The Country Assessment Questionnaire as a tool for In-depth Country Assessment

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Outline

• Background
• Structure of the Questionnaire
• Checklist for filling of the Country Assessment Questionnaire
• Derivation of Country Capacity Indicators
Background

• The Country Assessment Questionnaire is the basis for the In-depth Country Assessment; and is a means for the building the country capacity indicators.

• In line with the definition of agriculture under the Global Strategy, the scope questionnaire covers multiple sub-sectors, comprising: crops, livestock, forestry, fishery, aquaculture, water resources, environment, and rural development statistics.

Modules of Questionnaire

Section 1: Institutional Infrastructure
Section 2: Resources
Section 3: Statistical Methods and Practices
Section 4: Availability of Core Data
Section 5: Critical Constraints in Agriculture Statistics System
Section 6: User Survey
Section 1: Institutional Infrastructure

Objective: To identify the underlying infrastructure that enables the production of agricultural and rural statistics in the country.

Topics Covered:
• Administrative Structure of the country
• Legal and administrative framework for the collection of statistics (i.e. Statistics Law)
• Legal Mechanisms for coordination of statistical activities
• Structure of the National Statistical System
• Strategic framework for statistics in the country (NSDS/SPARS)
• Dialogue with Users
Section 2: Resources

Objective: To determine the sufficiency of human and financial resources available for the country for the production of agricultural and rural statistics.

Topics Covered:
• Financial Resources
• Human Resources (staffing)
• Human Resources (training)
• Physical Infrastructure
Section 3: Statistical Methods and Practices

Objective: To determine country’s capability to undertake statistical activities

Topics Covered:
• Information Technology
• General Statistical Infrastructure
• Adoption of Classifications
• Questions pertaining to main statistical activities
• Questions pertaining to derived statistics and indicators
Section 4: Availability of Core Data

Objective: To report on the availability of statistics that are of importance to the country across all sub-sectors.

Topics Covered:
• Availability
• Timeliness
• Source of data
• Geographic detail
• Quality perception
Section 5: Critical constraints

**Objective**: Respondents are asked to rate their perception of commonly reported constraints faced by the statistical system.

**Topics Covered**:
- Human resources
- Advocacy
- Physical Infrastructure
Section 6: User Survey

Objective: To understand how users make use of available data and the limitations they face in making use of that data.

Topics Covered:
Accessibility
Perceived Quality
Data Gaps
Checklist for filling of the Country Assessment Questionnaire

Preparation of Questionnaire

☑ The NSC will, first, identify the relevant producers/users of agricultural and rural statistics in the country. It is important here to ensure the involvement of ALL relevant sub-sectors covered.

☑ The NSC will review the questionnaire and determine the most appropriate agency to respond to specific sections. Individual Questions may be answered by more than one agency, if applicable.

☑ The questionnaire will be provided to the NSC in both Microsoft Word and Excel formats. It will be the responsibility of the NSC to split and distribute the relevant sections/questions to the identified respondents; and collate all responses as they become available.
Submission

- The NSC should ensure that all questions have been answered (if possible) and that contradictory responses are followed up with respondents.

- The Regional Office will review the questionnaires received and seek further clarification from the NSC for responses that were not clear.

- After the questionnaire is clarified, responses will be used to derive a set of Country Capacity Indicators. The NSC will be consulted at this time to clarify responses and to ensure that the results of the indicators are in line with the country situation.
Derivation of the Country Capacity Indicators (continued)

The Capacity Assessment Framework is composed of **4 dimensions** and **23 elements**, composing of:

1. Institutional Infrastructure
2. Resources
3. Statistical Methods and Practices
4. Availability of Statistical Information

Provides a standard structure to access statistical systems based on quantitative and qualitative information.

Each indicator and element is scored on a scale of 0 – 100, and is derived using the guidelines developed at the Global Level.

Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics – Asia Pacific

Four Dimensions of Country Capacity

- Institutional Infrastructure
  - Is there a legal basis for collection of agricultural statistics? How does your agency coordinate and strategize collection of statistics?
- Resources
  - What resources are availability for the production of statistics in your country?
- Availability of Statistical Information
  - Does your country produce a reliable minimum set of “core” agricultural statistics?
- Statistical Methods and Practices
  - What methodologies does your agency use in the collection and analysis of agricultural data?

Note: Numbers are tentative.
Indicator I: Institutional Infrastructure

Legal Framework

Is there a legal basis for statistical activities?
Operational? How Adequate?

Relevance

How close is the relationship between data producers and users? What are the available channels for dialogue?

Coordination in Statistical System

Does your country have a coordinating Board, council, or committee? What Areas of does it cover?

Integration of Agriculture in the NSS

Does the national strategy for statistics include a strategy specific to agriculture. What sectors does it cover?

Strategic vision and planning

Does your country have a national strategy for statistics? Has it been planned?

Note: Numbers are tentative
Indicator II: Resources

- **Financial Resources**
  - To what extent does your agency rely on external funding for the production of statistics?

- **Physical Infrastructure**
  - Does your agency have adequate facilities to perform your work?

- **Human Resources: Staffing**
  - Does your agency have an adequate number of staff to perform your mandated tasks?

- **Human Resources: Training**
  - What percentage of your staff receive regular opportunities for training?
Indicator III: Statistical Methods and Practices

Does your country have an Analytical framework to integrate and reconcile different data sources? A system of national accounts? Food Balance sheets?

Does there exist An agricultural census in your country? Have there been specialized surveys for crops, livestock, fishery, water, or forestry related areas?

Does your country posses price Indices that cover important Agricultural commodities? Crops? Livestock? Fisheries?

Does your country provide what we call a minimum set of “core statistics”? Population census, national accounts, CPI indices, household income?

What statistical software does your agency utilize? SPSS? STATA?

How does your agency collect data? Personal Interviews?

Does your agency possess enough computers/ servers to adequately produce statistics?

Does your country use internationally recognized standards to categorize collected data? ISIC? CPC?

Note: Numbers are tentative
Indicator IV: Core Data Availability

- Timeliness
  - What is the frequency of availability? Monthly? Quarterly? Annually?

- Quality consciousness
  - Do you provide public access to your Methodology? Reports on sampling errors or Post-enumeration surveys?

- Data accessibility
  - How easy is it to access your data? Is there a public website?

- Core data availability
  - Of the 73 indicators we consider to be core, how many does your agency produce that is seen as reliable?

- Quality, reliability, and consistency of data
  - How reliable do you believe your data is?

Note: Numbers are tentative.
Thank You

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