

WYE CITY GROUP



on Statistics on Rural Development and Agricultural Household Income

Third global conference

Washington 24-25 May 2010

**Way forward for the Wye City Group:
*Contribution to the
Implementation Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve
Agriculture and Rural Statistics***

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1. Background on the Wye Group

- The **Wye City Group** was formed as a successor to the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Agriculture and Rural Indicators (IWG.AgRI) Task Force on Statistics on Rural Development and Agricultural Household Income established in 2003.
- The Task force was composed of IWG.AgRI (FAO/UN-ECE/OECD/EUROSTAT), the World Bank, selected National Statistical Offices and Academia.
- Final meeting of IWGAgRI Task force: June 2006 at OECD in Paris following the publication of the handbook *Rural Households' Livelihood and Well-being: Statistics on Rural Development and Agriculture Household Income [2003-2006]*.
- As a result of their successful collaboration on the handbook, statisticians and economists in national statistical offices and academia, especially in North America, Western Europe, and in multilateral institutions decided to form the Wye city Group.



1. Background on the Wye Group

- The Wye city group was formally established by the 38th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2007 with the main objective of: *promotion of the refinement and adoption of international standards in statistics for rural areas and agriculture household incomes.*
- Within this mandate, the city group would:
 - consider challenges to consistency of adoption of **comparable methods of data collection across countries**,
 - give **special focus to the application and value of the data standards in developing countries**, especially as it may support the construction of indicators for the Millennium Development Goals,
 - **assess and explore the potential for the use of improved statistics as policy-relevant indicators and in empirical analysis of policies** for farm and rural households, natural resources, and regional economic development, and
 - **determine the need for any changes or updating to the handbook** and, if indicated, organize and execute the revision
- The main outputs expected from the Wye Group was **the revision of the handbook and proceedings of periodic meetings**
- The timeframe was until **spring 2011** to complete its task.



2. Where are we?

Three global conferences organised:

- 8-9 April 2008: York, UK
- 11-12 June 2009: Rome, Italy
- 24-25 May 2010: Washington, USA

Main achievements:

- international, multidisciplinary fora for discussion of statistical and policy issues related to rural development and farmers income with increasing participation from developing countries
- large number of technical papers on these issues and proceedings of the meetings prepared
- on-going work on updating and extending the handbook to non-OECD countries with target date for complete draft: October 2010 at ICAS V in Kampala, Uganda.



3. PROPOSALS OF THE WAY FORWARD FOR DISCUSSION

GLOBAL STRATEGY TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL STATISTICS

Why a Global Strategy and what was the process to prepare it?

- Global Strategy needed to address declining capacity in agricultural statistics and to meet emerging data requirements
- An initiative under the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC), led by the FoC with FAO as Secretariat in partnership with key international/regional agencies (WB, EUROSTAT, USDA, ...)
- 2 intergovernmental processes for its adoption:
 - UNSC and National Statistical Offices
 - FAO Governing Bodies and Ministries of Agriculture

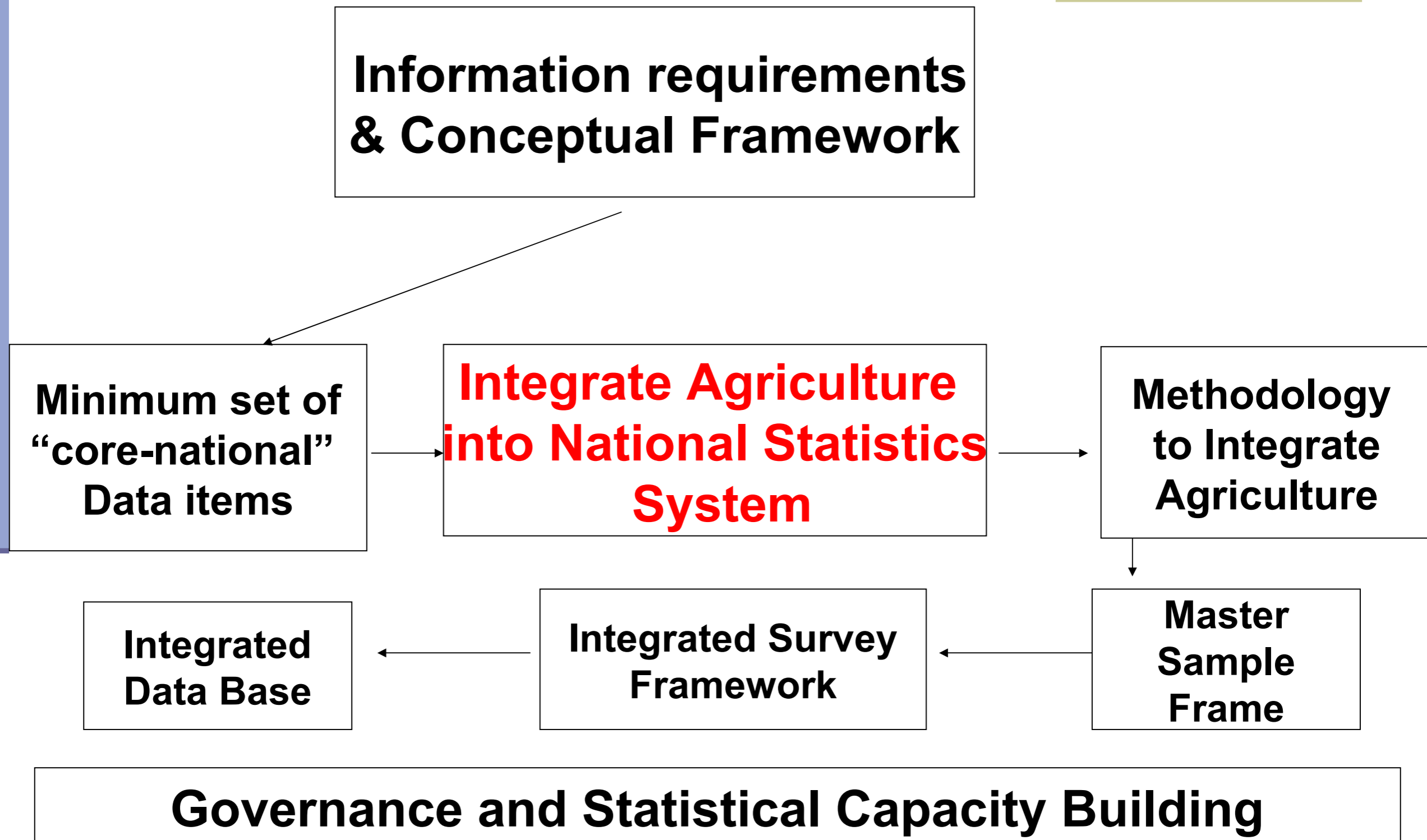
Main Pillars of the Global Strategy

- Minimum set of core data agreed by all countries
- Integration of agriculture into the national statistical system
- Governance and statistical capacity building



3. PROPOSALS OF THE WAY FORWARD FOR DISCUSSION

Global Strategy: Key components





3. PROPOSALS OF THE WAY FORWARD FOR DISCUSSION

Global Strategy: Decisions of the 41st UN Statistical Commission, Feb. 2010

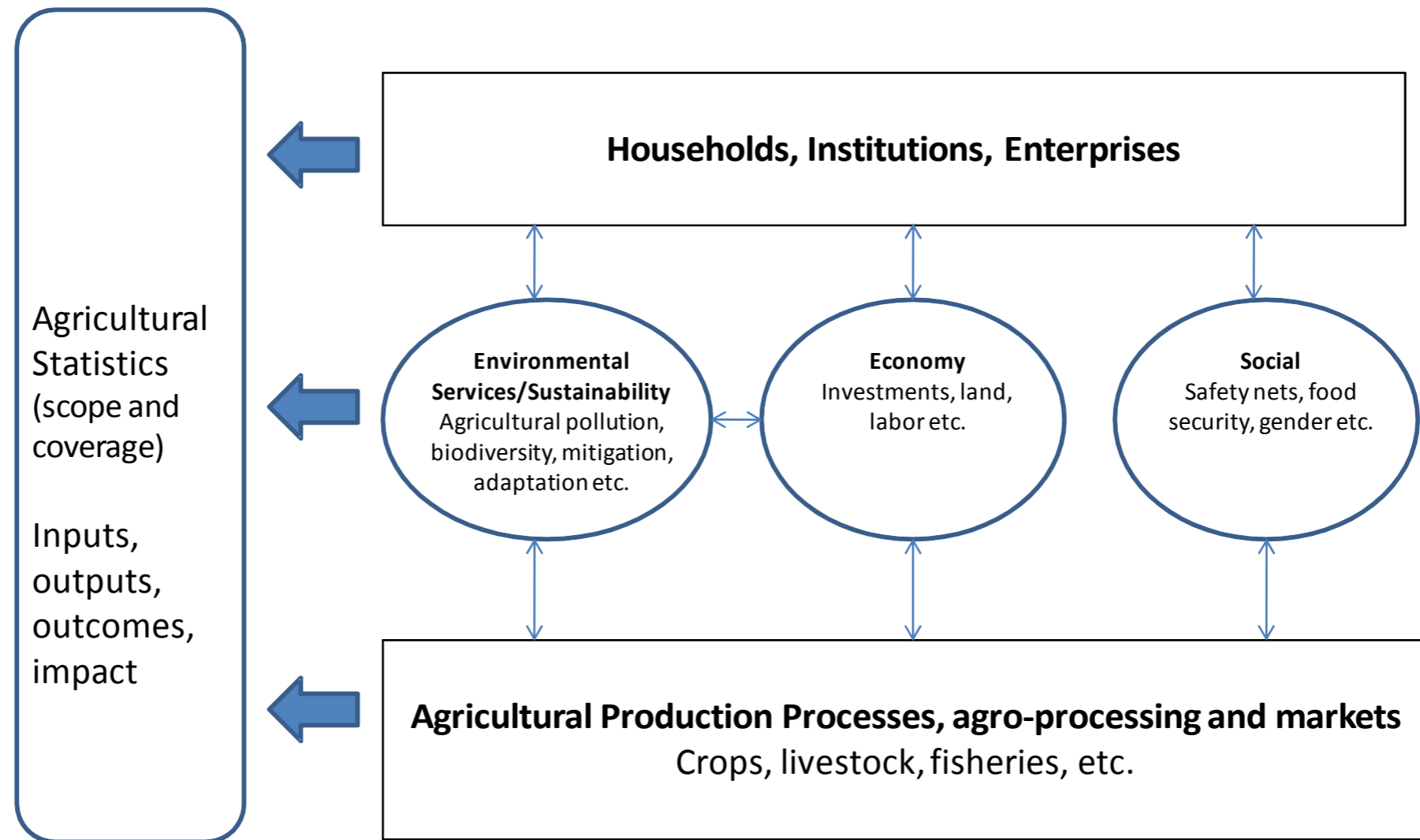
- **Endorsed the technical content and strategic directions** of the Global Strategy
- **Urged FAO and the Friends of the Chair to expedite the development of the **Implementation Plan**** *[main topic of ICAS V in October 2010 in Kampala]*. IP to be presented at UNSC in February 2011
- **Recommended** that the Implementation Plan include:
 - **Technical Assistance** program
 - **Training** program
 - **Research Agenda**
 - **Governance Arrangements**



3. Contribution to the **RESEARCH COMPONENT** of the Implementation Plan of the Global Strategy

1. Conceptual framework for agriculture and rural statistics

Role of the Group: adaptation and technical advice on implementation of the CF





3. Contribution to the **RESEARCH COMPONENT** of the Implementation Plan of the Global Strategy

2. **Core set of data and indicators**

➤ **Core set of data and indicators in the Global Strategy**

[link to the global strategy](#)

Role of the Group:

- Playing an active role in bringing new/emerging cross country policy issues, analyzing gaps and identifying the need for corresponding indicators and data requirements data requirements
- Documenting and disseminating country experiences and good practices



3. Contribution to the **RESEARCH COMPONENT** of the Implementation Plan of the Global Strategy

3. Methodological research

Role of the Group

- Serve as resource group for technical discussion of best practices and contributing to methodological developments regarding:
 - The development of master sample frames, particularly the linkages of farm based sampling units and household based units, multiple frames, etc..
 - Integrated surveys, particularly the determination of sample sizes for multiple purposes surveys, design of integrated survey modules, etc
 - Integrated data base: data management methods, methods of anonymisation and protecting respondent confidentiality, imputation methods,
 - Data analysis methods, etc.



3. Contribution to the **RESEARCH COMPONENT** of the Implementation Plan of the Global Strategy

4. **Advocacy**

Role of the Group

- Acting as a global, multidisciplinary forum for OECD and non-OECD countries for the implementation of the Global Strategy.
- Advocating the analysis and use of data on agriculture and rural development as identified in the Global Strategy with examples of policy applications.
- Identifying shortcomings in data systems of OECD and non-OECD countries that need to be addressed to be consistent with the Global Strategy.



4. Format/institutional arrangements for the activities of the group after spring 2011?

- If the main goal of the group is to support the Implementation of the Global Strategy, is this City Group the best vehicle for this?
- If the main gaps related to agricultural and rural statistics are in developing countries, how can the participation of these countries be significantly increased to generate the commitment to address their needs?
- What would be the source of resources to support the activities of the group?