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Food and
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Продовольственная и
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Organización
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para la
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ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

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Agenda Item 8

Issues and Challenges in Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics in Solomon Islands

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Solomon Islands

Background:

- Government (DCC)'s Policy Strategy through Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) mandate: providing data for evidence based policies inline with:
 - DCC Policy 4.2.2.1 Agriculture and Livestock development and facilitate and support the development of commercial agriculture in Solomon Islands

Overarching aims:

- to work towards food security and poverty alleviation and ensure a healthy population; and
- to ensure the sustainable utilization and conservation of natural resources, protection of the environment and successfully combating the adverse effect of climate change

Data requirements/Availability

National Surveys/Census:

- Agriculture Survey in 1986 and 1989
 - Limited scope: covers few geo-areas of interest (13 places)
- Latest in 2017 National Agriculture Survey
 - wider scope and coverage:
 - (I) Household based (sample 4,200) and (II) Business-Big Farm (census) covering all provinces
- Ad-hoc surveys , conducted by MAL, FAO, etc
- *All National Statistical Surveys/Censuses are now undertaken in line with Solomon Islands National Statistics Development Strategy (NSDS) 2015-16 to 2035 – led by the SINSO*

Cont...Data requirements/Availability

Recurrent statistical activity within MAL:

- MAL consists of 5 technical departments that are manned by different directors
 - Each department is responsible for its data for planning, reporting, and monitoring and evaluation
 - Data are only available at the end of each year through Annual Reports through the Department of Agriculture Planning
- Sharing of data has been not a practice for sometime

Cont...Data requirements/Availability

Recurrent statistical data/activity within MAL:

- Some statistical data collections and analysis include:
 - Major commodity data collected – mainly copra, cocoa etc.
 - Ad-hoc livestock data collections
 - Ad-hoc data on type of pest control and diseases etc
 - Ad-hoc data on types of agriculture services, projects and programs
 - Ad-hoc data on field trials on crops
 - Ad-hoc data on imports and exports
 - Ad-hoc data Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) attack

Critical Challenges

- Implementing the National statistics development strategy (NSDS) in **agriculture and related statistics** – *esp. cross ministry collaborations, coordination, political will/leadership, resources etc*
- MAL does not have any Agriculture Statistics department
- MAL database is lacking
- Technical Statistical Capacity is often required
- Need new legislation to enable freely sharing data,
- Funding constraints (data is Not Government priority)

Key actions

- Seek donor/Govt funding to establish Agriculture Statistics Division at MAL.
- Capacity building for staff at MAL, NSO, other Ministries
- Upskilling of existing staff to meet NSDS standards of operations
- Support for implementing the NSDS – to support cycle for agriculture surveys/censuses (every 5/10 years)

SI-Specific issues

- On-going capacity development for MAL and NSO staff in sampling, data processing, GIS, data analysis
- NSDS underfunded- Projects delayed: implement next round of agriculture surveys
- Legislation need amendment
- No central management of obtaining statistics in SI.
- Increasing scope and coverage of statistics noting geographical spread of SI



Thank you