BHUTAN

Summary of the In-depth Assessment of the National System for Renewable Natural Resource Statistics in Bhutan

The Agricultural Statistical System in Bhutan

Importance of Agriculture

15.9
% of Agriculture in GDP

59.5
% employed in Agriculture

13.5
% land area devoted to Agriculture

Stakeholders and Coordination

The agricultural statistical system in Bhutan is a decentralized system and is composed mainly of the National Statistics Bureau, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF). The bulk of Renewable Natural Resource (RNR) statistics is collected and produced by four departments under the MoAF, and all sectors are responsible for the collection and production of their own statistics. The NSB produces statistics in cross-cutting areas, and has the responsibility to review and issue survey clearance to the sectors.

Legal Framework

A legal framework for the regulation of the collection of statistics is yet to be established in Bhutan. A draft of the Statistics Bill of Bhutan 2013 has however been prepared and is pending approval by Parliament. Once approved, the Bill will set the rules for collection, collation, operations, interpretation and dissemination of official statistics.

National Strategy and Vision

A National Strategy for the Development of Statistics is being reviewed, and not yet operational.

A RNR Statistical Framework 2012 was also developed under the Policy and Planning Division (PPD) of the MoAF to issue institutional mandates to individual departments/ companies, to strengthen coordination mechanisms, to promote the use of appropriate methodologies, and for capacity building.

Main Findings of the In-depth Country Assessment

There are difficulties in the collection and coordination of statistical activities within the MoAF.

Human Resources are more constrained by manpower than technical capacity

Remoteness of local administrative units and increasingly outdated sampling frames contribute to high rates of non-response in sample surveys conducted

The current RNR Statistical framework is a strong base for the development of SPARS and can be expanded to include data producing agencies outside of MoAF

Recommendations of the In-depth Country Assessment

Human Capacity Building

Statistical operations within the MoAF could be reorganized for efficient use of manpower and improved coordination

Responsibilities for statistical activities can be shared between producer agencies for efficiency gains

Survey Design and Frames can be revised to ensure better accuracy of core data items

Expansion of the RNR Statistical Framework to include agencies outside of the MoAF