Updating the Handbook
Graham Eele and Berkeley Hill
Overview

- Handbook on Rural Households Livelihoods and Well-being was published in 2007
  - First in an electronic version
  - Then as a printed document
- Prepared by IWG–AGRI, an inter-agency group involving FAO, UNECE, USDA, OECD, Eurostat and WB
- Objective was to consolidate existing work, highlight differences and fill gaps.
- Focus was on the quality of rural statistics, including those relating to agricultural income
Progress since 2007

- IWG–AGRI evolved into Wye City Group
- Purpose is to promote the development and adoption of international standards in statistics for rural areas and agriculture household incomes
- Two meetings:
  - York in April 2008
  - Rome in June 2009
- Recognition of the need to update and extend the coverage of the Handbook
Rome meeting, June 2009

- Agreement on the need to update and extend the Handbook
  - Updating to take into account new material and to address some gaps in coverage
  - Extension to deal with the special concerns and problems facing developing countries
- The Handbook focuses mostly on OECD countries, although there is some coverage of developing countries
- Also need to align Handbook with the Global Strategy on Agricultural Statistics
Next steps

- Steering Committee established, chaired by ERS, USDA
- Original concept to have two processes
  - Update the existing Handbook, with Berkeley Hill as editor
  - Prepare a supplement on developing countries with Graham Eele as editor
- Some resources secured
  - WB trust fund to June 2010
  - FAO hired two interns
Some starting points

- Agreed that the existing conceptual framework is robust and relevant to all countries
- Handbook is to continue to focus on the production and use of statistics, related to rural development and the measurement of household incomes
- Resources are limited and it is unlikely that a new printed document will be possible, emphasis is on the electronic version
The proposed timetable

- Call for papers and contributions by December 2009
- Drafts of chapters and other material by April 2010
- Revisions and final draft by September 2010
- Launch of Update and Supplement at the Fifth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics in Kampala, Uganda in October 2010

but …
What has changed?

- Time needed to put the resources in place
- Need to review the approach, especially the idea of a separate Update and Supplement
- Time pressure on the editors
- The amount of material to be considered
  ... so it is still very much work in progress
- The main change has been to move from two linked, but separate documents to just one output in the form of a web based document or documents
The revised concept

- Aim has been to bring all the material together based very much on the original structure, but with some changes
  - Core text to introduce each topic and present general material that is relevant to all countries
  - Out-takes on level 2 material with two sets, one related to the situation in OECD countries and one focusing on developing countries
  - Links to level 3 material, existing documents, papers and web-sites
Where are we now?

- Core text has been prepared for all chapters, but needs review and editing
  - In some cases has involved substantial re-writing
  - Needs further inputs to ensure relevance to developing countries
- Out-takes identified
  - Editing undertaken for OECD countries
  - Out-takes for developing countries is work in progress
- More effort has been needed for Part 1 on rural development, Part 2 is likely to be quicker
What will be produced?

- Target is still to launch the new draft Handbook at ICAS V
- It will be launched in the form of a series of linked electronic documents and links – in effect a web-site, but which can also be printed
- The structure will allow for regular updating and revision, so will always be work in progress
- Objectives will remain to provide a resource to users and providers of statistics
Steps in the process

a. Allocation of existing text into levels
b. Formation of a coherent core
c. Editing of out-takes
d. Updating and filling gaps
e. New material added
f. Formatting of output into a consistent form
g. Review to strengthen coverage of developing countries
h. Inclusion of additional material
Examples

- Chapters I and III completed to step f
- Some core material for all remaining chapters
- Some level 3 material identified, but more needed
Current structure I

- Part I – Rural Development Statistics
  - I. Introduction
  - II. National and international policies
  - III. Conceptual framework
  - IV. Inventory of approaches and indicators
  - V. Data sources
  - VI. Core indicators
Current Structure II

- Part II Agriculture Household Income and Wealth
  - VII. Conceptual framework
  - VIII. The agricultural household
  - IX. Definitions of income
  - X. Income levels, distribution and poverty
  - XI. Farm household wealth
  - XII. Inventory of measurement methods
  - XIII. Statistics for selected countries
  - XIV. Recommendations and good practice
Some important decisions

- What can be produced in the time remaining and with the resources we know are available?
- Who will take responsibility for hosting and maintaining the Handbook?
- What quality control mechanisms are needed and how can they be put into effect?
- How can the links with Global Strategy be maintained and strengthened?
- Do we need to think about design as well as content?
Links with the Global Strategy

- Overall conceptual framework
- Three pillars
  1. Minimum core data set and national priorities
  2. Integration of agricultural statistics and statistical agencies into a coordinated national statistical system
    i. National master sample frame
    ii. Integrated survey framework
    iii. Coordinated data management
  3. Sustaining better agricultural statistics through governance and capacity building
Issues for discussion?

- Comments on the concept and structure of the Handbook
- Priority gaps to be filled and by whom
- Design issues
- Resources
- Quality control and reviewing the material
- Future role of the Wye Group and maintaining the Handbook