

IMPLEMENTING THE FAO LED ASTI PILOT STUDY “THE NIGERIAN EXPERIENCE”

BY

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PRESENTATION AT THE FAO-ASTI REGIONAL WORKSHOP
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (VIRTUAL)

Co-organized by FAO and APAARI



Agricultural Research
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National Bureau of Statistics

Outline

- ❖ New Approach to Data Collection
- ❖ Institutionalization of ASTI Project in Nigeria
- ❖ Lessons Learnt from Data Collection for the Pilot Phase
- ❖ Capacity Development on ASTI Data Processing and Analysis
- ❖ Challenges
- ❖ Conclusion and Way Forward

New Approach to Data Collection

- ❖ Review of agencies list for Nigeria
- ❖ Selection of 100 Institutions out of 147 identified across the 6 geo-political zone to participate in the pilot phase
- ❖ Adoption of ARCN System M&E and Data Sharing Officer to serve as Institutional Focal Points (32)
- ❖ Established contact with the National University Commission (NUC) for updated record of Vice Chancellors and Directors of Academic Planning (DAP) in the Public and Private Universities.
- ❖ The DAP served as the recipient of the questionnaire for onward distribution to the participating Faculties/Departments

New Approach to Data Collection Cont'd

- ❖ Established contact with the National Agricultural Seed Council (NASC) for updated record of selected private seed companies
- ❖ Joint letter of introduction signed by the ES, ARCN was attached to the survey forms.
- ❖ A mix of communication medium; Direct phone calls, SMS, WhatsApp messages, E-mail were used for follow up on data retrieval.



AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF NIGERIA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

ARC/N/I/08/S.26/III/311

5th June 2024

Executive Director NARIS
Provost FCAs

PARTICIPATION IN THE NBS-ARC/N AND FAO LED AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INDICATORS (ASTI) 2024 SURVEY WITHIN THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SYSTEM (NARS).

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARC/N), in coordination with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nation (FAO), is conducting a data survey to collect information on investments and human capacity for the implementation of the FAO-led Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) within the National Agricultural Research System (NARS).


The ASTI program, previously managed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), is now transitioning to FAO, to reinvigorate, expand and make it sustainable. The overarching goal of the transition is to standardize, harmonize and improve the overall quality, timeliness and completeness of the ASTI dataset. The institutionalization of ASTI and the adoption of a new data collection model require the National Statistics Organizations (NSOs) to facilitate national validation and the integration of ASTI into National Statistical System mechanisms, as a means of enhancing country ownership and use.

In view of the above, the National Bureau of Statistics/Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria is administering this questionnaire that would be filled by your Institution/College from 6th June 2024 to 25th July, 2024. Kindly forward the completed questionnaires in soft copy to musawakili@gmail.com (08062857623) and copy bishopohios@yahoo.com (08068134740)

The completion of this survey is mandatory in accordance with the Statistical Act, 2007. Likewise, the information provided is confidential in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics in Nigeria. The data will be published in aggregate form, for the construction of the Nigerian Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators, with the exception of the information currently available on the ASTI website.

The findings and outputs of ASTI's work have had important policy relevance at the national, regional, and international levels. For example, the African Union Commission has formally endorsed investment targets for member countries in the CAADP/Malabo biennial reviews. It is also used extensively by in-country stakeholders to advocate for increased R&D funding, to highlight capacity gaps, and to mobilize resources.

Please accept the assurances of my esteemed regards.


Prof. Garba Hamidu Sharubutu mni
Executive Secretary

Institutionalization of ASTI Project in Nigeria

The institutionalization process started with the visit of ARCN ASTI team to NBS in May, 2024

The overview of ASTI project and outcome of the training workshop in Rome was presented to the joint team (ARCN-NBS)

The meeting also discussed the modalities for implementing the pilot, particularly on the data collection strategy.

A formal constitution of joint ASTI team was agreed upon



Institutionalization of ASTI Project in Nigeria Cont'd

- ❖ The visit of the ES, ARCN to the SG, NBS and FAO Country Rep led to the constitution of joint committee overseeing the Institutionalization of ASTI Project in Nigeria.
- ❖ The visit by the FAO delegation to the ES, ARCN on the 8th November, 2024 provided an opportunity to discuss further on the Institutionalization.
- ❖ The ES reiterated his commitment to sustain the project.
- ❖ Support to the capacity building workshop



Institutionalization of ASTI Project in Nigeria Cont'd

Similarly, the FAO delegation met with SG, NBS on 8th November, 2024 where the issue of institutionalization was also presented

The SG, assured the team of his agencies cooperation to sustaining the ASTI project in Nigeria



Institutionalization of ASTI Project in Nigeria Cont'd

Through informal discussions, the two agencies (ARCN & NBS) agreed on the following roles and responsibilities:

- ❖ Participate as members on the ASTI Technical Committee and Steering Committee
- ❖ Update the agency list
- ❖ Jointly prepare introductory letter to agencies
- ❖ Sensitize agencies on pilot phase
- ❖ Liaise with regulatory agencies participating in the ASTI project
- ❖ Conduct the pilot survey using both online tools and physical visitation
- ❖ Retrieve completed questionnaires
- ❖ Carry out pilot data cleaning and upload to ASTI DMP
- ❖ Prepare results and host dissemination workshop
- ❖ NBS enforce its position as coordinator of the NSS to encourage non-compliant agencies to complete questionnaires
- ❖ ARCN to maintain its position as the lead agency on ASTI in Nigeria

Lessons Learnt from the Pilot Phase

- ❖ The pilot study recorded some impressive milestones with about 81 completed questionnaire retrieved and uploaded to the ASTI DMP.
- ❖ There are lessons learnt from the new data collection model which we intend to improve on during the 2025 global rollout on ASTI.
- ✓ The use of focal points in NARIs and FCAs has proven to be an extremely successful action.
- ✓ The use of the Directors of Academic Planning (DAPs) in the Universities served as a link between the VCs and the participating Faculties/Departments
- ✓ Sustain the use of existing platforms of the Deans of Agriculture in Nigeria Universities/NARIs and FCAs FP for constant interaction on ASTI matters.
- ✓ A review of the agency list showed that some private agricultural companies are nonexistent or do not engage in research and development.
- ✓ The NBS will provide the legal backing in data collection and formalize the adoption of ASTI into the NSS.
- ✓ ARCN is considering harmonizing its annual data collection on human capital resources in NARIs and FCAs with ASTI data into one operation.
- ✓ Nigeria is adopting the revised classical model

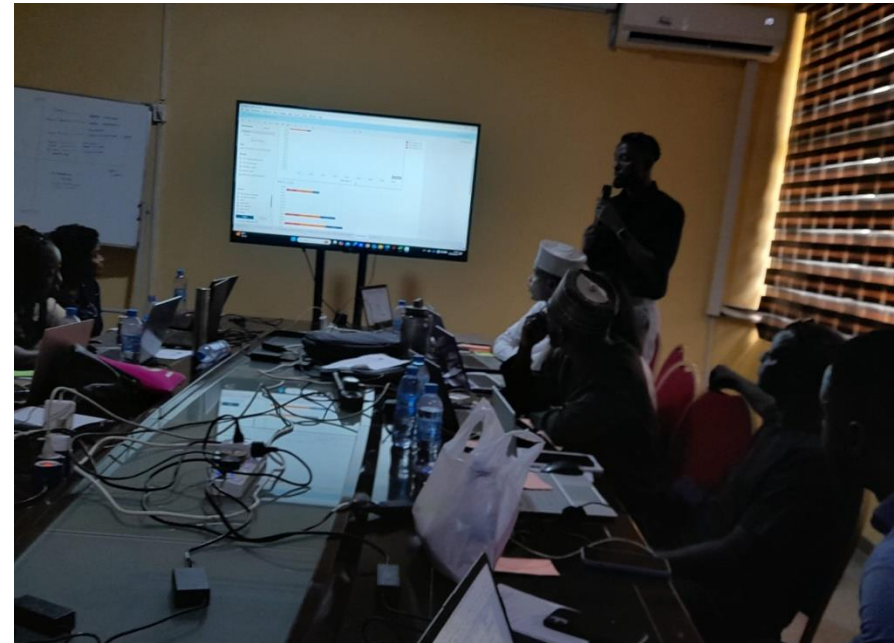
Capacity Development on ASTI Data Processing and Analysis

- ❖ The capacity building workshop hosted in Nigeria is a commitment to sustaining the ASTI project (18 participants from ARCN and NBS)
- ❖ The workshop identified top participants who can cascade the training
- ❖ We have established a community of practice on ASTI in Nigeria



Capacity Development on ASTI Data Processing and Analysis Cont'd

- ❖ Participants demonstrated the ability to produce visualization from the ASTI data.
- ❖ Though, it is important to produce in-country analysis of ASTI data, the regional synthesis gives a convincing evidence to policy and decision makers



Challenges

- ❖ Funding
- ❖ Lack of training on data collection for Institutional Focal Persons
- ❖ Non-publishing the 2023 ASTI survey report (CORAF is handling)
- ❖ Lack of feedback mechanism from respondent on previous survey exercise (FAO is working on it)

Conclusion and Way Forward

Conclusion

The ASTI-Nigeria team has successfully conducted the data collection exercise for the pilot phase and documented challenges and lessons learned.

The team is committed to taking ownership of the project.

Preparation for the global rollout on ASTI in 2025 has commenced and we are hopeful for the cooperation and support of implementing partners.

Way Forward

- ❖ Host a national workshop to communicate findings of the pilot study
- ❖ Implement the recommendations of the 2017 ASTI impact study in Nigeria
- ❖ Build strong partnerships that will help accomplish the objectives of the ASTI project
- ❖ Develop capacity of the ASTI team members on data collection including soft skills such as communication, stakeholder management, and public relations
- ❖ Expedite action to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ARCN and NBS on ASTI project
- ❖ Source for funding (Internal and external)



THANK YOU