

**WYE CITY GROUP**  
**ON STATISTICS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND**  
**AGRICULTURE HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

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**Perspective from Brazil**

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It is a pleasure to participate in this Conference on Agricultural and Rural Household Statistics.

In my presentation, I intend to talk on the three following subjects:

- (1) Some comments on the **Wye Group Handbook**
- (2) The Brazilian Agricultural and Rural Household Statistics, and
- (3) Next step of **Wye Group Handbook** to improve Statistics of Non OECD countries.

Starting by the (1) **Wye Group Handbook**, I would like to say that this guide focus on production of statistics on rural development for OECD countries and on rural poverty for developing countries.

However, for developing countries we have to think on a **System of Statistics** on Poverty, Food prices, Food Security, MDG and GDP. Such a System has to integrate statistics on agricultural economic activity, rural household income and life conditions.

Even for Brazil, we need to develop a national strategy to improve our System of Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

## **(2) The Brazilian Agricultural and Rural Household Statistics**

According to the 2008 **National Household Sample Survey** (PNAD), 16% of Brazilian population (190 million inhabitants) live in rural area (**30.1** millions). **They live in 8.6 million rural households**. There are 5 million of families with unless one person employee in agriculture farms, living in rural or urban households.

Agriculture activity had 16 million persons occupied (17.3% of 92 millions).

On the other hand, 24% of the rural population are very low income and have less than 7 years of studies.

According to the 2006 **Agriculture Census**, Brazil has 5.2 million farmers and 84% of them are small producers or smallholders.

The level of productivity of many agriculture products has been growing since 80 years and the contribution of agribusiness for the Brazilian GDP is almost 21% and more than 30% for external trade.

The Brazilian 2006 Agriculture Census has also questions about the producer and his family. We have questions on rural development and rural household well-being.

This Census of Agriculture was requested by the Ministry of Agriculture and by the Ministry of Agrarian Development (MDA).

This second Ministry (MDA) is responsible for public policies on household agriculture and rural development. This is a good example of coordination between Statistical Office and Ministries.

But, we also have some problems of coordination, because agricultural and rural statistics are very political sensitive.

Market, agrarian development, environment and social issues are related to different political objectives. And, in the middle of this political issue we find statistics and National Statistical Office.

That is why we have to give importance for the UN Global Strategy recommendation on production and coordination among National Statistical Offices and Ministries.

However, the National Household Sample Survey (PNAD), has been the main statistical source to analyze rural and agricultural households' well-being.

It has questions on household, family, employment, income urban and rural.

This Survey releases annual statistics on rural population and related to some social policies under the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Development.

This year we have the 2010 Population Census with new many questions on social development of rural population.

As you can see, in Brazil, we have many statistics on Poverty, Food Security, MDG and GDP.

These Brazilian data show how important the WYE GROUP's approach is.

But, I cannot say that Brazilian agricultural activity, rural households and life conditions data are already well integrated.

For Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, it is very important to know the recommendations of Wye Group Handbook and some national experiences, such as the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS), carried out by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and the Economic Research Service (ERS).

Here, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cintia Clark, Kitty Smith and your staff team, for the strong cooperation with Brazilians statisticians.

Brazil is planning a new system of Agricultural Surveys. In order to have a System of Agricultural and Rural Statistics integrated, we need to follow the **UN Global Strategy Recommendations**.

It is also important to stress that population and agricultural census are very expensive and many developing countries do not have conditions to conduct them.

Developing countries need to develop new methods and new technologies to produce annual statistics on agriculture activity and household rural income.

The UN Global Strategy implementation has been developed with this objective: to propose a set core of agricultural indicators; to develop a national master sample frame and to integrate agricultural statistics with the national system of statistics.

Some of UN Global Strategy Recommendations are related to the WYE GROUP.

Here, I would like to give two examples of new approaches for the WYE GROUP.

**1<sup>st</sup>** We need to improve methods and statistics on life conditions of **rural employees**.

In Brazil, there are more than five million households with agricultural employees.

However, this subject is not included neither into the Manual of Wye Group nor the UN Global Strategy.

The main question is: how to link agriculture statistics with rural development?

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Here, I would like to make some comments on the paper of Mr. Gero Carletto, from World Bank, on **Improving the Availability, Quality and Policy-Relevance of Agricultural Data**, by integrating Agriculture and Rural Surveys in Africa.

His paper talks on “***diversification into non-farm activities among smallholders can be the norm***”. This new feature of rural households requires multi-sectoral data and new surveys.

We have to discuss this kind of experience, and others, in order to improve agricultural and rural statistics in NON OECD countries.

I am sure WYE GROUP will contribute to deal with the UN challenge to implement the Global Strategy.

The WYE Group can support the UN Global Strategy implementation by analysing new concepts, by improving methods for rural household data collecting and including new subjects in its agenda.

Thank you for your attention.

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