

Country Challenges

Cambodia is a small country in the Mekong River Delta in Southeast Asia bordered by Thailand, Viet Nam and Lao PDR. Almost 80 percent of the population lives in rural areas, where subsistence farming dominates the economy. Agriculture makes up approximately 33 percent of Cambodia's land area, though more than 54 percent of Cambodians are employed in it. Despite this, Cambodia did not conduct its first agriculture census until 2013. A lack of resources has inhibited statistics collection in the country, and statistics production requires heavy technical assistance. Implementation of a system of national accounts is in progress, but will take several more years to complete. Statistics for a host of indicators, such as crop production, food balance sheets, crop forecasting, fisheries and forestry, cost of production, agro-environmental, and farm gate prices, are insufficient and need to be better collected and utilized. Coordination between agencies for data collection is lacking. It also has a lack of qualified statisticians and experts, and must build capacity for statistics gathering and use in those already working in the relevant government ministries and entities



About 33 percent the land area in Cambodia is devoted to agriculture



Almost 54 percent of the population in Cambodia is employed in agriculture

Global Strategy Solutions

The In-depth Country Assessment (IdCA) recommended a number of actions to improve agricultural statistics in Cambodia. Improvement should start with development of an effective data collection operation, achieved through actions such as evaluating enumerators and determining their suitability for the work, preparing field operations manuals, implementing training programmes and developing a quality control programme. Statistics on area and production and crop forecasting should also be improved. Further improvement on livestock, fisheries and forestry statistics is an additional priority. National accounts and cost of productions statistics for the agricultural sector also need to be improved. Cambodia should rationalize agricultural price statistics and develop an integrated framework for censuses and surveys. Finally, it is vital to build capacity in agricultural statistics, which also includes strengthening the analytical capacity of relevant institutions.



Current Country Work

The Global Strategy is collaborating with the Cambodia Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) to implement a number of projects that will improve agricultural statistics collection and use. These include the following proposed actions.

- Develop a strategic plan for agricultural and rural statistics
- Improve the methodology for rice crop cutting surveys
- Improve the methodology for crop forecasting
- Improve the methodology for yield estimation of subsidiary and industrial crops
- Improve Cost of Production statistics for rice
- Assess the data needs of national accounts and make recommendations
- Improve data quality of the food balance sheet

Towards a Statistics Secure Future

Cambodia has made steady progress toward its goal of completing and launching a Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS). Two missions to Cambodia in 2015 and 2016 have led to completion of three important documents: an In-depth Country Assessment (IdCA), a country proposal for short-term technical assistance and training, and a SPARS roadmap. The IdCA was completed in late 2016, and once translated, will be approved in the first half of 2017. The approval will be followed by drafting and implementing the SPARS.



FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
39 Phra Atit Road
Bangkok 10200, Thailand
GlobalStrategy-AP@fao.org
www.gsars.org

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