

# 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- THROUGHTPUT- 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

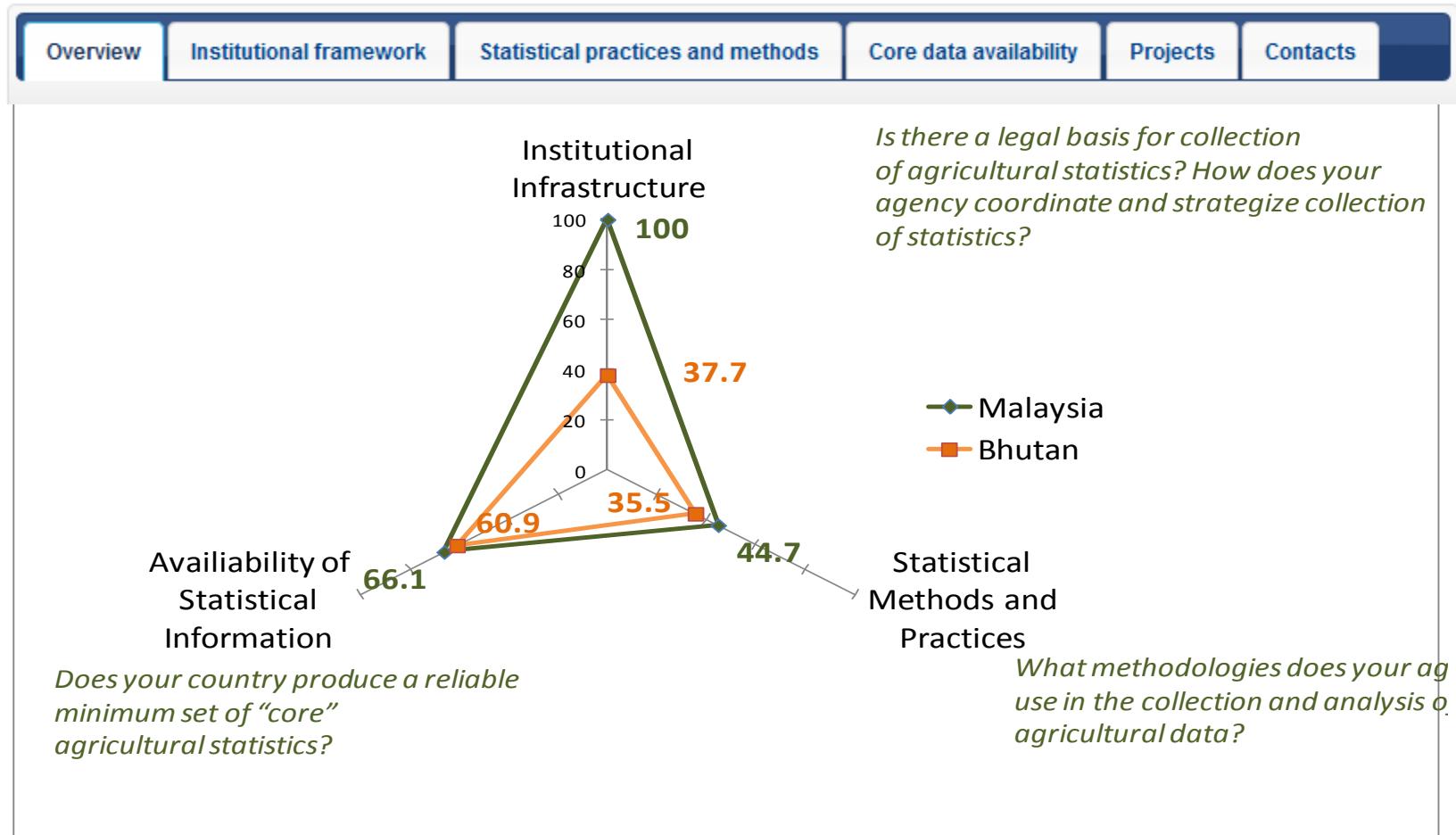


The screenshot shows a web browser window for the FAO website. The title bar reads "ESS Website ESS : Country". The address bar shows the URL "www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-capacity/ess-strategy/capacity/en/". The page is in English, as indicated by the "english" link in the top right. The main content area features the FAO logo and the text "Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for a world without hunger". Below this is a banner for the "Global Strategy IMPROVING AG-STATISTICS" with a stylized graphic of a globe and silhouettes. The text "Country capacity to produce agricultural statistics" is displayed. At the bottom left is a "Google Custom Search" bar.

Will contain:

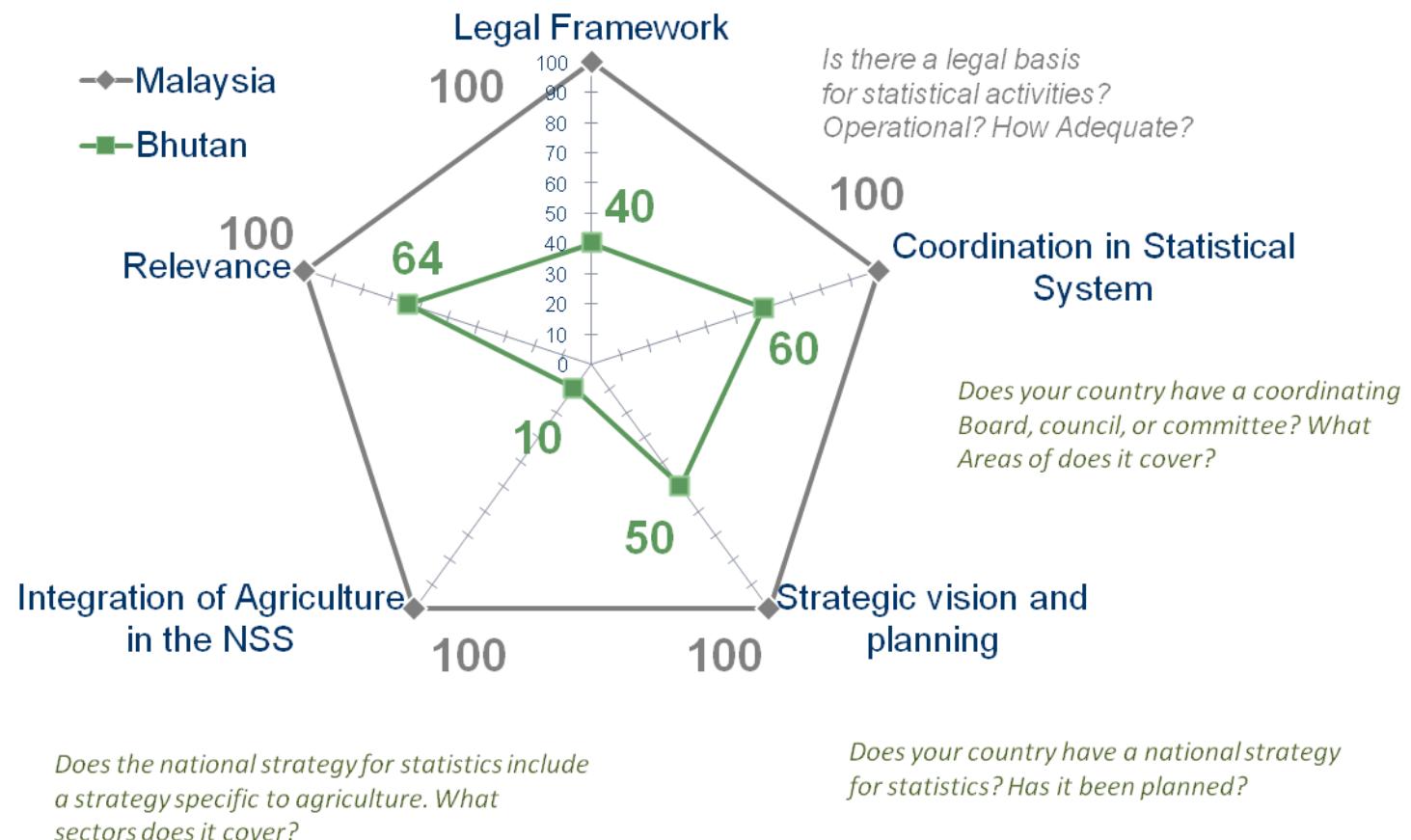
- Numerical information on indicators
- Textual information on the statistical system

# Web site on Country Assessment



# 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 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**