# **INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT, COUNTRY STATISTICAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIC PLANNING IN AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS**

**Duties and responsibilities:**

Under the overall operational supervision of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP), with managerial supervision of the FAO Representative, and with general technical guidance of the Senior Statistician, FAO RAP and the Director ESS, the International Consultant, Country Statistical Capacity Assessment and Strategic Planning in Agricultural Statistics will work with the National Consultant, the National Strategy Coordinator and in close collaboration with other national staff.

He/she will assist national staff in assessing the agricultural statistics system according to FAO guidelines, preparing the groundwork for the country to develop a Sector Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics to be integrated into the National Strategy for Development of Statistics if any. In particular, through providing technical advice and guidance, he/she will support the National Strategy Coordinator to undertake and accomplish the following tasks:

**Using the results of the first stage of country assessment, the country profile derived from that assessment and the Framework for Assessing the Quality of Agriculture and Rural Development Statistics, conduct an In-depth Assessment of the agricultural statistics system:**

* Assess the availability and quality of the available data particularly the core data set defined by the Global Strategy using the Data Quality Assessment Framework, compare the findings with current and expected users needs, and identify data gaps;
* Assess the resources and their availability (human - both staffing and training, financial and physical used for agricultural statistics activities);
* Identify the resource constraints to be addressed;
* Assess the principal agricultural data sources (survey, census and administrative records) in order to identify capacity gaps and technical gaps including the compliance with international and regional harmonisation standards to be addressed for more accuracy, reliability, timeliness, coverage of the data;
* Assess the institutional infrastructure notably the integration of the Agricultural Statistics System into the National Statistical System using the recommended framework on building an integrated national statistical system and identify principal issues to be addressed;
* Identify strategies for the development of the national agricultural statistics programme in line with the global and regional implementation plans and lay out the priorities to be addressed;
* Produce the in-depth assessment report and identify the priorities to be validated by the national statistical stakeholders (user/producers).

**Prepare the groundwork for the Government to prepare a Sector Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics using the guidelines prepared by FAO:**

* Assist the NSO and relevant Ministry to understand the structure and requirements of a Sector Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SSPARS) and how it contributes to the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS);
* Assist the NSO and relevant Ministry to understand the structure and requirements of a project proposal, for mobilisation of external donor funding, to provide key technical assistance inputs in support of the SSPARS;
* Prepare an end-of-assignment report.

**Qualifications and Experience:**

* Advanced University degree in statistics or agricultural statistics, agricultural economics, economics, or equivalent.
* At least seven years of experience with agriculture, forestry, and fisheries statistics and with statistical capacity assessment and strategic planning for agriculture statistics.
* Demonstrated experience working in the Asia Pacific Region and preferably in Bangladesh.
* Background in Agricultural surveys and national agricultural systems desirable.
* Familiarity with FAO and the Global Strategy to improve rural and agricultural statistics is a plus.
* Preference will be given to consultants within the region.

**Language:** English

**Duty station:** Dhaka with in-country travel as required

**Duration:** 1 month in 3 missions