

## Agricultural and Rural Statistical Development – Capacity Building

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**Abstract:** Strengthening the capacity of national agriculture statistics systems in member countries to produce good quality food and agriculture statistics is one of the major missions of the FAO Statistics Division (ESS). This paper discusses the lessons learned from FAO assistance in capacity building in food and agriculture statistics in African countries.

For several decades, ESS has been conducting capacity building activities through various channels, including on-the job and formal training as a component of field projects at country level, study tours, training seminars and workshops at international, regional or national level, preparation and dissemination of methodological and technical guidelines and so forth. ESS has also worked in the past with selected training institutions in Africa, Asia and Europe (École Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Économie Appliquée-ENSEA in Abidjan, Statistical Institute for Asia and Pacific-SIAP in Tokyo, the former Munich Centre for advanced studies in statistics, Munich, the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague) to provide technical support to their continuing training programs.

ESS has been supporting countries in their development of an integrated food and agriculture statistics systems as a component of their national systems. The results achieved show a wide diversity of situations from one region to another and from one country to another in the same region. However, some important lessons can be learned from this long and diversified experience.

This paper will review the experience of FAO Statistics Division's assistance in capacity building and in the development of an integrated food and agriculture statistics systems with a focus on African countries. It will analyze past experience and emerging trends and highlight some of the main issues and lessons learned for a successful capacity building program.