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STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY FOR MONITORING FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) 2 AND 12

April 2020

SDGs:

Countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam

Project Codes: TCP/RAS/3618

FAO Contribution: USD 335 000

Duration: 1 April 2018 – 31 December 2019

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SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN THE CONTEXT
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TCP/RAS/3618

Implementing Partners

National Planning Bodies, National Statistics Offices and Ministries of Agriculture of the beneficiary Governments.

Beneficiaries

Officials from national planning bodies and national statistical institutions; citizens of project countries .

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BACKGROUND

At the forty-seventh session of the United Nations Statistics Commission (UNSC) in March 2016, an indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was agreed upon by Member States. The framework provides 169 targets and 231 indicators for the 17 SDGs. Because of the broad scope of the framework, it can be challenging for Member Countries to monitor all of the indicators, owing to deficits in available data, resources and capacities.

This TCP project was designed to support several countries in the Asia Pacific region (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam) that requested technical assistance for the establishment of a monitoring system to improve their capacities to report on their progress towards the achievement of the SDGs.

The design of this project included technical support and capacity development for the monitoring of two SDGs in particular: 2 (Zero hunger) and 12 (Responsible production and consumption). Specific indicators were targeted under each of these SDGs. Indicator 2.1.1 focuses on the Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU), indicator 2.1.2 focuses on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), and indicator 2.4.1 focuses on sustainable agriculture. Under SDG 12, the focus was indicator 12.3.1, which covers the Food Loss Index (FLI).

Building the capacities of local actors on data collection and analysis, measuring sustainable agriculture, and developing a sustainable model for monitoring food loss and waste were priorities of the project. Its design and implementation were informed by lessons learned from past projects, particularly a project concerned with food security measurement. Sharing the lessons learned under this project was also built into the project design, as a means of supporting South-South Cooperation.

IMPACT

By strengthening the capacities of Government institutions in the participating countries to collect and analyse data related to the PoU, the FIES, sustainable agriculture, and food loss and waste, an improvement in monitoring progress towards the achievement of the related indicators of SDGs 2 and 12 is expected.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

As a result of this project, stakeholders from the participating countries were made aware of the SDG 2 and SDG 12 indicators. Participants were able to collect and compile data and monitor the status of these indicators under the custodianship of FAO, as per the methodology that was agreed upon under the indicator framework.

The activities of the project and their related indicators were well defined in consultation with the participating countries. All six of the Outputs were achieved.

Output 1 focused on capacity development. Under this Output, national training workshops on data analysis and follow-up activities on the PoU were held for Government staff in Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Each week-long session provided capacity development on the indicators of SDG 2. National household surveys were utilized to calculate the PoU for Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. In Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, participants received theoretical and hands-on training on the FAO methodologies for estimating the PoU (SDG indicator 2.1.1) and the FIES (SDG indicator 2.1.2).

Output 2 also focused on capacity building. National workshops, which provided training for Government staff on revised methodologies for completing Supply Utilization Accounts (SUAs) and Food Balance Sheets (FBSs), were held in Bhutan, Malaysia and Nepal. Training was provided on the use of a tool that was created with Shiny, an open source package, for compiling data for both SUAs and FBSs as well. Drafts of SUAs and FBSs were prepared and presented for each country. Brief reports were prepared on the FBS compilation in Bhutan and Malaysia.

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STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY FOR MONITORING FOOD
SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN THE CONTEXT
OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) 2 AND 12

TCP/RAS/3618

Capacity development in the Philippines and the Republic of Korea was the focus of Output 3. Two national training workshops were held on the food security indicators (primarily 2.1.2 on FIES). Workshop sessions were conducted on the FAO methodologies for monitoring these indicators, and training was providing on calculating the PoU (indicator 2.1.1) in the Philippines. Participants in the Philippines expressed an interest in integrating the FIES with the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS) module from the Philippines National Nutrition Surveys (NNS), which are done on a rolling basis. This would allow for the production of estimates that would be comparable to the estimates produced under the previous surveys, and it would supply data for reporting on SDG indicator 2.1.2. In the Republic of Korea, the Korea National Health Nutrition and Examination Survey (KNHANES) was utilized to calculate the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity (indicator 2.1.2). The session in the Republic of Korea also allowed for collaboration among the representatives of the national institutions that were in attendance.

The focus of Output 4 was the piloting of a methodology for calculating food loss in Nepal and Thailand. Its achievement began with a desk study to assess the problem and define the scope of this issue in Nepal. This work was carried out by the national project coordinator (NPC), appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) and a national consultant, recruited by FAO. In Thailand, a NPC was appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC), and a national consultant was recruited as well. Following this, training workshops were held in both countries on SDG indicator 12.3.1, which focuses on the global Food Loss Index (FLI). National Technical Working Groups (TWGs) were established, and regular meetings of the TWGs were organized. Tomato and milk were selected as the commodities to be studied in Nepal, and in Thailand, banana and mung beans were selected. Guidelines for data collection were established, and a field demonstration was held so that the food loss statistics for these products could be calculated. A South-South Cooperation Programme brought an expert from India to both Nepal and Thailand, where he shared his experiences of conducting a food loss measurement survey in India. The findings and lessons learned from the field visit were discussed, and work plans to conduct the feasibility studies were drafted. The data were collected, compiled and discussed, and final reports on the food loss feasibility studies were produced in both countries.

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Under Output 5, a study report on sustainable agriculture in Viet Nam was produced. A national training workshop on measuring sustainable agriculture was held, a national consultant was recruited, and a stock-taking exercise was carried out. A TWG was formed, and they developed an action plan. A study report was produced and presented in the TWG meetings and at a regional meeting. The preparation of country reports on SDG 2 and their dissemination was the goal of Output 6. In each country, national TWGs analysed and discussed the results of the various studies done, and they were encouraged to share the available data for monitoring and reporting on SDG 2. The sustainable agriculture report from Viet Nam that was produced under Output 5, and the FBSs of Bhutan and Malaysia were disseminated. At the time of this report, the national reports for Maldives, Myanmar and Sri Lanka had not been produced. The data had been collected in Sri Lanka and was awaiting compilation for the final report, whereas in Maldives and Myanmar the data collection was either being organized or carried out.

The final activity of the project was a regional meeting that was attended by delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam. At this meeting, they shared their experiences, reports, future plans, and recommendations for follow-up actions.

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STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY FOR MONITORING FOOD
SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN THE CONTEXT
OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) 2 AND 12

TCP/RAS/3618

IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN

The majority of planned activities were completed within the time period of the project. The activities were implemented within the planned budget. A number of budget revisions were requested and approved in order to allow for funding reallocations throughout the life of the project.

As mentioned above, the reports on SDG 2 had not been produced by Maldives, Myanmar and Sri Lanka at the time of this report. This was due to a delay in the implementation of the household surveys, which led to a delay in the compilation of the data. It is anticipated that the capacity development provided under this project will enable countries to compile the data on the targeted SDG indicators and complete an SDG 2 report, once the data is collected.

The anticipated risks were mitigated by proper communication and coordination with resource persons and stakeholders. For this reason, the risks that were identified during the formulation of the project did not cause any issues.

FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

It was concluded at the final regional meeting that the participating countries would benefit from further technical support for monitoring and reporting on the SDGs in general, and on SDGs 2 and 12 in particular. It is recommended that additional resources be mobilized for assistance with the implementation of surveys and censuses, as well as the collection and sharing of data. Assistance should also be provided for scaling up project activities to cover larger areas and for studying the rates of food loss and waste of additional commodities, under SDG indicator 12.3.1.

Specific follow-up actions were formulated for certain countries. In Myanmar, the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) expressed an interest in producing a thematic report on food security and in estimating the PoU at national and subnational levels, using data from the most recent Myanmar Living Condition Survey (MLCS). They requested further support for this purpose.

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Assistance on the use of the FBS Shiny tool would be beneficial for stakeholders in Bhutan, Malaysia and Nepal. It is also recommended that they be made aware of any updated versions that are created. Stakeholders in Viet Nam would benefit from further technical assistance to support the implementation of the 2025 rural agriculture census and for the gathering of data for the International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS) (2022, 2028). Further assistance is also recommended for the collection, processing, and analysis of data, as well as the production of a report on SDG indicator 2.4.1. Finally, the Korea Rural Economic Institute would benefit from assistance in conducting more research and updating the parameters for the FIES.

SUSTAINABILITY

1. Capacity development

The countries supported under this project expressed a commitment to reporting on their progress towards achieving SDG 2 and SDG 12, as well as all of the SDGs in general. The capacities built through this project are expected to contribute to the monitoring of the indicator frameworks of SDG 2 and 12, which are also embedded in the national priorities of the participating Governments. Strong partnerships and alliances were created between FAO and the participating Governments. Due to the formation of national TWGs, expanded partnerships and alliances were also created among the various Government stakeholders. Follow-up actions were clearly defined and documented.

2. Gender equality

Men and women participated equally in project activities. They are also expected to benefit equally from the implementation of gender-sensitive policies based on the data collected under the project.

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY FOR MONITORING FOOD
SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN THE CONTEXT
OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) 2 AND 12

TCP/RAS/3618

3. Environmental sustainability

The project had no negative impacts on the environment. The results obtained from the analyses on food loss and sustainable agriculture helped to raise awareness on these issues. These analyses are expected to encourage Governments to implement policies to reduce food loss and to promote sustainable agriculture, both of which contribute to overall environmental sustainability.

4. Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) – in particular Right to Food and Decent Work

The results obtained from the food consumption data analyses, the compilation of FBSs, and the status of sustainable agriculture are expected to assist the participating Governments in implementing a HRBA for food security and decent work in their respective countries.

5 Technological sustainability

The project provided the tools and methodologies to develop national capacities to collect, compile and monitor the progress of food security, sustainable agriculture and food availability and loss statistics. The methodologies introduced by the project were globally tested, agreed upon and implemented by using available technologies. The participating countries reported that they are confident in pursuing and scaling up project activities with some support from development partners.

6. Economic sustainability

The participating Governments were encouraged to carry forward the activities related to

the monitoring of SDGs 2 and 12, and governments were allocating the resources to do so at the time of this report. The institutions and human resources involved in the project already existed within national Governments and institutions; therefore, there are no foreseen issues with the economic sustainability of this project. It is envisaged that the activities carried out will help further develop advanced plans for hunger eradication, sustainable agriculture and reduced food loss.

DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

❑ Assessment of harvest and post-harvest losses of banana and mung bean commodities in Thailand. C. Bangwaek. December 2020. 28 pp.

❑ Food Balance Sheets status report: Bhutan. K. Wangmo. December 2019. 3 pp.

❑ Food Balance Sheets status report: Malaysia. M. Othman. December 2020. 4 pp.

❑ Food loss measurement feasibility study in Nepal- a case for tomato and milk. R. Regmi. December 2020. 52 pp.

❑ SDG Indicator 2.4.1 - Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture in Viet Nam. T. Nguyen. December 2020. 94 pp.

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY FOR MONITORING FOOD
SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN THE CONTEXT
OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) 2 AND 12

TCP/RAS/3618

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Expected Impact	Strengthened capacities to monitor regular progress on SDGs for the attainment of SDGs and Zero Hunger targets		
Outcome	Improve capacity of national institutions of participating countries for producing quality and timely indicators required for SDG 2 and SDG 12 monitoring related to food and agriculture sector.		
	Indicator	– The country PoU estimated using existing HIES data – Moderate and severe food insecurity based on FIES estimated (SDG 2.1.2) – Report on food loss and waste based on pilot study prepared – Report on sustainable agriculture drafted – National report on SDG prepared and published	
	Baseline	– 0 – 0 – 0 – 0 – 0	
	End Target	– 5 – 2 – 2 – 1 – 5	
	Comments and follow-up action to be taken	Nine national training workshops were conducted successfully. These workshops developed the capacities of national staff. National TWGs were created, pilot studies were done and reports were prepared and shared. The participating Governments were encouraged to carry forward/scale up the activities related to SDG 2 and SDG 12.	

Output 1	Capacity building of the government staff from National Statistical Offices (NSOs), ministries of planning and agriculture and SDG coordinating committees on SDG indicator 2.1.1; Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU) by analysing the already existing data		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of national training workshops conducted to develop the national capacity	5	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	The targeted five national training workshops on SDG indicator 2.1.1 (PoU) in Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh were conducted successfully. FAO methodologies for estimating the PoU were explained to the participants theoretically and via hands-on training. Country data from household surveys, results, challenges and suggestions to improve food consumption modules were discussed.		
Activity 1.1	National training workshop on data analysis and follow-up activities on PoU in Bangladesh		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	– The national training workshop in Bangladesh was conducted successfully to develop the capacity of national staff on SDG food security indicators. This workshop was carried out using other FAO funding that was not part of the budget of this TCP project. – FAO methodologies for estimating the SDG indicators 2.1.1 (PoU) and 2.1.2 (FIES) were explained to the participants theoretically and via hands-on training.	
Activity 1.2	National training workshop on data analysis and follow-up activities on Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU) in Maldives		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	– A week-long national training workshop (30 March to 4 April 2019) was conducted successfully to develop the capacity of national staff on the food security indicators of the SDGs. – Data from the 2016 Maldives HIES were used to estimate the PoU. – The national and subnational results were presented during the workshop. Data issues were included. – National staff understood the FAO methodology and expressed confidence in using it. – The FAO methodology for estimating the FIES (indicator 2.1.2) was also explained to participants theoretically and via hands-on training.	

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY FOR MONITORING FOOD
SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN THE CONTEXT
OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) 2 AND 12

TCP/RAS/3618

		National training workshop on data analysis and follow-up activities on PoU in Myanmar		
Activity 1.3	Achieved	Yes		
	Comments	– A week-long national training workshop was conducted successfully from 26 – 30 August 2019 to develop the capacities of national staff on the food security indicators. – Using household survey data, the PoU and other parameters were estimated at national and subnational levels in both rural and urban areas. – The main issues/challenges pertaining to the collection and analysis of food consumption data from the household-level survey were discussed. It was recommended that the food consumption guidelines (published by FAO for low- and middle-income countries) be referred to in the design of a module on this topic. – The Ministry of Planning and Finance is the overall coordinating agency for the implementation of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) and the monitoring of the National Indicator Framework (NIF). – Unfortunately, none of the local agencies were responsible for both food security indicators (PoU and FIES), due to a lack of clarity about the indictors and the data requirements to compute them. – The timing of the mission was appropriate for the sensitization of the participants and senior officials on the food security indicators. During the meeting with the Director-General of the CSO, he stated that he appreciated the mission and assured the FIES will be included in the next MLCS in 2022, and that the FAO methodology to estimate the PoU will be used. Follow-up actions to be taken: – The CSO showed interest in producing the thematic report on food security and in estimating the PoU at national and subnational levels using the latest MLCS data. They requested further support for this purpose.		
		National training workshop on data analysis and follow up activities on PoU in Pakistan		
Activity 1.4	Achieved	Yes		
	Comments	– A national training workshop was conducted successfully over the course of one week (07 – 11 May 2018) to develop the capacity of national staff on the food security indicators of the SDGs. – The procedure of estimating the PoU using the Pakistan Social and Living Standard Measurement (PSLM) Survey was presented and explained, focusing on estimating the consumption of food away from home and detecting and treating outliers. – Regarding the FIES, more than one dataset was analysed for the estimation of indicator 2.1.2, including a 2017 dataset from Gallup for Pakistan. – It was decided to include an FIES module in the district-level HIES and PSLM questionnaires, and the HIES questionnaire was modified to obtain relevant data to estimate the PoU. – Focal points were appointed from relevant institutions in order to form an email list for information sharing and for technical assistance in the creation of indicators in the future.		
		National training workshop on data analysis and follow-up activities on PoU in Sri Lanka		
Activity 1.5	Achieved	Yes		
	Comments	– For one-week (25 – 29 March 2019), a national training workshop was conducted successfully to develop the capacities of national staff on the food security indicators. – FAO methodologies for estimating indicators 2.1.1 (PoU) and 2.1.2 (FIES) were explained to the participants theoretically and via hands-on training, using Sri Lanka's HIES 2016 survey data for the PoU, and FAO data collected through the Gallup World Poll (GWP) for the FIES. – District- and national-level estimates and other parameters were produced and discussed during the workshop. – Issues/challenges pertaining to the collection and analysis of food consumption data were identified and discussed. – The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) collected the data for HIES 2019 and included a FIES module in the survey questionnaire. Follow-up actions to be taken: – Staff members of the DCS are expected to update the Nutrition Composition Table in consultation with local nutrition experts. – FAO will provide technical support for the estimation of food security indicators, particularly the FIES, based on data from the 2019 HIES.		

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY FOR MONITORING FOOD
SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN THE CONTEXT
OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) 2 AND 12

TCP/RAS/3618

Output 2	Capacity building of the government staff from National Statistical Offices (NSOs), ministries of planning and agriculture and SDG coordinating committees on SUA/FBS			
	Indicators		Target	Achieved
	Number of national training workshops conducted to develop the national capacity		2	Yes
Baseline	0			
Comments	Two national training workshops were held in Bhutan and Malaysia as originally planned, and one additional national training workshop was also conducted in Nepal upon government request. The workshops were very fruitful and interactive in terms of the presentation of the FBS methodology, the overview of the FBS Shiny tool and hands-on practice by participants along with group data entry, draft SUA/FBS compilation, the presentation of results, the formation of a National Technical Working Group (TWG) and discussions for follow up activities. Follow-up action to be taken: Updated versions of the FBS Shiny tool and support for its use should be provided.			
Activity 2.1	National training workshop on SUA/FBS and follow-up activities in Bhutan			
	Achieved	Yes		
	Comments	− A four-day national training workshop was conducted on SUA and FBS completion in Bhutan from 16 – 19 July 2019. − The workshop was attended by representatives of key institutions, who are expected to significantly contribute in the compilation/validation of FBS, either as data providers, compilers, validators or users. − The FBS Shiny tool of Bhutan was provided, data entry was done and a draft FBS was prepared and presented. − The FBS Shiny tool and its functions were well appreciated. − A national TWG meeting was held to discuss follow-up actions. − A brief report on the compilation of FBSs in Bhutan was prepared and shared with FAO by the Statistics Division of the RNR of the MoAF.		
Activity 2.2	National training workshop on SUA/FBS and follow-up activities in Malaysia			
	Achieved	Yes		
	Comments	− A week-long national training workshop was conducted successfully from 25 – 29 November 2019 on SUAs and FBSs in Malaysia. − The capacities of national stakeholders were enhanced on revised SUA/FBS methodologies and on the country-specific FBS Shiny tool to compile SUA/FBSs. − Groups were formulated to verify and update the available data in the tool, to carry out the entry of new data, to compile draft SUAs/FBSs for the years 2015 – 17, and to present and discuss the results. − National government staff appreciated the tool and expressed that they found it useful. − Participants were well versed in the revised FBS methodology and gained confidence in compiling SUAs/FBSs using the FBS tool. − A brief report on the compilation of FBSs in Malaysia was prepared and shared with FAO by the Department of Statistics of Malaysia.		
Activity 2.3	National training workshop on SUA/FBS and follow-up activities in Nepal			
	Achieved	Yes		
	Comments	− Upon a request from the Government of Nepal, this activity was included in this project, and over three days (11 – 13 August 2019) a SUA/FBS national training workshop was conducted. − The workshop provided training on the concept of SUAs and FBSs and the revised methodology of FBS compilation was reviewed. − Hands-on training was also provided on a country-specific FBS Shiny tool. − A meeting of the national TWG was held, and SUAs/FBSs for the years 2014 – 2016 were drafted.		

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY FOR MONITORING FOOD
SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN THE CONTEXT
OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) 2 AND 12

TCP/RAS/3618

				Target	Achieved
Output 3	Capacity building of the government staff and relevant stakeholders in the countries on analysis and reporting on moderate and severe food insecurity based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (SDG-2.1.2) in the existing country data or ongoing planned surveys				
	Indicators			Target	Achieved
	Number of national training workshops conducted to develop the national capacity.			2	Yes
Baseline	0				
Comments	National training workshops in the Philippines and the Republic of Korea were conducted successfully. Participants received theoretical and hands-on training on the FAO methodologies for estimating the FIES (SDG indicator 2.1.2) using data from each country.				
Activity 3.1	National training workshop and follow-up on FIES in the Philippines				
	Achieved	Yes			
	Comments	– A national training workshop was conducted successfully to develop the capacity of national staff on the food security indicators of the SDGs (particularly on SDG 2.1.2 [FIES]) over one week, from 21 – 25 October 2019. – During the technical sessions, the methodologies for compiling data on indicators 2.1.2 (FIES) and 2.1.1 (PoU) were explained to the participants. – The item-response theory and Rasch statistical model, which is used to estimate the prevalence of food security using the FIES/HFIAS module, were explained. Participants were also informed on how the local scale is calibrated to the global scale by FAO. – The participants reported that they understood the methodology and appreciated FAO's innovative work in creating the global scale. They expressed interest in integrating the FIES and HFIAS modules from the rolling Philippines National Nutrition Surveys, which serve to: (i) produce estimates that are comparable with previous ones; and (ii) provide inputs for global reporting on SDG indicator 2.1.2. Follow-up actions to be taken: – The Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Philippines is expected to share the HFIAS module of its NNS with FAO for guidance on how to integrate it with the FIES module.			
Activity 3.2	National training workshop and follow-up on FIES in South Korea				
	Achieved	Yes			
	Comments	– Over three days (11 – 13 December 2019), a national workshop was held, and it provided a good opportunity for all participants to be exposed to the methodologies developed by FAO to monitor SDG Target 2.1 and to estimate SDG indicator 2.1.2 using the food security scale data collected through the KNHANES. – The workshop also provided a good opportunity for representatives of various national institutions to meet and share their experiences and data, and to discuss a data collection strategy to gather information about food security in the Republic of Korea. Follow-up actions to be taken: – Assistance to the Korea Rural Economic Institute would allow for some of the required parameters to be updated, and for additional research to be done.			
Output 4	Piloting of methodology for food loss and waste in two countries of the region (provisionally selected Nepal and Thailand)				
	Indicators			Target	Achieved
	Methodology piloted and report prepared.			2	Yes
Baseline	0				
Comments	A food loss methodology was piloted in two countries (Nepal and Thailand) and reports for each were prepared and presented at a regional meeting. At the time of this report, the Governments were scaling up the methodology to cover a greater area, and other commodities were being selected for the collection of food loss data. This information was to be compiled for SDG indicator 12.3.1 (FLI).				
Activity 4.1	Desk-based assessment of problem and definition of scope of pilot study, Nepal				
	Achieved	Yes			
	Comments	– A NPC was assigned by the MoALD of the Government of Nepal – A National Consultant was recruited by FAO. An assessment of potential problems was carried out in consultation with the NPC.			

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY FOR MONITORING FOOD
SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN THE CONTEXT
OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) 2 AND 12

TCP/RAS/3618

Activity 4.2	Missions and piloting on food loss index; organization of working group meetings; Nepal	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	– A three-day (18 – 20 February 2019) training workshop was conducted to update and share knowledge on SDG indicator 12.3.1 (FLI) with national stakeholders. – A national TWG was formed, and regular meetings were organized to decide the modalities for conducting the food loss pilot/feasibility study. – A second mission was organized to provide practical guidelines and field demonstrations to collect data and compile food loss statistics for the selected commodities (tomato and milk). – Under a South-South Cooperation, an expert from India was invited to join the mission and share his experiences of conducting a food loss measurement survey in India. – Findings and lessons learned from the field visit were discussed, and a work plan for conducting the feasibility test was drafted collectively, based on available resources.
Activity 4.3	Field work for data collection on piloting the survey; Nepal	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	– Field work was done following the formulation of a strategy for the scientific sample survey. – The data were entered, scrutinized, analysed and the results were discussed in a meeting of the TWG. – A food loss feasibility test report entitled "Food loss measurement feasibility study in Nepal: a case for tomato and milk" was prepared, reviewed and finalized. Follow-up actions to be taken: – At the time of this report, the Government was planning to scale up these activities to cover a larger area and different commodities for the collection of food loss data for SDG indicator 12.3.1.
Activity 4.4	Piloting on food loss index; Thailand	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	– A NPC was assigned by the MoAC of the Government of Thailand. – A National Consultant was recruited. – A three-day training workshop was conducted from 13 to 15 May 2019 with national stakeholders to allow for the sharing of knowledge on SDG indicator 12.3.1 (FLI) and to consult and decide upon the modalities for the proposed pilot/feasibility study on food loss.
Activity 4.5	Organization of working group meetings; Thailand	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	– A national TWG was formed, and regular meetings were organized to implement the food loss feasibility study. – Field demonstrations to collect data and compile food loss statistics for the selected commodities (banana and mung beans) were conducted with the support of the food loss measurement expert from India, under the above-mentioned South-South Cooperation programme for TWG members.
Activity 4.6	Field work for data collection on piloting the survey; Thailand	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	– Field work was done following the formulation of the strategy for the scientific sample survey. – The data were entered, scrutinized and analysed, and the results were discussed in a TWG meeting. – A food loss feasibility test report entitled "Assessment of harvest and post-harvest losses of banana and mung bean commodities in Thailand" was prepared, reviewed and finalized. Follow-up actions to be taken: – The Government was scaling up these activities at the time of this report to cover more commodities and a larger area to collect food loss data for SDG indicator 12.3.1.

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY FOR MONITORING FOOD
SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN THE CONTEXT
OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) 2 AND 12

TCP/RAS/3618

Output 5	Study on pattern of sustainable agriculture on selected countries of the region; (Vietnam)		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Study conducted, report prepared and presented	1	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	A study report on patterns of sustainable agriculture in Vietnam was prepared, presented, and discussed in a regional meeting that took place after a national training session on SDG 2.4.1 (sustainable agriculture) in Viet Nam. A national TWG was formed.		
Activity 5.1	Study on pattern of sustainable agriculture in Vietnam		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	− Over four days (16 – 19 September 2019) a national training workshop was conducted on measuring sustainable agriculture in Vietnam. − A National Consultant was recruited. − To understand the status of data availability to measure sustainable agriculture in Vietnam, a stock-taking exercise was carried out.	
Activity 5.2	Formation of National Technical Working Group and its meetings		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	− A national TWG comprising relevant stakeholders was formed. The General Statistics Office (GSO) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD) nominated co-focal points for SDG indicator 2.4.1 (sustainable agriculture) and agreed to develop an action plan for measuring sustainable agriculture in Viet Nam. − Occasional TWG meetings were organised by the GSO and with consultations, the GSO complied a study report entitled "SDG Indicator 2.4.1 – Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture in Viet Nam".	
Activity 5.3	Presentation of the results of the study on pattern of sustainable agriculture in Viet Nam		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	− The main results of the study report, such as data availability, data gaps, challenges, action plans, lesson learned and further assistance required, were presented in TWG meetings, as well as in a regional meeting. The full report was also shared. − At the time of this report, the GSO was seeking resources from the state budget to scale up the study. Follow-up actions to be taken: − At the time of this report, follow-up technical assistance was requested for the implementation of the rural agriculture census (2025) and for the gathering of data for the International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS) (2022, 2028) and to collect, process, analyse and report on the data for SDG indicator 2.4.1.	

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY FOR MONITORING FOOD
SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN THE CONTEXT
OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) 2 AND 12

TCP/RAS/3618

Output 6	Preparation of country SDG2 report and dissemination through national and regional workshop		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Reports prepared and knowledge, experiences and results shared in national and regional meetings.	5	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	– National TWGs were created and modalities to conduct pilots and to collate available data were discussed and decided upon. Available data were analysed, and the results were discussed, reported on and shared in a regional meeting. Follow-up actions to be taken: – Further technical support and follow-up to encourage countries to collect and share data is required.		
Activity 6.1	National report on SDG2 using diverse set of data will be prepared for Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	National TWGs were formed in the participating countries and the available data were analysed. Results, data gaps and reporting outlines were discussed with national participants and reported on in back to office reports. Countries were encouraged to share the available data and/or collect the requisite/appropriate data to report on and monitor the progress of SDG2. A report was produced on the sustainable agriculture study in Viet Nam, and FBS status reports on Bhutan and Malaysia were prepared and shared. Maldives and Myanmar were collecting or planning to collect the requisite data for food security indicators through household budget surveys at the time of this report. The data had been collected in Sri Lanka, but, as in Maldives and Myanmar, the national reports had not been produced.	
Activity 6.2	Regional Training Workshop on Data dissemination and report sharing		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	Regional meetings were attended by national delegates of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam, and they shared their knowledge, experiences, results, reports, future plans and suggestions/recommendations for further support. At the regional meeting, it was concluded that further technical assistance is required in the region to support the collection and compilation of data, as well as monitoring and reporting on the SDG indicators in general, and the indicators of SDGs 2 and 12 in particular. This assistance is subject to formal requests from Governments and the allocation of resources by FAO. Follow-up action: FAO-RAP committed resources to finalizing reports on the SDG 12.3.1 pilots in Nepal and Thailand, as well as the SDG 2.4.1 country assessment with the national counterparts. These reports will be published collectively in a regional publication in 2020.	