Global Strategy kicks off its first research project on forestry

Timely and reliable national statistics on forest products are essential to assess sustainability of forest resources at the national scale, estimate full benefits of forests on people’s livelihood, help governments and other stakeholders monitor the effectiveness of national policies and programmes related to forestry and land uses, and assist private investors in making evidence-based investment decisions. In this respect, the Global Strategy has just launched its first forestry research project, mainly focused on improving national statistics on forest products in developing countries. The project is expected to enhance countries' capacity to collect national data on primary forest products in a consistent, efficient and effective way.

Working with international and national experts on forest product statistics, the project team will update the classification and definitions of forest products, review current statistical programs on national forest products in developing countries, propose methodologies for data collection and compilation, and produce a practical guidebook for official statisticians on forest product statistics. The guidelines will be field tested in selected pilot countries to ensure their applicability in developing countries.
The project started in July 2015 and will continue until the end of 2016.

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Outcomes of the expert meeting on improving methods for estimating livestock production and productivity

The Global Office of the Global Strategy organized an expert meeting on improving methods for estimating livestock production and productivity. The meeting was held at the FAO Regional Office for Africa in Accra, Ghana, on 7 – 8 July 2015. The meeting was attended by senior experts from various national statistical offices, ministries of agriculture (Botswana, Indonesia, Jordan, Tanzania, Uganda), international and regional organizations, and experts from the University of New England, Australia (UNE), the Global Strategy’s research partner, which is leading this research.

The main objective of the meeting was primarily to review technical reports on improved and cost-effective methods proposed by UNE, discuss the contents of related field test protocols and modalities of implementation in pilot countries (Botswana, Indonesia, Tanzania). Draft Guidelines for the enumeration of Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic (Transhumant) Livestock, prepared by the Global Office, were also presented and reviewed.

Participants successfully engaged in detailed and relevant discussions throughout the meeting, providing clear guidance to UNE. They reviewed and improved the initial proposals, also providing relevant comments on the draft guidelines on Enumerating Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Livestock.

Regarding the UNE report on Improving Methods for Estimating livestock production and productivity, the participants concluded that more emphasis should be placed on milk measurement, meat and egg production from farms in the household sector and the availability of...
fodder. Furthermore, a wide variety of country situations emerged, requiring a range of methodological options. The technical report on Gap Analysis and the methodological recommendations, as well as the Field Test Protocol, should be organized around these products. The content and modalities for conducting the field tests in each pilot country were agreed upon as well.

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Outcomes of the Regional Workshop on SPARS for French-speaking countries

Forty-seven participants from 23 French-speaking African countries, which are currently implementing the Global Strategy, attended a Workshop on the process for elaborating Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS), organized by the African Development Bank in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 6 to 10 July 2015. The purpose of the workshop was to train participants on the use of the guidelines to develop SPARS, share experience and best practices in developing SPARS, and discuss country cases through working groups. The workshop included lectures, technical contributions from country representatives and five group sessions.

The main output of this workshop was to find ways to accelerate the SPARS development process and ensure its integration into the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) in the Africa region by building on lessons learnt from Benin, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cote d’Ivoire and Senegal. To this end, participants formulated 12 recommendations to foster sustainability, facilitate funding strategies and improve the SPARS process with its associated guidelines.
It is expected that participating countries in need initiate the development process of SPARS without delay.

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