

Assessment of Country Capacity to produce Agriculture Statistics



Global Strategy
IMPROVING AG-STATISTICS

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Outline

- Work done so far and the road ahead
 - The normative work
 - Concepts of Quality and Capacity
- Experience of Country Assessments in Asia

Country Assessment: Inception

- AFCAS/APCAS
 - Country reports (later standard questionnaire) for monitoring progress in agriculture statistics
- ICAS-V: Kampala, October 2010
 - Resource partners and key stake holders of the Global Strategy felt the need for a **global standard tool** for
 - Baseline information
 - Monitoring of progress in building country capacity
 - A core group of experts from FAO, USDA, ABS (expanded to include AfDB, UNECA, ADB, Brazil, Russia)
- Selection of Pilot Countries (ranking/grouping of countries)

Initial thoughts

- We need a framework
 - Take into account the work already done
 - Be in line with Global wave of thoughts
- DQAFs from IMF, WB and UNESCO; EUROSTAT and country frameworks were studied
 - They differed only by shades
 - Similar dimensions and elements of the statistical system were being addressed
 - Focused different aspects of the same issue
 - BUT none addresses issues related to Agriculture Statistics System specifically

Quality in Official Statistics

- A review reveals that the quality does not have the “same” meaning across the Globe, though there is broad consensus on its importance and key characteristics.
- Distinguish between:
 - Quality of Data
 - Quality of Survey
 - Quality of Statistical system of a Country (Country Assessments of Global Strategy)
 - Quality of Data base
- National Quality Assessment Frameworks
 - <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/QualityNQAF/nqaf.aspx>

Concepts: Scope of quality

- **Product**
 - Characteristics
- **Process** (computerized eye testing)
- **Inputs**
 - Mozzarella di Buffala
 - Vino di Toscana
 - “Champagne” of specific region of France
- **Formal statements of quality need a framework**
 - an agreed set of characteristics/variables on which information is to be provided for comparison
- **Total Quality Management:**
 - **INPUT- THROUGHPUT- OUTPUT**

Capacity vs. Quality

- Quality is more of an *ex-post* concept; relates more to something that exists
- Capacity:
 - Ex-ante
 - Inherent to the system (institution, people, capability...)
 - The focus of CAQ is to gauge the Country Capacity to produce Agriculture Statistics, covering a wide range of dimensions and elements.

Country Assessment Questionnaire

- Wide definition of Agriculture Statistics:
 - Crop, Livestock, Fish, Forests, Rural Development, Agro-processing Industry
 - Scope of assessment has to cover NSO, MOA and other relevant line ministries.
- Initial Assessment for building generic Indicators on Country Capacity
- Diagnostics
 - Grouping, ranking, prioritizing countries
 - General panorama of situation in the regions

FAO proposal on Measuring Country Capacity

- *Capacity Indicator I:*

PREREQUISITES: Institutional Infrastructure

- *Capacity Indicator II:*

INPUT: Resources

- *Capacity Indicator III:*

THROUGHPUT: *Statistical Methods and Practices*

- *Capacity Indicator IV:*

OUTPUT: *Availability of Statistical Information*

- Correspondence with global standards

PREREQUISITES:

Institutional Infrastructure

- Legal framework
- Coordination in Statistical System
- Strategic Vision and Planning
- Integration of Agriculture in the National Statistical System
- Relevance (user interface)

INPUT: Resources (still debating)

● Financial Resources

- Total budget for statistical activities, as percentage of GDP_ broken down by different ministries, departments, NSO
- Share of agriculture statistics in NSO Budget
- Share of Statistics in the budget of Ministry of Agriculture
- Budget of Ministry of Agriculture as percentage of GDP from Agriculture
- ❖ Additional Data needed: GDP, GDP from Agriculture

● Human Resources

- Share of agriculture statistics in NSO person years
- **There are issues relating to availability of data and comparability of indicators**
- **Perhaps, these indicators can be captured better in In-depth assessments, to capture specificity of countries**

THROUGHPUT: Statistical Methods and Practices

- Statistical software capability
- Data capture technology
- IT infrastructure
- International Classifications
- General Statistical Activities
- Agricultural Market and Price Information
- Agricultural surveys
- Analysis and use of data

OUTPUT:

Availability of Statistical Information

- Core data availability
- Timeliness
- Quality, reliability and consistency of data
- Data Accessibility
- Quality Consciousness

Experience in Asia

- Very diverse set of 59 countries from FAO/ESCAP/ADB
 - SARC, ASEAN, CIS and central Asia, Pacific countries
- Objective:
 - Preliminary assessments of the capacity of national statistical systems and
 - Identification of countries for in-depth assessments
 - Development of technical assistance, training and research strategies
- The CAQ was planned to be filled by
 - Internet using Survey Monkey
 - Excel workbook by E-mail
 - No Training (no funds)
 - Limited Pilot testing

Experience in Asia: +ve feedback

- Returned questionnaires were processed to build Country Capacity Indicators
- The proposed Normative Framework for assessing Country Capacity was appreciated and broadly accepted by the Regional Steering Group as
 - monitoring tool for GS
 - for preparation of Implementation Plan
- Capacity Indicators were validated:
 - Meaningful conclusion were possible based upon available data
 - Enough discriminating capacity of the indicators
 - Strong agreement with WB capacity indicators on specific dimensions
- Indicators showed weak areas in the region where intervention is needed.

Experience in Asia: Challenges

- Only 50% countries returned by the due date (response rate=42/59)
- Incomplete response and Non-response: Follow-up lead to improvements
- Lack of coordination at country level
- Conflicting information from different agencies
- No adherence to a single reference date
- Contradictory responses
- Responses from only one agency
- Misunderstanding of English
- Interpretation of blanks
- Agency staff assignments (transfers, recruits)
- Coverage of crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry
- The quality of response received through mailed questionnaire hampered building some indicators for some countries

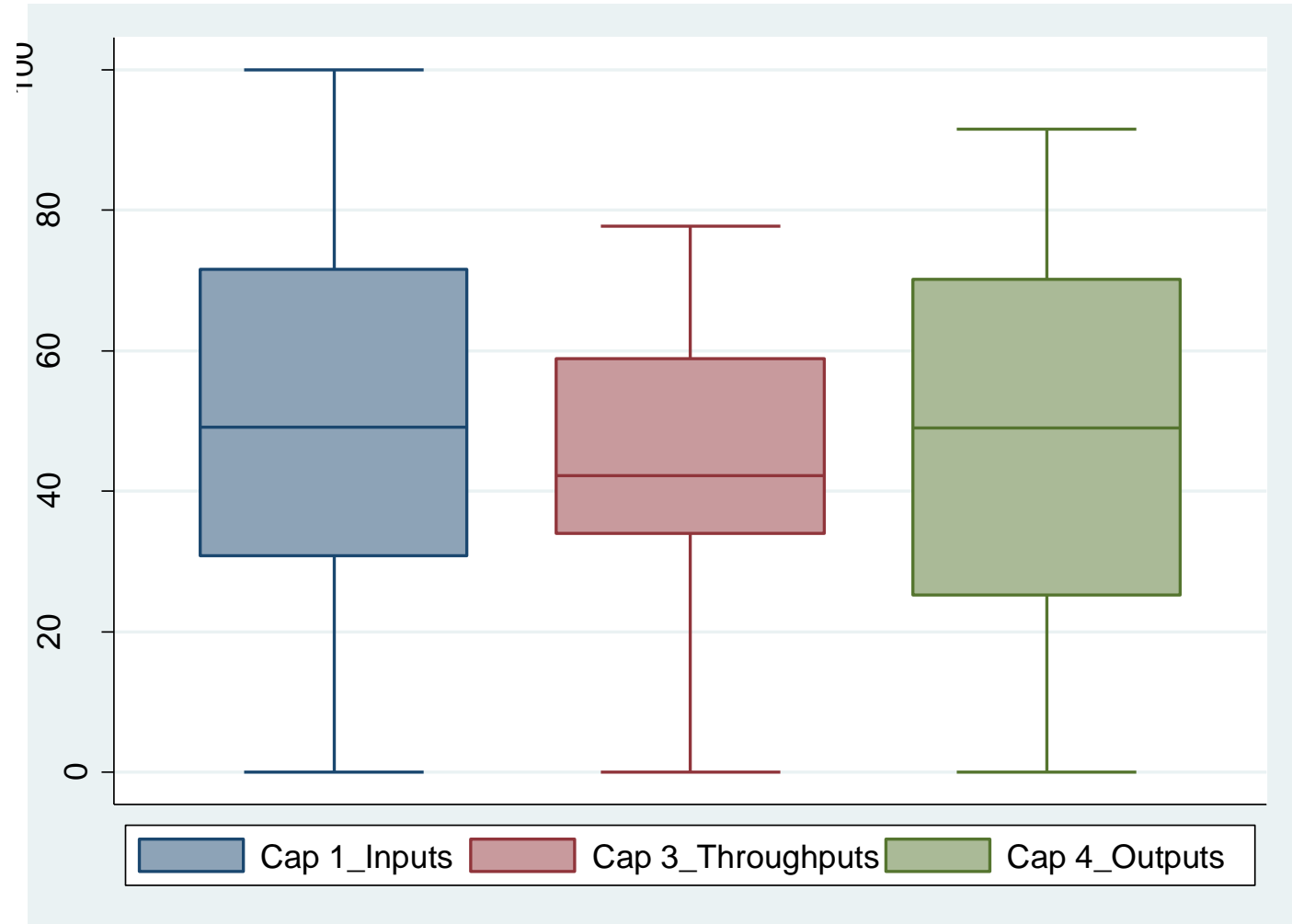
Alternative Rating Criteria

- Given in GS Document (availability of core data based)
- Giving more weight to 15 core data related to Food Security
- Based upon Capacity Indicators: **Neutral**
 - 18 indicators on 3 dimensions
- Average of four criteria
 - More acceptable
 - Visible Outliers eliminated

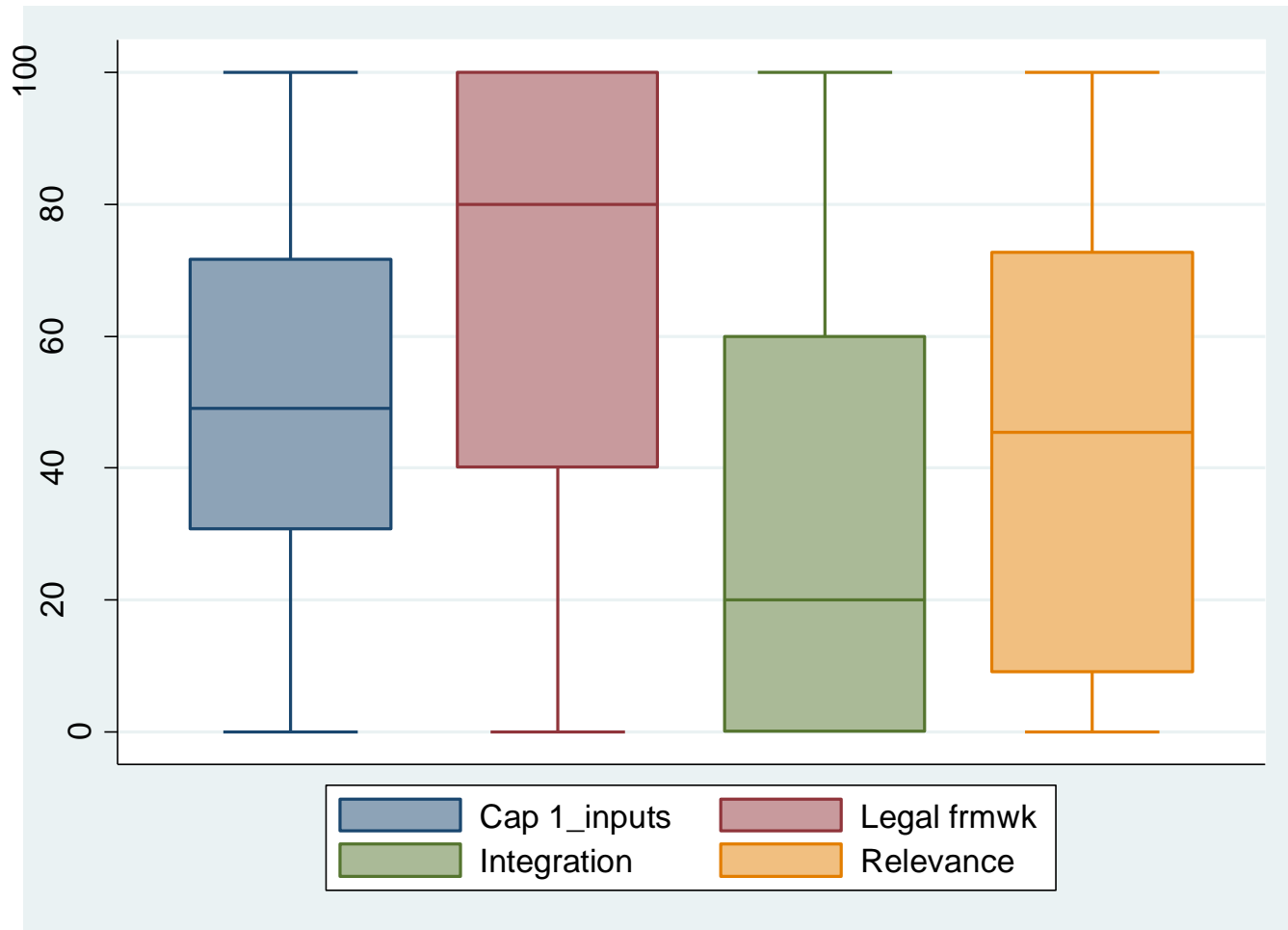
Table 4. Composite (Average of Rating for 3 Methods)

Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Limited
Iran	Armenia	Bangladesh	Cambodia	Afghanistan
Japan	Australia	Bhutan	Cook Islands	Micronesia
Mongolia	Azerbaijan	Fiji	Kazakhstan	Nauru
Philippines	Georgia	Hong Kong, China	Lao PDR	Pakistan
	India	Indonesia	Macao, China	Timor Leste
	Malaysia	Maldives	Myanmar	
	New Zealand	Nepal	Niue	
	Taiwan, China	Republic of Korea	Sri Lanka	
	Philippines	Samoa		
		Thailand		
		Turkmenistan		
		Viet Nam		

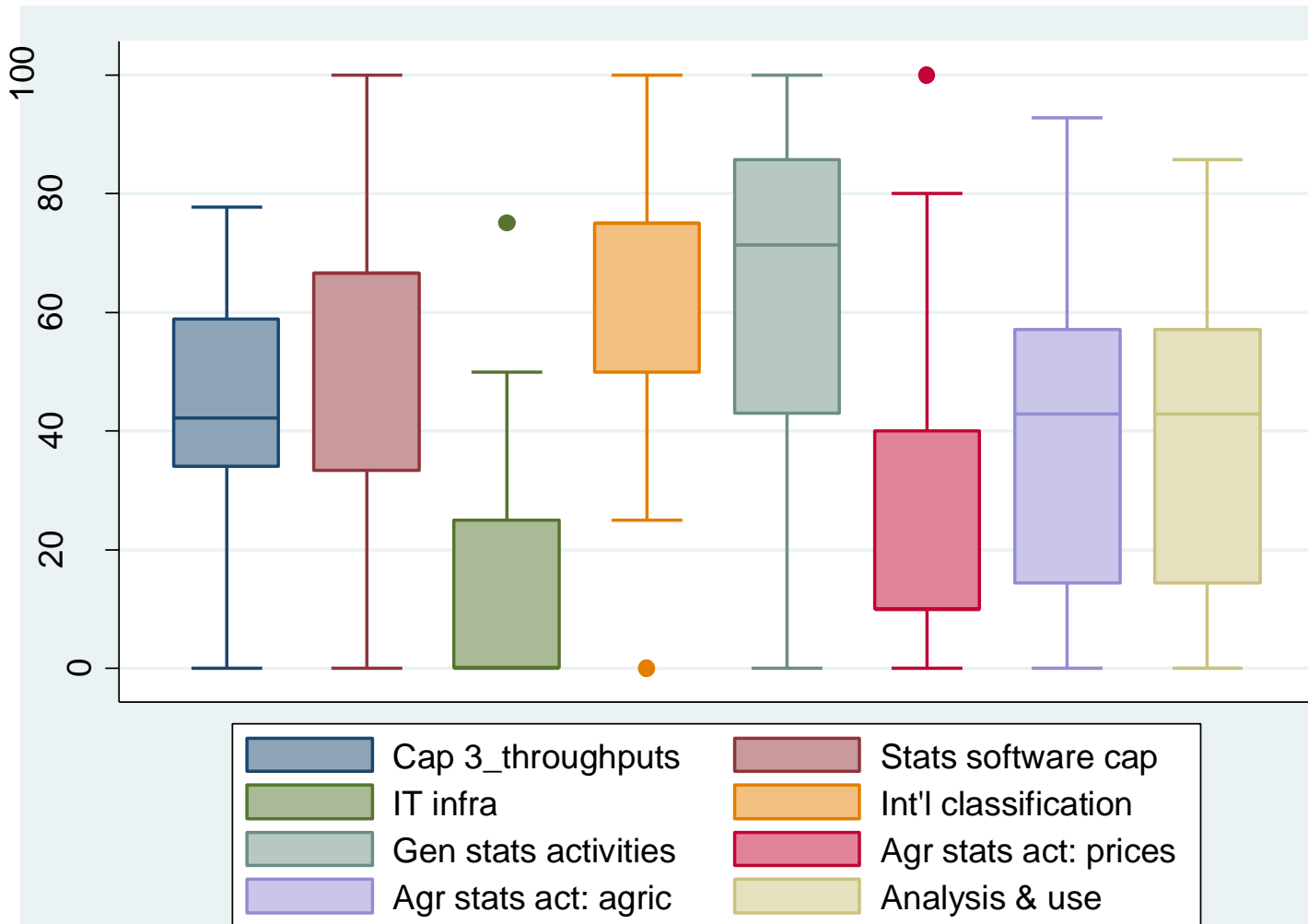
Similarity of Capacity Indicators



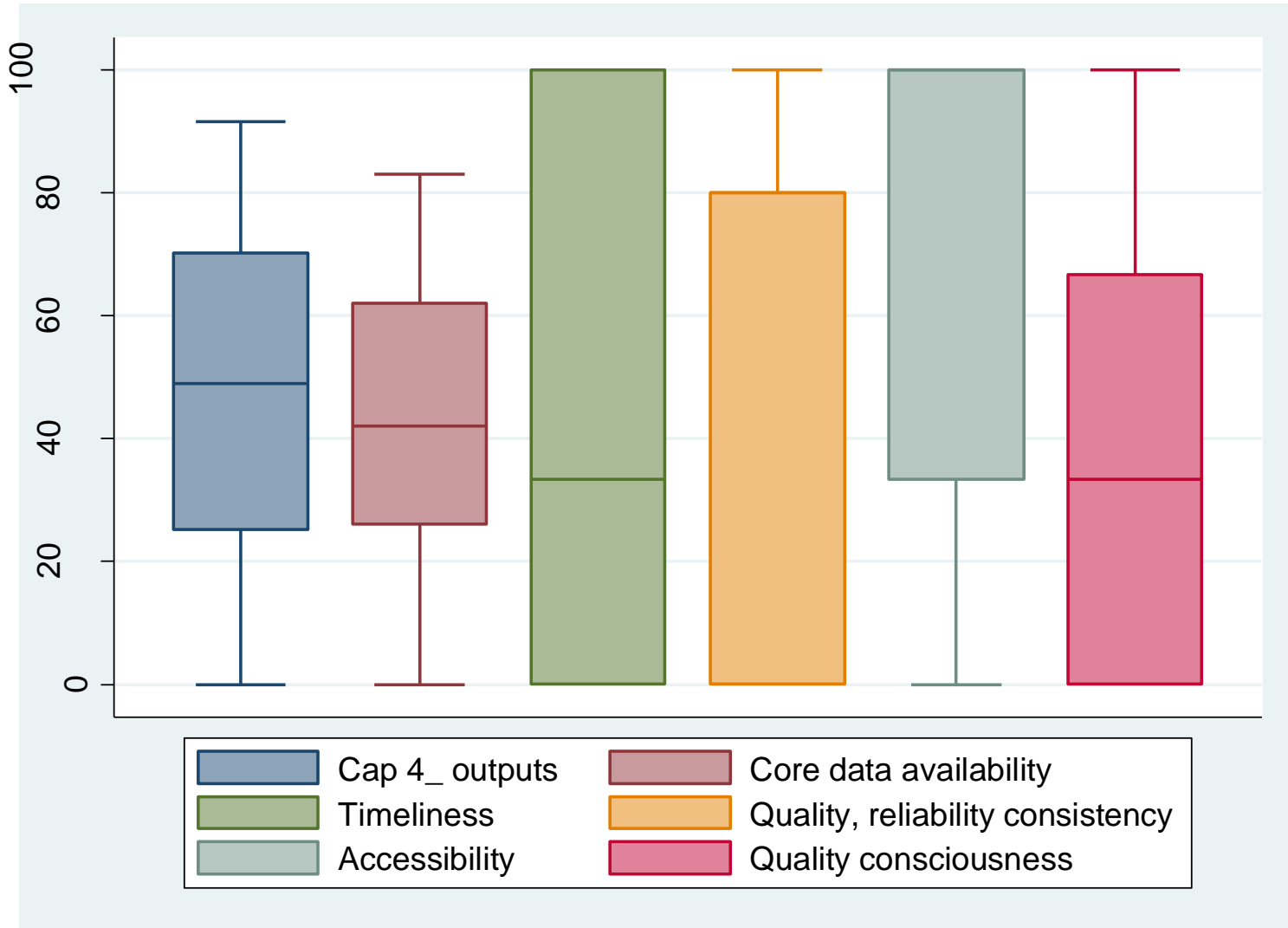
Relationship between Inputs



Relationship between Throughputs



Relationship between Outputs



Constraints on Agricultural Sector Statistics

Constraints: 1=None; 2=Little; 3=Relative ; 4=Significant; 5=Dominant	Ave.
Technical skills of the available statistical staff	2.96
Transport equipment for field activities	2.96
Turnover of professional staff.	2.88
Funds for field-oriented statistical activities vis-à-vis plans.	2.84
Up-to-date information technology software	2.81
Number of field workers for statistical activities	2.76
Up-to-date information hardware	2.73
Number of professional staff at headquarters for statistical activities	2.69
Number of professional staff in the field for statistical activities	2.68
Sound methodology implemented for agricultural surveys	2.54
Building space for office	2.52
Appreciation at the policy-making level for importance of statistical activities	2.38
Level of demand for statistics	2.35
Support at political level in the Government for statistical activities	2.35
Number of support staff at headquarters for statistical activities	2.31

Conclusion and Road Ahead

- Appeal to countries
 - Pay due attention to filling the questionnaire
 - Clarify doubts here
 - Quality of response is more important than the deadline
- Global Partners and individual experts
 - Work together, as in the past, to establish a common global monitoring system for agriculture statistics
 - Participate in the normative works
- Country Profiles
- In-depth assessments: Guidelines under preparation

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- Thank you very much for your attention!