



Country Assessment

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Background 1/2

- A need to evaluate countries' capability in producing agricultural statistics as a first step in the formulation of the regional action plan.
- The assessment would highlight areas of strengths and weaknesses in the statistical system.
- The questionnaire was developed through consultation. It consisted of four sections:
 - Section 1: Institutional Environment
 - Section 2: Core Data Availability
 - Section 3: Main Statistical Activities
 - Section 4: Critical Constraints in Agriculture Statistics System.



Background 2/2

- Questionnaire requested to be filled by MoA, NSO and other line ministries.
- Questionnaire was prefilled with info gathered from previous country assessments, in order to reduce the response burden.



Objective

- Pilot effort of a preliminary assessment of the capacity of national statistical systems for agriculture and rural sector (areas of strengths and weaknesses).
- Assist identification of countries where in-depth assessments could be used to develop technical assistance, training and research strategies.



Target Countries/Territories

- 59 Countries/territories in Asia and Pacific Region as defined by FAO/ESCAP/ADB.
- Includes Asia, Pacific and CIS countries.
- Responses from 42 countries/territories of which several provided no or little information.



Basis for Assessment

- Country Assessment Questionnaires
- NSO
- MOA and additional agricultural sector data producing agencies
- Follow-up requests for additional data or clarification of responses.



Challenges for Assessment

- Incomplete responses
- Contradictory responses
- Lack of coordination: responses from only one agency
- Misunderstanding of English
- Different reporting times
- Interpretation of blanks
- Agency staff assignments (transfers)
- Coverage of crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry



Feedback on the methodology

- Returned questionnaires were processed to build Country Capacity Indicators.
- Capacity Indicators were validated:
 - Some meaningful conclusions were possible based upon available data
 - Enough discriminating capacity of three out of four indicators (infrastructure, methods and data availability)
- Indicators showed weak areas in the region where intervention is needed.



Critical Characteristics by Subregion

	No of Countries	No Reporting	Stat Law	Stat Law /w Agric	NSDS	Coord. "Board"	Agric Census after 2001	Ave PCT Core items	Ave PCT Priority items
Southeast Asia	10	10	100	80	70	70	60	42	77
South and Southwest Asia	10	9	100	78	72	44	67	51	78
North/ Central Asia	9	7	100	86	100	43	57	48	85
East Asia	7	5	100	60	80	40	60	47	82
Pacific	19	8	70	50	40	13	63	21	38
Developed	3	3	100	100	100	100	100	53	89
Total	58	42	100	79	75	48	64	44	75



Constraints by Subregion

	SE Asia	S & SW Asia	N & C Asia	E Asia	Pacific	Developed	Region Ave.
Number of professional staff at headquarters for statistical activities	3.00	3.33	2.67	3.00	3.43	1.00	2.97
Number of support staff at headquarters for statistical activities	2.00	2.50	2.17	3.00	3.14	1.00	2.43
Number of professional staff in the field for statistical activities	2.17	3.33	2.50	3.00	3.17	1.00	2.75
Number of field workers for statistical activities	2.50	3.50	2.33	3.00	3.00	1.00	2.79
Technical skills of the available statistical staff	3.50	2.83	3.00	3.33	3.00	1.00	2.97
Appreciation at the policy-making level for importance of statistical activities	3.50	2.50	2.00	2.67	2.57	1.00	2.53
Support at political level in the Government for statistical activities	3.17	2.33	2.17	2.67	2.86	1.00	2.53
Up-to-date information technology hardware	2.67	2.83	3.50	3.33	2.86	1.00	2.87
Up-to-date information technology software	2.83	2.67	3.50	3.00	2.86	1.00	2.83
Funds for field-oriented statistical activities vis-à-vis plans.	2.50	3.67	3.17	2.33	3.17	1.00	2.90
Transport equipment for field activities	2.67	3.50	3.00	2.67	3.00	1.00	2.93
Building space for office	2.83	2.00	2.50	2.00	3.67	1.00	2.55
Sound methodology implemented for agricultural surveys	3.17	2.50	2.33	2.67	3.43	1.00	2.73
Level of demand for statistics	2.83	1.67	2.17	3.00	3.00	1.00	2.40
Turn over of professional staff .	2.83	2.83	2.67	2.67	4.00	1.50	2.93

1=No constraint , 2=little constraint, 3=relative constraint, 4=significant constrain to 5=dominant constraint.



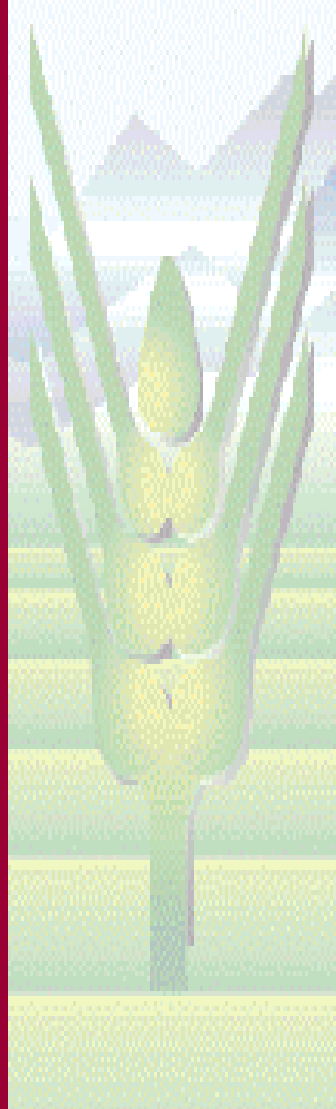
Preliminary Conclusions

- Characteristics of strong systems
 - Integration of agriculture
 - Timeliness and reliability of statistics
 - Well-trained professional staff
 - Resources for surveys
- Limitations of weak systems
 - Lack of: professional and field staff and resources
 - IT capacity and utilization
 - Quality consciousness
 - Timeliness



Follow up

- Country profiles will be prepared based on the information gathered and shared with countries for feedback and corrections.
- Country profiles will be eventually posted on the web for reference by member countries and development partners.
- A technical meeting will be organized in Rome in Nov 2012 to discuss/revise preliminary results and methodology.



Thank you for your attention