

Fifth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics – ICAS V

Session 3.3 Global Strategy for improving agricultural statistics: Technical Assistance Component.

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Summary: Technical Assistance World Banks role, GDDS II and Sierra Leone experiences:

Abstract N.90

The contribution of the World Bank on the Technical Assistance Component will deal with the four following topics: Financial Mechanisms, Statistical Knowledge, Governance of Statistical projects and Effectiveness of Technical Assistance projects. This contribution focuses on the situation in developing countries. Technical assistance can be defined as the contribution to countries to improve their capacities to produce the goods and services that are needed, in this case agricultural statistics, and even the completion of (statistical) production processes that lead to defined results. TA is not only aiming at improving the capabilities but also, when appropriate, the actual implementation of these capabilities to deliver the desired outcomes.

Financial Mechanisms that exist with the World Bank will be considered. The World Bank has financial arrangements like grants that are provided to countries after applications are received and approved. Mentioned will be the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building and the newly created Statistics for Results Facility programs. Also the World Bank provides Loans to countries; these are called the StatCap projects. The WB manages funds, on a fiduciary basis, to support specific large scale projects like the ICP program. Furthermore, the World Bank is also involved in various partnerships in statistics that aim at supporting a wide range of statistical development activities. This makes that the Bank has a wide range of partners. The administrative methods of working of the World Bank will be explained.

The paper will examine in which way the World Bank can support the three pillars of the Global Strategy: Pillar one: the establishment of a minimum set of core data that countries will provide to meet the current and emerging demands. It will be explained that TA need to focus on the design of coordinated methods. Pillar two: The method of integration of agriculture and rural statistics into a national statistical system. The aim is here to meet policy maker and other data user expectations that the data will be comparable across countries and over time. It will be explained that we need institutional and technical coordination approaches to address this. Pillar three: The need to sustain the agricultural statistics system through governance and statistical capacity building. The World Bank can work with partners to assess what is needed to have sustainable work programs in agricultural statistics. The possibility of regional approaches will be explained. A topic linked to these pillars is the support in the field of relevant knowledge. The Bank has been involved in several projects to improve statistical knowledge and specific subject matter knowledge about agriculture statistics. The paper will explain the Virtual Statistical System.

Aid effectiveness is an important issue. The paper will discuss a few of the options that exist to assess the conditions of the effectiveness of TA, and will look at inputs, outputs, outcomes and impact. The paper will present the experiences and the lessons learned on Technical Assistance by Sierra Leone.