

The Major Resolutions of the Agricultural Statistics Country Assessment workshop in Kigali, Rwanda from the 19th- 21st June 2012

Introduction

Participants from 36 African countries and development partners including AU, AfDB, ECA, FAO, DfID, USDA/NASS (see list of participants in annex) represented during this workshop on the assessment of agricultural statistics as part of the action plan for Africa within the global strategy for improving food security, agriculture, and rural development, have extensively deliberated on the overall contents of the strategy, its governance mechanism, 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 have 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

a. Questionnaire content

- i. To implement the suggested corrections of editing of the both versions (English and French) version and reflect it on the online application
- ii. Should be identical to the online application. For example the columns on Module 1 section 2.1. in reference to institutions responsible

b. 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 forwarded the following improvements on the online application:

- i. The system should have flexibly inbuilt Skip patterns that enable respondents to navigate between various tabs and questions depending on availability or non-availability of data.
- ii. In addition to the minimum core data sets, the design of the online application should be flexible to capture **other** important products not listed in the system
- iii. Read only access to all other key users (such as line ministries and sub-sectors) besides the country coordinator and data entrant
- iv. The Definitions, concepts and classifications used should in-line with international standards. For example the case of livestock nomenclature
- v. To provide the possibility of uploading the offline excel version data to the online application.
- vi. Provide online help or user guide (in both languages) to help ease the data entry. The guide should also clarify the validation rules for respondents.
- vii. Provide access to the respective national coordinator database after submitting the assessment questionnaires

2) Operational Arrangement

- i. Ensure provision of resources to enable countries implement the action plan. To this end the ICP initiative may be used as a reference.
- ii. in order to ensure sustained ownership of the action plan and its implementation, countries are responsible for the establishment of the governance structure at national level.
- iii. The participants agreed on the way forward and the time line of the next steps of activities which is annexed with this resolution

Annex 1 - List of participants

Annex 2 - Way forward and timeline

Activity	Time frame	Responsible
Ongoing work: Tabulation/Analysis plans/guidelines (Development/building indicators of data quality and statistical development)	End Sep 2012	Regional Implementing Agencies (AfDB, ECA, FAO)
Fine-tuning the web-based application	Mid-July 2012	AfDB
Providing access to countries	End July 2012	AfDB
Establishing governance structures in countries, viz: National Agricultural Statistics Committee, National Technical Working Group and designating a National Strategy Coordinator	end of August 2012	Countries
Brief members of the governing structures	end of Aug 2012	Countries
Establishment of a web-based Forum of Agricultural Statisticians in Africa (FASIA)	mid-Aug 2012	AfDB
National Workshops on the Action Plan for Africa	Oct 2012	Countries/ in Partnership with Regional implementing agencies
Data collection/compilation and submission: (a) Using the web-based application, (b) Using soft copies	mid-Sept 12	Countries
Data checking and validation (at regional level)	end of Oct 2012	AfDB
Data processing – Tabulation, indicator calculation	end of Nov 12	AfDB
Data analysis	end Dec 2012	AfDB
Preliminary results: discussions and validation	end of Jan 2012	AfDB/Partners
Results report: indicators, country profiles, ranking and grouping	end of Feb 2012	AfDB
In-depth assessment and preparation of <u>national action plans</u> for the 1 st 12 countries	March-July 2013	Countries and Implementing agencies
Establishment/management of M&E baseline database	March-July 13	AfDB

