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Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on new developments in agricultural and rural statistics

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2014/219, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the new developments in agricultural and rural statistics. The report includes (i) a report of the Global Strategy Steering Committee highlighting the key activities undertaken to implement the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics; (ii) a report summarizing the work undertaken to date by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics, including a proposed work programme on improving the relevance and reliability of food data from surveys on household consumption and expenditure; and (iii) a report of FAO on developing new guidelines for the 2020 World Programme for the Census of Agriculture for the period 2016-2025.

The Commission is invited to comment on the developments and to provide further guidance to the Global Steering Committee of the Global Strategy, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics and FAO on the implementation of efforts to strengthen the capacities of national food, agricultural and rural statistical systems.

* E/CN.3/2015/1.



Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on new developments in agricultural and rural statistics

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with a request made by the Commission at its thirty-ninth session in 2008, a Working Group on Agricultural Statistics led by Eurostat and comprising the World Bank, FAO and the United States Department of Agriculture prepared a report that provided an overview of the main issues in agricultural statistics and proposed a framework for the strategic plan to improve national and international agricultural and rural statistics.

2. The Commission endorsed the proposed course of action at its fortieth session in 2009, and a Friends of the Chair group on agricultural statistics was established to develop a strategic plan to improve agricultural and rural statistics. In 2009, the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics was developed and subsequently discussed at several international and regional meetings with a large number of experts from national and international statistical agencies, policymakers and stakeholders. At its forty-second session in 2011, the Commission endorsed the technical content and strategic directions of the Global Strategy and urged FAO and the Friends of the Chair group to expedite the development of the implementation plan aimed at strengthening the national agricultural statistical system. The action plan, articulated in a comprehensive technical assistance, training and research programme, and defining the governance framework to steer the implementation of the Global Strategy, was subsequently presented and endorsed at the forty-third session of the Commission in 2012.

3. During the same session, the Commission endorsed the creation of an Inter-Agency and Expert Group on agricultural and rural statistics, as a new mechanism to document good practices and develop new guidelines on concepts, methods and statistical standards for food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development. In this regard, the Group replaced the Wye City Group on Statistics on Rural Development and Agriculture Household Income by expanding its mandate to cover the entire range of indicators on rural development. Additional tasks of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group are to facilitate the coordination and integration of statistics on food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development with other international statistical standards of related statistical domains, and to advise the Global Office on the research programme of the Global Strategy.

4. Progress in the implementation of the Global Strategy was regularly reported to the Statistical Commission in 2013 and 2014. The report submitted to the Commission in 2015 had the objective of expanding the coverage of the previous reports by including an additional account on the activities undertaken by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics and a presentation of the 2020 new FAO World Programme for the Census of Agriculture, highlighting the efforts made and the new developments accomplished globally in the field of agricultural and rural statistics.

II. Report of the Global Steering Committee on the implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics

A. Introduction

5. The present report aims to inform the Statistical Commission of the progress made in the implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics since its forty-fifth session. The report is presented according to the following seven topics: (i) overall assessment of progress in 2014; (ii) governance and new monitoring and evaluation framework; (iii) development of cost-effective methods; (iv) implementation of technical assistance and training (v) coordination of statistical capacity-building initiatives under the Global Strategy umbrella; (vi) funding; and (vii) way forward and priorities for 2015.

B. Overall assessment of progress in 2014

6. Following the priorities defined as the way forward for 2014 included in the previous progress report, almost all the objectives fixed for 2014 have been reached.

7. The Global Office has: (i) established better coordination mechanisms between the Global Office and the regional implementing partners; (ii) made substantial efforts in the coordination of the Global Strategy's work with other statistical capacity development initiatives and in rolling out the Global Strategy's communication plan; (iii) developed a new monitoring and evaluation framework, paying special attention to the coordination of the various regional frameworks; (iv) prioritized and accelerated the implementation of research activities, developing the associated guidelines and technical materials; (v) started to prepare a repository of new cost-effective methods, standards and good practices to be shared with countries; and (vi) contributed to put in place the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on agricultural and rural statistics. However, efforts are still to be made in raising additional funding in underfunded regions.

8. In Africa, the African Development Bank has released a report including the results of the first stage of the country assessment process and has been supporting the Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics' process in seven countries. The FAO Regional Office, together with the African Development Bank, has provided technical assistance for undertaking the in-depth country assessments in seven countries. In connection with the training activities, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has started upgrading the capacity of regional training centres and has provided scholarships for long-term and short-term studies. Furthermore, ECA has organized workshops and seminars in order to ensure that training needs are integrated into sector plans. The planned work of mapping the Comprehensive Africa Development Programme (CAADP) monitoring and evaluation framework has been postponed until 2015 owing to the complete revision of the CAADP Results Framework in 2014.

9. In Asia and the Pacific, the FAO Regional Office finalized the in-depth country assessments in five countries and started the work in three other countries. In addition, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)/Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) has conducted several workshops

in order to ensure that the training needs are integrated into sector plans; strengthened the capacity of national and regional training institutions; and developed standard curriculums, syllabuses and e-learning material.

C. Governance and new monitoring and evaluation framework

1. Governance

10. The Governance structures established to guide the implementation of the global strategy at global and regional levels are functioning effectively as planned.

11. At the global level, two face-to-face and one virtual Global Steering Committee meetings were organized in 2014. The eighth Global Steering Committee meeting took place in March 2014 and approved the allocation of funds to the Global Office and Asia and the Pacific for 2014. An electronic consultation of the Committee took place in July 2014 to approve the allocation of funds to Africa and the proposal of a reorganization of the regional secretariat for the implementation of the Global Strategy in Africa. The ninth Global Steering Committee meeting, held in September 2014, offered an opportunity to update Committee members on the status of the research programme and on the major achievements of the training component. In addition, members were briefed on the country results obtained in the African and Asia/Pacific regions' implementation and on synergies between the Global Strategy and other ongoing statistical capacity development initiatives.

12. Three electronic consultations of the Global Executive Board were organized in 2014: the first one took place in February, to endorse the workplans 2014 for Asia/Pacific and the Global Office (on behalf of the Global Steering Committee); the second one was organized in April, to approve the request of the African Development Bank to be reimbursed for the expenses incurred prior to the establishment of the regional trust fund; and finally, the third took place in June to approve Africa's annual workplan.

13. At regional level, the third Regional Steering Committee meeting for Asia and the Pacific was held in November 2014 in Bangkok. The purpose of the meeting was to review ongoing activities, to endorse the draft workplan and budget for 2015 and approve the new list of priority countries to be covered in 2015. The third Regional Steering Committee meeting for Africa was organized in April 2014 in Nairobi to approve the new chairmanship of the Committee; to endorse the workplan 2014; to endorse the methodology and results of the country assessments on Agricultural Statistics Capacity Indicators (ASCI) and agree to undertake country assessments at a reduced scale (limited to ASCI) in 2015 and at a full scale in 2017.

14. Significant progress has been made regarding the establishment of the Global Office and the Regional Offices. The Global Office is fully staffed; the Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific has reissued the position of Regional Office Coordinator; and in Africa, the regional secretariat was reorganized by employing consultants for the implementation of the Global Strategy.

15. Great efforts have been put forth to enhance the coordination mechanisms among participating partners and other related initiatives. Regular meetings between implementing partners were held: a meeting took place in Rome in September between Regional Implementing Partners in Africa, Asia and the Global Office and another one is planned for March 2015 in Bangkok. The Global Office is

systematically attending all Regional Steering Committee meetings in Asia and Africa and the Technical Assistance and Training Coordinator of the Global Office is also fostering cooperation between the two implementing regions.

16. In the three regions that are still lacking funds (Latin America, Near East, Commonwealth of Independent States), progress was made to some extent in the preparation of future activities. A first draft for the regional action plan for the Commonwealth of Independent States countries was endorsed by the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CISSTAT) and the final draft is in its latest stage of finalization. The region has benefited from a contribution of the World Bank for carrying out activities that will contribute to the objectives of the Global Strategy. A launching workshop is planned for February 2015, where synergies with the Global Strategy will be discussed, as well as funding issues. In the Latin America and Caribbean region the draft regional action plan is currently under review prior to final submission. The Inter-American Development Bank is also contributing to the implementation of the Global Strategy in this region through the funding of activities aimed at improving methodologies of agricultural surveys. A regional steering committee and a regional donors' conference are expected to be organized in 2015 to raise additional funds. In the Near East, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), together with the FAO Regional Office, were mandated by the regional statistics commission to develop a regional action plan for the Near East. The regional action plan needs to be finalized, and a regional donor conference and regional steering committee meeting will be organized in 2015.

17. The communication plan of the Global Office was rolled out in 2014. Several advocacy materials were produced and a coordinated graphic design system was developed and shall be adopted by the regions. Major efforts have been placed on issuing the Global Strategy monthly e-Bulletin and developing the Global Strategy website (<http://www.gsars.org/>). Additionally, the African region has started producing a newsletter on a regular basis, highlighting the activities being implemented in the region. Plans in terms of communication are also being developed in the Asia Pacific region.

2. New monitoring and evaluation framework

18. The Global Office staff, supported by two monitoring and evaluation experts, finalized the design of a new monitoring and evaluation framework that allows to report at a more detailed level and, at the same time, to aggregate reports at global and regional level. The regions and the Global Steering Committee members, including the major donors, were involved in this revision work.

19. The new monitoring and evaluation framework pays particular attention to the coordination of the various regional frameworks, bearing in mind the importance of having easily measurable and meaningful indicators. In this respect, the new Global Strategy's logical framework was revised on the basis of the three pillars of the Global Strategy and the four major outputs of the programme.

20. To ensure the consolidation of outputs at all levels, the logical frameworks of the Global Office and the two regions were overlaid. Furthermore, a methodical assessment of the output indicators was conducted in order to identify the outputs that contribute directly to the Global Strategy and other intermediate outputs, which have been classified as activities. As a result of this revision exercise, the new

framework also allows reporting at the activity level. In addition, the new framework incorporates a new aspect, which was not present in the initial version: the monitoring of activities at the country level. The purpose of this new dimension is to capture country-specific activities by identifying explicit country-level indicators both in terms of outputs and activities.

21. The revised framework will be adopted by all partners and regions. It aims to achieve an optimal level of harmonization between regional and global frameworks and enable to monitor the complementarity of the funding received outside the Global Trust Fund. In addition, it aims to reflect the catalytic aspect of the Global Strategy.

D. Development of cost-effective methods

22. The implementation of research activities started at the beginning of 2013 after the list of research priorities (extracted from the research plan that was included in the action plan to implement the Global Strategy) was validated during an Expert meeting held in December 2012. This was followed by the allocation of corresponding budgets by the Global Steering Committee and the Global Executive Board in the first quarter of 2013. Throughout 2014, remarkable efforts were made by the Global Office to ensure the delivery of the research agenda. The research plan for 2014 was strategically organized by grouping the various research topics in 10 main research themes. The results of the research activities were discussed during the 2nd and 3rd Scientific Advisory Committee meetings, organized respectively in Rome in January 2014 and November 2014.

23. In order to ensure an efficient implementation of each theme and expedite the delivery of research results, the following approach was adopted: (i) a detailed workplan was developed for each topic; (ii) work was carried out in close collaboration with consultants to finalize and publish some early results of the research started in 2013 reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Committee; (iii) qualified research institutions were identified through Requests for Proposals and the best institutions were selected for outsourcing part of the research activities under the technical supervision of the Global Office; and (iv) complementarities and synergies were built with research activities undertaken by other initiatives such as a livestock project implemented by FAO, the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) project implemented by FAO and the World Bank/Living Standard Measurement Survey project. The following sections provide an overview of the status of activities in 2014, divided by research themes.

24. Under the theme “Framework for agricultural statistics”, four activities are being conducted. On the topic “System of environmental economic account for agriculture” (now entitled “System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (SEEA AFF)”), the concept note on SEEA AFF was reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Committee, and draft guidelines were developed and reviewed by an International Expert Group in early October 2014. SEEA AFF is currently being tested in four countries (Australia, Canada, Colombia and Indonesia) and the final guidelines will be published in the first quarter of 2015. On the topic “Integrated survey framework”, the technical report was finalized and published in July 2014, and final guidelines are expected to be published in the first quarter of 2015. On the topic “Development of AGRIS: Agricultural and Rural

Integrated Survey”, an integrated approach of regular surveys to collect the minimum set of core data was developed. The first goal of the project is to develop the design and methodology of a multipurpose survey on agricultural holdings that is aimed at collecting all relevant agricultural data on a regular basis. The methodological design includes a specification of: (i) the information to be collected; (ii) the various options for collecting information over time (yearly, multi-year); and (iii) the different types of agricultural holdings involved in the survey. The other goal of the project is to implement the multipurpose survey in the priority countries targeted by the Global Strategy. Key requirements are therefore feasibility of its implementation in developing countries and its integration with ongoing data collections and capacity development initiatives. The technical report will be finalized at the beginning of 2015. On the topic “Revision of the minimum set of core data”, the review work was finalized, and direct links were established with the Agricultural and Rural Integrated Survey tool and the variables of the new guidelines of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture.

25. Under the theme “Improving methodologies for Master Sampling Frames (MSF)” three research topics were undertaken: (i) identifying the most appropriate sampling frame for specific landscape types; (ii) improving methods for linking area frames with list frames; and (iii) improving the use of the Global Positioning System, the Geographic Information System and remote sensing for setting up a master sampling frame. Technical reports on all three topics were reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Committee, revised, edited and disseminated through the Global Strategy website. In parallel, a draft handbook on master sampling frames was developed, reviewed during the Scientific Advisory Committee meeting and presented at an expert meeting that was held in November 2014 in Rome. It is expected to be published in the first quarter of 2015. Field tests in three pilot countries (Guatemala, Nepal and Rwanda) are ongoing and the results will be used to revise the handbook. Plans for building an R package, leveraging functions that already exist in other open-sourced packages that support the development of a master sampling framework and the organization of sample surveys in countries will be undertaken in 2015.

26. Under the theme “Improving data collection methods”, three research topics were carried out. Draft guidelines were published in August 2014 on the research topic “Methods for estimating cost of production in developing countries”, along with an exhaustive literature review (published jointly with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission). Field tests are ongoing in Colombia, Indonesia and Tunisia, and the results will be used for revising the guidelines, which are expected to be published in March 2015. On the research topic “Improving methods for estimating post-harvest losses”, a literature review was completed based on the initial work conducted by a researcher from the Economic Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, and a senior statistician was recruited to continue this important work, highly demanded by countries. A small technical group comprising statisticians and subject matter specialists was set up in FAO to work with the consultant. A first technical report and literature review were produced and synergies are being built with work being done through a wider network on food losses and waste led by the World Resource Institute. The final guidelines on post-harvest losses are planned for the end of 2015. On the research topic “New technology for field data capture, compilation” a computer assisted personal interviewing software was developed by the World Bank/Living Standards

Measurement Study team with the support of the Global Strategy. The software is currently available and functional. It will be tested in 2015 in selected countries for agricultural censuses and surveys.

27. Under the theme “Improving methods for estimating livestock and livestock products”, an agreement was signed by the University of New England in Australia to conduct research on this topic. The activity will be implemented in 2015. Specific guidelines on best practices on nomadic livestock, considered a priority in the Africa region, are expected to be finalized by June 2015.

28. Under the theme “Improving food security statistics methods” there are two main research topics. The research topic “Improving methods for measuring food consumption” is being undertaken by a technical working group, created in the framework of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics to provide guidance to the Global Steering Committee and the Global Office in the implementation of the action plan. Activities under this theme are reported separately. On the research topic “Improving methodology of food balance sheets”, research carried out by the FAO Statistics Division will serve as a basis for drafting revised guidelines to implement the methodology at the country level in 2015.

29. Under the theme “Improving methods for crop estimates”, an agreement was signed at the end of 2014 with the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute for developing methods for estimating crop areas, yields and production under different cropping conditions (pure stand, mix and continuous cropping). A first report on literature review has been produced and guidelines are expected to be finalized by mid-2016. Another field of research is related to the methods for estimating yields of root crops. The World Bank/Living Standards Measurement Study team, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources of Zanzibar, and in conjunction with its land area measurement work, validated methods for measuring cassava production using daily cassava diaries, recall surveys and crop-cutting. A technical report on this experiment is being prepared by the Living Standards Measurement Study team and will be produced in 2015.

30. Under the theme “Improving the methodology for using remote sensing” three research topics were planned. On the topic “Efficient and accurate methods for using remote sensing” the technical paper was finalized and published. On the topic “Methods for using land cover/land use databases” two draft reports were produced: the first one, entitled “The preliminary analysis for data preparation and collection”, reported on previous work and findings on existing national land cover databases and the relative cost of alternative resolution/scale products. The second one, entitled “Improving methods for using existing land cover-land use databases for agricultural statistics”, synthesized data needs and available land cover/land use datasets and proposed field test approaches to evaluate available platforms and sensors, cost-effectiveness indicators and a field test approach for validating Earth observation products. Field tests are being organized and the results will be illustrated in the final guidelines. On the topic “Cost-efficiency of remote sensing in developing countries” an initial literature review was conducted and a consultant will prepare the technical paper in 2015. Additionally, the handbook Guidelines on the use of remote sensing in agricultural statistics is expected to be published in 2015. It will integrate the findings of the three research lines and the research line

“Better integration of geographic information and statistics” for use by country statisticians.

31. Under the theme “Improving quality and use of administrative data”, Iowa State University and Makerere University in Uganda were selected to work jointly. Their first and second technical reports, including a literature review and gap analysis, were produced, while the final guidelines are expected to be issued in February 2016. However, all relevant technical reports will be published in 2015.

32. Under the theme “Indicators and collection methods for small scale fisheries” two topics were planned. On the topic “Developing a module for fishery, aquaculture for censuses and surveys”, two draft guidelines have been made available and will be published at the beginning of 2015. In regard to the second topic, “Integrating inland small scale fishery and aquaculture in master sampling frame”, the activity is planned for 2015.

33. Under the theme “Better integration of geographic information and statistics” there is a specific research line on the development of robust and statistically based methods for spatial disaggregation and for integration of various kinds of geographical information and geo-referenced survey data. A research paper for this topic is available and is currently being revised for publication at the beginning of 2015.

34. In order to make all these results available to the community of users, a repository is being developed and will be operational during the second quarter of 2015.

35. Throughout 2014, a total of 16 publications, including technical papers developed under the research component, were produced by the Global Office. All publications are available at <http://www.gsars.org/category/publications/>. The following guidelines were made available in July: “Strategic Plans for Agriculture and Rural Statistics (SPARS) Guidelines”; “Guidelines for Assessing Country Capacity to Produce Agricultural and Rural Statistics”; and “Guidelines for in-depth Country Assessments”. “Providing Access to Agriculture Microdata: A Guide” was published in August, and the guidelines “Estimating Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Agriculture” were finalized in November. Furthermore, a report on the minimum set of core data was completed in December 2014. In addition, substantial progress has been made on the following: (i) guidelines on integrated survey framework; (ii) a handbook on methods for estimating cost of production in developing countries; (iii) guidelines on agricultural classifications; (iv) guidelines on fisheries and aquaculture in census framework; and (v) guidelines on nomadic livestock. Under the training component at the global level, the e-learning material for linking population and agricultural censuses was completed in 2014, and dissemination and actual training are expected to begin in 2015.

E. Implementation of technical assistance and training components

36. Countries are taking actions and initiatives in response to the Global Strategy. They are increasingly requesting support for using cost-effective methodologies and are addressing detailed research needs to the implementing partners of the Global Strategy. The progressive availability and use of cost-effective methods and the increasing partnerships created under the umbrella of the Global Strategy contribute

to achieving the overall goal of collecting better data. Ongoing progress is collected, tracked and disseminated through the Global Strategy website, and the e-bulletin is issued on a monthly basis by the Global Office and the websites of the implementing partners.

37. Under the technical assistance component, the first stage country assessment, which allows the identification of priority countries in each region and provides an indication of the major needs for technical assistance at the country level, was completed in Africa and Asia and the Pacific region. It has also been completed in 13 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The African region published the results of this exercise covering 52 countries in November 2014. The first self-assessments were followed by in-depth country assessments in Africa and Asia and the Pacific region. In-depth country assessments correspond to the assessment phase of the Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics. In connection with the Global Strategy activities and as a preparatory phase of its implementation, in-depth country assessments were completed by the FAO Regional Office in Africa through a grant received by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in the following countries: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, and Uganda. In Asia and the Pacific region, the FAO Regional Office finalized the in-depth country assessments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Samoa and Sri Lanka, and started the assessments in Fiji, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar.

38. Following a recommendation of the Global Office, the African region in 2014 decided to provide support to countries in designing the Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics directly, so as to avoid the burden of carrying out two processes: the in-depth country assessments and subsequently the Strategic Plans. In 2014 the African Development Bank provided support to the Strategic Plans design in the following countries: Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Senegal and the Sudan. Moreover, Burundi was chosen as the pilot country to roll-out the guidelines for the development of the Strategic Plans, and received joint support from the African Development Bank and the Global Office in 2014. The African Development Bank, FAO and the United States Department of Agriculture worked together in the United Republic of Tanzania to provide support in the finalization of the action plan for the master plan in agricultural statistics. The Global Office and the United States Department of Agriculture provided the same kind of support to Malawi in finalizing the action plan on agricultural statistics. In terms of technical assistance, the African Development Bank also provided specific support to Cabo Verde in the preparation of the Census of Agriculture, and to Rwanda in the finalization of the 2013 National Agricultural Survey results.

39. The implementation of training activities, which include the development of curricula for regional training, assessments of training needs and the strengthening of existing training institutions, is also well advanced, particularly in Africa. In this region, the provision of scholarships through the regional action plan and implementation partners has proven to be very successful (33 students have started training on agricultural statistics at the Master's level, provided by the best universities and regional statistics training centres specialized in agricultural statistics in Africa: Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée, in Abidjan; Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Economique, in Dakar; Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre, in Dar es Salaam and Institut Sous-régional de Statistique et d'Economie, in Yaoundé). Furthermore, ECA efforts focused on developing harmonized curricula for formal training at three

different levels, and standardized syllabuses in support of regional training institutions in Africa for the following topics: (i) sampling design for agricultural surveys; (ii) agricultural data processing and dissemination; (iii) economic accounts for agriculture; and (iv) agricultural census and surveys. Moreover, two training sessions were organized: one for human resources managers in agricultural statistics offices in order to better conduct training needs assessments and one for national statisticians working in agencies responsible for the production of agricultural statistics to enable them to produce timely and reliable agricultural, rural development and food security information.

40. Training activities in Asia and the Pacific region are also progressing well. A meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific was organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in cooperation with SIAP to foster coordination and information sharing across statistical training centres. A subgroup for agricultural and rural statistics was formed to support the implementation of the Global Strategy, and to this end, SIAP organized the sixth Workshop on Forging Partners in Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific: Networking and Coordination for Agricultural and Rural Statistics and an Expert Group meeting to discuss the development of a common core skills framework and tools to carry out a training needs assessment in the region. The following regional workshop was organized in connection with Global Strategy activities, including the regional training course on sampling methods for producing core data items for agricultural and rural statistics (in collaboration with Badan Pusat Statistik-Statistics Indonesia).

F. Coordination of statistical capacity-building initiatives under the Global Strategy umbrella

41. The implementation of Global Strategy activities at the global level in 2014 was carried out in close collaboration with other statistical initiatives, namely (i) the 2020 World Programme for the Census of Agriculture; (ii) the AMIS project, whose research activities are directly linked to the Global Strategy; (iii) the United States Agency for International Development initiatives on capacity-building; (iv) the Japanese-funded rice statistics within the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) framework; and (v) the support provided by the Asian Development Bank to the regional action plan in the Asia and Pacific region.

42. FAO is the lead United Nations agency in charge of promoting the decennial World Programme for the Census of Agriculture. FAO is currently in the process of finalizing the development of the guidelines for the 2020 World Programme for the Census of Agriculture, which will cover the period 2016-2025. One of the main and new features of the new programme is the close linkage to the Global Strategy, since the census of agriculture is one of the cornerstones of the Global Strategy as a major source of input for the minimum set of core data (first pillar of the Global Strategy) and for the integration (second pillar) of agriculture into the national statistical system through a master sample frame and a system of integrated agricultural censuses and surveys promoted by the Global Strategy. Work has been carried out to ensure the alignment of the minimum set of core data recommended by the Global Strategy with the Agricultural and Rural Integrated Survey tool and the new features of the World Census of Agriculture 2020 programme, which are reported separately.

43. Established at the request of the agriculture ministers of the Group of Twenty (G-20) in 2011, AMIS (AMIS, <http://www.amis-outlook.org>) is an inter-agency platform to enhance food market transparency and encourage coordination of policy action in response to market uncertainty. The initial focus of AMIS is on four crops that are particularly important in international food markets, namely, wheat, maize, rice and soybeans. AMIS participants include all G-20 members plus Spain and seven invited countries. Its overall governance is structured around the AMIS secretariat, which is hosted by FAO, the Global Food Market Information Group and the Rapid Response Forum. The AMIS objectives are to: (i) improve agricultural market information, analyses and forecasts at both the national and international level; (ii) report on abnormal international market conditions, and strengthen global early warning capacity on these movements; (iii) collect and analyse policy information, promote dialogue and responses, and international policy coordination; and (iv) build statistical capacity in participating countries. Statistical capacity-building activities are mostly funded by two projects from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Government of Japan, both implemented by FAO: (i) the Japan project focuses on stocks and production for rice only, and provides support to the Philippines and Thailand; and (ii) the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation project focuses on stocks, market prices and production forecasts for the four AMIS crops, and offers support to Bangladesh, India and Nigeria. In addition, the project funds global methodological development (statistics and information technology), which are made available as public goods. Methodological development conducted by the Agricultural Market Information System is carried out in close connection with the research agenda of the Global Strategy, most of the activities initially planned under market statistics being covered by the AMIS project. Domains covered include direct measurement of grain crop stocks, yield forecasting and market price information systems. Limited information technology developments such as mobile data collection solutions are also funded. Tailored support is being provided to Governments to address the national priorities identified jointly with FAO, and synergies are being established with other partners' relevant activities at national level.

44. USAID has launched an initiative called Core Agricultural Data Surveys (CARDS), which is aimed at accelerating existing efforts to strengthen countries' capacity to generate agricultural data. This initiative is integrated into the conceptual framework and processes outlined by the Global Strategy and does not create a data generation process parallel to that of the Strategy. It is intended to build greater demand for quality data by providing needed data, demonstrating the benefits of having data available and enabling Governments to experience the utility of the data first-hand. Countries will therefore receive support to generate critical data to make the rationale of the Global Strategy more salient and compelling. A first cycle of the project is planned for 2015-2021 covering eight countries. As one of the main features for developing cost-effective methods, the Global Strategy aims at building an integrated approach for regular surveys (for example, the Agriculture and Rural Integrated Survey) to help countries collect the minimum set of core data related to the economic, social and environmental dimensions. As such, the Agriculture and Rural Integrated Survey contributes directly to the CARDS initiative and can be a good option as a methodology and instrument for integrated surveys that countries can use within the CARDS framework.

45. The FAO project "Strengthening agricultural statistics and food security information in CARD (Coalition for African Rice Development) countries through

South-South Cooperation 2013-2018”, funded by Japan, aims at implementing and further developing the national rice development strategies prepared or being prepared by countries, by improving agricultural statistics, particularly rice production data. It will identify appropriate statistical methods implemented in the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, test the suitability for selected CARD countries and conduct capacity development of local institutions through in-country training and regional workshops in the design, implementation and supervision of field surveys using the selected methods. Nine countries are part of the project and implementation is under way. A regional workshop is planned for the first quarter of 2015 to evaluate the results of the pre-test and discuss the way forward with the selected countries. The Global Office is working closely with CARD management to ensure that methodological developments can be disseminated through the Global Strategy and made available to a large number of countries, possibly through joint publications.

46. In Asia and the Pacific region the Asian Development Bank in 2014 contributed with its own funding to the implementation of the Global Strategy through the project “Improving agricultural and rural statistics for food security” in different countries. Methodological studies were undertaken in Bhutan and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (comparison of existing sources of agricultural statistics), the Philippines (use of Agricultural Land Information System for area estimates) and Viet Nam (design of livestock survey); innovative data collection methods were tested in the field of rice statistics through the use of radar and optical imagery (in Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam) and statistical training was provided in Bhutan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. All these experiences are useful and direct inputs for the research component of the Global Strategy. Closer synergies with the Asian Development Bank are foreseen throughout 2015.

47. Furthermore, the Global Office has contributed to building synergies between the Global Strategy and the CAADP processes in Africa. The main objectives of CAADP are to help countries reach a higher path of economic growth through agriculture-led development, and to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty through agriculture by increasing public investment in agriculture and raising agricultural productivity. CAADP is the agricultural programme of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), a programme of the African Union since 2003. The programme is implemented with the support of the African Union Commission and NEPAD by regional economic communities and countries, and materialized through national agricultural and food security investment plans. Twenty-eight countries have developed these plans; however, one of the main issues for the CAADP monitoring and evaluation framework was the lack of quality data for measuring the progress and impact of the established policies. The recent declaration of Heads of States in Malabo in June 2014 recommitted to the key principles and values, particularly mutual accountability on actions and results. A task force was established for reviewing the CAADP results framework and elaborating a strategy for implementing the Malabo declaration. The Global Office was a member of the task force, and one of the strategic action areas proposed was directly linked with the strengthening of national capacities for producing the data required for CAADP planning, management and monitoring. This will constitute an opportunity to ensure that the development of the agricultural statistical system is directly embedded into the design of the next generation of national agricultural and food security

investment plans, and that funding will be made available to the national statistical system through the funding of a development policy. Various activities involving CAADP implementing partners, the Global Office and implementing partners of the Global Strategy in Africa have been planned to ensure synergies between the Global Strategy and the CAADP processes such as an evaluation of the existing national agricultural and food security investment plans, mapping the indicators of the new CAADP results framework with the minimum set of core data, the preparation of guidelines for integrating a statistical dimension into national agricultural and food security investment plans, rolling out the guidelines in a series of pilot countries and the provision of technical assistance and training.

G. Funding

48. The Global Action Plan of the Global Strategy targets a total of 90 developing countries, and requires \$83 million for its implementation. A total of \$45 million has been mobilized so far, thanks to the contribution of the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Italian Cooperation.

49. Following intensive advocacy efforts initiated by the Global Office, the African Development Bank and ECA have submitted \$10 million to the European Commission to cover the funding gap of the Global Trust Fund in Africa. Signature of a memorandum of understanding with the European Commission is to be finalized.

50. The Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States has developed a project proposal for harmonizing statistics in the Commonwealth of Independent States and has received funding for \$500,000 from the World Bank. The project was designed under the overall framework of the Global Strategy and will therefore contribute to the overall objectives of the Global Strategy.

51. The Inter-American Development Bank also provided a grant for a total of \$1,150,000 to implement the activities of the project “Development of a methodology for the implementation of agricultural statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean”. This project also falls under the framework of the Global Strategy.

H. Way forward and priorities for 2015

52. At the Global Office level, activities planned for 2015 will focus on (i) consolidating the mechanisms of coordination between the Global Office and the regional implementing partners; (ii) implementing the new monitoring and evaluation framework; (iii) carrying out the midterm evaluation of the implementation of the Global Strategy; (iv) expanding the narrative annual reports so as to cover initiatives aimed at strengthening statistical capacities, thus reinforcing coordination mechanisms between the various initiatives; (v) prioritizing research activities according to urgent needs and emerging needs expressed by the countries, and piloting field tests; (vi) preparing a total of 50 publications (guidelines, technical reports and training material) that can be rapidly used by regions and countries; (vii) ensuring that knowledge on new cost-effective methods is appropriately transferred to regions and countries through appropriate training and dissemination; (viii) mobilizing resources for the underfunded regions (Latin America and the Caribbean, Commonwealth of

Independent States and Near East), and for the Global Office and Asia and Pacific region by supporting regional donor conferences or global donor conferences; (ix) contributing to the mobilization of resources at the country level to ensure sustainable funding of SPARS; and (x) ensuring, in collaboration with implementation partners in Africa, that the Global Strategy and the CAADP processes are aligned and contribute to a sustainable delivery of quality data.

53. In Africa, the activities planned for 2015 will focus on (i) finalizing support for the design of SPARS in countries that started the process in 2014, and undertaking SPARS in new priority countries, namely, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda and South Africa; (ii) providing technical assistance following the priorities expressed by the countries and taking into account the availability of cost-effective methodologies; (iii) mapping the CAADP Results Framework with the minimum set of core data of the Global Strategy and providing support to countries in integrating a statistical component into the National Agricultural Investment Plans; (iv) ensuring that training needs are integrated into SPARS; (v) starting to upgrade the capacity of regional training centres; (vi) continuing to provide scholarships for long-term studies; (vii) implementing the monitoring and evaluation framework; and (viii) ensuring the coordination of activities with the Global Office and the other regions.

54. In Asia, the activities planned for 2015 will concentrate on (i) finalizing the in-depth country assessments in Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Fiji; starting the process in Myanmar and Georgia and in the new priority countries, namely, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam; drafting a specific programme of assistance for small island States in the Pacific in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community; (ii) designing SPARS in the countries that finalized the in-depth country assessment process; (iii) providing technical assistance to countries on topics prioritized in the country proposals; (iv) ensuring that training needs are integrated into sector plans; (v) strengthening capacities of national and regional training institutions; (vi) developing standard curricula, syllabuses and e-learning material; (vii) completing the activities carried out under the responsibility of the Asian Development Bank in support of the countries; (viii) implementing the monitoring and evaluation framework; and (ix) ensuring the coordination of activities with the Global Office and the other regions.

55. In the other three regions (Latin America, Near East, Commonwealth of Independent States), priority will be given to (i) the finalization of regional action plans; (ii) the mobilization of adequate resources; and (iii) the implementation of activities contributing to the objectives of the Global Strategy but not funded through the Global Trust Fund.

III. Summary of the activities of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics: improving food consumption data in household income and expenditure surveys

56. At its forty-third session, the Statistical Commission endorsed the creation of an Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics tasked with facilitating the development of new international statistical standards in the areas of

food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development, as well as to provide guidance to the Global Office in the implementation of the research programme of the Global Strategy.¹

57. FAO, in consultation with the Statistics Division, has invited selected countries and international organizations to become members of the Group. Invited members were identified on the basis of their mandates and their active involvement in previous methodological work on food security, agricultural and rural statistics. Due consideration was also given to keeping the Group within a manageable size, while ensuring adequate and balanced representation of different regions in the world. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group membership is, however, open to modifications and interested countries, and organizations are invited to express their interest to be involved in this work to the Group secretariat, hosted at the FAO Statistics Division.

58. Terms of reference, working arrangements and current membership of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics were formalized at a meeting held in New York in February 2014, and will be made public on the websites of the Global Strategy and the FAO Statistics Division.

59. The objectives of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics are (i) to facilitate the development of new international statistical standards in the areas of food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development; (ii) to facilitate the coordination and integration of statistics on food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development with related international statistical standards from other statistical domains; and (iii) to advise the Global Office regarding the research programme of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

60. Even before the formal establishment of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics, its secretariat had started a programme of work on the development of new guidelines to improve the measurement of food consumption in household surveys. Over the past two decades the world has witnessed unprecedented progress in the production and dissemination of household consumption and expenditure data across the developing world. Furthermore, the increased availability of Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys² has sparked the use of these surveys in ways not originally conceived of when they were designed, including food security analysis, the compilation of balance sheets, the planning and monitoring of food-based nutrition interventions, private sector information needs and other research work.

61. The multiplicity in methods, variation in quality and diversity of uses have raised increasing concerns in both academic and policy circles, calling for a more systematic approach to survey design and a better understanding of its consequences when it comes to measuring food consumption or expenditure. While the variety of purposes naturally translates into different designs, the dramatic increase in the number of household surveys in developing countries has been associated with a

¹ See E/CN.3/2012/34-E/2012/24, decision 43/104.

² Depending on their primary objective, the surveys that collect information on household consumption or expenditure can take different forms, including household budget surveys, income and expenditure surveys, or “multi-purpose” or “integrated” household surveys, like the Living Standards Measurement Study surveys. This family of surveys, which are often nationally representative, is referred to here as Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys.

proliferation of instruments and methods in the collection of food data that cannot be explained on the basis of their various purposes or country-specific characteristics. To a large extent, this is a manifestation of the lack of globally agreed standards to guide the collection of food consumption in household surveys, which is evident by the heterogeneity in methods we observe within the same type of survey both across countries and within countries across time.

62. Similar concerns have resulted in initiatives such as the creation of an expert panel by the National Research Council Committee on National Statistics in response to a request from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, with the purpose of producing recommendations for the redesign of the Consumer Expenditure Survey in the United States,³ and the 2011 Conference on Research in Income and Wealth sponsored by the National Bureau of Economic Research, which focused on improving the measurement of consumer expenditures. In developing countries, a handful of academic papers have analysed the impact of particular aspects of survey design on total expenditures, poverty and inequality measures. Few of those papers focus explicitly on food, and the attention in existing work has almost exclusively looked at mean expenditures, and to some poverty or inequality measures. However, the impact of survey design on key specific aspects of food security and nutrition analysis is less-well understood, and, as mentioned before, there is an increasing interest in using the data to analyse other dimensions of well-being, such as food security, health and nutrition.

63. In response to this need, FAO, the International Household Survey Network and the World Bank conducted a study on improving the relevance and reliability of food data from the Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys,⁴ which was presented at a seminar organized at the forty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission. That led to the creation of a technical working group on improving the relevance and reliability of food data from the Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys.

64. The working group brings together statisticians, economists and nutritionists from national and international agencies and research institutions to foster exchanges across disciplines to build on the respective strengths. The technical working group met twice in 2014, once by videoconference and once in person at an international workshop hosted by FAO in Rome on 6 and 7 November. The objective of the meeting was to discuss how different survey and questionnaire designs affect the quality of data on food acquisition and food consumption and which best practices can be recommended to ensure different uses of this data.

65. One of the outcomes of the meeting was the definition of a coordinated research programme to develop, validate and promote the adoption of international standards for the measurement of food consumption in household surveys. Five priority areas for methodological work have been selected: (i) measuring food acquisition or food consumption; (ii) measuring household or individual consumption; (iii) choosing the appropriate recall period; (iv) defining the length

³ National Research Council, "Measuring What We Spend: Toward a New Consumer Expenditure Survey", Don A. Dillman and Carol C. House, eds. (The National Academies Press, 2013, Washington D.C.), available from www.nap.edu/catalog/13520/measuring-what-we-spend-toward-a-new-consumer-expenditure-survey.

⁴ See www.ihsn.org/home/sites/default/files/resources/HCES%20food%20data%20assessment%20report_DRAFT_V8_25_02_14.pdf.

and specificity of the food list; and (v) capturing food eaten away from home. The research strategy will be based on the review and consolidation of existing evidence, on performing new analysis on existing survey data and on performing methodological validation exercises that may require the collection of new data.

66. The work programme of the technical working group aims at drafting empirically tested guidelines for discussion at the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics and ensuing submission to the Statistical Commission. These new guidelines will be the basis for the development of a programme to improve the capacity of countries to collect food consumption data in household surveys.

IV. FAO 2020 World Programme for the Census of Agriculture

A. Introduction

67. FAO is the lead United Nations agency in charge of promoting the decennial World Programme for the Census of Agriculture around the globe. To date, nine decennial rounds of the Programme have been conducted in the world since the 1930s, first under the auspices of the International Institute of Agriculture and then, since the 1950s, under the responsibility of FAO.

68. Every 10 years FAO revises the countries' censuses experiences and lessons learned, and then prepares, publishes and disseminates the revised census guidelines with improved census methodology. FAO is currently in the process of preparing the guidelines for the 2020 World Programme for the Census of Agriculture, which will cover the period 2016-2025.

69. The 2020 World Programme for the Census of Agriculture has been envisaged in two volumes to clearly separate two distinct aspects of the census: volume one, entitled "Programme, Definitions and Concepts", deals with the methodological and conceptual aspects of the census of agriculture. Volume two, "Operational Aspects", will include the practical details on the steps involved in actually conducting an agricultural census. It is a revised and updated edition of *Conducting Agricultural Censuses and Surveys*, published in 1995.

70. The preparation of the draft of volume one of the 2020 World Programme for the Census of Agriculture guidelines has been based on a review of countries' experiences under the 2010 round of the Programme, extensive consultations with countries and global and regional experts for the identification of new and emerging needs. The draft also benefited from comments made by countries' census authorities, development partners and other international experts during an international workshop held at FAO headquarters in November 2014.

71. The current draft of volume one is now circulated for a new and final global consultation under the auspices of the Statistical Commission with the involvement not only of the Ministries of Agriculture, but also of the national statistical offices, to provide broader exposure to the document and to get a wider range of feedback. It is foreseen that at the end of 2015 volume two will also undergo the same consultation process. An updated draft of the two volumes, incorporating the feedback and comments received, will then be submitted for possible endorsement at the forty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission in 2016.

B. Main features of the 2020 World Programme for the Census of Agriculture

72. One of the main new features of the new programme is its close linkage to the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics. The census of agriculture is meant to be a major source for the minimum set of core data of the Global Strategy (first pillar) and important for the integration of agriculture into the national statistical system through a master sample frame and an integrated survey system (second pillar).

73. The new programme recognizes that countries use diverse methodological approaches according to their circumstances, development levels and needs. In this light, the 2020 World Programme for the Census of Agriculture presents advantages and disadvantages of the two most common census methodological approaches; namely, the classic approach, which is still widely used, and the modular approach introduced in the previous census round as a cost-effective approach to collect a wider set of data.

74. The 2020 World Programme for the Census of Agriculture further emphasizes the integration of the agricultural census within an integrated system of agricultural surveys. Countries with an established system of agricultural surveys may use the classic approach to census taking as a frame for the regular agricultural survey programme, while countries without such system may find it more appropriate to follow the modular approach as a first step in the development of the integrated system of surveys.

75. A new feature of the 2020 World Programme for the Census of Agriculture is the reintroduction of the notion of “essential” items, and a clear distinction between “essential” items and “frame” items. It is recommended that all countries collect the essential items regardless of the approach to their agricultural census, which can be classic or modular. The frame items are intended specifically for inclusion in the core module of a census using the modular approach, in order to provide data for the frames for the supplementary modules. In addition to the essential and frame items, other items, referred to as “additional” items, are presented in the census programme. These are provided to enable countries to collect more in-depth (supplementary) data on specific themes to address the data needs expressed by users.

76. Another feature of the 2020 World Programme for the Census of Agriculture guidelines is increased emphasis on the use of information technology in data collection, processing and dissemination. The increasing use of technology in census and surveys operations results in significant efficiencies and drastically reduces the time lag between data collection and data analysis. This includes the use of computer-assisted personal interviewing, Internet-based data collection methods and geo-referencing. Similarly, the use of interactive outputs and web-based data (tables, graphs, maps) and access to anonymised microdata have brought new opportunities for census dissemination. Novel and user-friendly dissemination tools support informed decision-making, unleash the analytical creativity of users and ensure greater sustainability of agriculture statistics and their integration into the broader national statistical system.

77. The programme retains three key features introduced in the previous programme. First, the integration between the population and housing census and

the agriculture census is emphasized. The integration of these two statistical operations is further elaborated in a joint publication by FAO and the United Nations Population Fund. Secondly, the possibility to collect community-level data remains in the programme owing to the strong demand and increased use for this kind of data vis-à-vis the marginal field cost. Community-level data is collected with a view to building an information base on the infrastructure and services available to agricultural holdings. Thirdly, the recommendation to collect gender-disaggregated data in the census is further strengthened with an extended list of variables to facilitate the analysis of women's contribution to agricultural activities.

78. The main concepts and definitions are going to be retained. The statistical unit for the agricultural census remains the agricultural holding that is defined in the same way as in the previous programme. Two concepts introduced in the 2010 census programme — the sub-holding and the sub-holder — have instead been omitted, as the approach to measure the role of household members in the management of the holding, especially women, has been revised. Moreover, forest or other wooded land has been redefined to bring it into line with the SEEA Central Framework adopted by the Statistical Commission in 2012, and employment definitions have been updated to be consistent with ILO (2013).

C. Main changes in the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture on data content and classifications

79. A number of new items are included in the agricultural census programme. Some of the items are new, some are reintroduced and some are components of existing items. More specifically are (i) identification and general characteristics of the farm: respondent for the holding (reintroduced); presence of hired manager (reintroduced); sex of the hired manager; age of the hired manager; (ii) irrigation: area irrigated (component); area equipped for irrigation in working order; (iii) crops: presence of nurseries (component); presence of cropped land under protective cover (component); (iv) livestock: number of female breeding animals (component); (v) agricultural practices: use of genetically modified crops (component); type of tillage practices; presence of conservation agriculture; presence of soil conservation practices; (vi) demographic and social: agricultural training/education of holder(s); (vii) work: whether working on the holding is the main activity; (viii) intra-household distribution of decision-making and ownership: sex of household members making managerial decisions; area of crops by sex of the person responsible for their management; number of livestock by sex of the person responsible for their management; area of land owned by sex of the owner; number of livestock owned by sex of the owner; (ix) household food security: the food insecurity experience scale; (xiii) fisheries: a new theme altogether; (xiv) greenhouse gases emissions: a new theme altogether; and (xv) community-level data: communal area under water used for aquaculture.

80. Several items from the 2010 programme have been modified in the 2020 programme, including: (i) identification: a number of existing items related to the identification and location of the agricultural holding have been conveniently put together in this theme; (ii) land: the item "land tenure types on the holding" was modified as "area of holding according to land tenure types"; (iii) work: the item "activity status" was modified as "labour force status" in line with ILO; (iv) forestry: item "presence of forest and other wooded land on the holding" was

modified as “presence of woodland on the holding”; and item “area of forest and other wooded land as primary/secondary land use” was modified as “area of woodland” in line with SEEA.

81. Several items from the 2010 World Programme for the Census of Agriculture were omitted in the 2020 Programme; namely: (i) agricultural practices: item “use of good agricultural practices” was replaced by a breakdown of items on sustainable agricultural practices (see new items above); (ii) demographic and social: whether holding is part of an agricultural household; (iii) work (formerly “farm labour”): items “occupation of main job” and “time worked in main job”; (iv) intra-household distribution of decisions and ownership (formerly “management of the holding”): items identification of sub-holdings; identification of sub-holders; sex of sub-holder; age of sub-holder; area of crops managed for each crop group; and number of livestock managed for each livestock group. These items were replaced by an improved approach to assess the distribution of decisions and ownership within the household (see new items above); and (v) household food security: food shortage’s sub-items: whether household members could not afford to eat what they normally eat at any time; months in which food shortage occurred; reasons for food shortage; how the household’s eating patterns were affected by food shortage; and steps taken to alleviate food shortage; as well as the items whether the household fears a food shortage; frequency of normally eating selected food products; and height and weight. These items were replaced by an innovative approach developed by the FAO “Voices of the Hungry” project to appraise in a more straightforward way the severity of food insecurity as experienced by individuals in the population (see new items above).

82. The following new classifications have been adopted: (i) the land use classification has been updated to be consistent with the SEEA Central Framework⁵ adopted in 2012 by the Statistical Commission; (ii) the classification by economic activity has been updated to be consistent with the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities Revision 4;⁶ (iii) the classifications of crops and livestock have been updated to be consistent with the Central Product Classification Version 2.1 expanded;⁷ and (iv) the classification of machinery and equipment has been updated based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System Edition 2012.⁸

V. Points for discussion

83. **The Commission is invited to:**

(a) **Comment on progress and provide guidance on the developments of the implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics;**

⁵ See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/seeaRev/SEEA_CF_Final_en.pdf.

⁶ See <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cr/registry/isc-4.asp>.

⁷ See <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc13/BG-CPC-Version21.pdf>.

⁸ See www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/nomenclature/instrument-and-tools/hs_nomenclature_2012/hs_nomenclature_table_2012.aspx.

(b) **Request countries, resource partners and other donors to further support the implementation of the Global Strategy and the mobilization of resources for filling the funding gaps;**

(c) **Comment and provide further guidance to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics on the work carried out on the improvement of the Food Consumption Data in Household Income and Expenditure Surveys;**

(d) **Comment and provide guidance to FAO on the preparation of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 guidelines.**
