



Consortium Meeting, 17 and 18 October 2002

Rural and Agricultural Statistics

Progress Report to the Consortium Meeting October 2002

A. Background and objectives of the task team

Objectives: (i) foster the use of food and agricultural statistics in the development and monitoring of poverty reduction strategies and food security policies; (ii) encourage the strengthening of the linkages between the agricultural statistics systems and national systems and contribute to the advocacy and greater visibility of Agriculture and Rural Statistics (FARS) within the overall system of national statistics; (iii) advise on ways and means of mobilising more resources to support capacity building in Rural and Agricultural Statistics; (iv) provide a forum for exchange of innovative ideas and sharing of experiences and best practices between agricultural statisticians and data users in various institutions and promote better co-ordination among stakeholders in Food, Agriculture, and Rural Statistics; (v) assist in identifying areas for methodological research needed on how to minimise costs of data collection and ensure timely and full use of results.

The task team aim for a global reach rather than operating at the sub-regional level and that FAO Statistics Division should convene the group.

B. Past activities of the TT up to October 2002

Paris, October 2001: first formal meeting of the TT and discussion of draft terms of reference¹ for the task team. It was explicitly noted the importance of building on existing work (FAO and World Bank and other Agencies) and the task team's role as a catalyst and facilitator.

Pretoria, 22–26 November 2001: In the Africa Region, an important workshop was organised 22–26 November 2001 in Pretoria, back-to-back with the 17th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS). The workshop was not formally organised by the Task Team. However, it strongly supported an initiative for Strengthening Food and Agricultural Statistics in Africa in the context of PRSP and PARIS21. The documents from the meetings in Pretoria are available on CD-ROM and on FAO Statistics Division Website: <http://www.fao.org/ES/ESS/index.htm>.

Paris, 15 February 2002: informal meeting for a review of progress of TT and the Initiative in the Africa Region. It was decided to organise a high level Seminar bringing together policy makers, statisticians and the Donor Community to discuss and agree on the strategy of a Regional Project Proposal for Strengthening Agricultural and Rural Statistics in

¹ See under task team on the PARIS21 website www.paris21.org

Support of PRSP and Food Security policies in Africa as well as the modalities of funding and implementation.

Rome (FAO, HQ's), 4 June 2002: Preparatory Committee meeting for the Seminar of Paris under the auspices of PARIS21 Task Team. The following agencies were represented at the meeting: FAO, World Bank, UN-ECA, African Development Bank, Coopération française, Statistics Norway, Friends of the Secretariat of AFCAS (Mali). The meeting discussed and adopted the Objectives, Agenda, papers and organisational details for the Seminar of 16-17 September, 2002 in Paris.

Paris, 16 and 17 September 2002: Organisation of a High Level Seminar on Strengthening Rural and Agricultural Statistics in Africa. More than 50 participants attended the Seminar, including Representatives from 17 bilateral, regional and multilateral agencies as well as statisticians and policy makers from 13 African countries. The report of the Seminar is being prepared. For more information, see: www.paris21.org

C. Work Program for the period between October 2002 and June 2003

The future activities proposed for the team include:

1. October 2002 (FAO/PARIS21): Redesign of the Website for the Task Team, contact individual members on list of the Task Team in order to update the list and obtain a core list of members available to contribute to specific tasks.

Result expected: Website and core list of active members available for contribution to specific tasks.

2. October 2002 to March 2003: Support to Interim and Main Proposals for Strengthening Agricultural and Rural Statistics Systems in Support to Rural Poverty Reduction and Food Security in Africa: (i) Direct support to Interim Proposal; (ii) organisation of a Donor/Countries Round Table Meeting on the Main proposal in March 2003 for mobilisation of funds. (Place to be decided). Estimated cost: **30.000 dollars**.

Result expected: A Multi-Agency Regional and Medium Term Support Programme with sub-regional components for strengthening Food, Agriculture and Rural Statistics Systems in Africa, along the lines recommended in the Seminar of September 2002 in Paris

3. October 2002 –June 2003 (Consultant): review of the task team objective, tasks to be achieved, functioning and life span, sharing documentation and experiences by collecting relevant documentation from various Agencies (FAO, EU, EUROSTAT, AFRISTAT, SADCC, USDA, Statistics Norway etc.) and countries to be posted on PARIS21 Web. (One consultant for one month in January 2003. TOR to be defined by FAO and discussed among members of the Task Team). Estimated cost: **15.000 dollars**.

Result expected: Experiences and relevant documents available on the WEB; improved functioning and focus of the TT, specific tasks and life span defined.

Regional meetings

Seoul, South Korea, 21–25 October 2002: In conjunction with the 19th Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS), a presentation will be made on PARIS21 and the Task Team on Food, Agriculture and Rural Statistics.

Result expected: Information of Heads of Asian Agricultural and National Statistics Offices on PARIS21 and Task Team for Food Agriculture and Rural Statistics known and proposals for future Task Team work in Asia Region.

2003: Workshop back-to-back with the 18th Session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics – AFCAS (place and cost to be decided).