

Technical Session 2 B: Operationalisation of Modular Approach (Group Exercise)

Learning Objective

To be able to assess the user requirements, prioritize them and suggest a cost-effective feasible plan for collection of agricultural data through census and surveys.

Activities

First Session

Divide the group in among Data Providers and Data Users. Each person in the group assumes the role of representatives of one or more of the stake holder listed in Annex-1.

Imagine that you all belong to a specific country (ASIANO) whose inhabitants depend mainly upon nomadic livestock for their livelihoods. The country is planning to carry out its long over due agricultural census. The National Statistics Office (NSO) acknowledges the urgent need for an agricultural census as the ongoing sample surveys are not able to provide reliable estimates, on account of obsolete sampling frames and sampling designs. However, it does not have the financial capacity to carry out the census. The cost of the census is extremely high due to existence of livestock in far flung and remote areas. This census will form the basis of future development of current agriculture statistics. Many stakeholders have high expectations from this exercise. Some development agencies are looking forward to the census data for planning their development projects (Please feel free to imagine one or two such projects).

The NSO has prepared a budget estimate of US\$ 8.00 million for a comprehensive agricultural census by complete enumeration of all households and enterprises. The total funds available for the census from all sources are about a quarter of this amount. Some donors are, however, willing to fund up to US\$ 2.00 million, provided the census meets their key data requirements for handling Global Developments Issues like Gender, Climate change and Conservations of Biodiversity. A bilateral donor is interested to fund improvement in livestock statistics as a company from the donor country has plans to start livestock insurance business in ASIANO. The Ministry of Planning in consultation with Ministry of Livestock has plans to improve food security of the population by promotion of livestock products. Meat exporters see a good potential for export earnings from this sector. Given the vagaries of weather and resulting uncertain food production system, the government is also interested in developing a continues crop monitoring system for Rice and Barley which are grown in two different agricultural seasons in different regions of the country.

It is almost certain that a Population Census will be conducted shortly before the planned date of agricultural census. The cartographic work of listing of enumeration areas has already been started and full funding has been secured.

Assignment

To come-up with feasible plan of agricultural census and surveys which satisfies most of the stakeholders in the light of above scenario and has built in flexibility to cope with unforeseen budgetary situations.

STEP-I: Prepare a short list of data items which are relevant in the context of ASIANO using an INITIAL list of themes and data items provided to the group in the Excel sheet. First select important themes and then a manageable list of data items for the activity.

STEP-II: Data Provider Group conducts a mock Workshop to discuss the short listed data items with Data Users Group to understand their expectations in terms of:

- Administrative Level (country, province, district, village) at which a specific data is needed
- Level of accuracy expected
- Periodicity
- Urgency in data requirement/other sources of data
- How data will be used?

Synthesize the inputs from Data Users in the Excel sheet using codes (options) given on top of the Columns C, D, E and F.

Second Session

The groups joins together

STEP-III: The group uses the output from STEP-II.

Based upon the inputs of Data Users and the technical judgement of the group fills the last two columns of the sheet, basically deciding the suitability of data items for sample survey or census.

STEP-IV: Prepare a cost-effective plan of agriculture Census and Surveys. The plan should *inter alia* should give indications on:

- How the plan takes advantage of activities of the Population Census
- The strategy for agricultural census: sampling and/or complete enumeration
- Different modules for census and surveys: data item in each module
- Time schedule for implementing each module.
- Linkages between the modules.
- Length of the module, in terms of response time

The group is free to imagine the following numbers for preliminary evaluation of cost implication of their census-survey plan.

- Number of Households in country
- Number of agricultural holdings of different types
- Unit cost for visiting a household etc.

Final GROUP Presentation

Data providers present their plans to the audience comprising Heads of Departments in the user Ministries and Donor organizations. (Roles may be pre-assigned)

List of Institutions for Selection of Role Models in Group Activity

Data Provides (National agency responsible for Agricultural Census and Surveys)

1. Methodological Unit
2. Field Operation Unit
3. Data processing Unit
4. Data Dissemination
5. User Coordination Unit

Data User (Stake holders)

1. Department of Crops
2. Department of Livestock Development
3. Ministry of Irrigation and water resources
4. Ministry of Food Processing Industries
5. Ministry of Rural Development
6. Association of Meat Exporters
7. Farmers' Association
8. Association of Agricultural Enterprises/ Cooperatives
9. Agriculture Exporter's Association
10. International Agencies and donor's representatives