



Expert meeting 2

Developing SSPARS and Integration into NSDS

Challenges & Best Practices



Key Challenges: Background

- Decentralized statistical systems – agriculture statistics produced under Ministry of Agriculture
- Related areas e.g. livestock, fisheries may also be under separate Ministries
- Integration across sectors and
- Integration into the national statistical system



Key Challenges: Inclusive Plan Development

Issue: Scope of Agriculture

- Plans developed by agriculture sector in isolation from the NSS
- Plans not developed in coordination with related sectors
- Broader scope of agriculture under the Global Strategy

Discussion Points

- Who should lead the plan development?
- How to ensure that the broader scope of agriculture and related sectors are covered, esp. when led by the Ministry of Agriculture?



Key Challenges: Inclusive Plan Development

Issue: Participatory Approach

- Often developed by consultants not nationally led and owned
- Offices have few staff and lack resources – therefore limited capacity to be released

Approaches

- Existing coordination groups: e.g. National Statistical Council - plan development led by agriculture sector sub-committee
- National technical working group/review committee
 - With a drafting sub committee
 - Periodic working group retreats
- Broadly inclusive: Malawi NSO, MoA, FEWNET, MET service, research institute, donor coordination committee and international organizations



Key Challenges: Inclusive Plan Development

Issue: Stakeholder consultation and analysis

- Often left till end of the process
- Focus often on producers of statistics
- Contradictory information from various stakeholders: external consultants often don't receive the full picture with just 1 mission

Approaches

- Consultation with wide range of users (government and non-government), including existing groups working on NSDS
- Consulted during assessment and at key stages of development NOT left till end of process

(con't)

Key Challenges: Inclusive Plan Development

- Engage stakeholders at key points:
 - Drafting of road map
 - Assessing phase - main lessons learned and general direction for integration with NSS
 - Identification of Strategic Goals phase – develop single vision and set of objectives
 - Including: priority statistics, programme of surveys and censuses, common resources: sampling frames and references, organizational structure, clarification of functions, available financial resources
- Examples of tools: user satisfaction assessment, SWOT analysis, gap analysis. Other useful tools?
- Who are the key users? How to prioritize among user needs

Key Challenges: Ownership by national government and high level decision makers

Issues

- Aim - endorsement at the highest political level e.g. Council of Ministers/Cabinet **OR**
- Minister of Agriculture with agreement for its incorporation into the NSDS by the Director of the National Statistics Office
- Provides support for implementation and resourcing of the sector plan

Approaches

- Governance Committee: director of the national statistical office; the ministers of agriculture, and other ministries involving agriculture
- Involved in process and agree to key points in process: e.g. strategic objectives



Obtaining ownership by national government and high level decision makers

Approaches

- Minister of Agriculture sensitized from process inception - before preparation of the roadmap - and endorse the formulation of the plan as part of its inception.
- Stakeholder workshops at which key decision and resource partners makers are present and to obtain buy in:
 - Explaining the process, introducing the constituency
 - Validating the assessment of the statistical situation
 - Validating the mission, vision and strategic goals (prioritization work important!)
 - Final workshop - validating the SSPARS and action plan
- What level of endorsement is sufficient to aid implementation? What is feasible?



Key Challenges: Advocacy and resource mobilization

Issues

- Implementation hindered by poor budgeting-financing of activities and lack of advocacy
- Advocacy often only at end of process: plan already finalized
- Lack of vision for support to the overall statistical system impacts long term decisions on
 - Financing overall statistical system from national budget

Approaches

- Advocacy should be for the whole national entity not sector by sector
- Continuous dialogue with resource partners, budget holders in government, and the NSS – door to door approach
- Preparation of specific advocacy materials for the national statistical system and within that for agricultural statistics



Discussion Points

1. Who should be responsible for the development of the SSPARS? How to ensure that the broader scope of agriculture and related sectors when not under the Ministry of Agriculture (such as livestock, fisheries and forestry) are considered?
2. Deciding key users - how to prioritize the user needs?
3. Examples of useful tools for assessment and stakeholder analysis?
4. Best practices for increasing national involvement when capacity to release staff is limited?
5. What level of government endorsement is sufficient to aid implementation? What is feasible? Best practices to engage key decision makers?
6. Agreement on advocacy for the entire national statistical system? How will this work in practice?

