Implementation of Global Strategy for Improvement in Agriculture and Rural Statistics

Presentation by the
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
(Statistics and Informatics Division, Ministry of Planning, Govt. of Bangladesh)

Workshop on Strategic Planning for Agriculture and Rural Statistics
Organised by the Regional office for Asia and Pacific
Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

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Bangladesh is amongst the initial anchoring countries for regional implementation of the Strategy in the Asia Pacific Region.

Adopting standardised framework and approach, harmonised with the distinctiveness of the existing statistical system, coverage in the country and ongoing efforts.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) in Statistics and Informatics Division, Ministry of Planning is nodal implementation agency.
Agriculture and Rural Sector : National Context

• Significance for sustained food and livelihood security
  – large, dense and growing population
  – vulnerability to cyclones, floods and droughts.
  – historical background of food insecurity,

• Diversified Agriculture; intensive cropping
  – predominance of paddy.
  – Importance fish and shrimp, poultry and livestock

• Regular demand for reliable and timely statistics
  – supporting institutional mechanism to constantly monitor demand and
    supply of food as well as agriculture production.

• National Statistical System (NSS)
  – mandated to be responsive and sensitive to such needs,
  – in need of building its capacity to fully meet expectations.
Institutional Setup for Statistics

Bangladesh National Statistical System (NSS)

- basically centralized
- majority of the statistical activities including agriculture statistics being carried out by the BBS.
- decentralized statistical activities in fisheries, livestock, forestry, agriculture commodity prices and irrigation sub-sectors organized by the concerned line departments.

Statistics Act 2013

- “Official Statistics” defined
  - statistics either produced or endorsed by the BBS
  - the use of “Official Statistics” is made mandatory for all the government uses (Clauses 2(9), 10, 11).
- Entrusted the BBS
  - authority and responsibility of collection, compilation, analysis
  - obligations on the community to cooperate
  - BBS to support, coordinate and endorse (Clauses 6, 12)
National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS)

NSDS Mission statement

• to establish an integrated, professional, efficient and effective national statistical system, under the guidance and leadership of the BBS; and

• to produce official statistics that meet the current and evolving needs of national and international users in a transparent and timely fashion, using international standards and the best statistical practices.

NSDS is a living document, setting strategic goals for the National Statistical System and prescribing a road map for its phased achievement.
NSDS Priority Area

- Improve coverage, quality and timeliness and use of core statistics
- Strengthen statistical activities and statistics at the local level
- Improve the dissemination of official statistics
- Proper documentation of all statistical processes
- Improve analysis and interpretation of official statistics and improve customer services
- Strengthen and improve quality management in all producers of official statistics
- Improve human resources
- Improve coordination and management of the national statistical system
- Build and maintain the infrastructure for statistical activities
Implementation of GSARS in Bangladesh

• Strategically planned process
  – Supported by the national authorities

• In-depth Capacity Assessment (IdCA)
  – determination of in-country functional structure of statistical activities
  – oversee integration of agriculture into the NSS,
  – profiling country specific set of core data items and its qualitative characteristics
  – SWOT analysis and
  – assessment of needs for technical assistance, training, and research in the integrated framework of NSS, compliment and supplement NSDS and in harmony with the tenets and pillars of GS.
IdCA : Process followed

• Inter ministerial Task Force constituted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)
  – representations from Ministry of Agriculture and other national institutions.
  – technical guidance to the Task Force was provided by the FAO.

• Participation of all stakeholders, including data producers and users.
  – Personal interactions and discussions: BBS, DAE (MoA), DAM (MoA), DOLS (MoFL), DOF (MoFL), FPMU, MoWR, BADC, MoFE, SPARRSO

• Review of agriculture and rural sector, assessment of existing agricultural statistics system, strengths and gaps
  – issues in the management of food and nutrition security of the country,
  – existing statistical activities,
  – data needs for preparing necessary policy and programmes.

• Establishment of a national minimum set of core data needed for agriculture and rural sectors.
Agriculture and Rural Statistics Capacity Indicators: Bangladesh

Institutional Infrastructure
- Legal Framework: 80
- Coordination in the NSS: 71
- Strategic Vision and Planning for Agri-Statistics: 100
- Integration of Agriculture in the NSS: 70
- Relevance of data (user interface): 80

Resources
- Financial Resources: 56
- Human Resources: Staffing: 54
- Human Resources: Training: 48
- Physical Infrastructure: 53

Statistical Methods and Practices
- Statistical Software Capability: 83
- Data Collection Technology: 91
- Information Technology Infrastructure: 75
- General Statistical Infrastructure: 45
- Adoption of International Standards: 53
- General Statistical Activities: 71
- Agricultural Market and Price Information: 30
- Agricultural Surveys: 81
- Analysis and Use of Data: 30
- Quality Consciousness: 71

Availability of Statistical Information
- Core Data Availability: 42
- Timeliness: 67
- Overall data quality perception: 100
- Data Accessibility: 67
## Gaps analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Issues</th>
<th>Core Data</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core data collected</td>
<td>Crop Statistics, Major Crops, Land Cover and Land Use, Employment, HCI, Animal feed, CPI, Demographic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core data not collected/partially collected</td>
<td>Agro processing, Commodity Prices, Food stock, Food balance sheet, Environmental data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core data collected only through administrative process</td>
<td>Forestry, Trade, fertilizers, pesticides, Seeds, Govt. expenditure, rural infrastructure,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core data collected but not at needed frequency</td>
<td>Agriculture Machinery,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core data collected but precision is lower than demand</td>
<td>Crop Statistics, Minor Crops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core data collected but methodology lacks soundness</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water use, Land Cover and Land Use, CPI, rural infrastructure,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core data disseminated with projections on baseline</td>
<td>Livestock and Poultry, Trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core data by multiple agencies</td>
<td>Crop Statistics, Major and Minor Crops, Livestock and Poultry, Trade, Land Cover and Land Use</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Linkage of Identified Proposals based on IdCA

- Pillars of Global Strategy, Core Data, Integration, Institutional Sustainability
- NSDS priorities
- Stakeholders
- Sub-sectors

Technical Assistance, Training, Research and Advocacy (TATRA)
Proposals for Capacity Development

1. Development of a Strategic Plan for improvement of Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS) in Bangladesh

2. Strengthening crop estimation system, including the crop forecasting and crop monitoring for important crops
3. Developing an integrated framework of census and surveys for agriculture and rural sectors covering crops, livestock, fisheries, inland water bodies and other such related areas. This will include:

   a. Decision on types of sampling frames (area, list or multiple) to be used for different surveys, and mechanisms to keep them updated;
   
b. Follow-up current surveys on sub-sectors (livestock, fisheries and related subject) to meet the annual data requirements;
   
c. Improvement of land use and irrigation statistics;
   
d. Periodic less frequent surveys like cost of production surveys for specified crops;
   
e. Adhoc surveys to estimate the norms and technical conversion factors e.g., those required for preparing Supply-Utilization account and Food Balance Sheet.
Proposals for Capacity Development

4. Strengthening analytical capacity of institutions involved in production and use of agricultural and rural statistics to better use the data for management of the sector, policy making and monitoring progress in the domains like:

a. Food security: food stocks survey, food balance sheet, agricultural market information system, agricultural price statistics, and statistics on agro-processing enterprises.

b. Building macro-economic indicators, national accounts, quarterly estimation of production and other indices like agri-environmental indicators.

c. Strengthening statistics for natural resource management and environmental conservation such as land, water and air.
Proposals for Capacity Development

5. Strengthening the mechanism of coordination, documentation, research and analysis in the NSS for improving agricultural and rural statistics.

6. Human Capacity Building
   a. Establishing statistical cells in the line ministries and agencies and strengthening sub-national entities engaged in collection of agricultural and rural statistics.
   b. Strengthening capacity of national institutions to impart training in agricultural and rural statistics which will involve development of course modules and curricula, creating a pool of training faculty, strengthening training facilities and infrastructure
Proposals for Capacity Development

7. Promoting ICT applications in agriculture and rural statistics including promoting appropriate use technology, hardware and software resources, digitization of survey frames, data management, national data centre, data dissemination and user interface.

8. Sensitizing respondents and users for building up trust and reputation of statistical products.
## Mapping of GSARS - TATRA proposals in Bangladesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capacity Development Proposals</th>
<th>Dimensional Mapping</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>No.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Focus</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Development of strategic plan</td>
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<td>II</td>
<td>Strengthening crop estimation system</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Integrated framework of census and surveys</td>
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<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Analytical capacity of institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Mechanism of coordination, documentation, research and analysis</td>
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<td>VI</td>
<td>Human Capacity Building</td>
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<td>VII</td>
<td>ICT applications</td>
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<td>Sensitizing respondents and users for building up trust and reputation</td>
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Next step: SPARS

• to develop & guide implementation for robust agriculture and rural statistics based on areas identified in IdCA
  – serve as framework for coordinating efforts between sub systems in agriculture,
  – in-country Governance structure to oversee integration of agriculture into NSS,
  – methodological issues to integrate agriculture into the NSS,

• to define future short and long term agriculture and rural statistics programs and interventions
  – Activities to produce identified set of core data items,
  – information technology and data management requirements,
  – Specificities on technical assistance, training, and research

• to assess funding required for technical assistance, training, and research for the implementation.
SPARS Vision:

“A sound agricultural and rural statistics system, integrated with NSS, to meet diverse needs of development of the sector, decision support for food and nutrition security and users demands”

Thanks