

Major resolutions

The Major Resolutions of the Agricultural Statistics Country Assessment workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from the 27th- 29th August 2012

Introduction

Participants from 21 African countries and development partners including AU, AfDB, ECA, FAO, and IFPRI (see list of participants in annex 2) represented during this 2nd workshop on the Country Assessment of agricultural statistics as part of the Action Plan for Africa of the Global Strategy for Improving Statistics for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture, and Rural Development, have extensively deliberated on the overall contents of the strategy, its governance mechanism, technical components and implementation arrangement. Having done so, detailed discussions have been held on the Country Assessment framework and the role of countries in ensuring the successful implementation of the action plan.

The objective of the workshop was to appraise the participants on the action plan for Africa and train them on the effective use of the developed country assessment instruments in compiling information related to agriculture statistical capacity needs.

The participants read and appreciated the Action Plan for Africa and its components as a major initiative for improving agricultural statistics in Africa, and urged partners to support follow-up activities.

As a result, the following resolution with regards to the instruments used for the country assessment, online application and the operational arrangements have been endorsed.

1) Instruments of the Country Assessment

- i. Questionnaire content
 - To implement the suggested editing of the French version of the questionnaire and reflect it on the online application.
 - AfDB and partners shall develop a guideline to support country efficiently implement the country assessment.

- ii. Online Application

The participants acknowledged and recognized the online application as option 1 for administering the country assessment framework. Having done so, the participants have proposed improvements on the online application. In particular, it should be ensured that it is similar to the paper based questionnaire.

2) Operational Arrangement

- i. Ensure provision of resources to enable countries implement the action plan. To this end the International Comparison Programme (ICP) initiative may be used as a reference.
- ii. In order to ensure sustained ownership of the Action Plan for Africa and its implementation, countries are responsible for the establishment of the governance structure at national level. As a result, designating the country level coordinator should be an immediate task for each country.
- iii. National Governments should commit themselves to supporting statistical development. This calls for effective statistical advocacy.
- iv. The participants called on AfDB, UNECA, FAO and other development partners to provide needed assistance to meet any shortfall in government support.
- v. The participants agreed on the way forward and the time line of the next steps of activities which is annexed with this resolution.
- vi. Establishment of a web-based Forum of Agricultural Statisticians in Africa (FASIA)