

Assessment of Country Capacity to produce Agriculture Statistics



Global Strategy
IMPROVING AG-STATISTICS

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Outline

- Progress of work done so far
 - Concepts of Quality and Capacity
 - The normative work
 - Operational work in regions (Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and CIS)
- Experience of use of data from CAQ 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 (grouping of countries)

Initial thoughts

- We need a framework
 - Take into account the works 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
- National Quality Assessment Frameworks
 - <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/QualityNQAF/nqaf.aspx>

Quality in Official Statistics

- A review revealed that the quality does not have the “same” meaning to everyone, 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
- Total Quality Management:
 - **INPUT- THROUGHPUT- OUTPUT**

Capacity vs. Quality

- **Quality:**

- is more an *ex-post* concepts;
- relates more to tangible things

- **Capacity:**

- *Ex-ante*
- Inherent to the system (institutions, people, capability...) and directly observable
- The focus of CAQ is to gauge the Country Capacity to produce Agriculture Statistics,
- For a range of dimensions and elements of Capacity.

Country Assessment: Stages

Stage 1: Standard country assessment questionnaire (all countries)

Assessment of national statistical development and grouping of countries according SD level of countries.

Stage 2: In-depth assessment (selected countries)

- ✓ Assess user needs and perspective regarding data quality
- ✓ Inventory of ongoing capacity building initiatives
- ✓ Gap analysis
- ✓ Priority setting with all stakeholders and preparation of country proposal for TA and Training
- ✓ Develop technical assistance, training and research strategies

C A-Stage 1: Standard Country Assessment Questionnaire

- The questionnaire was developed by a task team formed by the FoC of UNSC
- 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.
- The Standard Country Assessment Questionnaire was tested in selected African countries by AfDB and piloted in Asia by FAO and revised taking into account the findings.
- The Questionnaire consist 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.

Indicators of Country Capacity

CAQ Data can help build Capacity Indicators in line with Global Thinking

- 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

Pilot in Asia and the Pacific

- **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
 - Identification of priority target countries
 - Development of technical assistance, training and research strategies for the region
- **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

- 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 for preparation of Regional 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

Challenges

- Poor response rate initially
- Lack of coordination at country level
- Interpretation of blanks, language issues
- No single reference date

Web site on Country Assessment

- **Outreach to:** Donor agencies, Statistical agencies of member countries, Consultants for international organizations, and Methodologists of agricultural statistics
- **Transparency:** Better understand through visual and numerical indicators national agricultural system characteristics and how they compare with your neighbors
- **Portal:** Serves as a portal with web links and physical contact information to important statistical agencies in covered countries
- **Resource page:** Links to statistics methodologies for some key agricultural and rural statistics
- **Scope:** We are initially targeting to create personalized pages for 22 countries; inclusive of all APCAS members

Web site on Country Assessment



Will contain:

- Numerical information on indicators
- Textual information on the statistical system

Web site on Country Assessment

Overview

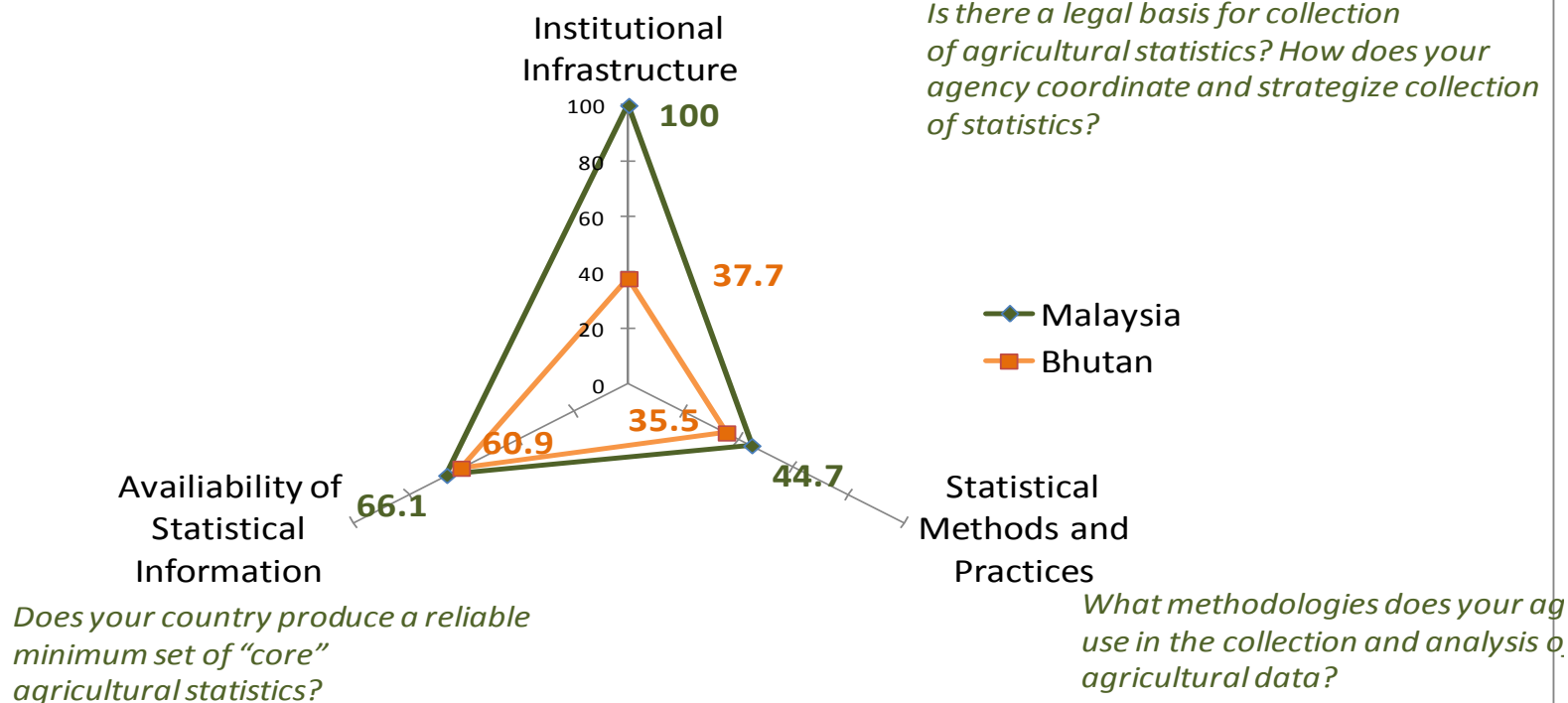
Institutional framework

Statistical practices and methods

Core data availability

Projects

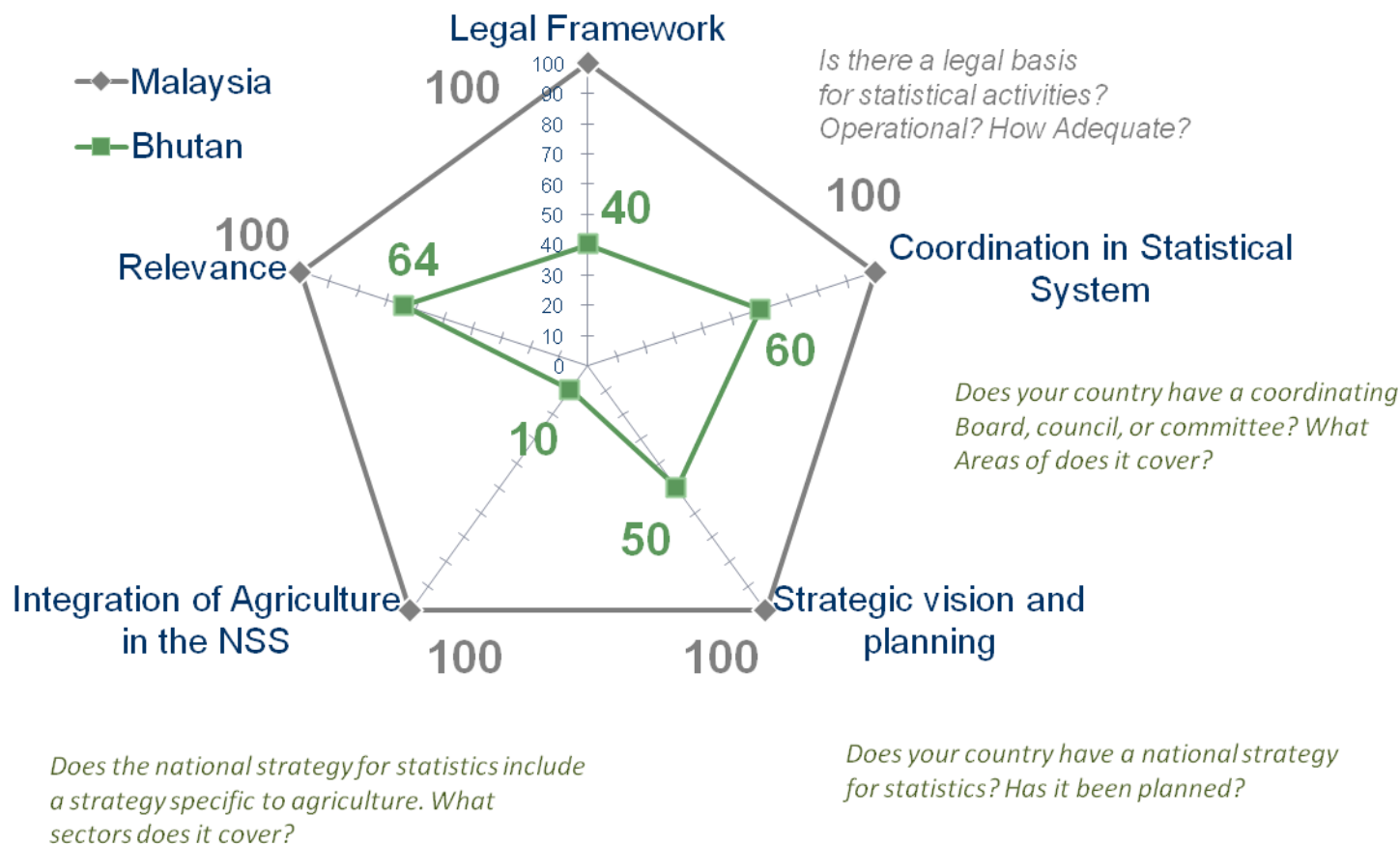
Contacts



Note: Numbers are tentative

Web site on Country Assessment

Institutional Infrastructure: Capacity Indicator I

[Overview](#)[Institutional framework](#)[Statistical practices and methods](#)[Core data availability](#)[Projects](#)[Contacts](#)

Africa

- Lead by **AfDB**
- Three day training workshops involving to staff from each country In **Rwanda** and **Ethiopia** (English and French)
- A custom designed software for data collection
 - Modular approach
 - Validation and quality control of responses
 - Online response by several agencies together

Other regions

- **Latin America**

- CAQ in Spanish
- Reviewed in meeting of 9 countries
- Twinning of Countries

- **CIS**

- CAQ in Russian
- Focus only on the questions which feed into building indicators

Further Work

- Development of a Guide to the CAQ
- Task Force Meeting 6-7 Dec
 - To carry out a Technical Review of the work already done
 - Advice on pending technical issue
 - Finalize the Normative work on indicators
- Experts are welcome to join.



Thank you