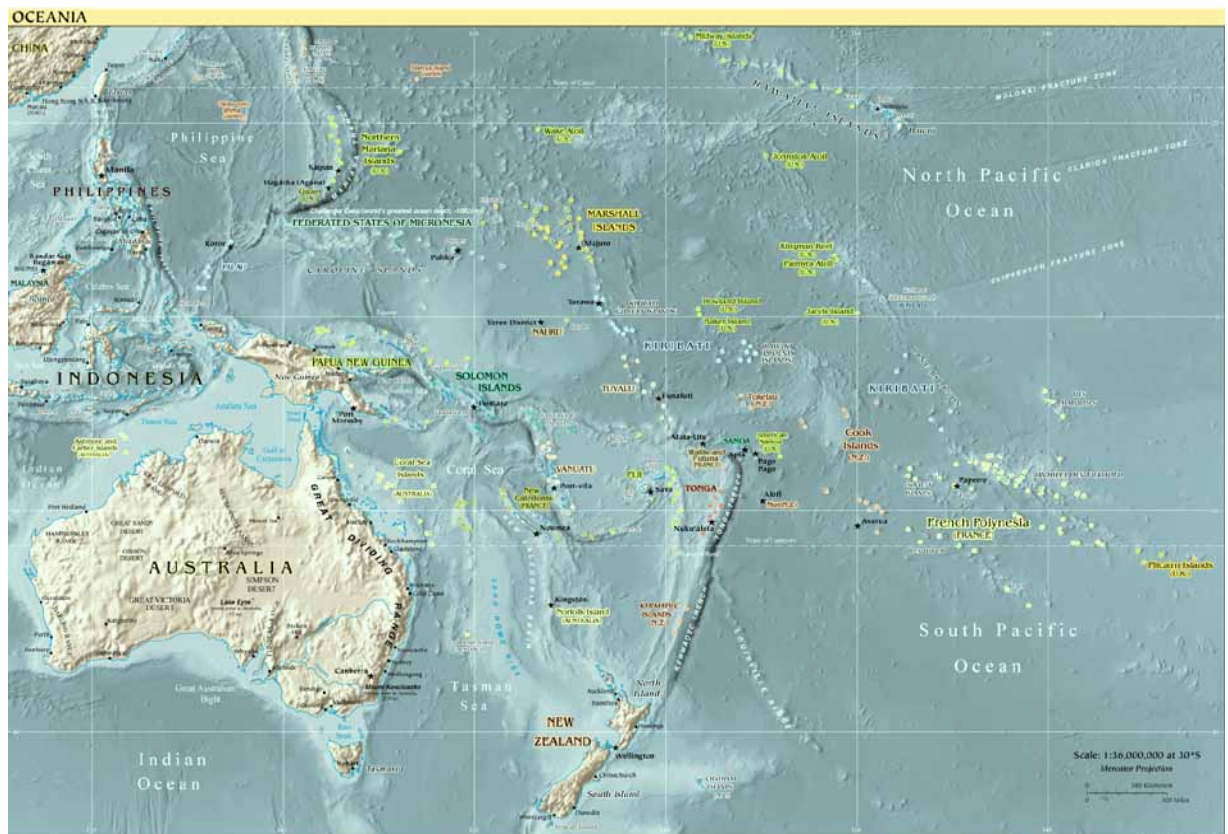


**REPORT OF THE
WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
IN THE PACIFIC IN SUPPORT OF FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY
REDUCTION STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMMES**

Nadi, Fiji, 10 - 13 November 2003



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**Nadi, Fiji
10 – 13 November 2003**

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, 2004**

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ACRONYMS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
APCAS	Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics
ASU	Agriculture Statistics Unit
CoP	Community of Practitioners
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESSB	Basic Food and Agriculture Statistics Service
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FBS	Food Balance Sheet
FIBOS	Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics
FIVIMS	Food Insecurity Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems
GIS	Geographic Information System
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
IAWG	Inter-Agency Working Group
KIMS	Key Indicator Mapping System
LAN	Local Area Network
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Tonga
MASLR	Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar & Land Resettlement, Fiji
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDGIs	Millennium Development Goals, Targets and Indicators
NSOs	National Statistics Offices
NSSs	National Statistical Systems
PADI	Poverty Analysis and Data Initiative
PICTs	Pacific Island Countries and Territories
PARIS21	Partnerships in Statistics for Development in the 21 st Century
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PNGLES	Papua New Guinea Land Evaluation System
PNGRIS	Papua New Guinea Resource Information System
popGIS	Population Geographic Information System
PRISM	Pacific Regional Information System
RAP	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
RDES	Regional Data Exchange System
SAPA	Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands
SCB	Statistical Capacity Building
SD	Statistics Department, Tonga
SPC	Secretariat for the Pacific Community
TCDC	Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries
TFSCB	Trust Fund for Statistic Capacity Building
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WFS:fyI	World Food Summit: <i>five years later</i>
WHO	World Health Organization

REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS IN THE PACIFIC IN SUPPORT OF FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMMES

BACKGROUND

1. The Workshop on Strengthening Food and Agricultural Statistics in the Pacific in Support of Food Security and Poverty Reduction Strategies and Programmes was held at the Raffles Gateway Hotel, Nadi, Fiji, 10–13 November 2003. It was attended by participants from Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu as well as by the Statistician from the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC) and officers of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Bangkok and Rome. Invited but unable to attend were Nauru, Solomon Islands, New Zealand, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, PARIS21, and UNESCAP. The list of participants is found in Annex 1.

2 The workshop was convened following the recommendation made at the Nineteenth Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS), held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in October 2002 that FAO should provide updated guidelines for the collection; analysis and dissemination of agricultural sector data. The workshop was funded through FAO's Regular Programme and through a grant provided by the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building.

OPENING SESSION

(Item 1 of the Agenda)

3. Following the opening prayer given by Mr Sefuiva Reupena MUGUTUTIA (Samoa), Mr Vili FUAVAO, FAO Subregional Representative for the Pacific (SAPA) welcomed the participants to the venue on behalf of the Director-General of FAO. He expressed his appreciation for their attendance at the workshop and pointed out the importance of reliable and timely data in decision-making. He also noted that in the Pacific the value of such data had not been always appreciated. In addition, he stressed the importance of having indicators and corresponding data to measure progress towards food security and poverty reduction. He thanked the Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar and Land Resettlement of Fiji for its continuing support of FAO activities and encouraged the participants to make recommendations about appropriate indicators and about capacity-building strategies that would guide donor agencies and FAO in the strengthening of food and agricultural statistics in the Subregion. The inaugural address is found in Annex 3.

4. In her opening remarks, Mrs Fusi VAVE, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar and Land Resettlement, welcomed to Fiji the participants in the workshop and emphasized the importance of timely and reliable information for monitoring and evaluating food security and poverty reduction programmes.

5. She pointed out the recent national activities in establishing Food Insecurity Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS) in Fiji and of the necessity for other countries in the region to take similar actions.

6. Mrs Vave noted also that the analysis of information is important and that strengthening the capacity of both data producers and data users in analysis and in utilising these results in decision-making should be priorities.

7. In his opening remarks, Mr Frederick BAKER, Senior Statistician, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, noted the diverse background of the participants attending the meeting; there were statisticians, economists, agronomists and nutritionists representing both national statistics offices and ministries of agriculture. Their experiences would be very useful for the meeting to formulate recommendations for the attention of FAO, its member countries, various regional institutions and donors. He mentioned that the World Bank had provided financial assistance for conducting the workshop. Mr Baker also outlined three tasks that required special attention of the participants, i.e. (i) development of country-specific definitions of poverty and identification of relevant indicators; (ii) recommendations for strengthening food and agriculture statistics in each country; and (iii) a medium-term strategy for capacity building for professionals working with food and agriculture statistics.

8. He mentioned that the preliminary efforts of the participants to outline existing agricultural statistics activities, to provide a country “definition” of poverty and to propose recommendations for strengthening agricultural statistics in the Pacific were posted on the wall of the venue and could be reviewed during the work group discussions. He was confident that the participants would discuss the issues in a constructive manner, both in the formal sessions and in the work groups and that their recommendations would be useful contributions to the strengthening of food and agriculture statistics in the Pacific.

DEVELOPING FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS IN SUPPORT OF FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION IN THE PACIFIC

(Item 2 of the Agenda)

9. The objectives for the workshop and the reasons for holding it were presented with the Provisional Agenda and Provisional Timetable (see annexes 2 and 3 respectively).

10. The paper *Improving the relevance and contribution of food and agricultural Statistics in poverty reduction strategies and food security programmes* by **Prof Ben Kiregyera**, Statistical Consultant and Chairman, Board of Directors, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, was used to introduce the first topic. Prof Kiregyera noted that in many countries food and agricultural statistical systems have been developed in a piecemeal and ad hoc or “quick fix” project fashion involving carrying out ad hoc surveys and censuses which were mainly **donor and producer driven**, with limited Government commitment and ownership and carried out to meet specific data needs.

11. To improve the situation he suggested that what was needed, was to redirect the development of food and agriculture statistics using a new approach, the **integrated approach**. He said that “integration” would result in enhancements in **consistency**: by (i) improving inter-institutional coordination and linkages among institutions that produce data, (ii) system-wide adoption and application of standardized concepts, definitions and classifications, (iii) collecting data during the same period of the year. **Incompleteness** would be reduced by implementing comprehensive survey programmes with surveys designed so that data could be collected to fill data gaps. The likelihood of **accurate** data would be more assured if “best practices” and appropriate methods were used, data collection instruments were properly designed and administered by the right personnel, and if the collected data were properly handled during the post-enumeration period.

12. He also mentioned that by using a **Geographic Information System (GIS)**, new analytical products such as **vulnerability and poverty maps** could be produced. The maps helped to analyse and simplify the presentation of often complex sets of information and relationships related to poverty and vulnerability. The poverty maps, for instance, showed the distribution of poverty across the different parts of a country and helped to capture heterogeneity within regions, to identify geographical factors affecting poverty, to improve targeting of resource and interventions, to improve communication about poverty conditions and to facilitate GIS functionality, i.e. using location to integrate information from heterogeneous sources.

13. Mr Baker suggested that the countries in the Pacific would benefit by integration of agricultural statistics into a national system, but that support for such a system would still depend on demonstration of the value of current statistics in decision-making. He encouraged the participants to take advantage of the new analysis techniques to identify those persons vulnerable to food insecurity and to poverty.

14. The topic *Millennium Development Goals, Targets and Indicators (measuring the progress)* was presented by Mr Garth PARRY, Statistician of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). He explained the history of their development, an overview of the associated targets and indicators (MDGs), and the reporting implications for National Statistical Systems (NSSs) in the region. He listed each indicator briefly, highlighting those of relevance to agricultural statistical systems, and noted that Pacific Island NSSs were largely unprepared for the work that would be necessary to report on the MDGs in 2004 as per country commitments.

15. He summarised a case study undertaken in Vanuatu by SPC in collaboration with UN agencies, the main outcomes of that work being: recognition of the need for greater awareness of the MDGs; the problems of conflicting and incorrect data circulating internationally for national MDGs; and a relatively optimistic outlook for NSSs that more of the underlying data needed for the MDGs already exists than is generally believed, and as a result many MDGs will be measurable with some expert assistance. In this context he mentioned SPC’s strong commitment to assisting PICTs with MDG-related work, including through the recently developed PRISM and popGIS projects, with a very strong emphasis on highlighting the

potential benefits to PICTs from using MDGs to improve national planning and decision-making.

16. In the course of the presentation he highlighted two instances where national estimates of MDGs for one of the participating countries were markedly different from data circulating internationally. The meeting agreed strongly that there should be clear national ownership of the MDGs, including the use of national statistical websites as the definitive source for national data.

17. The workshop was advised of the initiative of the consortium, Partnerships in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) to encourage *Better statistics for decision-making*. Papers prepared by Ms Makiko Harrison (PARIS21 Coordinator, Development Economics Data Group, The World Bank) for a PARIS21 Forum were summarized.

18. It was noted that PARIS21 had developed Statistical Capacity Building (SCB) Indicators to provide a comparative overview of the countries' statistical capacity with a view to facilitate capacity building and that these indicators reflected a snapshot of a country's statistical conditions, a focus on opportunities by highlighting strengths and weaknesses, and a means to track over time results of capacity building efforts.

19. The SCB indicators would be used to support the development agenda with its new demand for better statistics by building national statistical capacity and strengthening the worldwide statistical system.

20. Ms Harrison had pointed out that among the challenges facing developing countries was that the statistical systems were under pressure. She said that these systems commonly were part of an unsupportive political environment with limited feedback from users and with limited institutional coordination. The agencies often had insufficient analysis and dissemination capacity and problems of staff motivation and incentives. In addition they were faced with new demands for data, but there were often budget constraints.

21. She noted that PARIS21 had proposed several strategies to achieve better statistics including 1) building of demand for statistics within the country with country ownership of the statistics; 2) investing in national capacity; 3) improving efficiency and making better use of existing resources; 4) making use of new statistical tools and technologies; and 5) enhancing international cooperation.

22. The workshop learned about the Poverty Analysis and Data Initiative (PADI) of the World Bank Institute as part of its Capacity Building Program to Support the Poverty Reduction Strategy. The objectives of PADI were to enhance in-country analytic capacity in poverty analysis, monitoring, and evaluation; strengthen in-country statistical capacity in improved poverty data collection, management and dissemination; improve quality of and timely access to poverty data; enhance in-country policy research on poverty reduction and program evaluation; and link policy-making to poverty analysis and data initiatives.

23. It was mentioned that the four-step strategy of PADI included 1) poverty measurement and diagnostics; 2) monitoring poverty and social indicators; 3) poverty and social impact evaluation; and 4) better data collection and dissemination.

24. It was pointed out that PADI activities were carried out through regional workshops/seminars to promote analytical and statistical capacities; policymakers seminars for advocacy and awareness; in-country workshops to broaden local capacity; regional seminars/workshops/fora to disseminate research findings; and two websites (POVERTY DATA BANK and community of practitioners (CoP)).

25. The session on **Food and Agricultural Statistics within the National Statistics System** was introduced by Mr David MARSHALL, Senior Statistician, FAO Statistics Division, with an overview of the integrated approach to the development of a food and agricultural statistics system. It was noted that within the Pacific Island Countries, agriculture remains a key sector of the economy and many of the statistics compiled in the countries are relevant to agriculture. As well as the 'traditional' statistics on agricultural production, external trade data and data from household consumption and expenditure surveys are also key sources of information on the agricultural sector.

26. It was mentioned that National Statistics Offices (NSOs) were faced with ever increasing demands for data which have to be balanced with the ever present resource constraints. In particular the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) required the compilation of some 41 indicators and the development of a National Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS) also required the development of a subnational information system.

27. Typical data sources (such as Census and Survey (traditional) data, household survey data, nutrition data and FIVIMS/Mapping of data/GIS/database) were briefly presented as well the issues and constraints faced by the countries of the region.

28. Mr Allan NICHOLLS (Australia) presented the case study on Australian Food and Agriculture Statistics in the context of Australia's National Statistical System. He pointed out that while the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) was Australia's official statistical agency, there were a wide range of other organizations which collect, analyze and/or disseminate statistical information. These organizations included other commonwealth government agencies, state government agencies, industry associations and private businesses. Through these activities, these organizations made a substantial contribution to the overall suite of information available about Australia.

29. Mr Nicholls then described the functions and mission statement of the ABS, as well as selected aspects of its operation. Some of the functions identified were responsibility for coordination of various Australian government statistical activities and services, and the promotion of standard concepts and definitions across all agencies. Similar descriptions were then given for the other major organizations involved in food and agriculture statistics. The level of cooperation and coordination between ABS and these organizations was also discussed.

30. Aspects of ABS business surveys were then reviewed, including the standard population frame, standard statistical unit and steps taken to maintain the cooperation of providers of data. Finally, integration of ABS statistical data was discussed in terms of the level of integration:

- across financial surveys;
- between financial surveys and taxation data;
- between agricultural finance and commodity collections;
- between business surveys and household surveys, and;
- between the agricultural census and population census.

31. The paper went on to describe each of the main statistical collections related to food and agriculture (of both ABS and other organizations), but there was insufficient time to discuss them in detail during the presentation.

32. In the discussions, the importance of a sound institutional framework was highlighted. The role of the NSO as a coordinator of all governmental statistical activities was also discussed.

33. The case study on Fiji Food and Agriculture Statistics described the integration of agricultural statistics into the national statistics system and the development of tikina profiles for each of the districts in Fiji.

34. It was explained that The Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics (FIBOS) is Fiji's official statistical agency which is authorized by law to collect statistical information. However, there are a wide range of other organizations which collect, analyse and disseminate statistical information. As well as the Fiji Island Bureau of Statistics, the main organizations involved in food and agriculture statistics were the Ministry for Agriculture, Sugar & Land Resettlement (MASLR), Ministry for Health (Food and Nutrition Centre), The Fiji Sugar Corporation Limited, Fiji Meat Industry Board, Coconut Development Authority, and the Quarantine Department, MASLR. Other line ministries collecting data related to food and agriculture included The Ministry for Housing and Rural Development and The Ministry for Fijian Affairs.

35. At this time the main contribution of FIBOS to food and agriculture statistics was the provision of statistical information to draw up the FBS (Food Balance Sheet) and to determine the category of the urban population that would not have the purchasing power to source food. If data collection for economic indicators for FIVIMS were added, it would require personnel training in economic statistics and strengthening of the collection and analysis skills.

36. The programmes of the Ministry for Agriculture, Sugar and Land Resettlement were aimed at revitalizing the agricultural sector in ensuring food and income security for all the people of Fiji. It had a wide range of information sources with database on crops and livestock. The Agriculture Statistics Unit (ASU) had a major role to play in the achievement of the overall objective of the Ministry as it produced accurate, timely and informative data to assist the management and policy makers of the Ministry in the decision-making process. The annual reporting system from the Crops and Livestock Divisions provided the database and source of information that monitors production trends of crops and livestock.

37. The ASU, which has ten enumerators working closely with the Extension staff of the Ministry, was currently undertaking a survey at the district level, known as the *Tikina Profile*. The survey aimed to establish an agricultural profile for every district in the country. It was fully funded by the Government and will be conducted for all 187 districts in Fiji. The establishment of Tikina Profiles will provide an indication of food availability at household levels.

38. The ASU staff also compiled statistical reports on both a quarterly and annual basis using the quarterly reports that are submitted by the district staff. The two major operational divisions (Crops and Livestock), which were managed at the regional level, remained the main source of data for the Unit. These two divisions produced quarterly reports and annual reports with the basic agriculture data for total area planted, area harvested per commodity and livestock data and production.

39. Data were also obtained from the Quarantine Department (MASLR) and Fiji Island Bureau of Statistics on Trade. Data for copra and sugar, the commodities updated most often, were reported by the respective authorities, the Coconut Development Authority and Fiji Sugar Corporation. Slaughter figures for livestock were normally compiled by the Livestock Division.

40. Several constraints were pointed out. These included inconsistency in reporting format from the various divisions, estimates that tend to reflect underreporting, lack of trained personnel on the different levels of data processing and collection, and lack of computer expertise to write programs and develop and maintain databases.

POVERTY REDUCTION, FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE PACIFIC: INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS, METHODS AND TECHNICAL TOOLS

(Item 3 of the Agenda)

41. Mr Baker introduced the topic *Using supply utilization accounts and food balance sheets as tools for improvement of data quality* by explaining that the Basic Food and Agriculture Statistics Service (ESSB) of the FAO Statistics Division was responsible for the calculation of Food Balance Sheets in FAO. He said that the concept originated during World War I and that FAO had been requested to assist countries in their preparation in 1948. In 1957 the methodology was modified to use averages for three years. The main feature of the Food Balance Sheets was the balancing of food supply with utilization.

42. He pointed out some of the conceptual issues that have been addressed in the calculation of the food balance sheets. These issues included 1) Incompleteness and inaccuracy of basic data; 2) lack of production statistics for all commodities needed and mostly confined to important food crops; 3) information on commercial stocks may be available from official or marketing authorities, factories, wholesalers and retailers, but inventories of catering establishments, institutions and households may not be available; 4) waste during storage, transportation may not be available and other waste information – on quantities intentionally discarded for the

purpose of price control or disease control – may be hidden; 5) import and export data may be accurate in the majority of countries, but in others there may be significant amounts of trade across national boundaries that go unrecorded; and 6) basic data on the feed, seed and industrial/manufacture use of crop and livestock products were usually obtained from surveys that were not conducted regularly.

43. He noted that in the construction of the food balance sheets, both official and unofficial data have been used by FAO with missing data estimated on the basis of surveys and other information as well as technical expertise available in FAO.

44. The *Development of food balance sheets in Fiji* was described by Ms Penina VATUCAWAQA (Fiji). She mentioned that the first Food Balance Sheet (FBS) for Fiji was developed in 1997 for the year 1992. Now, FBS reports were published annually in Fiji; the latest report published was for the year 2001.

45. She noted that most of the statistics used in the compilation were from official government publications and reports of the Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Food Industries and that these data were compiled using the standard FAO FBS worksheet with most of the foods included commonly consumed and widely available in Fiji. The FAO international food composition table was used for this analysis.

46. She indicated that the results of this work had shown some interesting trends over the years. In 2001, a total of 2 928 kcals were available per capita per day. This showed that Fiji had 700 kcals in excess of the FAO nutrient requirement of 2 228 kcals. The trend observed for total nutrients available showed that there has been an increase in energy intake, less energy provided by carbohydrates and more energy from fat. This could explain the increase in non-communicable disease problems, especially overweight and obesity.

47. The regular compilation of FBS had also shown that there was a change in consumption patterns in Fiji. More cereals were now available for consumption compared to root crops, which is a local staple in the country. In 2001, cereals continued to be the major contributor of food energy in the diet, followed by oil and fats at 15 percent, sugar and protein at 13 percent, root crops at 7 percent while other food groups contributed less than 7 percent.

48. The tendency to rely on imported food supplies to supplement domestic supplies had been evident over the years with 50 percent of total calories imported. In 2001, 54 percent of total calories were imported. Generally, while cyclones, droughts and other changes in the weather pattern have had a definite impact on the food situation in the country, increasing volumes of food imports appear to be a continuing trend.

49. She pointed out that preparation of this FBS was not an easy task as it involved an arduous process of data collection. A major problem was the non-availability of subsistence production data. The exclusion of this data meant an important part of the food supply was not accounted for. The second problem was the non-availability of data on domestic utilization, especially on seed, animal feed, manufacturing and extraction rates. The other problem was the lack of consistency

in the method of data collection. Data collected by other agencies were collected for their own purpose and not for FBS requirements.

50. Ms Vatucawaqa concluded that the result of this FBS had given Fiji a benchmark in assessing the food situation in the country. However, it was important for data providers to provide accurate data since those data were used for work such as this that could have an impact in the formulation of food and nutrition policies for the country.

51. Mr Biplab NANDI, FAO Senior Food and Nutrition Officer, introduced the paper: *Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS)*. He gave an account of the subject highlighting its origin, goal and objectives in the context of achieving the goals of the World Food Summit (WFS) and WFS:fyI. He informed the workshop that FIVIMS is an Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) initiative having its members from UN agencies, World Bank, bilateral aid agencies, NGOs etc. It worked closely with the partners of National FIVIMS in Asia and the Pacific. The workshop noted that FIVIMS was based on existing national and subregional information systems related to food security and furthermore, it was country driven, user focused and designed in response to the needs of national decision-makers in addressing the issues of food insecurity. The workshop appreciated the efforts of FAO and RAP in particular in undertaking FIVIMS activities in countries of the region like Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam, besides Fiji and Samoa.

52. The workshop urged FAO to strengthen its inputs in Pacific island countries so as to ensure achieving the goals of the World Food Summit besides the Millennium Development Goals.

53. The *Key Indicator Mapping System (KIMS)* was introduced by Mr Baker through a brief demonstration. It was mentioned that KIMS was a user-friendly mapping system that displays and disseminates maps, charts, spreadsheets, metadata and links to food insecurity and vulnerability indicators and related data. The system was 100 percent Java based and portable across Windows, Linux and other UNIX platforms. It had been specifically tailored for Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information Mapping System (FIVIMS) requirements and may be modified as those requirements changed or expanded.

54. The workshop noted that KIMS could be used to show who were underfed, undernourished or at-risk of becoming so, where they were located and why they were food insecure and nutritionally vulnerable. The maps could combine information from different sectors to provide an immediate comprehensive picture of the geographical distribution of vulnerable groups at the subnational level. By helping visualise where major nutritional problems were, the maps also highlighted gaps in information, alerting policy makers that additional data collection was necessary. Moreover, once the food insecure groups had been located geographically, a wide variety of other data, relevant to understanding and monitoring their situations could be presented in the form of maps.

55. It was pointed out that while KIMS was not a Geographic Information System (GIS), but relied on GIS systems providing mapping layers and data providers for

data content. The software allowed for the importing and exporting of major GIS map formats (BNA, ARC/INFO, Shapefile and MapInfo). KIMS was specifically designed to be a tool that combined GIS maps with related datasets and displays and disseminated the information in an easy and straight-forward manner in stand-alone mode and over the Internet. KIMS had been customised as a tool for national and international FIVIMS partners to help in collecting, presenting and mapping the key indicators of food insecurity and vulnerability.

56. KIMS included global, continental, regional, national and subnational maps at different levels of aggregation; sample datasets (from FAO, WB, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO and others); basic map layers of geographic information (cities, railroads, roads, rivers, crop zones, etc.); and spreadsheets and line, bar and pie charts.

57. The main functions of KIMS were importing maps and associated datasets; displaying and mapping key FIVIMS indicators; creating databases which allowed the monitoring of the different indicators in time, cross-county comparisons and predictions; and storage, presentation and dissemination of data and maps.

58. Mr Nandi presented the topic entitled *Vulnerability in household food and nutrition security* in the context of strengthening food and agricultural statistics in the Pacific. In simple terms he explained the relationship between food insecurity and vulnerability and the crucial role of FIVIMS as a tool to address the issues of food insecurity at the household level. He emphasized the need to take urgent action by the countries using several national level database systems which take into consideration various dimensions of food insecurity like socio-economic, political, food economy, care practices, health and sanitation.

59. The workshop noted that access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food is a strong determinant in understanding the possible causes of low food consumption and poor nutritional status at the household level. The workshop recognized that FIVIMS could be used in an effective manner to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by using various indicators therein, with a view to ultimately addressing the goal of WFS. The workshop recognized that problems of vulnerability in food and nutrition impinge on multidisciplinary issues, requiring data from various sectors, but identifying nutrition as an important component. Therefore nutritional status indicators and assessment that entailed food intake surveys, dietary assessment, anthropometrics measurements and related parameters should form an important part of the tools in vulnerability assessment for the community.

60. The workshop stressed the need to use relevant indicators outlined in FIVIMS with a view to alleviating the problems of undernutrition and food insecurity. It also recommended FAO to consider organizing a sensitization workshop in SAPA so as to establish/strengthen the linkages between FAO and country level stakeholders. This would facilitate the efforts relating to FIVIMS and its application in reducing undernutrition at the household level.

61. Mr Lafaele ENOKA (Samoa) described the *Application of FIVIMS in the context of sustainable development and poverty alleviation programmes*. He pointed out that the application of FIVIMS as a planning tool had enormous potential for Samoa in designing realistic and relevant programmes that ensured the timely

achievement of its international commitments to WFS and MDGs. Furthermore, the tracking and monitoring capability of FIVIMS would greatly assist the development of national policies and programmes, coupled with a proactive approach to tackle food insecurity and vulnerability issues.

62. He indicated that the setting up of the National FIVIMS also had its challenges – and like most challenges in life they could all be resolved given time and enough support from donors and all stakeholders.

63. Two case studies presented at an Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on Poverty Mapping and Monitoring Using Information Technology at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok were used to illustrate the use of poverty mapping as a tool in poverty reduction strategies.

64. In the first case, the Secretary-General of the Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal had discussed the preparation of district level poverty maps based on the Nepal Living Standards Survey and identified relevant indicators of poverty that had been calculated and derived from these data.

65. He had mentioned that because of the strong demand for poverty indicators at the district level, the Government had made a strong commitment to implement decentralization through establishment of an effective and result oriented district poverty monitoring and analysis system with district level monitoring of the poverty reduction program. One of the justifications for these steps was that the National Planning Commission and other central units needed comparable cross-district data for their planning purposes.

66. The workshop noted that the Living Standards Survey was one of the main sources of poverty indicators at national and regional levels and that, on the basis of the survey results, the poverty line for Nepal had been derived. Based on this poverty line and "real per capita consumption measures", three poverty measures, namely, headcount index, poverty gap and squared poverty gap, were calculated for the country.

67. Furthermore, it was learned that the government undertook subsequent surveys to measure trends over time and to assess the impact of growth; to look into vulnerability and empowerment with reference to the Millennium Development Goals; and to monitor Poverty Reduction Strategies.

68. It was pointed out that the presentation of results took place in three steps – data analysis, model building, and mapping. The "common variables" were identified from among the census and survey variables and models were developed to correlate the household consumption/income with other common variables identified earlier from the census results. The poverty data could be "projected onto geographic maps" using GIS mapping techniques by merging the information on the geographic coordinates of districts with poverty estimates produced by the poverty mapping exercise. Finally district-wise disaggregation was used to identify spatial characteristics of poverty.

69. In the second example, the Deputy Director-General, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, had described the use of poverty mapping and monitoring as a tool to identify poverty clusters and help to reduce poverty by necessary resource allocation.

70. He had noted that since macro-economic growth could not help in reducing poverty and income inequality, the planners and policy-makers were targeting the poor for poverty alleviation programme implementation. He said that poverty mapping played a vital role because it gave visual presentation of intensity of poverty incidence by geographic area. These pictures helped the planners and policy-makers to easily detect the most poverty affected areas and to allocate more resources to alleviate poverty.

71. He pointed out that although the Population Census provided socio-economic data/indicators up to the subdistrict level or down to the lowest identifiable administrative area level, poverty indicators derived from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) were at six administrative division levels. He indicated that the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics was working with the World Food Programme (WFP) to combine these indicators and to produce subdistrict level poverty indicators.

PROMOTING THE EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(Item 4 of the Agenda)

72. Mr Mugututia (Samoa), reported on *Technical issues for collecting food and agriculture statistics through household surveys*. He said that the collection of food and agriculture statistics in a household survey has the same requirements as with any other sample survey. They include: 1) up-to-date frame; 2) clear/unambiguous concepts and definition; 3) sound sampling techniques; 4) questionnaires; and 5) manuals of instruction etc.

73. Mr Mugututia indicated that information on minor crops (rare crops) obtained from sample surveys would be less reliable because of the high standard error and that estimates of production for short-term crops can be influenced by the seasonality of the crop. He suggested that local terms for area and production would be helpful in obtaining more reliable information from the farmers and that expenses for special events such as weddings, birthdays and funerals can be high, but generally it was difficult to break down the costs into the individual items

74. In addition, he mentioned that the 2002 HIES in Samoa provided data on the value of home produced items consumed by the household based on the household's valuation if the said goods were sold. While this provided good estimates on expenditure/income, the absence of an estimate of volume (kg, lb, sacks etc) limited its use.

75. In the discussion of *Software used for processing agricultural census and survey data*, special issues that should be considered in the processing of agricultural surveys and censuses were presented by FAO. Decisions on software

often depended on the hardware that would be used. Issues that had to be taken into account at each of the steps in electronic processing were listed. These included whether to carry out data entry using stand-alone or networked computers; whether the editing would be done for batch or concatenated files; whether the data storage would be restricted or open access; whether tabulation would be done both for preliminary and for publication-ready stages; whether analysis would be done by preparation of graphs, charts and/or statistics; and whether the media for presentation and dissemination would be “paper” and/or electronic.

77. It was pointed out that it was important to consider existing hardware, existing capacity and experience, resources available during the census/survey, and the availability of external assistance afterward. Another important issue was long-term use of the data. It was mentioned that in the acquisition of equipment, both renting and borrowing were important options since the hardware/software might have a one-time exercise. In this respect it was necessary to balance the costs of contracting of services while retaining the confidentiality of the data. Other matters to keep in mind were the types of analysis and portability of data.

78. Characteristics of various types of software with examples were summarized for the workshop. It was stated that in the selection of appropriate software packages for censuses and surveys, the preferences of FAO were to take advantage of country skills and experience to consider sources of technical assistance; user-friendliness, portability of datasets and need for training in both development and USE; and costs of maintenance and the need for upgrading of software as operating systems and features changed.

78. Ms Siosi'ana FISI'INAUA (Tonga), summarised Tonga's experience concerning the data processing aspects of the Agriculture Census 2001 in the paper, *Tonga experience on using IMPS (inclusive of CSPRO) software*. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MAFF) and the Statistics Department (SD) coordinated in the conduct of the census.

79. She said that for processing of the census raw data, IMPS was used with data tabulation in CSPRO (the window version of IMPS). Computer programmes and editing screens were written to accommodate the processing of the data collection forms in terms of i) household, ii) holding and iii) parcel. Quality control was the main focus of the processing.

80. For ease of storage and retrieval of forms and for data encoding, arrangements were made for a proper storage area for the folios. The forms were bundled by folios and by form type. Files were properly labelled and divided by district and village and were kept in ascending order according to village code and block number on storage shelves. A control register was used to ensure the movements of the files of questionnaires. The working area was configured with a Local Area Network (LAN) comprising of five computers and one laser printer.

81. A strength of the software, according to Ms Fisi'inua, was that it ensured quality control over the data flow by:

- i) monitoring and recording the documents received from the fieldwork encoders;

- ii) ensuring flow of data was in good standard for data cleaning;
- iii) monitoring recordings of documents processed;
- iv) running editing programmes needed for completeness and consistencies checks;
- v) issuing documents requested by verifiers and data encoders;
- vi) creating back-up copies of the data files; and
- vii) allowing writing of computer language programmes to fix any discrepancies within the data.

82. She also highlighted some weaknesses in the data processing activities such as:

- i) absence of qualified computer personnel in MAFF and SD with experience in IMPS or CsPRO;
- ii) the switching from IMPS to CsPRO software created debugged problems;
- iii) troubleshooting has to be solved by the consultant even from outside the country;
- iv) cooperation of the consultant in being fully committed and focused on the results even if mission was completed;
- v) over reliant on the consultant.

83. Her conclusion was that the basis for successful data processing is the completeness of the information collected from the field.

84. Two presentations were made on the topic *Disseminating agriculture and survey data using Intranet and Internet*. Mr Parry, Statistician (SPC) presented a session on the *Pacific Regional Information System (PRISM)*, focusing on its increasingly effective role as the definitive gateway to official data for the region. He gave a brief summary on its development, outlining its structure and main aims, including:

- an interlinked set of national statistical websites covering every PICT;
- the development – in consultation with all PICTs – of a “core” set of PRISM indicators, including all relevant MDGIs;
- a central PRISM database consolidating data from national websites;
- a major resource facility for the region, with extremely large capacity for the storage of key reports, metadata, classifications.

84. He highlighted the extent to which the system is driven by national needs and priorities, with PICTs determining the look and feel of their own website and the range of data and information which can be stored on PRISM.

85. After observing that Fiji was the only country in the Pacific that participated in the regional project funded by the Government of Japan, Mr Kimihiko EURA, Agricultural Statistics Expert, FAO Regional Project on *Strengthening the Regional Data Exchange System (RDES)*, described its activities and objectives.

86. He noted that the project idea had originated because many governments used the traditional printed publications and that few countries had a web page for agricultural statistics. He confirmed that the purpose of the current project was to

establish a system for exchanging and accessing national statistical data in electronic format through the Internet. The system design took into consideration the extent of IT use, or “e-readiness”, of the participating agencies, who were mainly the governments’ Ministry of Agriculture or Statistics departments. Indicators of e-readiness included availability and quality of computer hardware and software, affordability and quality of Internet access, skills of IT users, availability and quality of the agency web site, budget allocation for IT-related programmes and activities.

87. The workshop learned that the RDES was based on an Interactive Web-based System where a web server was not needed in each country and had several principles for development. The fundamental requirements were that only Internet access is required for the system, that any file formats could be stored (e.g. MSEXcel, MSWord, PDF, etc.) and that it involved easy data management for the country focal points.

PROMOTING THE USE OF DATA ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

(Item 5 of the Agenda)

88. To illustrate the use of pictures and land use maps and charts, Mr Francis DAINK (Papua New Guinea) made a presentation on *Thematic Mapping*. He introduced the Papua New Guinea Resource Information System (PNGRIS) which is a computer-based information system on natural resource, population and land use for the whole of Papua New Guinea. It consisted of three related components.

- A) A **base map** that
 - provides a mapped presentation of the basic spatial units known as RMUs that are delineated on the basis of a common sets of seven geographical attributes – landform, relief, geology, inundation, altitude, mean annual rainfall and administrative boundaries;
 - a mapping scale of 1:500 000. (1cm = 25km on the ground);
 - a map of PNG with approximately 4 600 RMUs where each RMU is unique in terms of one or more of these seven criteria;
- B) A **database** corresponding to each RMU of the base map; and
- C) A user-friendly interface that provides a facility to link the map and database for **rapid manipulation and analysis**.

89. Mr Daink also discussed the Papua New Guinea Land Evaluation System (PNGLES) which was a tool used to evaluate land for its suitability for food and cash crops and a number of alternative crops under two broad management levels: low, and high capital input. He said that PNGLES was also a database containing information on land suitability of 18 traditional cash crops and alternative crops.

90. Given the wide range of environment, farming systems and economic organization in Papua New Guinea (PNG), he said that the initial approach is to assess the existing resources: firstly through analysis of the nature and distribution of natural resources relevant to agriculture and, secondly, determine what degree and extent these resources were used.

91. He pointed out that subsistence activities, which concern more than 80 percent of the population produced the whole or large part of the rural diet and, through the sale of surpluses, provided an important component of the urban fresh food supplies. Since the type and range of village food production and the villager's ability to produce food and cash crops were directly related to the physical characteristics of the local environment, assessing resource potential in PNG from the national, provincial or district level of planning, required investigation of the nature and distribution of the natural resources themselves, the farming systems applied to them, and the population distribution and growth. Mr Daink then demonstrated how PNGLES could present a picture of locations where various food and cash crops were (and could be) grown.

CAPACITY BUILDING IN SUPPORT OF AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR STATISTICS TO MEASURE PROGRESS TOWARD FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION

(Item 6 of the Agenda)

92. Mr Parry, Statistician (SPC), outlined SPC's corporate mission, including its stated commitment to assisting members in achieving the MDGs, and presented the mission of the Social Resources Division within SPC, and the goal shared by the Statistics and Demography and Population Programmes. Within that context he outlined SPC's traditional approach to statistical capacity building, and its related activities in the form of: formal training courses, both "core" and special purpose courses developed in response to country requests; skills transfer during technical assistances; and training attachments, most of them at SPC Headquarters in Noumea.

93. The SPC Statistician stressed that all capacity building activities are aimed at serving the needs expressed by SPC members, and that they aimed to assist the entire NSSs rather than being limited to NSOs. All SPC statistical training activities, including long-established courses, are adapted to meet current national needs and to support forthcoming activities such as censuses and HIESs. SPC was now moving to engage a much wider range of agencies and organisations in its statistical activities, and was aiming to assist NSSs to be more actively involved in key analysis and policy formulation.

94. The workshop was informed that *statistical training activities of FAO in food and agricultural statistics* were targeted at poverty reduction, food security, FIVIMS and rural statistics. All phases of agricultural censuses and surveys were covered, including survey design, planning, questionnaire design, data collection, processing and tabulation, analysis and dissemination. The training covered various aspects of current agriculture statistics and concentrated on surveys for crop area and production, livestock numbers, aquaculture and fisheries, prices (producer, farm gate, wholesale, retail, etc), farm inputs, cost of production and food consumption. It was pointed out that areas of expertise also included nutrition statistics, agribusiness statistics, fishery statistics and forestry statistics.

95. Training has been conducted on special types of analyses, such as Food Balance Sheets, calculation of the number and percent of undernourished, food crop forecasts and special studies topics for the agricultural sector. Dissemination of agricultural statistics; web site design, construction and maintenance; and report preparation were also training themes.

96. It was reported that FAO provided training, formally and informally, through technical assistance missions, expert consultations, workshops/seminars and projects that were carried out in response to country requests. Most projects were financed through trust funds since FAO was not a donor agency; however, small projects with a training component had been approved through the FAO technical cooperation programme.

97. The workshop learned about the creation of the Trust Fund for Statistics Capacity Building (TFSCB) that was managed by the World Bank and was advised of the opportunity for countries to avail themselves of this potential source of funding for statistics capacity building. It was pointed out that resources for the current workshop had been provided by this fund.

NEXT STEPS FOR STRENGTHENING FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS IN THE PACIFIC

(Item 7 of the Agenda)

98. Working group reports were presented and adopted after considering suggestions from the participants.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CLOSING OF THE WORKSHOP

99. The workshop made recommendations related to two specific issues. The first was the definition of poverty as it is perceived in the PICs. The workshop recognized the need for the international definition (US\$1 per person per day) to enable comparison across countries. However, it noted that a second financial measure for each country could also be developed, reflecting a more realistic amount relevant to that country.

100. Thus, the workshop recommended the following definition of poverty for Pacific Island Countries: “An inadequate level of sustainable human development” manifested by:

- a lack of access to basic services;
- a lack of opportunities to participate fully in the socio-economic life of the community; and
- a lack of adequate resources (including cash) to meet the basic needs of the household or customary obligations to the extended family, village community and/or church.

101. The second issue considered by the workshop was the various types of capacity-building for improved monitoring of food security and poverty. It identified as highly relevant for the Pacific Island countries training that:

- promotes and encourages inter-country sharing of expertise;
- coordinates amongst the donors capacity building initiatives in the Pacific, with SPC as a focal point;
- involves attachments to regional and international bodies for the purposes of skills transfer;
- incorporates a program of regional workshops;
- includes a program of national workshops; and
- encourages depth of knowledge/skills within national institutions.

102. In order to promote and encourage inter-country sharing of expertise, it was recommended that the participating countries identify TCDC programs available to PICs and utilize them for regional and national activities

103. Concerning the requirements for training at the regional level, the workshop first identified and then prioritised the key areas where capacity building was required. These needs were reflected in the following list which constitutes a medium-term plan for capacity building through regional training activities:

1. compilation of MDG indicators
2. compilation of Agriculture's contribution to GDP
3. analysis and data use (including HIES)
4. nutrition information
5. Food Balance Sheets
6. FIVIMS
7. environmental Indicators
8. data estimation and Forecasting
9. data dissemination and exchange
10. sampling methodology
11. survey/Census processing
12. fisheries Statistics
13. forestry Statistics

104. In terms of national training, individual countries or groups of countries expressed interest in capacity building in the following areas:

- agricultural census methodology and implementation (Niue, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Fiji)
- GIS (Samoa, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Tonga, Palau, Niue)
- FIVIMS (Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, Cooks Islands, Niue)
- MDGs (all countries)
- market information and agricultural prices (PNG, Samoa)

105. The workshop also recognised the need for on-the-job training and direct technical advisory services and recommended the provision of such inputs in support of the current priority activities associated with developing indicators for the MDGs and the development of national FIVIMS

106. The workshop was adjourned after a prayer by Mr Herman FRANCISCO (Palau) and a vote of thanks by Mr Pionie WILLIE (Vanuatu).

AGENDA

1. Opening ceremony
2. Developing Food and Agricultural Statistics in Support of Food Security and Poverty Reduction in the Pacific
3. Poverty Reduction, Food Security and Sustainable Development in the Pacific: Information Requirements, Methods and Technical Tools
4. Promoting the Effective Utilization of Information for Decision-making on Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development
5. Promoting the Use of Data on Food and Agriculture
6. Capacity Building in Support of Agencies Responsible for Statistics to Measure Progress toward Food Security and Poverty Reduction
7. Next Steps for Strengthening Food and Agricultural Statistics in the Pacific

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OPENING SPEECH

BY

Dr Vili Fuavao
FAO Subregional Representative

Mrs Fusi Vave, Fiji's Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar and Land Resettlement

Distinguished Participants from Member Countries

Colleagues

Friends

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), I welcome you to the Workshop on Strengthening of Food and Agriculture Statistics in the Pacific in Support of Food Security and Poverty Reduction Strategies and Programs

The international community, at the 1996 World Food Summit, Johannesburg Summit and *WFS: five years later* identified food security and, in particular, poverty alleviation as the issues of special foci. While the world is preoccupied with war against poverty, FAO is reminding nations that they must first win the battle against hunger. The fight against poverty cannot be won without eliminating hunger and malnutrition; it is the most critical manifestation of poverty.

For still 840 million people, around 800 million of them in developing countries, suffer from chronic hunger. This leaves us much too far from World Food Summit goal set in 1996 to cut by half the number of hungry people by 2015.

In order to make progress towards reducing the number of hungry and alleviation of poverty in the world, it is necessary that bench marks to measure the progress are established. The Pacific is no exception. The importance of good statistical data and its analysis in the national development of some countries is seldom appreciated. This perception is changing though and the demand for good and accurate statistical data in the agricultural sector is increasing in recognition of the fact that the economy of the Pacific countries depend heavily on this sector. In the Pacific we still lack a clear definition and scope of the poverty that exists in our region. There is a real need to establish indicators, both regional and/or country specific, to enable us to measure food security or perhaps more importantly food insecurity and poverty.

There is an apparent need to strengthen our national capacities in data collection and statistical analysis.

Decision-making and policies are based on statistics. Who produces them, how they are analyzed and presented have direct influence on the quality of the decision-making process and the soundness of the policies decided. The question we should ask ourselves is how we go about strengthening the agricultural statistics in the region so decision-makers are provided with accurate information on these important issues. This brings me to the objective of the workshop this week. The workshop is focusing on ways to measure food security/poverty in the Pacific and to develop a strategy to recognize the need for data, to obtain the required data, to analyze it and to present it to decision-makers. Specifically, it aims to assist countries in formulating and utilizing a food and agricultural statistics system in the framework of an integrated system of agricultural statistics.

You will have opportunities throughout the week to learn and share your experience with others on how we go about achieving the objective of the workshop. I urge you to take advantage of the opportunities and wish to emphasize that before we leave the friendly shores of Fiji, we must make sure that appropriate recommendations on how to achieve the objectives of the workshop are adopted for follow up by both development agencies and more importantly by you the country participants.

Allow me to take the opportunity to express our appreciation to Fusi Vave for accepting our invitation to travel from Suva and open this workshop. Thank you very much Fusi for your continuing support for all of FAO activities in the region. I want also to thank all the participants for accepting our invitation to this workshop. Allow me also to acknowledge with thanks David Marshall from FAO Headquarters and Fred Baker and colleagues from the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok for their untiring effort to assist our region on these important issues. A big vinaka vakalevu to Fred Baker who has worked tirelessly to convene this workshop. I am sure that he and his efficient team will try to provide an atmosphere conducive to sharing and free flowing of ideas.

I wish you well in your deliberation.

Vinaka Vakalevu