

Integrated Agricultural and Household surveys The case of Ethiopia

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Abstract N.8

The National Integrated Household Survey Program was started in Ethiopia in 1981. Prior to 1981, statistical surveys undertaken were ad-hoc and subject to various shortcomings, each of the surveys used different survey designs and organization, results from different surveys were inconsistent, difficult to estimate the relationship between different characteristics covered by different surveys and there was no national statistical programme to ensure a continuous flow of socio-economic and demographic data.

Realizing the demand for reliable and consistent data, the Integrated Household Survey Programme (IHSP) is, therefore, primarily devised to provide socio-economic and demographic data in an integrated form on a continuous basis through the establishment of a durable survey taking capability. The government also decided to allocate the maximum possible resources to rapid statistical development.

Considering the available resources and noting the country's economy being based mainly on agriculture, at the beginning the IHSP was confined to the rural sector of Ethiopia. However, to enable provide a comprehensive data on the various socio-economic and demographic aspects of the country as a whole, the programme expanded to the urban areas.

The IHSP consists of a series of multi-subject surveys, being undertaken on successive occasions. The major contents/subjects covered are: agriculture; labour force; demographic characteristics; household income, consumption and expenditure; health and nutrition; welfare monitoring; household based enterprise surveys; farm-gate prices; etc.

The overall sample strategy was carefully designed for the programme to facilitate the integration and linking of different surveys conducted in the same period (year), collect data on each survey from the same set of sample of primary sampling units (PSUs) and households, adopt the same concepts, definitions and classification systems and incorporate core items in each of the schedules prepared for the conduct of various surveys. The sampling frame used for the selection of PSU is compiled from the national population and housing census.

This paper describes the background, objectives, scope, coverage, contents, sampling strategy, field operation, and estimation procedure of the national integrated household survey programme.

Key words: IHSP, Agriculture, Multi-subject surveys, Data collection