



Statistical Training Framework in Africa

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Outline

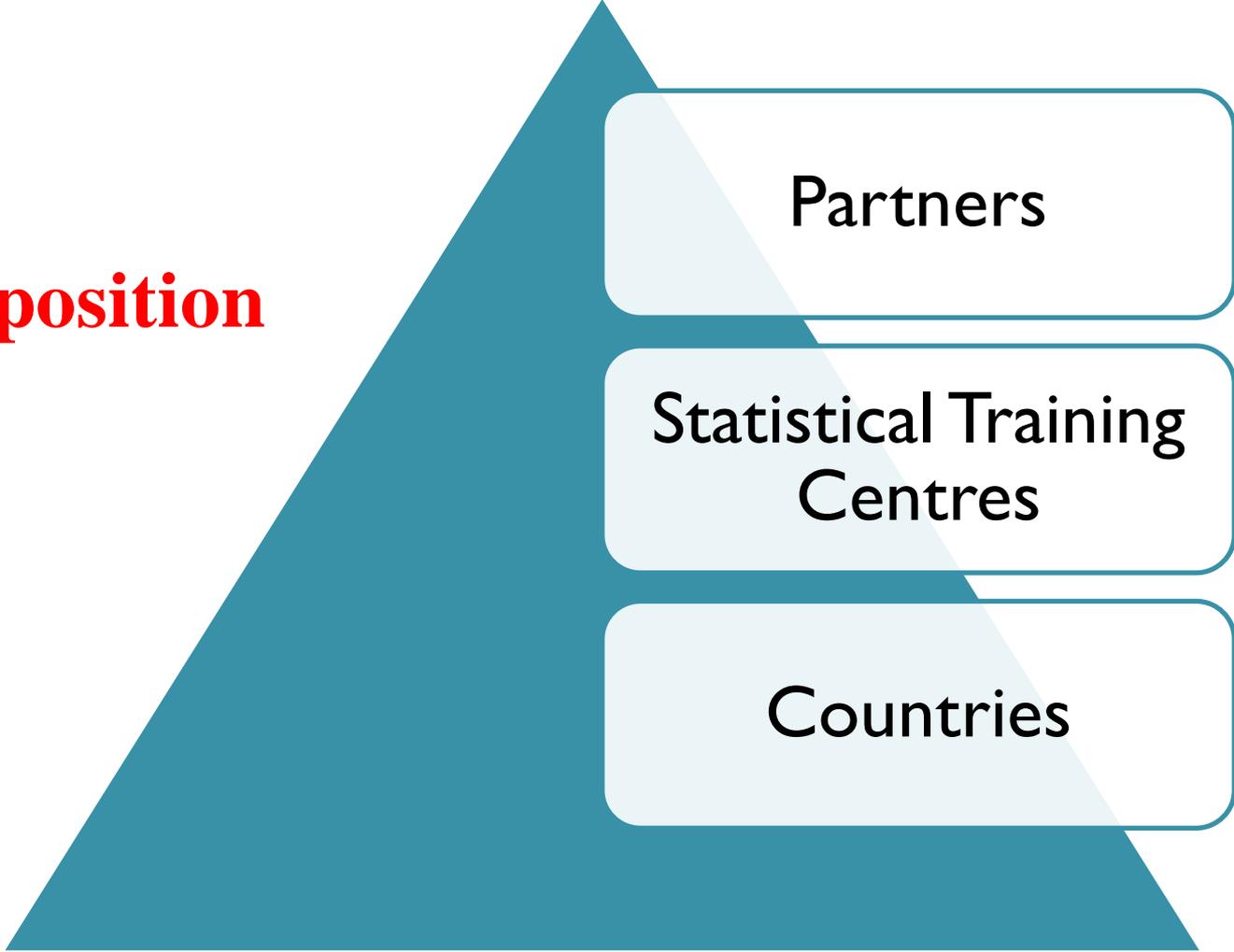
- Background
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Background

- Among challenges faced by African countries: lack of human resources able to produce timeliness and reliable statistics that meet increased and various demand of statistics ;
- In the meantime, training and human resources development have been identified as one of the main challenges facing the development of statistics in African National Statistical Systems (NSSs);
- Beside commendable countries efforts, regional and international partners have set up a number of initiatives and engaged in various activities aimed at enhancing the statistical training capacity of African countries through the establishment of the AGROST.

AGROST

Composition



Partners

Statistical Training
Centres

Countries

AGROST

Main mission: to ensure coordination of activities & initiatives in relation with statistical training and capacity building at 3 levels:

ongoing activities & initiatives

project planning

synergy of TFP support

Baseline Studies

- At the inception of AGROST: members stressed the urgent need for developing **four baseline studies** that will constitute a foundation of all future training activities

Baseline Studies

- *A compendium of African Statistical Training Centres:*
 - Establishment of a comprehensive list of *Statistical Training Centres* (STCs) that include Statistical Training Institutes, Statistics Departments within universities and national statistical training centres managed by National Statistical Offices;
- *A review of statistical curricula:*
 - *Review of the statistical training curricula* restricted on a sample of curricula according to the zones, the languages and the specificity of the curricula;

Baseline Studies

- *Statistical training needs and capacity assessment:*
 - To assess whether the existing curricula respond to the needs expressed by the African national statistical systems;
- *Harmonization and standardisation of statistical curricula:*
 - Strategy that responds to the needs of Harmonisation of statistics at the regional level.

Agricultural facts in Africa

- More than **70% of active population** in rural and agricultural activities;
- Having realized the important role that agriculture plays, the African Heads of State and Government adopted a **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development (CAADP)** as a strategy for combatting poverty and hunger.

Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics

- Purpose of the Global Strategy: to provide a framework and methodology that will help improve the availability and quality of national and international food and agricultural statistics, and to guide policy analysis and decision making.
- The strategy is based on three pillars:
 - establishment of a minimum set of core data that countries will provide to meet their current and emerging demands;
 - integration of agriculture into their national statistical systems (NSSs) to ensure that the data will be comparable across countries and over time; and
 - ensuring the sustainability of the National Agricultural Statistical System (NASS) through governance and statistical capacity building.

Action Plan for Africa

- The implementation of the global strategy in Africa is guided by an Action Plan called “**Improving Statistics for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development – An Action Plan for Africa 2011-2015**”.

Action Plan for Africa

- The strategy of the Action plan is aimed at :
 - Improving the quantity and quality of agricultural statistics in Regional Member Countries;
 - Increasing the capacity of existing African training centers, to strengthen the capacity of regional and national training agencies to design and deliver effective training courses; and
 - Strengthening the demand for training by increasing the knowledge, skills, and competencies of people working in agricultural statistical agencies.

Action Plan for Africa

- APA encompasses **three technical components**:
 - technical assistance led by FAO;
 - training led by ECA; and
 - research led by AfDB.
- The plan also addresses a **governance mechanism** involving African Union Commission.

Training Component

- **Main objective:** To strengthen the capacity of providers and users of agricultural statistics by increasing the knowledge, skills and competencies of their staff, and to strengthen the capacity of African training centers to deliver high quality training in statistics.
- **Outcomes:**
 1. Agricultural statistics agencies are better able to identify and prioritize their training needs and to make more effective use of skilled personnel;
 2. The capacity of training centers to supply high quality training in priority subjects is increased; and
 3. The knowledge, skills and competencies of staff is increased and is applied to improving data coverage, quality and use.

Training Component

- **Sub-Component I: Improve HR management**
 - Align training with the rest of the NSS;
 - Advice and training for HR managers; and
 - Identify and prioritize training needs.

Training Component

- **Sub-Component 2: Strengthening training capacity**
 - Upgrade qualifications
 - Twinning arrangements
 - Review and develop syllabuses
 - Support seminars, courses and workshops
 - Upgrade facilities
 - Harmonize curricula

Training Component

- **Sub-Component 3: Strengthening demand for training:**
 - Scholarship fund ;
 - Funding to support participation in short courses;
 - Support for accrediting courses and qualifications.

Scholarships

- **Conditions for accessing to the scholarships:**
 - Scholarship exclusively devoted to the training of agricultural statisticians;
 - NSOs committed to use graduated students in the National Agricultural Statistics Agency;
 - Students committed to work within their countries after study.

Challenges

- Availability of funds to raise up the level of scholarships to meet the STCs requirements;
- Management of scholarships in relation to the implementation of agricultural statistics curricula.



THANKS