

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

Committee on Statistics

Third session

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Item 4(a) of the provisional agenda *

Global initiatives: Agricultural and rural statistics**Report of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics*****Summary*

The Committee at its second session in December 2010 strongly endorsed the proposal of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to develop a regional implementation plan for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics. The Committee decided to establish a subgroup on agricultural statistics under the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics to guide the development of the implementation plan.

The present document provides an overview of the establishment of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics and its work to develop the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan for the Improvement of Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

The Regional Action Plan was endorsed by the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS) at its twenty-fourth session, in October 2012. The APCAS deliberations are summarized in information paper E/ESCAP/CST(3)/INF/6.

Bearing in mind the outcome of the consideration by APCAS, the Committee may wish to consider the Regional Action Plan for endorsement, including the establishment of a Regional Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of the Regional Action Plan. The Committee may also wish to consider the proposal of the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics on the membership of the Regional Steering Committee for approval.

* E/ESCAP/CST(3)/L.1/Rev.1.

** Late submission due to the timing of expert consultations.

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I. Introduction

1. At its second session, in December 2010, the Committee decided to establish a subgroup on agricultural statistics under the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics¹ to provide guidance to the development of an Asia-Pacific regional implementation plan for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics.²

2. The present document provides an overview of the work of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics during 2011 and 2012. The document makes reference to the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, which is the main output of the work of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics.³ Reference is also made to the proposal of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics Chair and Vice-Chair on the membership of

¹ See E/ESCAP/CST(2)/9, chap. I, decision 2/7.

² See E/CN.3/2010/3.

³ As distributed to Committee members via an email dated 3 October 2012.

the Regional Steering Committee,⁴ which forms part of the proposed governance structure for the implementation of the Regional Action Plan.

II. Regional response to the global call for action

A. The Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics

3. The Statistical Commission at its fortieth session, in February 2009, concluded on the basis of an expert paper that a global strategy was needed to improve agricultural statistics.⁵ The Global Strategy was developed as a response to the declining quantity and quality of agricultural statistics.

4. The Statistical Commission established a Friends of the Chair group of national and international representatives to steer the development of the Global Strategy.⁶ The Strategy was prepared by the World Bank in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with substantial inputs from the Friends of the Chair Working Group. The Global Strategy was endorsed by the Statistical Commission at its forty-first session, in February 2010.⁷

B. Regional implementation plan for the Global Strategy

5. The Global Strategy was brought to the attention of the Committee at its second session, in December 2010 (see E/ESCAP/CST(2)/6). The Committee recognized the urgency of improving agricultural and rural statistics in the region and the importance of improved integration of agricultural statistics into national statistical systems.

6. In its decision 2/7, the Committee strongly endorsed the proposal of FAO to develop a regional implementation plan for the Global Strategy, and requested the secretariat to coordinate this effort in partnership with FAO and other relevant regional and subregional organizations.

7. The Committee decided to establish a steering group on agricultural statistics to guide the development of the implementation plan. Having already endorsed the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and established a Steering Group to oversee its implementation,⁸ the Committee agreed that the steering group on agricultural statistics be established as a subgroup to the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics.

⁴ The proposed membership will be distributed to participants during the third session of the Committee.

⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 4* (E/2009/24-E/CN.3/2009/29), Chap. I, Sect. B, decision 40/102.

⁶ The Working Group comprised Australia, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ethiopia, Italy, Morocco, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and the United States of America. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Statistics Division served as observer and secretariat. The Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) and the World Bank also served as observers.

⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 4* (E/2010/24-E/CN.3/2010/34), Chap. I, Sect. B, decision 41/102.

⁸ See E/ESCAP/CST(2)/9, chap. I, sect. B, decision 2/6.

8. Recognizing the importance of involvement of the national statistical systems beyond national statistical offices for successful implementation of the Global Strategy, the Committee further decided that the membership of the steering group on agricultural statistics should include representatives of national statistical offices, ministries of agriculture and national agricultural policy and research institutes.

III. Follow-up to Committee decisions

A. Establishment of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics

9. As per the request of the Committee, the secretariat coordinated with the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in establishing the steering group. The Chair of the Bureau of the Committee and the Chair of the APCAS, through a joint letter, invited members and associate members of the Commission to submit their nominations for the steering group.

10. The Chair of the Bureau and the Chair of the APCAS decided to accept all nominations. The group was established in August 2011 and named the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics. Mr. Romeo Recide, Director, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture, the Philippines; and Mr. Karpo Dupka, Statistician, Ministry of Agriculture, Bhutan, were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Steering Group, respectively. A list of members of the Steering Group is provided in the annex.

B. Formation of the regional partnership

11. In May 2011, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) responded positively to the invitation by the Chair of the Committee to contribute to improving agricultural and rural statistics in Asia and the Pacific. A regional partnership consisting of ADB, ESCAP and FAO was thus established (henceforth referred to as “the implementing partners”).

IV. Development of the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan for the Improvement of Agricultural and Rural Statistics

12. The Regional Action Plan was developed from November 2011 to September 2012 by the implementing partners under the guidance of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics. Considering that the organization of global support, including funding, was being put in motion under the guidance of the Global Steering Committee,⁹ the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics was cognizant of the work of the Global Steering Committee, in addition to the work of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics, in carrying out its responsibilities.

13. The development of the Regional Action Plan benefited greatly from financial assistance provided by the ADB, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), FAO and the World Bank to support travel and consultancy services.

⁹ The Global Steering Committee is entrusted with overseeing the implementation of the Global Strategy and comprises selected countries, partners and donor representatives.

A. Country assessment

14. A preliminary country assessment was conducted as a first step in developing the implementation plan. The main purpose of the assessment was to gather information on countries' capacity to produce the minimum set of core data. A standard Country Assessment Questionnaire, developed by FAO for use in the African region through a consultative process involving the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and other partners, was administered for the assessment. The questionnaire was converted to an electronic format and prefilled by ADB for each country on the basis of data available from ADB, ESCAP and FAO. Questionnaires were sent to countries in November 2011. Responses were received from 45 of 59 countries.

15. The assessment identified the main constraints in the agricultural statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific and grouped the countries in the region on the basis of their capacity.¹⁰ The findings showed that low numbers of available professional and field staff, lack of skills and a high rate of turnover among professional staff were major constraints for most agricultural statistical systems. Serious constraints also included lack of political support and funds for statistical activities, and lack of access to up-to-date information and communications technology facilities and sound methodologies.

16. The findings pointed to a need for institutional capacity-building in agricultural statistics systems in Asia and the Pacific, thus reconfirming the relevance of the three pillars of the Global Strategy to the region (pillar 1: minimum set of core data; pillar 2: integration of agriculture into national statistical systems; pillar 3: sustainability of agricultural statistics systems). The findings indicated a need for regional support, through technical assistance, training and research, to improve skills and knowledge of national staff and to support countries in carrying out advocacy to increase political support and funding for statistical activities.

B. First meeting of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics

17. The first meeting of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics was held in November 2011. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss and decide on the approach and principles for developing the Regional Action Plan. In the meeting, the Steering Group members discussed, among other things, the Global Strategy and its action plan and lessons learned from the implementation of the Global Strategy in Africa.

18. The Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics recognized the need for coordination with the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics to ensure that there is no significant duplication between the regional efforts to improve agricultural statistics and economic statistics, and that the two implementation plans should complement each other.

19. The Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics provided recommendations for developing the Regional Action Plan in alignment with the Global Strategy while tailoring the plan to the needs of the Asia-Pacific region. It agreed to align its structure to the global action plan by developing

¹⁰ The report of the country assessment is available at www.fao.org/economic/ess/apcas24.

the main plan document plus three components containing the implementation plan for technical assistance, training, and research.

20. The Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics agreed that the technical assistance component, being of cross-cutting nature, should consider the linkages with the other two components. The Steering Group recommended that training should focus on priority training needs and ensure sustainability. The Steering Group members identified research on data collection and analysis as priority areas for intervention by the research component, while complementing research activities at the global level. The Steering Group recognized that some countries in the region are well positioned to share experience and provide assistance on advanced methodologies for data compilation and analysis to other countries.

21. Finally, the Steering Group recommended that the implementation of the Global Strategy in Asia and the Pacific should adopt a country-focused bottom-up approach.¹¹

C. Towards a regional implementation plan

22. An online meeting was organized in April 2012 to discuss the first draft annotated outline of the regional implementation plan and provide detailed recommendations for its further development.¹²

23. The Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics recommended that a logical framework, identifying the expected results (impact, outcome and outputs), indicators, means of verification, risks and mitigation measures of the plan, be developed to steer the drafting of the implementation plan. Such a framework would ensure that the three components would be designed in an integrated manner, aiming at contributing to achieving shared results.

D. Development of a logical framework

24. The implementing partners organized a workshop in May 2012 among a few members of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics,¹³ the implementing partners, and FAO Rome. The workshop conducted the stakeholders' analysis and drafted the logical framework through a systematic process of problem and objective analyses.

25. The analyses revealed that lack of skilled manpower, adequate resources, and coordination among the statistical systems are underlying causes of the unavailability and poor quality of agricultural and rural statistics. The need for a country-driven, institutional-focused approach to capacity development was thus reconfirmed. The participants recognized the importance

¹¹ The report of the first Steering Group meeting is available at www.unescap.org/stat/agri-stat/1st-meet-Nov2011/Report-1st-meeting.pdf.

¹² Highlights of the online meeting are available at [https://wpqr1.adb.org/LotusQuickr/agstat_ap/PageLibrary482579910024D566.nsf/\\$defaultview/71C4739985C2920A48257A06000AE692/\\$File/SGAS%20on%20line%20meeting%20_%2030%20April%202012_f.pdf?OpenElement](https://wpqr1.adb.org/LotusQuickr/agstat_ap/PageLibrary482579910024D566.nsf/$defaultview/71C4739985C2920A48257A06000AE692/$File/SGAS%20on%20line%20meeting%20_%2030%20April%202012_f.pdf?OpenElement).

¹³ Steering Group members who attended the workshop included: Mr. Romeo Recide (Chair of Steering Group), Philippines; Mr. Karpo Dupka (Vice-Chair of Steering Group), Bhutan; Mr. Vijay Kumar Bhatia, India; Mr. Kenji Kamikura, Japan; and Mr. Pham Quang Vinh, Viet Nam.

of advocacy and recommended that specific attention be paid to advocating for stakeholders' support.

E. Second meeting of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics

26. With the agreed logical framework as the anchor, the Regional Action Plan was developed during the period from May to July 2012 under the guidance of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics. The main plan was drafted by Fred Vogel (Technical Advisor) on the basis of an earlier draft produced by Isidoro David (Consultant). The FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), and ADB drafted the technical assistance, training and research components, respectively.

27. The second meeting of the Steering Group was held in July 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to review the Regional Action Plan and provide concrete recommendations for its finalization for consideration by APCAS at its twenty-fourth session, in October 2012, and by the Committee at its third session, in December 2012.

28. The members of the Steering Group recommended that the implementation strategy for the Regional Action Plan be flexible, allowing for refinements during implementation. Considering the three draft components, the Steering Group members suggested the following: (a) that technical assistance should be delivered by working together with national staff to ensure transfer of knowledge; (b) that training should be targeted in each country at the institution producing agricultural and rural statistics, which might be the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Statistical Office, or another institution; and (c) that regional research should complement the global effort by adapting results of the global research to the region and facilitating research on region-specific issues.

29. The Steering Group also agreed on a proposed regional governance structure for the implementation of the Regional Action Plan, comprising a regional steering committee and a regional office. The Steering Group members discussed and agreed on the broad responsibilities of the regional steering committee and the regional office, and the composition of the regional steering committee.

30. With a view to ensuring that countries, partners and donors would be properly represented on the regional steering committee while keeping the membership at a manageable size, the Steering Group agreed that the regional steering committee would include 15 members in total with the following affiliations: (a) two country representatives from each of four of ESCAP's five subregions,¹⁴ ensuring a balanced representation of national statistical offices and ministries of agriculture; (b) the three implementing partners (ADB, ESCAP, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific); (c) Secretariat of the Pacific Community; (d) one donor representative; and (e) one training and one research institution.

¹⁴ East and North-East Asia, the Pacific, South and South-West Asia, and South-East Asia. The implementation of the Global Strategy in these four subregions will be carried out in accordance with the Regional Action Plan under the purview of the Regional Steering Committee. The Global Office based in FAO Rome is liaising with the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT) on the implementation of the Global Strategy in North and Central Asia.

31. The Co-chair of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics participated in the second meeting of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics and presented the linkages between the two regional plans. Both steering groups have recognized a commonality in approach and content between the two regional plans, particularly regarding the institutional aspects. The members of the two groups further recognized that the institutional constraints and the activities aimed at addressing them (such as increased advocacy, strengthening of coordination and legislation) will be common across the Committee's statistical development initiatives in all areas of statistics. The Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics recognized the need for coordination at country level to ensure harmonized and effective implementation of the various initiatives.

32. Finally, the members of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics agreed on a schedule for the finalization of the Regional Action Plan and its three components.¹⁵

F. Finalization and submission

33. Subsequent to the second meeting of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics, the Regional Action Plan was revised and further developed in line with the recommendations from the meeting. A revised Regional Action Plan, including the three components, was shared with Steering Group members for final review by the end of August 2012 and thereafter finalized.

34. The Regional Action Plan was submitted for consideration by APCAS and the Committee in October 2012. At the same time, the Regional Action Plan was prepared for submission to the Global Steering Committee, the ultimate decision-making body regarding the use of Global Trust Fund resources. Endorsement by the Global Steering Committee is thus a prerequisite for approval of global funds to implement the Regional Action Plan, and the early submission was designed to accelerate implementation.

V. Summary of the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan for the Improvement of Agricultural and Rural Statistics

35. The Regional Action Plan maps out efforts that countries and development partners in Asia and the Pacific will make between 2013 and 2017 to achieve significant increase in the availability and quality of agricultural and rural statistics, produced by sustainable agricultural statistical systems with appropriate institutional, human and financial capacity.

36. In order to meet this goal, the framework for efforts to improve agricultural statistics is based on three pillars:

(a) The establishment of a minimum set of core data which each country will produce on a sustainable basis and which are comparable across countries and time;

(b) The integration of agriculture into the national statistical system in order for the statistical system to meet both current and emerging data requirements. This integration will be achieved by the development of a master

¹⁵ Report of the second Steering Group meeting is available at www.unescap.org/stat/agri-stat/2nd-meet-Jul2012/report_2nd_meeting_of_Steering_Group.pdf.

sample frame, integrating survey activities, and coordinating data dissemination;

(c) Ensuring the sustainability of the agricultural statistics system by building statistical capacity and improving governance and coordination across the institutions producing agricultural statistics.

37. The Regional Action Plan, mirroring the structure of the Global Action Plan, comprises three components: technical assistance; training; and research. The Regional Action Plan also includes a component on advocacy to build support in the region for the improvement of agricultural statistics. Resources from donor organizations that contribute to the Global Fund established for the implementation of the Global Strategy are earmarked for capacity development (pillar III). The implementation of the Global Strategy in the Asia-Pacific region therefore requires national commitment and resources to identify a country-specified minimum set of core data (pillar I) and support the integration of agriculture into the national statistical system (pillar II). The advocacy component was built into the Regional Action Plan to ensure continued country commitment.

38. Initial implementation of the Regional Action Plan includes the establishment of a regional governance structure that will support the statistical capacity-building efforts at the country level by providing technical assistance, training and research. The regional structure includes a regional office and a regional steering committee. The governance structure also includes a coordination structure at the national level. In order to facilitate the integration of agriculture into the national statistical system, the integration and statistical capacity-building efforts will take place within the framework of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)¹⁶ as developed by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21). The NSDS process includes the development of sector strategies, the one for agriculture being the Sector Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Rural Statistics. Given that different countries refer to their statistical development strategies and plans differently, the format, process, scope and terminology used during the implementation of the Regional Action Plan will be flexible.

39. Subsequent to the establishment of governing structures at the regional and national levels, each country will assess its statistical output and ability to provide a minimum set of core data using a standard assessment tool and supported by development partners as necessary. On the basis of the in-depth country assessments, countries will prepare country proposals. In support of country ownership and the sustainability of efforts, country proposals will be justified in the context of comprehensive national-level plans to improve agricultural statistics (sector strategic plans for agriculture) and integrate the domain of agricultural statistics into the national statistical system.

40. The implementation of the Regional Action Plan began in 2012 under the guidance of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics. The formal implementation will begin with the formation of the regional steering committee and regional office. The pilot countries for the in-depth country assessment need to be determined and the assessments should begin as soon as possible so they can provide an input for the development of detailed annual

¹⁶ The NSDS is a framework for the coordination of all statistical activities, including international and bilateral assistance, within a country. The NSDS provides the strategy for strengthening statistical capacity across the entire national statistical system.

work plans for the technical assistance, training, and research components of the Regional Action Plan.

VI. Implementation in progress

41. In December 2011, ADB formulated and processed for approval a regional policy and advisory technical assistance project for improving agricultural and rural statistics for food security (reference: R-PATA 8029). In collaboration with the national statistical systems of selected pilot countries, the project supports: (a) the development of regional and country action plans to address the declining availability of agricultural and rural statistics needed for formulating and monitoring policies on food security; and (b) the conduct of methodological research. The project is closely aligned with the recommendations of the first Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics meeting in November 2011.

42. In May 2012, ADB organized a workshop with the pilot countries: Bhutan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Maldives; Thailand and Viet Nam. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the process for developing country action plans to improve agricultural and rural statistics for food security, including possible methodological research, and instruments of collaboration that would be employed by country teams consisting of heads of government units that are directly involved in compiling agricultural and rural statistics and developing and monitoring the statistics development plan, if any.

43. In-country workshops with major stakeholders to discuss the country action plans that were drafted by the country teams have been organized during the period from September to December 2012. Memorandums of understanding between ADB and pilot countries that will support the advocacy of country action plans and/or the conduct of methodological research are at various stages of negotiations.

VII. Actions to be taken by the Committee

A. Regional Action Plan

44. Bearing in mind the outcome of the consideration by the APCAS as contained in the information paper E/ESCAP/CST(3)/INF/6, the Committee is invited to consider the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan for the Improvement of Agricultural and Rural Statistics for endorsement, including the proposed establishment of a regional steering committee to oversee its implementation.

B. Regional steering committee

45. The Committee may wish to approve the membership of the regional steering committee as proposed by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics.

46. The Committee may wish to request the regional steering committee to report to the Committee at its fourth session on the progress made in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan.

C. Implementation of the Regional Action Plan

47. The Committee may wish to provide members and development partners with guidance on the implementation of the Regional Action Plan.

Annex

List of members of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics

Name	Position	Country/Organization
Mr. Azizullah Faqiri	Head of Economic Statistics, Central Statistics Organization	Afghanistan
Ms. Jacky Hodges	Regional Director Tasmania, Australian Bureau of Statistics	Australia
<i>Replaced by</i>		
Ms. Helen Baird (Ms. Baird attended the second meeting of the Steering Group as a member)	Director, Rural Environment and Agriculture Statistics, Australian Bureau of Statistics	
Mr. Satya Ranjan Mondal	Joint Director, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics	Bangladesh
<i>Replaced by</i>		
Mr. Bidhan Baral	Deputy Director, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics	
Mr. Karpo Dukpa	Statistician, Ministry of Agriculture	Bhutan (Vice-Chair)
Mr. Rajeev Lochan	Adviser (Agricultural Statistics), Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture	India
Mr. Ardief Achmad	Director of Food Crops, Horticulture and Estate Crops Statistics, BPS – Statistics Indonesia	Indonesia
<i>Replaced by</i>		
Mr. S. Happy Hardjo (Mr. Hardjo attended the second meeting of the Steering Group as a member)	Director of Food Crops, Horticulture and Estate Crops Statistics, BPS – Statistics Indonesia	
Mr. Masoud Asadi	Deputy Director General, Office of Agriculture Statistics, Statistical Centre of Iran	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Mr. Kenji Kamikura	Senior Statistician, Planning Division, Statistics Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Japan
Ms. Fathimath Abdulla Saeed	Economist, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture	Maldives
<i>Replaced by</i>		
Mr. Hussain Faisal (Mr. Faisal attended the second meeting of the Steering Group as a member)	Agricultural Officer, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture	

Name	Position	Country/Organization
Mr. Soe Win Maung*	Director, Department of Agriculture Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation	Myanmar
Mr. Romeo Recide	Director, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture	Philippines (Chair)
Mr. Alexey Gospodarev	Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture	Russian Federation
Mr. Laupua Fiti	ACEO, Economic Statistics, Samoa Bureau of Statistics	Samoa
Mr. R M Herath	Agriculture Economist, Socio Economics and Planning Centre, Department of Agriculture	Sri Lanka
Ms. Unchana Tracho	Director, Center for Agricultural Information, Office of Agricultural Economics	Thailand
Mr. Pham Quang Vinh	Director, Department of Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Statistics, General Statistics Office (GSO) of Viet Nam	Viet Nam
Mr. Douglas Brooks	Assistant Chief Economist	Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Mr. Hong Narit	Acting Director, Department of Planning and Statistics, MAFF	Chairman, Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS)
Ms. Frances Harper	Head, Profession for Statistics and Team Leader, Global Statistics Partnerships Team, Research and Evidence Division	Department for International Development (DFID)
Mr. Jairo Castano	Senior Statistician, Economic, Social and Policy Assistance Group (ESP)	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Mr. Vijay Kumar Bhatia	Director, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute	Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI)
Mr. Ganesh Thapa	Regional Economist, Asia and the Pacific Division	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
Mr. Gerald Haberkorn	Manager, Statistics for Development Programme	Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

* Membership position vacated; awaiting replacement.

The following additional country representatives attended the first or second meeting of the Steering Group:

(a) Ms. Sotheavy Meas, Deputy Director, Department of Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia

(b) Mr. Vuthy Srey, Deputy Director, Department of Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia

(c) Mr. Dalip Singh, Additional Statistical Adviser, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, India

(d) Mr. Yohei Kunikane, Official, Statistics Planning Division, Statistics Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan

(e) Mr. Myo Tint Tun, Assistant Director, Department of Agricultural Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar

(f) Ms. Thin Shwe Sin, Officer, Central Statistical Organization, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar

(g) Ms. Estela De Guzman, Director, Industry and Trade Statistics Department, National Statistics Office, Philippines (Co-chair of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics)

(h) Ms. Supaporn Bongsunun, Senior Statistician, Office of Agricultural Economics, Thailand

(i) Ms. Nongnooch Deetae, Senior Expert for Agricultural Statistics System, Center for Agricultural Information, Office of Agricultural Economics, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand

(j) Mr. Nguyen Van Lieu, Deputy Director General, General Statistics Office of Vietnam, Viet Nam
