

# EXPERIENCES OF SRI LANKA IN AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

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# Outline of the Presentation

- Over View of the Statistical System
- Place of Agriculture Statistics
- Key Issues & Challenges
- Issues covered in the IdCA
- Expectation of Global Strategy
- Key areas of Capacity Building needed



# Statistical System

- The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) is the National Statistical Office in Sri Lanka
- Mainly responsible for the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistical data requirements of the government.
- In addition, it provides statistical consultancy services to the agencies that require assistance on statistical matters, through its technical divisions. Thus, the DCS serves as a focal point and performs the services of a central statistical agency.
- DCS is organized with a centrally located headquarters with technical divisions, an island wide net work of field offices attached to district secretariats and divisional offices, and branch offices in some important ministries, departments and provincial councils.



# Place of Agriculture Statistics

- Agriculture and Environment Statistics Division of the DCS is responsible for collection, compilation and dissemination of all types of Agriculture information, with the vested power and legal authority under the Census ordinance and Statistical ordinance.
- The statistical programs undertaken by this division under the theme of Food and Agriculture Statistics are as follows.
  - Conducting the Census of Agriculture on a decennial basis.
  - Conducting annual/biannual sample surveys under the current statistical program
  - Conducting ad-hoc surveys depending on national requirement
  - Collection of statistics through administrative records.

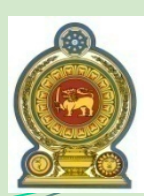


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# AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

The major statistical domains that are being covered by the Department of Census & Statistics:

- Agriculture activities under Economic Census – 2013/14
- Paddy
- Highland Crops
- Livestock
- Special Surveys
- Cost of Production
- Food Balance Sheet
- Volume Index
  
- **Forestry – Department of Forest**
- **Fisheries – Department of Fisheries**



## Key Issues & Challenges

- To generate agriculture statistics, there is a need to collect information at the Farmer level. In Sri Lanka, the village level information collector is the Agric. Research & Production Assistant (ARPA) whose educational qualifications and capacity have been identified as issues.
- Agriculture statistics must portray the actual situation under reference as far as is statistically possible, if such statistics are to be of use in decision making and they should not be way off the mark.



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## Key Issues & Challenges

- To achieve the above, the challenge is to ensure that the analytical process must be right, lest erroneous statistics of low quality will be generated and hence the capacity of personnel at relevant levels and the degree to which they are equipped with required facilities are issues of relevance.
- Timeliness of agriculture statistics is important, since delays will mean that decision making will be adversely affected and the challenge is to avoid delays.

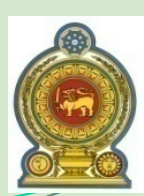


## Issues covered in the idCA

Some of the key areas identified by the DCS in advance for coverage under the IdCA are:

- **Crop Cutting Surveys** - Same methodology is being used over the years for a long period and there is a strong need to come up with better alternatives, in keeping with the current improvement of techniques in this regard.
- **Livestock Data**- Only a reporting system is there and there is a need to improve the same.
- **Crop Forecasting** – There is a need to develop a programme for crop forecasting, specially for crops like big onion, which require policy decisions by the Govt. based on the forecast of local production situation.
- **Production status during natural disaster situation** - Quick assessment of the above is also a need





# Expectations of the Global Strategy

The expectations from the Global Strategy are the successful achievement based on three pillars.

## 1. Establishment of a minimum set of core data

-Sri Lanka has identified the core data set available for the country out of the global minimum set for economic, social, environmental variables and those pertaining to geographic location.

-Most data other than those for environment are available for Sri Lanka



# Expectations of the Global Strategy (Con...)

## 2. Integration

## 3. Governance

- With respect to the above achievement (2,3) they are in keeping with the overall Government Policy , and it is expected that the IdCA process which is now on will shed further light on how to set about achieving these, through a complete assessment of the present position of agric. statistics and an identification of the data gaps and priorities.
- Thereby it is expected that we will reach the expectations from the Global Strategy, which ultimately seek to improve the quality of agricultural statistics.



# Key areas of Capacity Building

**Systematic training is needed for all levels of officers from the village level upwards.**

**The levels are as follows.**

- Grass-roots level ( village-level)
- Divisional Secretariat Level
- The district level
- The national level
- DCS staff assigned to agriculture related/Ministries/Depts./other institutions
- Staff from the relevant line Ministries/Departments/ Agencies, who work in the field of agricultural statistics



## Key areas of Capacity Building(Con...)

- There is a need to make an assessment of the overall capacity building need for the above levels of officials involved in agricultural statistics.
- This has to be coupled with equipping them suitably with provision to use new technology while also arranging for the other facilities like sufficient office space, mobility & communication, if what is expected is to be achieved.



**THANK YOU !**