Research Component

Douglas H. Brooks

Director

Development Indicators and Policy Research Division

Economics and Research Department

Asian Development Bank

Twenty-third Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistic (APCAS)

Da Lat, Oct 2012

Outline

- Desired Outputs

- Issues

- Activities

- Proposed Approach

- Discussion

Desired Outputs

Research activities will achieve the following outputs:

- I.   Countries are able to adopt cost-effective and reliable data compilation methods and standards

- J.   Improved ability of countries to adopt and/or conduct methodological research results, guidelines and frameworks for agricultural and rural statistics

- K.   Better access of countries to methodological research results, guidelines and frameworks for agricultural and rural statistics

Research activities will contribute to the following outputs:

- F.   Increased ability of NSS to access and use ICT for production and dissemination of output A

- H.   Strengthened capacity of national and regional training institutions to develop and deliver relevant, efficient and effective training in agricultural and rural statistics

- L.   Increased capacity of countries in the use of agricultural statistics to meet priority needs for policy making, operation of efficient markets and foster sound investment

ADB
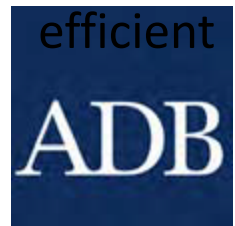
Issues

- The diversity of the region provides an opportunity for linking-up developed and developing statistical systems
- The limited resources available to many statistical systems require research into-cost effective methods
- Many countries find it difficult to adopt directly guidelines and methods developed and provided at the global level
- The Asian region is vast and somewhat different, countries find it easier to adopt research conducted by other countries in the region with similar characteristics (ASEAN, Pacific)
- There are many research institutions in the region that already have research outputs that can be adopted
- More advanced countries are able to share their own methods.

ADB

Key Activities

i. Adopting cost-effective and reliable methods

ii. Analyzing available data from surveys and from administrative reporting systems to contribute to evidence-based policy making and generate support for improving agricultural and rural statistics

iii. Disseminating research results and analytical reports through conferences, workshops and seminars as well as through an interactive websites such as CARS at (http://cars.adb.org) or other similar modality

iv. Establishing and supporting an informal network of research and training institutions

v. Developing and implementing a mechanism for staff exchange/apprenticeship programs between countries

vi. Developing training programs that will upgrade the skills of key staff of national statistical system in adopting available methods or developing new methods

i. Adopting cost-effective and reliable methods

- Driven by the need for development of affordable methods
- Examples:
  - Adding a module on crop or livestock or fisheries production to the household income and expenditure survey (HIES) and administering it to respondents in rural areas (examining viability, sampling strategies)
  - Adding food security questions to frequently conducted surveys such as the labor force survey (resolving issues related to data ownership and reporting responsibilities; response burden; sampling strategy)

ADB

Other research

- Using new technology for improving agricultural statistics data compilation methods
  - using Google maps, GPS, hand-held device applications to define/identify boundaries more accurately, spot changes in the sampling units, measure area of irregularly shaped holdings
- Evaluating data quality
  - using MODIS for estimating and forecasting yield and production of major crops; for yield analysis, crop area validation and verification
  - analysis of the business process
  - comparative analysis of census of agriculture, agricultural surveys, key informants and local government unit records, and some econometric analysis
  - developing business process to improve estimates derived from administrative reporting systems
- Improving the sampling frame for agricultural surveys
  - using recently conducted census of agriculture or a census of population
  - using other sources (MODIS, GPS and Google Earth, local government maps, data from key informants such as village chiefs) in countries without recent censuses

ii. Analyzing available data

- Joint policy analysis using available data from existing household surveys ,e.g. Analysis of households with farm holdings using household income and expenditure surveys that have already been conducted to provide a profile of small farmers for planning purposes.

- Increasing the user base of agricultural and rural statistics and improving the analytical skills of NSSs and other government agencies' staff without incurring high costs and consequently increasing the demand for these statistics and ensure government's budget appropriation for such purpose

ADB

iii. Disseminating research results & analytical reports

- Disseminating analytical reports from the analysis of existing data through in-country seminars and workshops and an annual regional conference to:
  - raise the awareness of NSSs of new methods
  - facilitate interaction with research institutions and the academe.

- Publishing on the Internet of reports (activity I and II) to further popularized through blogs and discussion groups in websites such as (**CARS** at http://cars.adb.org)

- Organizing on-line seminars through the website to which participants from various countries can join and interact with the speaker and others

- Developing on-line interactive courses

ADB

iv. Establishing an informal network of research and training institutions

- Creating a directory of experts and disseminating it through an interactive and secured website such as CARS.

- Providing members of the informal network with a room to discuss issues and access members' pertinent information and share research outputs

ADB

v. Developing and implementing a mechanism for staff exchange/apprenticeship programs

- The diversity of NSSs in the region presents a good opportunity

- Some countries have already implemented advanced methods and technology and others are still starting to develop their own methods.

- A mechanism like a MoA between countries can be developed/implemented that would allow one to host another countries' staff to work for a period to be able to learn how to adopt new methods and undertake his/her own research and data analysis.

- Funding support can be offered to the apprentice staff.

ADB

vi. Upgrading the skills of key staff of national statistical system

- Providing on-job training when collaborating with NSSs to perform activities (i) and (ii).

- Working with the training component in developing training materials such as on-line courses, handbooks and toolkits that can help NSS staff develop skills for adopting available methods or developing new ones.

- Working with university to develop a graduate study curriculum for upgrading the applied and necessary statistical skills of statisticians that are needed for undertaking independent methodological research.

ADB
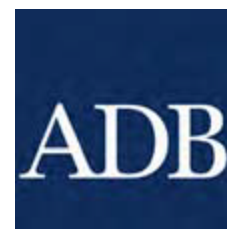
Proposed Approach

- This component will complement methodological research of the Research Unit in the Global Office.

- Activities (i) and (ii) will be undertaken with selected economies on the basis of the sector strategic plans or after holding extensive discussion with concerned government agencies on their priority areas and securing the government's commitment.

- The activities that are designed will be country-led and will address country-defined needs.

- Collaboration and partnership with existing institutions will be sought in undertaking these activities.

ADB

Thank You