mukesh: include people with broad experience, ie TYPSS, SPARS, etc To "get a balanced picture"
Samoa: Experience. Good to have mix of countries who are well advanced plus those struggling to get going.
Tonga: agree different geographic mix, but also agree Samoa good to mix those with more and less experience. These people in the TWG can help others, and they can follow.
David: suggest 6 (2 from each geographic sub-region)
Mukesh: Suggest start with experience ie TYPSS, GS, SPARS then work backwards and see which country they represent.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP – criteria sought for members:
Small and effective (5/6)
Micronesia, Polynesia, Melanesia?
TYPSS PSSC?
SPAR/NSDS experience?
GS Regional Steering Committee?
Mix of NSOs and MAFFS?
Development partners?
Range of experience, ie ag census and data

NOMINEES FOR TWG REPRESENTATIVES:
- Edith, Samoa –Polynesia: NSO, GS, NSDS and SPARS understanding
- Simil, Vanuatu – Melanesia: NSO, PSSC of TYPSS, NSDS experience
- Manaia, Tonga – Polynesia: MAFFF Ag (recent ag census)
- Patrick, Cook Islands – Polynesia: Ag Policy, PAPP PSC, MoA
- Marlyter, FSM – Micronesia: Ag, planning ag census
- Kiribati (tbc)
- Leon, Solomon Islands – Melanesia, fisheries
- CHAIR: Patrick
- VICE CHAIR: Edith

TOR - WORKING GROUP TASKS
- To assist and guide on (in liaison with the Secretariat and planned assistance from a consultant):

- Develop a concept note and obtain endorsement from an appropriate forum
- Develop a roadmap for development of the strategy
- Propose a broad vision and mission of the ag statistical system in the next 10 years to guide the preparation of the strategy
- Review data gaps, constraints and challenges identified at the workshop
- Identify expected results, outputs and activities at sub-sectoral level (agriculture, fisheries, forestries)
- Technically contribute to the devleopm3nt o the strategy as per the approved roadmap
- Seek comments from countries on a draft strategy
- Finalise draft strategy in line with feedback
- Obtain endorsement of strategy

Final Comments:
Mukesh: The Pacific has been a priority area for the work of the FAO, for the challenge of climate change and now the SDGs. Grateful to Anna to partner in this activity to take forward the idea of a more strategic approach for the Pacific. We will be working together to move this agenda forward, and there is a lot more work ahead. Will set the direction for development for everybody
From FAO side, once we have a strategic plan we can align to that rather than offer fragmented assistance. Means for ensuring the efficiency of ensuring development assistance.
Think we achieved the objectives of this workshop:
Inform the countries of the FAO and SPC work and SPC
Identify needs of the countries.

Ken – explore the possibility of having another meeting in two years time to review what we came up with in our recommendations. Perhaps a PAPP 2017 workshop before the end of the project.

Samoa: grateful for the opportunity to come together and discuss some of the challenges and opportunities we face in or countries. I've seen the progress…
This is a very rewarding process for me to see this process carried through.
On behalf of participants I want to say thank you for the organisers and the donors.
I just hope that as we go forward we can continue to own this work with the TWG and I am excited to see what is going to come of this and I know it is going to work. If we just engage ourselves in pushing this forward then each of us will be rewarded with what we can achieve in our island countries.
[ENDS]