



**Launch meeting of the Project on implementation of the Global strategy to
improve agricultural and rural statistics in the CIS region
February 4-5, 2015, Budapest**

SUMMARY

On February 4-5, 2015 a Launch meeting for the implementation of the Global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics in the CIS region was held in FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in Budapest (Hungary). The Meeting was organized by the CIS Statistical Committee (CIS-Stat) jointly with the FAO Global Office for the implementation of the Global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics along with the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, with the support of the World Bank. CIS-Stat had been assigned responsibility for coordinating efforts in the CIS region in relation to the implementation of the Global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics; this had been proposed by experts from the national statistical offices and approved by the Council of the Heads of statistical offices of the CIS member-states.

Representatives of the statistical offices of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, as well as of CIS-Stat, FAO, and USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service took part in the meeting.

The Coordinator of the FAO Global Office for the implementation of the Global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics presented a paper “The Global action plan and its implementation in the whole world and in the regions”.

CIS-Stat made the following presentations: “The Main methodological developments under the project for the implementation of the Global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics in the CIS region”, “A Questionnaire to assess agricultural and rural statistics in the CIS region (methodology and practices)”, “Exchange of data in agricultural and rural statistics”.

Representatives of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia made a presentation on the agricultural census; and an expert from the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service spoke about developing an efficient system of agricultural statistics and called for the conduct of pilot surveys in selected CIS countries.

All the presentations were widely discussed at the Meeting and in the end the meeting participants made decisions regarding further activities under the project.

The participants of the Meeting expressed gratitude to CIS-Stat for the quality of presented papers and high level of the Meeting organization.

Decisions of the Meeting

During the discussion Meeting participants emphasized that the considered issues have been very important for the Project for the implementation of the Global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics in the CIS region. This Project will support development of national and regional statistical systems which will allow the collection and use of statistical data on the development of agriculture in the 21st century.

The Meeting participants agreed on the following:

1) To consider one of the key objectives of the project on implementation of the Global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics in the CIS region which will be the development in the period 2015-2017 of methodological documents on the basis of international standards on such subjects as:

- recommendations for national statistical offices of the CIS countries in the field of agricultural statistics based on generalized practice of international standards usage;

- methodological recommendations on the formation of key indicators of agricultural and rural statistics in the CIS region in the framework of implementation of Global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics;

- methodological recommendations on constructing agricultural producer price indices under conditions of seasonal production and utilization;

- methodological recommendations on conducting sample statistical observation over agricultural activities of small businesses, farms, and private households;

- methodological recommendations on calculating the value of output and agricultural production index.

Also important directions of the work in the framework of improving agricultural and rural statistics in the CIS region are the following:

- harmonization of the system of indicators of agricultural and rural statistics in the CIS region;

- formation of data base for agricultural and rural statistics in the CIS region.

When preparing methodological materials it is important to envisage the inclusion as far as possible of the complete set of definitions for the concepts under consideration.

For the usage in the terms of reference for the development of methodological recommendations on the subjects mentioned above the participants of the Meeting will send their proposals to CIS-Stat before 28 February 2015.

2) To approve as a draft a Questionnaire to assess agricultural and rural statistics in the CIS region (methodology and practices) and ask CIS-Stat to finalize the questionnaire, taking into account discussions held; the participants of the Meeting will send to CIS-Stat before 15 March 2015 their proposals on questions wording and instructions on their filling.

3) To support the activities of CIS-Stat on the translation of methodological materials on agricultural statistics and mention the advisability of its further development with paying attention to the translation into Russian, in coordination with international organizations, of draft materials developed by them to make possible their discussion, as well as inform statistical services of the CIS about this work.

4) To emphasize the importance of conducting meetings to support harmonization of agricultural and rural statistics of the CIS countries with international standards.

5) The Project on implementation of the Global Strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics in the CIS region is open to the participation of any national and international statistical organizations.