



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



AFRICAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Twenty-Fifth Session

Entebbe, Uganda, 13 – 17 November 2017

Action Plan of the Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Africa (2011-2018)

**Overview and progress on the implementation of the
Action Plan since the 24th Session of the African
Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS)
(*From November 2015 – November 2017*)**



Co-funded by the European Union

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	3
2. ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNANCE MECHANISM NATURE CARRIED OUT BY AFDB	4
2.1 REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING	4
2.2 THE AFRICA WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2017	4
2.3 REGIONAL COORDINATION MEETINGS	5
2.4 VIRTUAL BIMESTRIAL MEETINGS WITH DONORS	5
2.5 GLOBAL COORDINATION MEETINGS	6
2.6 REPORTING	6
2.7 COMMUNICATION – 9 TH INFORMATION BULLETIN	6
2.8 ADVOCACY EVENTS – CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS	6
2.9 SPONSORING PARTICIPATION TO THE 7 TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURE STATISTICS	7
3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY AFDB	7
3.1 DEVELOPMENT OF SECTOR PLAN FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL STATISTICS (SPARS)	8
3.2 COUNTRY ASSESSMENTS	9
3.3 PRODUCTION, HARMONIZATION AND DISSEMINATION OF MINIMUM SET OF CORE DATA	12
3.4 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON NEWLY DEVELOPED COST-EFFECTIVE METHODS	12
3.5 TRAINING WORKSHOPS OF TA NATURE	13
3.6 TARGETED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES	14
4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED BY THE GLOBAL OFFICE	15
4.1 COORDINATION OF THE TA ACTIVITIES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF KEY PARTNERSHIPS	15
4.2 DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL TRAINING AND TA ACTIVITIES	16
5. ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENT OF THE TRAINING COMPONENT	19
5.1 STAFF RECRUITMENT	19
5.2 TRAINING OF TRAINERS WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED	19
5.3 FINALIZATION OF THE SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS TRAINING PROGRAM	20
5.4 MEETING TO LAUNCH THE SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS TRAINING PROGRAM	21
5.5 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT: REVISION OF THE MOU	21
5.6 AGROST ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING ORGANIZED	21
5.7 PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL EVENTS	22
5.8 COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY PLAN, AND IMPLEMENTATION	23
6. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST CONDUCTED AT GLOBAL LEVEL	24
6.1 RESEARCH COMPONENT AND RELATED PRODUCTS	24
6.2 PREPARATION OF PHASE 2 OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY	24

1. Introduction and Background

Promoting agriculture is one of the most effective ways to alleviate poverty and this imperative plays a critical role in most if not all National Development Plans in the region. The formulation, implementation, management, and monitoring of these plans needs to be based on sound evidence. This, in turn, requires the ready availability of comprehensive, reliable, up-to-date, and consistent agricultural data. Unfortunately, in most African countries, agricultural statistics are not collected in a consistent manner; moreover, where they do exist, they may be badly out of date due to budgetary constraints which limit the conduct of regular agricultural surveys and censuses. The quality and reliability of agricultural data, as well as their availability, therefore constitute major challenges. In response to meeting these challenges in developing countries, a *Global Strategy (GS) for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics* was produced and endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in February 2010. The Global Strategy aims at strengthening the statistical capacity of developing countries to enable them to provide the reliable statistics on agriculture, food and rural development needed to formulate, monitor and evaluate development policies. It is then based on three pillars: (i) the establishment of a minimum set of core data that countries shall provide to meet their current and emerging demands; ii) a better integration of agricultural statistics within the National Statistical Systems (NSS) to ensure data comparability between countries and over time; and (iii) create a sustainable statistical framework through better governance of the statistical system and statistical capacity building.

The GS is implemented at global level by the Global Office hosted by FAO, and through a *Global Action for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics (2013-2018)*.

At the African level, the implementation of the GS is based on *the Action Plan to Improve Statistics for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Africa (2011-2018)*. That Action Plan is implemented by three institutions: the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Economic Commission of the Nations United for Africa (UNECA) and the Organization of Food and Agriculture of the United Nations (FAO). It includes three technical components, which play complementary roles in the implementation of the Global Strategy:

- A Technical Assistance Component (TAC) led by AfDB to help African countries adopt more effective methods and procedures for agricultural and rural statistics, based on a thorough assessment of their capabilities and needs; A complementary TAC program is also being implemented by FAO
- A Training Component (TC), led by UNECA to strengthen the capacity of agencies involved in the collection, consolidation and the use of agricultural statistics by increasing the knowledge, expertise and skills of their personnel, and strengthening and sustaining the capacity of statistical training centers (STC); and
- A Research Component (RC) implemented by FAO to address specific methodological challenges of measuring some basic variables and data collection, management and analysis.

The AfDB hosts the Regional Secretariat of the Action Plan for Africa and in that capacity, oversees activities of Governance Mechanism (GM) nature.

The implementation of the Action Plan is funded through a Global Trust Fund hosted by FAO (with contributions from the Department for International Development (DfID) of the UK Government and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)), and the European Union (EU).

As per governance requirement, the Secretariat of the Action Plan is expected to present its progress activity report to the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS). This report presents therefore the progress made by the AfDB in coordinating activities of the Action Plan and implementing its TAC, as well as that of FAO and UNECA in implementing the complementary TAC program, and TC, respectively. It also further presents activities of interest to Africa which have been conducted at Global Level by FAO.

2. Activities of Governance Mechanism nature carried out by AfDB

2.1 Regional Steering Committee Meeting

The Regional Steering Committee (RSTC) is an established decision-making body of the Action Plan (AP) for Africa to Improve Statistics for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development. The RSTC comprises representatives from users and producers of agricultural and rural statistics, as well as development partners.

Two RSTCs meetings were held virtually in July and December 2016. That of July 2016 was to review and approve the 2016 Work Plan and Budget, while that the one of 2017 was to initiate the review and discussion on the 2017 Work Plan and Budget. A face-to-face RSTC meeting was also held in Dakar, Senegal, from 25-27 January 2017, back-to-back with the High-Level Conference on Agricultural Statistics. This meeting brought together RSTC members comprising representatives of African Countries, African Development Bank (AfDB), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the three funding partners (DMGF, DFID and the EU), representatives of Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS), statistical training centers (ENSEA) and agricultural research institutions (ASARECA), as well as the Chairs of Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom) and the African Commission for Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS). Three countries (Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia), as well as a student representative from those sponsored by the Global Strategy, were invited to showcase the benefits arising from the implementation of the Action Plan for improving agricultural statistics in Africa. The main objective of this RSTC meeting was to (i) further review and approve in person the 2017 Africa Work Plan & Budget, and (ii) inform the Committee on the progress/achievements made so far in the implementation of the Action Plan, including the review, discussion and endorsement of the 2015 Light Country Assessment results.

2.2 The Africa Work Plan and Budget for 2017

The Work Plan and Budget for the year 2017 took into account the extension of the implementation period of the Global Strategy until the end of 2018 (no cost extension), and the acceleration of the delivery of the TAC on cost-effective methods through a joint effort between the African Development Bank and the Global Office, as well as the Training Component activities that are being implemented by UNECA.

The Work Plan and Budget for 2017 were approved by the RSTC after inclusion in the budget of Absorption Rates by funding source and the provision of more details in the related Narrative explaining the main reasons for the significant budget amounts carried over from 2016 to 2017. Also, clarifications were provided on the use of funds for some specific TC activities, particularly on the number of countries covered and number of participants of each training. Thereafter, the Work Plan and Budget for 2017 were submitted to and endorsed by the Global Steering Committee/Global Executive Board of the Global Strategy.

2.3 Regional Coordination Meetings

The AfDB Team, in collaboration with the Global Office, organized two meetings in Rome and Abidjan in July 2016 and August 2016, respectively. Both meetings, discussed and synchronized the Global Office and Africa Regional Work Plans for the purpose of better coordinating the implementation of Technical Assistance activities.

The African Development Bank, in collaboration with the Global Office and UNECA, organized the 3rd Africa Regional Coordination Meeting in Rome, from 31st October to 1st November 2016, back-to-back with the 7th International Conference on Agriculture Statistics (ICAS VII). The main objectives of the meeting were to discuss the sharing of resources and to agree on a common timeline for delivering technical assistance on SPARS, Agricultural Cost of Production, Master Sampling Frame, Minimum Set of Core Data and Data reconciliation, and to review the training component activities of the Action Plan for Africa. The meeting also discussed the preparation of the 2017 work plan and budget, as well as venues and dates of planned events, meetings, workshops of common interest.

The 4th Regional Coordination Meeting was held on 27th January 2017 in Dakar, with the main objective of: (i) discussing in more details the progress in planning and implementing the Technical Assistance and Training activities, (ii) agreeing on the reporting system for monthly reports and virtual meetings with development partners, and (iii) outlining a way forward or action plan for implementing the recommendations of the 5th RSTC Meeting.

The 5th Regional Coordination Meeting took place on 24th March 2017 through virtual medium, with the aim of discussing and agreeing on how to better report to donors on achieved activities through monthly activity reports and Virtual Bimestrial Meetings, as recommended at the 5th RSTC Meeting.

The latest Regional Coordination Meeting (the 6th Meeting) was held Abidjan, 05-06 April 2017 to discuss and agree on the following: (i) Status of due reports expected from both parties, (ii) Harmonization of training activities by implementing agencies, (iii) Status of the regional workshops of common interest which are scheduled in the near future, (iv) Communication Plans, and (v) Date, venue and possible agenda items of the next RSTC Meeting.

2.4 Virtual Bimestrial Meetings with Donors

The main purpose of the Bimestrial Meetings with Donors is to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan for Africa, especially the rate at which planned activities are effectively undertaken on the continent. So far four meetings of this kind were organized, in March, May, July and October 2017.

2.5 Global Coordination Meetings

The AfDB-based Regional Office of the Action Plan for Africa also actively participated to the virtual Global Steering Committee (GSC) and Global Executive (GEB) meetings which were organized on 8 February 2017, as well as the GSC one organized on 12 October 2017.

2.6 Reporting

The AfDB-based Regional Office has continued reporting on financial and technical aspects of the Action Plan for Africa to the Global Office, as follows: (i) the Annual Regional Progress Report for 2016 was submitted in March 2017, (ii) the Financial Report for the year 2016 was submitted in April 2017, (iii) the Financial Report for the first Semester of the year 2017 was submitted in July 2017 and, (iv) M&E Reports for the semesters of 2016 and first semester of 2017. The activity and financial report on the use of the first tranche of the European Union (EU) Funds was prepared and submitted to the EU in July 2017.

2.7 Communication – 9th Information Bulletin

The Ninth Information Bulletin on the status of implementation of the *Action Plan to Improving Statistics for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Africa* was prepared and disseminated on 29 September 2017. It presents the progress made by AfDB in coordinating Action Plan activities and in delivering technical assistance activities in African countries during the period from June 2016 to August 2017. The Bulletin is also available online on at the following link: [Bulletin No9 - Action Plan to Improve Statistics for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture, and Rural Development in Africa](#).

2.8 Advocacy events – Conference on Agricultural Statistics

The African Development Bank in collaboration with the “Direction de l'Analyse, de la Prévision et des Statistiques Agricoles (DPSA)” of Senegal organized a conference on agricultural statistics titled *”Sustaining the Development of Agricultural Statistics through National Policies”*, from 23-25 January, 2017 in Dakar, Senegal.

The purpose of the Conference was to help countries mobilize resources for the implementation of Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS) activities. This included conducting an awareness campaign on the need to allocate adequate resources to agricultural statistics in national agricultural development plans. Specifically, the Conference aimed at: (i) advocating the importance of developing agriculture statistics to facilitate effective formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national development plans and agricultural policies; (ii) sharing best practices and experiences in mobilizing resources for the implementation of SPARS; (iii) taking stock of various challenges faced by countries in the implementation of SPARS and proposing possible ways to address them; and (iv) defining enabling policies to mobilize resources for agricultural statistics. The Conference brought together 84 participants that included Planners within the Ministries of Agriculture, Heads of national statistical institutes, Directors of agricultural statistics, Executives of Regional Economic Communities, Representatives from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), African Union Commission, Development Partners, and other relevant stakeholders.

In summary, participants to the Conference were informed on the following: a general overview of the achievement of the implementation of the GS in Africa; the importance of SPARS and on how they can be implemented successfully by countries; SPARS implementation status best practices, and challenges met by countries; how to ensure a sustained effective integration of SPARS into NSDS and key national policies; agricultural data needs for CAADP Results-based Framework, SDG's and 2063 Agenda; REC and country cases in integrating agricultural statistics in regional and National Agricultural Investment Plans; AfDB Feeding Africa Initiative and on how it can contribute to boost Agricultural statistics in Africa; ways for mobilizing required resources for implementing successfully SPARS are discussed and identified; and outcomes of the Cape Town UN data forum.

2.9 Sponsoring participation to the 7th International Conference on Agriculture Statistics

The 7th International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS VII) was organized by the FAO in Rome from 26-28 October 2016, in close collaboration with the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT). The Conference was held at the FAO headquarters in Rome and focused on the theme “*The Modernization of Agricultural Statistics in Support of the Sustainable Development Agenda*”. It provided a forum for sharing research and best practices in the field of agricultural statistics to meet the changing needs and opportunities. The meeting was attended by various officials in agricultural statistics from various institutions across the world, including but not limited to, producers (statisticians involved in agricultural, forestry, fishery and rural statistics), suppliers, trainers and users of agricultural statistics, from National Statistical Offices, Ministries of Agriculture, and regional and international organizations. Among participants were statisticians from developing countries, including 12 coming from African countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Djibouti, Togo, Uganda and Tanzania) who were sponsored by the AfDB.

3. Technical Assistance Activities carried out by AfDB

Following the priority technical assistance needs identification¹ undertaken in November 2014, Technical assistance (TA) activities have been conducted and are currently ongoing for improving the quality and availability of agricultural data to users. The delivery of TA is done through regional activities and/or in country activities with an emphasis on a transfer of know-how using in country tailored support. Regional activities are cheaper than in country tailored support in terms of countries coverage but are less effective in terms of transfer of know-how. The AfDB has been relying more on regional training workshops than on in country tailored support. However, it is necessary to find a balance approach that takes into account the coverage of and effectiveness of the knowledge transfer to countries.

The AfDB TA places emphasis on providing technical support to African countries in the following key areas:

¹ Identifying Technical Assistance Needs for Improving Agricultural Statistics in African Countries April 2015.

3.1 Development of Sector Plan for Agriculture and Rural Statistics (SPARS)

The above priority needs identification indicated that the development of SPARS is the highest country needs in terms of technical assistance. SPARS is developed using guidelines developed by the Global Office (GO) and field-tested by the GO and AfDB in one African country (Burundi). Its development is undertaken in four steps namely Preparation, Launching, Assessment and Planning.

On a need basis, and during the period under reporting, AfDB has continued providing 25 countries with the necessary technical assistance for the development of their SPARS. The TA support can be classified into three broad classes (See Table 1 below): (i) nine countries have completed the development process of their SPARS, (ii) the SPARS development process is still ongoing in three countries, but at a very advanced stage, and (iii) in thirteen countries, the SPARS Roadmap has been prepared or launched with development work to start soon.

Table 1 - Distribution of countries for the SPARS development

No	Country	Steps of the SPARS Process				Status/Observations
		RoadMap	Launching	Assessment	Planning	
1	Benin					Done
2	Cameroon					Done
3	Cote d'Ivoire					Done
4	Burundi					Done
5	Cabo Verde					Done
6	Kenya					Done
7	Senegal					Done
8	Burkina Faso					Done
9	Ghana					Done
10	Zambia					On going
11	Rwanda					On going
12	Niger					Assessment yet to start
13	Guinea Bissau					Launching yet to start
14	Chad					Launching yet to start
15	Congo					Launching yet to start
16	Guinea					Launching yet to start
17	Togo					Launching yet to start
18	Gambia					Launching yet to start
19	Ethiopia					Launching yet to start
20	Eq Guinea					Launching yet to start
21	Lesotho					Launching yet to start
22	DRC					Launching yet to start
23	Sao Tome					Launching yet to start
24	Seychelles					Launching yet to start

The involvement of national experts in the various subsectors is very crucial to ensure the ownership of the SPARS development process and its by-products (Roadmap, Assessment Report and SPARS documents). National SPARS workshops are also conducted to facilitate discussion in a participatory manner at various stages of SPARS development process.

Plans are underway to incorporate Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in this work and have them help to coordinate the process in their Member States. In this regards, RECs would be involved in AfDB backstopping missions in their respective Member States for the purpose of: (i) having them own the process for possible support of the implementation of some the SPARS activities; and (ii) building their capacity for supporting their members in agricultural statistics, especially in SPARS development.

3.2 Country Assessments

In 2014, AfDB conducted the first assessments of National Agricultural Statistical Systems (NASS) across Africa (for the 2013 reference year) to ascertain their effectiveness in generating timely and reliable agricultural statistics to inform policy decisions in the agricultural sector. The results of the assessment were also intended to serve as baseline information for implementing the Action Plan in Africa. Four dimensions of National Agricultural Statistical Systems were assessed, namely (i) Institutional Infrastructure (Prerequisite dimension), (ii) Resources (Input dimension), (iii) Statistical Methods & Practices (Throughput dimension), and (iv) Availability of Statistical Information (Output dimension).

A second round of country assessments was conducted in 2016 for the reference year 2015 to measure the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan since the last assessment. This is outlined in the report entitled “[*Progress on the Capacity of African Countries to Produce Timely, Reliable, and Sustainable Agricultural Statistics: Agricultural Statistics Capacity Indicators \(ASCIs\) for the 2013 and 2015 reference years*](#)”, which was produced and published in July 2017. The Report provides an assessment of African countries’ capacity to produce reliable and timely data to inform the continent’s agricultural development agenda. It highlights those countries that have shown signs of improvement in their capacity to produce relevant agricultural statistics, as well as those exhibiting some weakness. These findings are helpful in three key ways: (i) they help implementing agencies to better target their technical and financial assistance on underperforming, (ii) they help to identify the high-performing countries whose practices may be emulated as best practice by other countries with slower progress in developing agricultural statistics and, (iii) they help countries to monitor the development of their own national agricultural statistical systems.

Overall, the report of the country assessments carried out in 2016 shows that there has been a general improvement in the national agricultural statistical systems in Africa over the past few years as manifested by observed improvements in the quality and quantity of agricultural data across African countries. The main findings are summarized in Box 1 and Figure 1 below.

Box 1 – Main findings of the Country Assessments (CAs) carried out in 2016

The report of the CAs carried out in 2016 shows that there has been a general improvement in the national agricultural statistical systems in Africa over the past few years as manifested by the overall improved quality and quantity of agricultural data across African countries. The main findings can be summarized as following:

Improved overall performance of 6.4% by African countries: There is an improved overall performance of NASSs in Africa with a general increase of 6.4% in their capacities to generate more and better national agricultural statistics. In total, 43 countries showed improvements in their capacity with Ethiopia recording the highest levels of development (78.8%). Other good performers include South Africa (73.5%), Mali (68.8%), Rwanda (68.8%), Kenya (68.3%) and Morocco (68.1%).

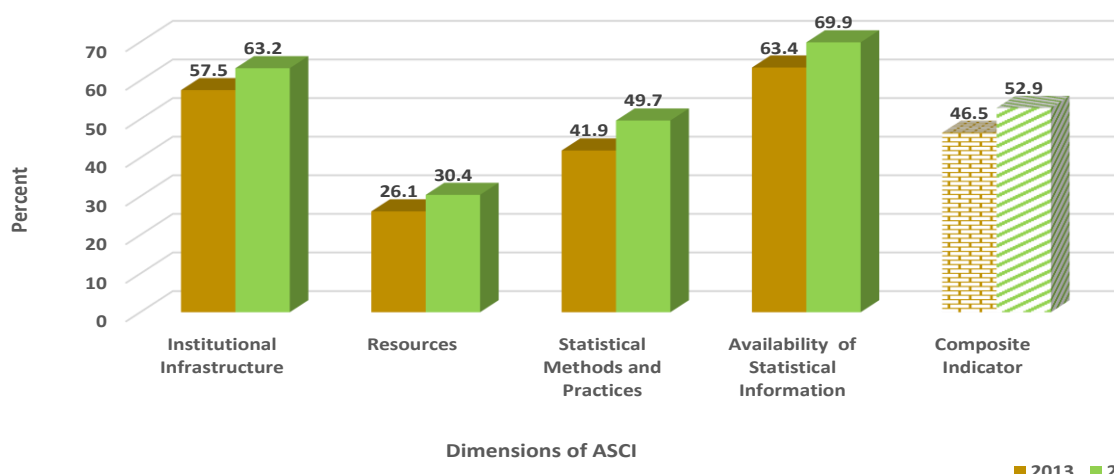
Improved Institutional Infrastructure (Prerequisites Dimension) of 5.7%: There has been an increase in the number of countries showing much improved institutional capacity to generate agricultural statistics. This category comprises the following sixteen (16) countries: Namibia, Rwanda, Mauritius, Cabo Verde, Nigeria, South Africa, Liberia, Uganda, Botswana, Cameroon, Niger, Senegal, Mali, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, and Ethiopia. They improved their institutional infrastructure with a score above 80%. On the other hand, Madagascar and Sao Tome & Principe have the lowest score (below 25%) in this dimension.

Improvement of 4.3% in Resources made available (Input Dimension): Progress was recorded in some countries with regard to increasing the availability of resources for agricultural statistics work. This included improvement in the physical infrastructure and in both financial and human resources. Botswana, Mauritius, Swaziland, and Ethiopia were the only countries that recorded above 50% for this dimension. Countries such as Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, United Republic of Tanzania, Guinea, Comoros, Liberia, Equatorial Guinea, and South-Sudan recorded scores below 20% on this dimension.

Improvement of 7.8% in Statistical Methods and Practices (Throughput Dimension): This dimension encompasses the collection, management and dissemination of agricultural statistical data. In all, thirty-six (36) countries recorded improvement in the use of better statistical methods and practices. Ethiopia with a score of 82.9% stands as the country operating with the highest capacity for agricultural data collection, management and dissemination.

Improved Availability of Statistical Information (Output Dimension) of 6.5%: This dimension relates to the first pillar of the Global strategy, namely the establishment of a Minimum Set of Core Data (MSCD) that countries are expected to produce to meet their current and emerging demands. Lesotho, Senegal, Burundi, Madagascar, Gambia, Uganda, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Rwanda improved their agricultural data supply to users, and thirty-one (31) countries had a score above 70% for the output dimension, meaning that those countries are timely making available their produced MSCD to users.

Figure 1: ASCIs in Africa by Dimension - 2013 and 2015



3.3 Production, Harmonization and Dissemination of Minimum Set of Core Data

The Global Strategy Pillar 1 requires countries to produce the Minimum Set of Core Data (MSCD) for the agricultural and rural sectors. In this regard, AfDB has undertaken activities to help African countries meet that objective, in compiling and reporting MSCD.

So far, the first dataset of validated Minimum Set of Core Data produced by 27 African Countries were uploaded on the AfDB's Africa Information Highway (AIH) Data Portal in August 2017. The data can be accessed on the following link: <http://dataportal.opendataforafrica.org/data#topic=MSCD>. The dataset covers crop production, core agricultural inputs, land cover & use, livestock production, aquaculture & fisheries, forestry production, food consumption, trade data, consumer & producer food prices, etc. Data for other 20 countries are being reviewed and shall be uploaded on AfDB's Africa Information Highway once validated (the validation process is at its last stage) to make a total of 47 published countries.

Furthermore, AfDB has put in place a process to facilitate continuous checking, validation and dissemination of additional MSCD data being reported by the countries. Backstopping missions are also being undertaken to countries which face challenges in reporting on their MSCD, to assist them review, reconcile and harmonize their related time series.

3.4 Technical Assistance on newly developed cost-effective methods

One of the Global Strategy key important objectives is supporting countries to adopt cost-effective methods for the production of agricultural and rural statistics. To this end, a mechanisms for accelerating and scaling up technical assistance activities to achieve this objective has been put in place. This involves fast-tracking the adoption and implementation of improved cost-effective methodologies and building strategic partnerships with selected sub-regional and regional institutions in Africa. In this regard, regional training and bilateral support are being provided to countries to help them increase their knowledge base in the use of these cost-effective methods for producing, managing and disseminating timely & reliable agricultural statistics.

The selected methods being covered so far include the following: Agricultural Cost of Production (AgCoP) statistics, Master Sampling Frame (MSF), Food Balance Sheets (FBS), Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI), and MSCD and data reconciliation. Technical Assistance (TA) delivery models have been produced and are being implemented for AgCoP statistics and MSCD and data reconciliation in order to address actual country specific needs in these fields, and the same is being done for CAPI and MSF.

To address the slow progress in delivering TA on newly developed cost-effective methods which is mainly due to the very long delay caused by the Bank's procedures in the recruitment of the consultants after they have been identified, and then accelerate the implementation of the AP for Africa, donors have requested the Global Office (GO) to develop a complementary TA program for accelerating TA delivery at country level using the Global Trust Funds (GTF). A common proposal has been therefore prepared by the GO and AfDB at that end in 2016 and approved thereafter by the RSTC. The objectives of this proposal are to fast-track the adoption and implementation of improved cost-effective methodologies developed through the Research component of the Global Strategy, and build strategic partnerships with selected sub-regional or regional institutions in the Africa.

3.5 Training Workshops of TA nature

Agricultural Cost of Production (AgCoP) Statistics: Two workshops one for the French speaking countries (in Hamammet, Tunisia, from 07-11 March 2016) and another one for English speaking countries (Cairo, Egypt, from 03-07 April 2016) were organized. The workshops focused on the use of the AgCoP manual and provided participants with an opportunity to share experiences and best practices in producing good quality AgCoP statistics. More specifically, the training workshops on AgCoP were aiming at: (i) briefing participants on the use of the AgCoP Guidelines; (ii) taking stock of various AgCoP activities conducted in the participating countries; (iii) Sharing country experiences and best practices in producing AgCoP statistics; (iv) creating synergies and opportunities for collaboration among countries; (v) laying the foundation to establish an AgCoP statistics network among countries; and (vi) Providing guidance and recommendations on the design and implementation of a statistical program to produce AgCoP statistics of a requisite quality. Both workshops have achieved their main objectives as they have provided participants with an opportunity to be abreast about AgCoP concepts, definitions, data collection methods (as defined in the Guidelines), and exchange of experiences. They laid the foundation for a capacity building program in AgCoP Statistics, which shall be strengthened through the development and implementation of specific TA activities in the AgCoP Statistics and sharing of best practices.

Minimum Set of Core Data (MSCD): Support has also been provided by AfDB on MSCD compilation, through the following activities: (i) To establish a harmonized MSCD compilation system, as per the requirements of the Global Strategy, an expert meeting was organised in Abuja, Nigeria from 24th to 26th February 2016 to discuss and validate a User Manual and Templates for MSCD compilation, so that countries can easily compile and report on their MSCD in a consistent manner, both in quality and quantity. This meeting brought together 19 agricultural statistics experts from 11 selected countries ; (ii) A regional workshop on MSCD was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 21st to 25th November, 2016, to mainly compile and validate datasets on core data items from countries (the data set ranging from 2000-2015). This meeting was attended by 58 participants from the NSOs and MoAs across Africa including representatives from FAO and AfDB.

Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI): From 27-31 March 2017, a training workshop on the use of Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) in agricultural surveys has been organized for English speaking countries that had indicated that CAPI adoption and use is one of their three top TA priority requests. The workshop was organized by the GO and, East African Statistical Training Center (EASTC) in partnership with AfDB, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, It was attended by representatives from Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Uganda, Tanzania, EASTC and East African Community (EAC).

The training workshop aimed at strengthening the capacities of National Statistical Systems (NSSs) to collect and produce agricultural data. The training promoted the use of a powerful CAPI software called Survey Solutions that was developed by the World Bank with the support of the Global Strategy.

The specific objectives of this workshop were to: (i) Enhance the capacity of NSSs to access and use information and communication technologies for the production and dissemination of the MSCD; and (ii) Improve the capacity of countries to adopt cost-effective and reliable methods to produce the MSCD.

A similar training workshop geared for Francophone countries was held in Abidjan from 24-28 July, 2017. The workshop was organized by the African Development Bank, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and l'École Nationale Supérieure des Statistiques et d'Économie Appliquée (ENSEA). It was also organized for French speaking countries that had indicated that CAPI adoption and use is one of their three top TA priority requests. It brought together two representatives (one from the Ministry of Agriculture and another one from the national statistical institute) from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia.

The identification of specific TA needs on the use of CAPI by concerned countries is being carried out. The findings of this identification will be used to develop a TA delivery model/strategy on the use of CAPI.

3.6 Targeted Technical Assistance to countries

Master Sampling Frame (MSF) to Rwanda: To assist the country in introducing crop cutting techniques by training technical staff in applying appropriate statistical skills in estimating crop yield and production, as well as in data analysis using adequate statistical package. Furthermore, the country received assistance in consolidating the achievements of 2014 survey, and identifying areas for improvements, as well as on how to implement the identified survey improvements. An MSF TA program will be launched to other selected countries (Benin, Senegal, Tanzania, etc.)

Agricultural Cost of Production (AgCoP) Statistics to Tunisia: An exploratory mission on AgCoP has been undertaken to Tunisia resulting into a roadmap for the country to set up a robust AgCoP system. The same will be done to other selected countries (Cabo Verde, Madagascar and Malawi).

Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) to Senegal: The staff of the National Statistical Office of Senegal (ANSD) and Directorate of Agricultural Statistics within the Ministry of Agriculture have been substantially trained on the use of CAPI Survey Solutions which will be used for their agricultural surveys. The same will be done for other selected countries in need.

Data Reconciliation and Compilation of MSCD to Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire: Exploratory missions on this subject have been conducted from 23-27 October 2017, resulting into a roadmap for all related activities to be undertaken in this field.

4. Technical Assistance program implemented by the Global Office

The accelerated Technical Assistance (TA) plan on newly developed cost-effective methods implemented by the Global Office (GO) aims to provide assistance to 14 selected countries in the following areas:

- The use of CAPI (Survey Solutions) for agricultural surveys (target countries: Botswana, Kenya and Niger);
- The construction of Master Sampling Frames (MSF) for conducting agricultural surveys such as AGRIS (target countries: Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar and Mali);
- The compilation of Food Balance Sheets (target countries: Benin, Guinea, Madagascar and Mali);
- The implementation of statistical methods to estimate livestock and livestock products (LIVE), including the enumeration of nomadic and semi-nomadic livestock (target countries: Botswana and Niger);
- The implementation of methods to estimate Post-Harvest Losses (PHL) (target countries: Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe);
- The implementation of methods to estimate Agricultural Costs of Production (AgCoP) (target countries: Botswana, Seychelles and Zambia).

This accelerated plan also aims at strengthening the capacity of selected sub-regional statistical organizations (SROs) and regional economics communities (RECs) in providing technical assistance at the country-level. It therefore foresees partnerships with organizations such as AFRISTAT, the Secretariat of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Eastern African Community, the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC), the “Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Économie Appliquée (ENSEA)” and the “Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Économique (ENSAE)”.

As of November 2017, significant progress towards these objectives have been made as described in the next two sections.

4.1 Coordination of the TA activities and establishment of key partnerships

The Global Office (GO) recruited a team formed by a part-time TA coordinator, a full-time Project Officer and full-time assistant to coordinate the implementation of the complementary TA plan and collaborate with the other implementing partners to ensure proper coordination and reporting. A roster of senior experts was created for the delivery of in-country TA activities. Six junior consultant positions were filled to support the work of the senior experts and to create a new generation of TA providers. These long-term consultants received full training on the cost-effective methodologies targeted by the TA plan and participate in TA missions under the mentorship of the senior experts.

The GO has also developed partnerships and established administrative arrangements with AFRISTAT and statistical training centres. A letter of agreement was signed with AFRISTAT for the delivery of all training and TA activities related to the development of MSFs and the compilation of FBSs. While AFRISTAT leads these activities, their experts have been

supported by two junior consultants who were trained in the GO and physically relocated in AFRISTAT premises. Senior experts on FBS and MSF also participated in some of the TA missions organized by AFRISTAT to ensure adequate transfer of know-how to AFRISTAT and at the country level.

Partnerships with ENSEA, ENSEA and EASTC were also established for the delivery of regional hands-on training on FBS and CAPI. Several trainers from these centres participated in these workshops themselves in effort to increase the number of trainers who can assist the countries in adopting this methodology. Following the regional workshop in Tanzania, EASTC was further exposed to the use of CAPI during a field test conducted in Kenya which allow the Centre to gain field experience in the delivery of technical assistance on CAPI (Survey Solutions). A similar approach will be used to develop ENSEA's know-how in using Survey Solutions and improve their status of centre of excellence for CAPI technologies.

Unfortunately, efforts to build a partnership with the SADC Secretariat for the delivery of TA activities on the use of CAPI (Survey Solutions), AgCoP, PHL and LIVE have not been successful due to SADC's lack of official mandate and human resources to perform this type of activities. The GO will however continue to seek opportunities to collaborate with other Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Sub-Regional Organizations (SROs) in the delivery of its TA activities in 2018.

4.2 Delivery of technical training and TA activities

The delivery models for the TA activities on MSF, LIVE, PHL and AgCoP are quite similar. They generally consist in the following activities:

- The conduct of an inception mission to confirm the country's training and technical assistance needs, to collect initial information on the countries' agriculture statistical programs and analyze the current practices. The results of this mission serve as a basis to establish the workplan and budget for the next activities;
- The provision of a technical training on the recommended methodologies and the presentation of a gap analysis performed on the country's current tools and/or methodologies to produce the necessary indicators;
- The development or improvement of tools and methodologies based on the results of the gap analysis;
- A field testing of these new or improved tools and methodologies;
- The analysis of the field results and the preparation of a final report providing recommendations on the integration the proposed methodology and tool in a national survey.

Table 2 below shows the progress made in the delivery of these activities as of November 2017. The cells in green shows the activities that have been conducted while the ones in yellow show the activities that have been initiated.

Table 2 - Progress report – Technical assistance activities on AgCoP, LIVE, MSF and PHL

Activities at the country level	TA Delivery model (COP, LIVE, MSF and PHL)				
	Inception missions	Technical training/gap analysis	Development/Improvement of tools/methodologies	Field tests	Analysis and final report
Botswana (COP)					
Botswana (LIVE)					
Cabo Verde (MSF)					
Côte d'Ivoire (MSF)					
Madagascar (MSF)					
Malawi (PHL)					
Mali (MSF)					
Namibia (PHL)					
Niger (LIVE)					
Seychelles (COP)					
Zambia (PHL)					
Zimbabwe (PHL)					

For the TA activities on the use of CAPI for agricultural statistics, the assistance model generally includes:

- The conduct of an inception mission to collect basic information on existing capacity and upcoming data collection operations, and to mainstream the technical assistance activities to be performed;
- The provision of hands-on training at the regional and/or national level;
- The development of the data collection methodology and field test questionnaire in CAPI;
- The field testing of CAPI during a pilot survey involving local field enumerators, supervisors and data collection managers;
- The analysis of the field test results and the preparation of a final report which takes into account the experience of the field test to provide recommendations on how the use of CAPI could be scaled up to a national survey.

Similarly to the previous Table 2, Table 3 below shows the support that has been provided to countries on the use of CAPI (Survey Solutions) for agricultural surveys as of November 2017.

Table 3 - Progress report – Technical assistance activities on CAPI

Activities at the country level	TA Delivery model (CAPI)					
	Inception missions	Regional training	Technical training	Development of CAPI tool and data collection methodology	Field tests	Analysis and final report
Botswana						
Kenya						
Niger						

Finally, the approach to capacity development in the compilation of Food Balance Sheets (FBS) consists in:

- The conduct of an inception mission to launch the activities related to FBS compilation (creation of a technical working group, analysis of potential data sources, determination of the scope of the FBS commodities...) and to mainstream the technical assistance activities to be performed;
- The provision of hands-on training at the regional and/or national level which will allow each country to collect all the necessary information to compile their Food Balance Sheets and start compiling them;
- The analysis of the first results obtained during the compilation of Supply and Use Accounts and Food Balance and correction of errors;
- The validation of the FBS and preparation of the final report.

Table 4 shows the activities that have been conducted at the country-level in support to the compilation of Supply and Use Accounts and Food Balance Sheets as of November 2017.

Table 4 - Progress report – Technical assistance activities on FBS

Activities at the country level	TA Delivery model (FBS)				
	Inception missions	Regional workshop	Technical training/data gathering	Analysis of the first SUA/FBS results	Finalization of the FBS and final report
Benin					
Guinea					
Madagascar					
Mali					

5. Activities and achievement of the Training component

5.1 Staff recruitment

Strengthening the management of the training has been the prime focus of implementation during this period in order to ensure the smooth management of the training component and its activities. As of April 2015, the Senior Statistician at the level of P4 has been recruited and in place. Nevertheless, the person on this post has received another opportunity and resigned on the 1st of August 2017. With a swift decision, the recruitment process for the replacement of this post is finalized, and the new person is expected to assume the post beginning of 2018.

The recruitment process for the second professional staff (at the level of P3) is now complete. The recruited staff has now joined the Training Component team since the 24th of October 2016. He is currently providing Programme Management Support for the Component and has managed to bridge any potential gaps that may have been created as a result of the resignation of the P4 post.

5.2 Training of Trainers Workshops organized

Training of trainers workshops have been organized on the following pertinent topics of agricultural statistics production and processing. The prime aim of the training workshops was to transfer the needed skills to statistical training centers so that they can further provide training courses on the same topics. In addition, the training of trainers also included regional and sub-regional universities supporting providing of technical support as well as training in various topics of agricultural statistics in Africa. Some National Statistical Offices as well as Ministries of Agriculture were invited to share experiences and provide insight on the practical application as well as existing demand for such topics in their respective countries and institutions. Those topics are the following:

- Indirect sampling and master sampling frames for agricultural and rural statistics;
- Effective Use of Administrative Data in agricultural Statistics;
- Effective Production of Food Balance Sheets in Agricultural Statistics;
- CAPI and new and emergent technologies in Agricultural Statistics Production;
- Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Livestock (transhumant) Statistics.

The countries involved in these training of trainers workshops were *Angola, Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Congo (Republic of the), Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic of the), Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Equatorial, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi, Mauritius, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, South Africa, Swaziland, Seychelles, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe*. They are shown in Table 5 below by topic covered.

Table 5 – List of countries involved in Training of Trainers workshops by topic covered

Time Frame	No. of Countries	List of Countries Trained	Topic Covered
Jan – Jun 2016	43	Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, CAR, Chad, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Congo-Brazzaville, DRC, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Equatorial, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Mauritius, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, South Africa, Senegal, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Togo, Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Census and Surveys, Agricultural Data Processing, • Master Sampling Frame for Agricultural Surveys, • Integrated Survey Framework: Indirect Sampling for Agricultural Statistics and • Master Sampling Frame.
Jul – Dec 2016	48	Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, CAR, Chad, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Congo-Brazzaville, DRC, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Liberia, Mauritania, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Mauritius, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, South Africa, Senegal, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Togo, Tunisia, and Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Census and Surveys, Agricultural Data Processing, • Master Sampling Frame for Agricultural Surveys, • Integrated Survey Framework: Indirect Sampling for Agricultural Statistics and • Master Sampling Frame.
Jan – Jun 2017	35	Togo, Gabon, Mauritania, Madagascar, Tunisia, Cameroun, Comoros, Niger, Mali, Morocco, Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Cape Verde, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Benin, Senegal, Guinee, South Africa, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Uganda, Namibia, The Gambia, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, Kenya, Libya, Zimbabwe, Egypt, Zambia, Seychelles, Somalia, Sao tome et Principe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master sample frames and indirect sampling for agricultural censuses and surveys • Agricultural Statistics: CAPI and Use of Remote Sensing for Improving Data for Agricultural Censuses and Surveys • Effective Use of Administrative Data in Agricultural Statistics • Emerging and New Technologies in Agricultural Statistics Production and Dissemination
Jul – Sep 2017	21	Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Côte d'Ivoire , Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Mauritanie, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sénégal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tchad, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective Use of Administrative Data in Agricultural Statistics • Effective Production of Food Balance Sheets
Total Cumulative as at End June 2017	53	Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, CAR, Chad, Cape Verde, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Congo-Brazzaville, DRC, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Liberia, Mauritania, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Mauritius, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, South Africa, Senegal, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Togo, Tunisia, Tanzania	

5.3 Finalization of the special agricultural statistics training program

An expert group meeting on validation of the special agricultural statistics programme was held from 13 to 15 January 2016, in Dakar, Senegal. It was attended by 15 experts from the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) African Centre for Statistics ; the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), Dakar; the Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT); the regional statistical training centers, namely the “Ecole Nationale de Statistique et d'Analyse Economique (ENSAE)”, Dakar, the

Regional Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISSAE), Yaounde and the School of Statistics and Planning, Makerere University, Kampala; the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Center, Dar es Salaam; the national statistical training centers of Madagascar and the Niger; the “Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie” of Burkina Faso and the Gambia Bureau of Statistics.

Participants finalized the following aspects of the special agricultural statistics training programme:

- Programme structure, choice of modules and teaching method;
- Training harmonization strategy: content, exercises and internships;
- Module duration;
- Student selection criteria;
- Training cost and implementation timetable.

5.4 Meeting to launch the special agricultural statistics training program

As part of the training component of the Action Plan for Africa, a meeting to finalize the launch of a short-term training programme in agricultural statistics was held from 10 to 13 May 2016, in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. Representatives of the following institutions attended the meeting: the “Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (ENSEA)”, Abidjan; ENSAE Dakar; the “Ecole Supérieure de la Statistique et de l'Analyse de l'Information (ESSAI)”, Tunis; the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC), Dar es-Salaam; the School of Statistics and Planning, Makerere University, Kampala; IDEP, Dakar; the “Ecole Nationale de Statistique et de Formation Professionnelle (ENSFP)”, Niamey; Statistics South Africa; and ECA.

5.5 Scholarship Support: revision of the MoU

The Memorandum of Understanding with the Statistical Training Centers selected for the administration of the scholarship programmes ended on 31st of December 2016. Taking the continued support planned to financing additional students both in the long term as well as the specialization studies, it was imperative that this MoU be revised and renewed for the ensuing years. As a result, the MoU has been revised for servicing additional scholarship for studies in the specialization for agricultural statistics. Based on this, a total of 33 scholarships out of the 40 places for 2017/2018 academic year have been allocated. The remaining will be provided for additional countries in respect of the rolling intake per training centre.

5.6 AGROST Annual review Meeting organized

The Annual Meeting of the AGROST has taken place on the 29th of November, 2016. The meeting took place as one of the side events of the 5th session Statistical Commission for Africa (STATCOM-AFRICA), in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The meeting was attended by members of

the AGROST group: Statistical training Centers, National Statistical Offices representatives and regional partners. The gathering discussed three main agendas on the date related to:

- AGROST mandate, membership, priorities, activities;
- Activities of the training component of the Action Plan for Africa of the Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics; and
- AGROST report to Statcom and re-dynamizing AGROST activities.

As an outcome, the participants appreciated the training programmes in agricultural statistics being provided under the Training Component of the Global Strategy. They recommended further alignment of existing curricula with newly developed and cost effective methods in agricultural and rural statistics production and usage. Furthermore, the Statistical training Centers also recommended that in this processes of adaptation of new techniques and tools in agricultural statistics, technical capacity building support for the training center should be effectively inculcated. The centers have also expressed their readiness to open agricultural statistical channels where new modules can be integrated; but further stressed the need for technical and infrastructural support for doing so.

The AGROST annual review Meeting for this current year is scheduled to take place in ENSEA, Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire from 30th November to 1st December 2017.

5.7 Participation in Global Events

The Training component team had been part of a number of regional and global events in relation to the Global strategy, as follows:

- *A training and outreach workshop on Agricultural Surveys.*

The workshop was organized to disseminate and discuss some of the most important cost-effective methodologies proposed by the Global Strategy.

- *The 7th International conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS VII).*

This conference focused on bringing together research and best practices in the field of agriculture statistics as a response to the changing needs and opportunities in agricultural statistics. Several research results were presented and discussed with researchers and statisticians from all over the World.

- *A collaborative work session between the Technical Assistance and Training Component of the project to discuss joint activities on EU funded activities of the training and technical assistance components of the Africa action plan of Global Strategy.*

This was a working session between the two component's management teams. It focused on continued utilization, curing challenges in fund utilization and preparation of implementation narrative and financial reports on the EU fund.

- *A collaborative work session between the Research and Training Component of the project to discuss joint activities on roll out of training materials and vents in the work plan for 2017 and 2018.*

This was a working session between the two component's management teams. It focused on aligning planned workshop and training materials production processes in order to create more synergy and timeliness in the delivery of the planned training activities.

- *Practical toolbox for EU funds project managers and project management.*

The Training Component Management team had been part of a training entitled “*Practical Toolbox for EU Funds Project Managers and Project Management at the European academy for Taxes, Economics and Law*”. The training focused on the EU requirements of managing funds, managing projects and the process of preparing for audits and evaluation as per EU regulations. The training was provided by experienced facilitators from various walks of experience in managing and leading EU funded programmes and activities. The topics covered included Cost Benefit Analysis, Evaluation Techniques and Project Management.

5.8 Communication and Advocacy Plan, and Implementation

Mirroring the good experiences in communication and advocacy from the Global Office of the Global Strategy, the Training Component has designed and is currently implementing communication and advocacy activities to showcase the achievements of the training component as well as communicating the processes within the component on a recurrent basis. As a result, the following products and services have been produced:

- Flyers, Posters and Brochures about the training Component activities in French and English. These materials are being recurrently distributed and shared on various fora and events.
- Quarterly newsletter of the Training Component activities: This newsletter is being produced recurrently and distributed online as well as on various fora. It chronicles the quarterly activities of the training component.
- Website of the training component: The web presence of the training component is currently being finalized and additional information being incorporated. It is aligned with the Global Strategy Web content and is hosted by the Global Office. It can be accessed at <http://gsars.org/en/uneca-home/>.

6. Report on Activities of interest conducted at global level

6.1 Research component and related products

As part of the implementation of the Global Strategy, the Global Office (GO) hosted in FAO headquarters oversees over 30 different lines of research (grouped into 17 themes) to produce cost-effective methodologies that will help countries improve their agricultural statistical systems. This activity is time and resource-intensive and must meet the tight deadlines set by the GO's resource partners to address the urgent needs of the Global Strategy (GS) stakeholders responsible for training and technical assistance.

Since the beginning of the implementation of the GS, the methodological basis of 36 research topics have been prepared, 37 expert meetings have taken place, 41 research outputs have been peer reviewed and 28 topics have been tested. The key to the success for the GS research component was the inclusion of new topics in the research program following countries' demand (e.g. horticultural crops) or the new SDG agenda's needs.

Finalized research topics have been turned into more than 58 cost-effective methodological reports and guidelines (8600 pages published as of September 2017). Training material has also been developed to facilitate the dissemination of the recommended methodologies including 2 e-learning courses, 6 training courses and a module of basic training in agricultural statistics.

All research outputs, guidelines and training material are available online at: <http://gsars.org/en/resource-center/>.

6.2 Preparation of Phase 2 of the Global Strategy

In February 2017, a Task Team (TT) was established for preparing the second phase of the Global Strategy and its proposed terms of reference. The aim of the TT was to provide proposals and recommendations on objectives, main outputs and implementation modalities of a second phase of implementation of the Global Strategy 2018-2022, focusing on countries capacity to respond more effectively to data needs in a sustainable agricultural statistical system.

The report of the TT which was endorsed by the Global Steering Committee on 12th October 2017 summarizes the lessons learnt from the implementation of phase 1 in the form of a SWOT analysis and further developed a strategic matrix based on the SWOT analysis with possible strategic axes for a potential second phase.

The main recommendations of TT endorsed by the GSC were to:

- Proceed with the preparation of an implementation plan for the second phase of the Global Strategy which objectives should be to:
 - Strengthen countries' capacities, using innovative approaches and boost data production through Technical Assistance (TA) and training in order to respond to the emerging data needs for the evolving national, regional and international

development agendas, particularly related to the measurement and monitoring of SDG indicators

- Increase the link between the production and use of agricultural statistics and national strategic plans for statistics (NSDS and SPARS) to avoid the creation of sectorial silos and modernize data and statistical production based on the principles formulated in the Cape Town Global Action Plan.
- Ensure that the second phase of the implementation plan builds on the strengths and results achieved during phase 1 taking into account the new opportunities, drawing lessons from the challenges and minimizing the possible threats. It should be focused on providing TA and Training on cost effective methods to countries as needed, using a modular approach and promoting innovative and efficient approaches for delivery that reflect the latest progress on capacity development.
- Include a specific component in phase 2 focusing on advocacy and increased dissemination of cost-effective methodologies at country level as well as providing support to countries by sharing experience for inspiration and efficiency purposes.
- Adopt simplified governance structures and new and innovative coordination and implementation mechanisms more adapted to a modular approach that would facilitate efficient delivery.
- Adopt a revised and innovative approach to funding phase 2 that would fit with a flexible modular approach of implementation.

The next steps for preparation of the second phase are the followings:

- The TT will prepare a short Task Team report recommending the preparation of a second phase of the Global Strategy to the next United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) in March 2018. This report will be included into the Global Strategy report to be presented to the UNSC.
- A 2nd Task Team will be established for preparing the second phase, relying on and expanding the membership of the 1st task team as needed. A specific drafting team, responsible for preparing the 2nd Global Action Plan with an inclusive approach and wide consultation of all stakeholders, will also be established. The ToRs, a workplan and a budget for the 2nd Task Team, –including the drafting team-, will be prepared and approved by the GSC through a written consultation in December 2017.

The report of the Task-Team is available online at: <http://gsars.org/en/14th-global-steering-committee-meeting-october-2017/#more-3431>