Use of ICT in Food and Agriculture Statistics: Bring Your Own Device Approach

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Outline

• Background
• The Process
• Advantages
• Challenges
• Proposed Recommendations
Background

- A decentralised statistical system
- 28 States and 9 Union Territories
- Both Central and State Governments/UTs can legislate on Statistics
- NSO conducts regular large scale sample surveys
- Surveys conducted using CAPI method
- Increase in the number of surveys
- Shortage of regular manpower
- Engaging contract employees through HR agencies
- Agencies supply men with devices
The Process

• Selection of HR agencies through Central Public Procurement Portal following two-bid system: technical and financial
• Agency to have proven experience of working with Government/ Semi-Government/ Public Limited Companies
• Contract period: One year extendable up to three years
• Single vs multiple agencies – Zone level selection
• Manpower type: Field Investigators, Field Officers, Administrative Staff
• Essential and desirable qualifications specified
• Each person provided to be equipped with a device
• Device specification provided
Advantages

• Upfront capital investment on devices not required
• Supply, maintenance and replacement responsibilities of the agency
• Penalty imposed on violation of terms and conditions
Challenges

• Delays in supply of devices
• Device quality concerns
• Delays in maintenance and replacement
• Imposing penalties delays the survey work
Proposed Recommendations

• Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) is a better approach than the two-bid process
• Emphasize on the proven track record of the agency
• Agencies with high turnover stand a better chance of giving quality service
• Period of engagement should be minimum three years
• Keep the device specifications on the higher side
• Avoid getting into litigation
Thank you!

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