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Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics

Twenty-fifth Session
Vientiane, Lao PDR, 18-21 February 2014
Agenda Item 11
Data Dissemination Strategy of Lao PDR and Presentation of Related IT Applications

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**Lao's People Democratic Republics
Peace Independent Democratic Unity Prosperity**

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**ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION Vientiane, Lao PDR, 18-21 February 2014**

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I. Background of National Statistics Organization

Under the Statistics Law which approved in 2010, the National Statistics Organization in Lao PDR includes the Vertical System of the Statistics (VSS) organization and the Horizontal System of the Statistics (HSS) organization. **The Vertical Statistics System** includes: Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB), Statistics Center at Province, Municipality, Statistics Center at District, Sub-district and Village statistics unit. **The Horizontal Statistics System** includes: the organization of sectors at the central and local levels and the organization of production units/economic units. The organization of sectors at the central and local level includes: Statistics Center at Line ministries and Agencies, Statistics Section at Provinces' and Municipality's Sectoral Divisions and Statistics Unit at Districts' and Sub-Districts' Sectoral offices. The organization of production and economic unit include the statistics unit in a respective production unit/economic unit. The Management of official statistics,

- **MPI - Ministry of Planning and Investment:**
 - propose legislations, plans, etc. to Government,
 - direct, monitor and coordinate
- **PPID/CPID - Province/Capital Planning and Investment Division:**
 - Dispatch and implement the policies, strategic plan, legislation and laws in the areas of statistics activities in their province,
 - Direct, monitor and coordinate with other sectors within their local authority in the implementation of the statistics activities,
- **DPO- Planning Office of District :**
 - Implement the policies, legislation, laws and plans in the areas of statistics activities,
- **Line Ministries, Agencies, other sectors' Division at the provincial/capital.** Propose and review legislations, plans in their areas to Government, direct, monitor and coordinate.

In short **MPI is coordinating** both vertically and horizontally, while **decisions are med horizontally** for each level. The statistics organizational development is a process and it is required considerable times and resources to established mentioned organization system. Thus the accomplishment of Statistics law is very significance for institutional set-up of the statistical information system in the country.

Figure 1: NSS Development Framework

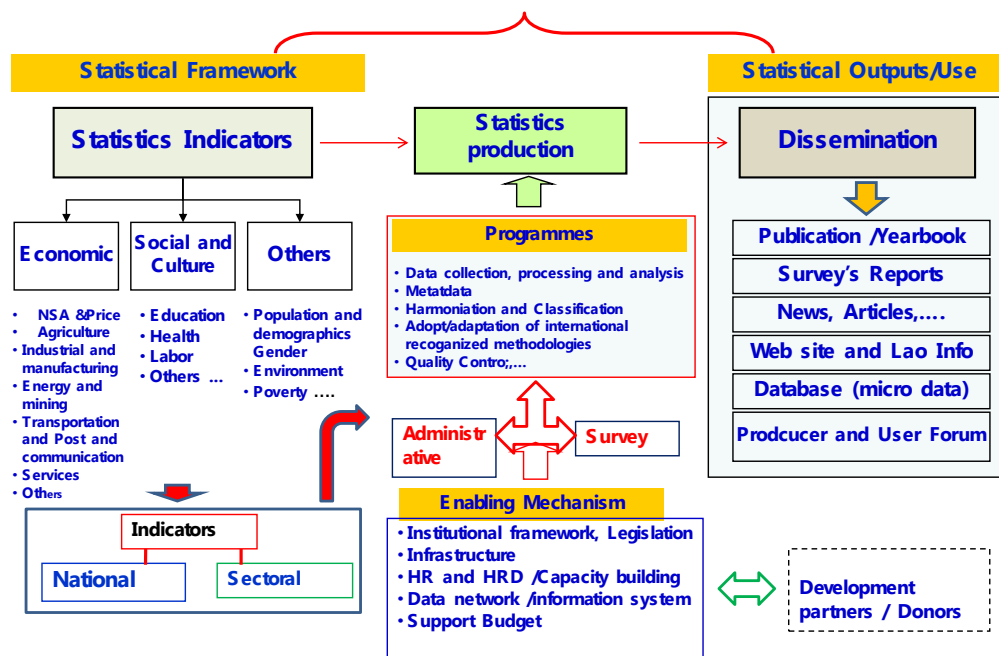


Figure 2:

National Statistics System (NSS)

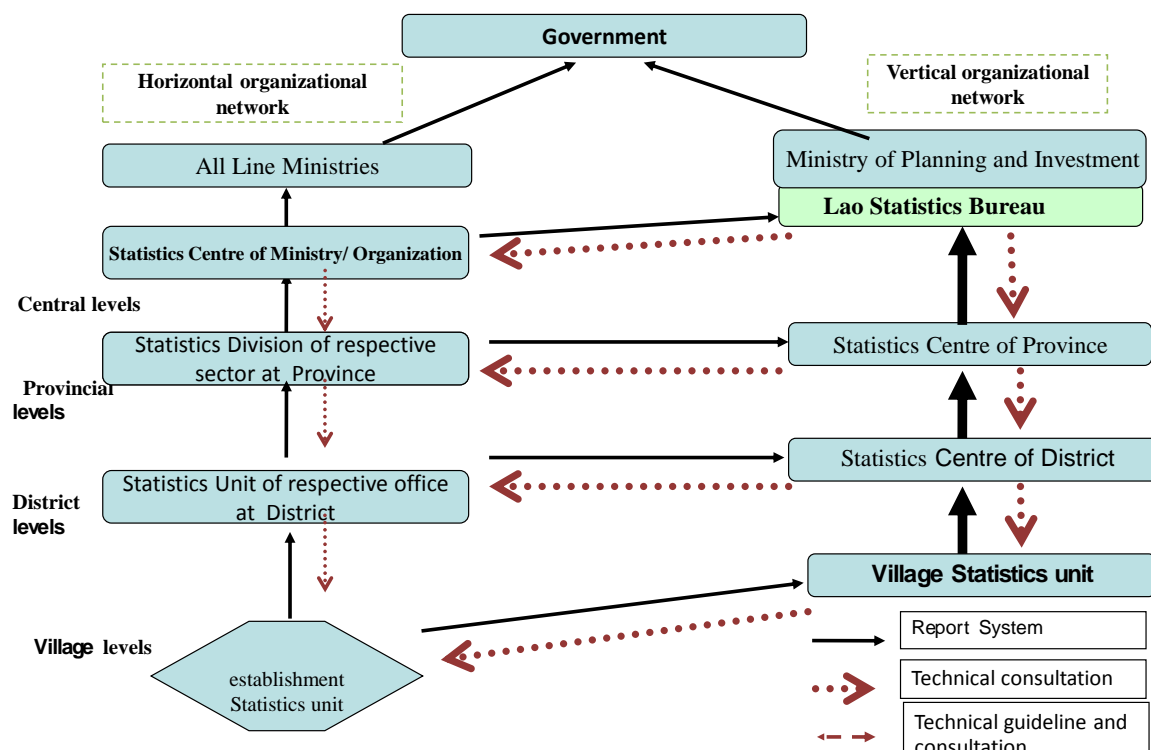
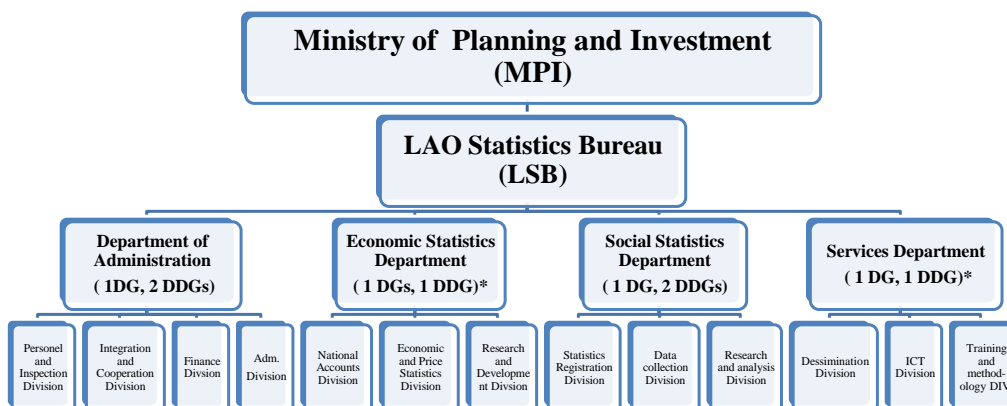


Figure 3:

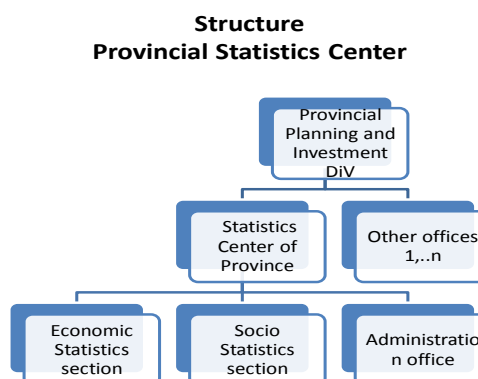
Current Organizational Structure of Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB)



Established structure as a mean of Delegating Authority and Sharing Responsibilities.
LSB staffs: 106 (2013) by 2015 (160) and 2020 (200).

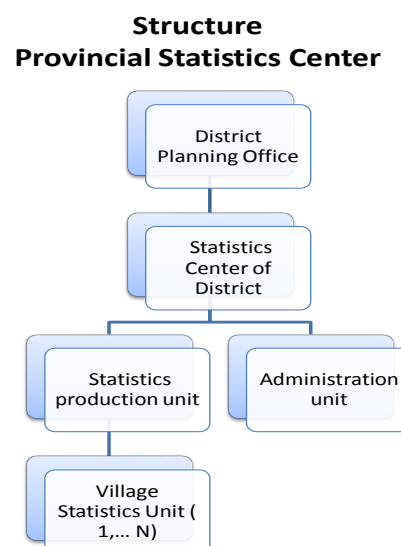
Structure of Statistics Organization: Vertical System (Province Statistics Center)

- At the provincial level head and deputy head of SCP (16 provinces and Vientiane Capital) appointed.
- Its staffing: 5-7(2013), by 2015 (6-10) with possible expansion to 15 for some provinces.



Structure of Statistics Organization: Vertical System (Province Statistics Center)

- At the District level head and deputy head of DCP (5 provinces and Vientiane Capital) appointed (on going)
- Its staffing: 1-3(2013), by 2015 (4-6) with possible expansion for some large districts.
- Priority will be focused on 51 districts (under the scope of Government pilot program of the decentralization policies implementation) including the setting up the Village Statistics Unit.
- Data collector at Village level (1-2 persons)



II. Data Dissemination Strategies

In SD NSS had clearly stage on improve dissemination and exchange of statistic. Enlarge official statistics database, strengthen data protection, increase varouse of formats to make it easy for users to understand and use them in appropriate way.

The government aims to use the General Data Dissemination Standard (GDDS) which comprises four main properties (“dimensions”) which serve as objectives when compiling and disseminating data. Those dimensions are: data (coverage, periodicity, and timeliness), quality, integrity, and access by the public. Therefore, the Lao Statistics Bureau has played a core role in supporting and cooperating with other statistics producers within the national statistical system to employ GDDS in their data dissemination. The main activities undertaken are:

- Define and improve official statistics as well as raw data dissemination policies taking into account users’ needs. Although currently we still cannot determine an appropriate statistical release schedule to allow universal access to the data by various users, we treat this as our long-term strategy.
- Produce manual on how to documents data.
- Improve and expand modes of dissemination to increase variety and timeliness specifically through the use of website to disseminate various surveys’ results. The Department of statistic will be determine schedules for statistical releases, publications and the release through the website. Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping will be used as one of dissemination methods; and Lao.Info software will be used to disseminate economic and social indicators. In addition, the Lao Statistics Bureau will attempt to expand formats of statistics to make available data by province on the top of national data;

- Develop and establish statistical service (dissemination) team to efficiently provide information to users.
- Conduct users' satisfaction and data quality surveys by developing suitable questionnaire that can measure expectation, satisfaction, and opinion on timeliness, accuracy and reliability of data.

VI. Challenges on Data Dissemination

Statistics production and dissemination are still not fully comprehensive as follows:

- The use of statistical concepts, standards, methodologies as well as classification systems is still not satisfactory.
- Statistics production is not comprehensive. For example, many main indicators cannot be produced
- Most reports are produced on an annual basis; reports on quarterly basis and monthly basis are still limited; and the statistical newsletter is still unavailable.
- There is still a big gap between the available statistical data and user's needs
- The technical infrastructure for statistical activities remain limited continuously
- There is a shortage of timely information on provincial/district levels.

V. Notification on the Dissemination and Use of Official Statistics

- **Objectives:** The key objectives of this notification aim to create dissemination of official statistics across the National Statistics System (NSS) on the standard consensus basis; promote the extensive use of official statistics to the domestics and foreign users thru provision of the effectiveness data uses to the statistics users having proficient use of the official statistics in term of appropriateness, completeness, accurateness, accessibilities and timeliness.
- **Dissemination and Use Principles of Official Statistics**

Principle 1: The dissemination of official statistics must be consistent with the regulations and statistics law in order to provide official statistics for planning, monitoring the National Socio Economic Development Plan (NSEDP), formulating direction, policies of Party and Government and for the researches and studies;

Principle 2: The dissemination of official statistics must guarantee the quality, completeness (full coverage), accurateness; timeliness and consistence with the reality in each period of time assure the credibility to the statistics users;

Principle 3: The dissemination of official statistics must guarantee the transparency and open access metadata as to facilitate the statistics users for better understanding about the statistics and its entire production process;

Principle 4: The dissemination of official statistics must harmonize in a consensus and systematic manner. The National Statistics System (NSS) therefore must be responsible in providing the official statistics as defined in Statistics Law;

Principle 5: The dissemination of primary data obtaining from surveys and censuses must authorize from the National Statistics System (NSS) as it is defined in chapter IV of Statistics Law and section IV of this Notification;

Principle 6: Ensuring the equal access to official statistics, convenience and timely.

- The Dissemination Forms/ Modalities of Official Statistics

The dissemination official statistics of the National Statistics System (NSS) can be done thru various forms as follows:

1. Publication include statistics book, reports, brochures, map and fliplets;
2. Publics communication thru the broadcasting via television, radio, speaker and news-paper;
3. Publication in soft copies with common fonts /alphabet as defined thru the different electronic products such as: CD, USB, internet, web-site and communication-telecommunication;
4. Dessimination thru the meeting and conference;
5. Other forms agreed by the dessimination technical working group.

- The Statistics Organizations' Rights for Dissemination of the Official Statistics

The articles 25 of statistics law defined the organizations that responsible for the data use announcement and dissemination of official statistics, they are including:

1. Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB)
2. Statistics Center at National Assembly, Ministries, Agencies, Supreme People's Court and Supreme People's Prosecution Office;
3. Province and Municipality (Capital City) Statistics Centers, District and Sub-districts Statistics Centers; In the implementation each organization should strictly follow the Chapter IV, Article 26, 27 and 28 of Statistics Law

- Coordination Mechanism

Statistics Organizations under the National Statistics System must establish a responsible unit to disseminate official statistics. The unit is responsible for defining the indicators for dissemination, completing manual and guideline for proper use or preventing misuses of official statistics, designing the dissemination forms and data exchange; A focal person therefore must be designated and participated in as a member to the official statistics dissemination task force team and work of each level of the system, the Vertical Statistics System at each level is a center hub for coordination; The dissemination task force team must be organized semi-annual their respective areas and localities on a regular and continue basis, however additional meetings can be called and organized in accordance to the actual need.

- Access and Use of Official Statistics

Statistics users have open access and use to all official statistics that has been disseminated and announced by the National Statistics System (NSS) at each level thru various dissemination forms by respecting NSS. The access and use meeting for consultation, exchange lessons-learned and experiences in 4 conditionality of the secondary (indicators) and primary (raw) data are as follows:

1. Accessibility and Use of Secondary (indicators) Data

- Statistics users can access and use secondary data (indicators) that officially disseminated thru dissemination forms defined at section III of this notification.

- For access of any other forms that not defined at the section III of this notification user can submit their request proposal to respective statistics organizations, agencies of the National Statistics System for Consideration.

2. Accessibility and Use of Primary (raw) Data

- Statistics users can directly access and use the metadata of censuses and national sample surveys (open access to metadata) thru website of Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB): Metadata of National Surveys (LNADA) and contact to Department of Data Services (DDS), LSB.

- For the metadata that has not been disseminated thru website of Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB), statistics users can directly contact respective statistics organizations, agencies of the National Statistics System (NSS) at each level.

- To obtain the primary (raw) data of survey, it is required that the statistics users submit their request proposal to respective statistics organizations, agencies of the National Statistics System (NSS) for consideration.

- Primary (raw) data open access will be authorized for only up to 60% of total survey population (survey units).

3. Data Services.

- Statistics users have access and use to official statistics (indicators and statistics production) that has been officially disseminated and announced by the National Statistics System (NSS) at each level on the grant basis (free-of charge).

- Statistics users have access and use to official statistics (indicators and statistics production) that require for further processing and 5 compiling will be charged for certain fees in accordance to rule of respecting statistics organization at each level.

- For statistics users who like to obtain primary data (raw data) for the research and analysis purposes to support the economic socio development plan, and students for their research and graduation thesis, will be considered in accordance to rule of the National Statistics System in each level and users therefore required to present certification letter from concerning organization, academies and universities and must submit their research analysis result to respecting statistics organizations.

VI. Lao Decide Info

1. Project Background

The Lao DECIDE Info Project was initiated in 2009 which has been jointly implemented by the Centre for Development and Environment of the University of Bern (CDE) and the Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB) with support and funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

2. The project objective

The Lao decide.info aims to stimulate data and information sharing among sectors and administrative levels towards improved evidence-based socio-economic planning-decision making in the Lao PDR

3. Key achievements

Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB) make the initial Lao Poverty Mapping and Socioeconomic based on the 2005 Population and Housing Census and Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2007-08 (LECS IV) at the village-level.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has the completion of the Census to make the latest Agricultural Census data available through the DECIDE platform. Moreover, MoNRE (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment) concerning land investments are also available.

4. The Project Components

To achieve this objective, the project includes six components with related outcomes:

- Dissemination and utilisation of the Socio-economic Atlas at the local level; Outcome 1: The Province and Districts Officers of the Ministry of Planning and Investment and other Governmental Agencies use the data and maps of the Socio-economic Atlas in their planning and decision-making.
- Remote access of socioeconomic information; Outcome 4: Users in remote areas have access to adequately processed and visualised information and knowledge based on the socio-economic atlas database via new communication channels (SMS, email, ...).
- Integration of spatial analysis in education system; Outcome 5: Methods for assessing welfare and disparities for Lao PDR are integrated into the BSc level education at NUOL, and introduced to MPI.
- Contribution to development knowledge and discourse; Outcome 6: The proactively analyzed socioeconomic information is fed into, and taken up by the development discourse at national level, and evidence-based decision making on selected key topics is enhanced.

5. Result of the project

The project's main products to Dissemination and utilization of the Socio-economic Atlas include:

1. The printed “**Socioeconomic Atlas of the Lao PDR**”
2. The book “**The Geography of Poverty and Inequality in the Lao PDR**”
3. The **CD** with the digital version of the ‘Socio-Economic Atlas of the Lao PDR’
4. The web site laoatlas.net, which presents the ‘Socio-Economic Atlas of the Lao PDR’
5. The web site laoatlas.net, which presents the ‘Socio-Economic Atlas of the Lao PDR’
6. The Decide info website
7. The Map reading guide
8. The Use Lao DECIDE Info Manual
9. Training of Trainers for LSB staff on the usage of Decide Info tool
10. Training on the usage of Lao Decide info platform to government departments (line ministries, provinces and districts),
11. Decide Info management training

