

Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics



Identified needs to Improve RNR Statistics in Bhutan


Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Bhutan

National Statistical System



- National Statistics Bureau (NSB) is the apex body for country's statistics.
- The Statistics Act / Bill is finalized and awaits government approval.
- National Strategy for Development of Statistics is being reviewed.
- Collection & production of statistics is decentralized. *All sectors collect and produce their own statistics.*
- The NSB reviews and issues survey clearance to the sectors and provides technical backstopping.
- The NSB produces statistics on areas that are cross-cutting in nature *(population & housing census, living standard surveys, poverty analysis, national accounts, prices etc.).*
- The Statistical Yearbook of NSB is the compilation of statistics produced by line ministries/sectors.

Agricultural Statistics System (RNR Statistical System)

- Collection & production of RNR statistics is further decentralized *(Sub-sectors collect and produce their own statistics)*. 
- Coordination of RNR statistics is entrusted to Policy & Planning Division in MoAF
- **Some of the challenges are:** Coordination problems, lack of skilled personnel, budget, some of the statistics produced are inadequate or irrelevant.
- A Statistical Framework was developed in 2012. *(It is being updated to incorporate improvements)*
- A Statistical Steering Committee was established within the framework with all its members from MoAF. *Will be expanded to include members from other relevant agencies.*



- Over 60% of the population resides in the rural areas with their livelihood depending on the natural resources (agriculture, livestock & forestry).
- Imports 50% of rice and large quantity of vegetables, meats etc.
- Various interventions are being undertaken to increase food security (improving – agricultural productivity, access to road and markets).
- Agricultural statistics has become very crucial for informed decision making and to mobilize scarce resources.

Summary of prioritized short, medium and long-term needs identified in the Country Proposal



1. Short-term needs

- Activity 1: Bring improvement in crop statistics
- Activity 2: Bring improvement in livestock statistics
- Activity 3: Increase institutional and HR capacity
- Activity 4: Gather updated environmental data

2. Medium and long-term needs

- Activity 5: Land cover mapping
- Activity 6: Conduct of a RNR census
- Activity 7: Support to Bhutan Living Standard Survey
- Activity 8: Support to Labor Force Survey

Precise details on the activities can be seen in the Country Proposal.

1. Short-term needs



Activity 1: Bring improvement in crop statistics (DoA)

Identified issues	Activity proposed to address the issues	Impact of under taking the activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ The “frame” used for the survey is not sound✓ High Non-response rate✓ High sampling error, especially at lower admin levels✓ Difficult to get precise estimates for minor crops✓ Weak capacity of staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Strategy to update the “frame”, questionnaires and enumeration methods✓ Train staff in sampling & survey design;✓ Train staff in survey data processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Improved data for timely annual assessment of food security and productivity growth at national and sub-national levels

1. Short-term needs (*contd*)



Activity 2: Bring improvement in livestock statistics (DoL)

Identified issues	Activity proposed to address the issues	Impact of under taking the activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ The “frame” used for the survey is not sound✓ Current practice of complete enumeration is uneconomical✓ Reference period of livestock production (1 year) enumeration is too long	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Strategy to update the “frame”, questionnaire and enumeration methods✓ Institute sample survey instead of complete enumeration (1 district as a pilot)✓ Train staff in sampling & survey design✓ Train staff in survey data processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Improved data for annual assessment of food supply and food security at national and sub-national levels

1. Short-term needs (*contd*)



Activity 3: Increase institutional and HR capacity (Stakeholders)

Identified issues	Activity proposed to address the issues	Impact of under taking the activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ The existing RNR Statistical Framework does not include members from outside MoAF.✓ The strategic plan in the existing RNR Statistical Framework is not comprehensive.✓ Coordination among stakeholders of RNR statistics is weak.✓ Data analytical capacity in general is weak.✓ There is no dedicated interactive database for RNR Statistics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Update the RNR-Stats. Framework.✓ Develop Strategic Plan for RNR Statistics.✓ Develop interactive web-based database for generating time series RNR data at national/sub-national levels.✓ Strengthen capacity of the stakeholders in analyzing existing data sets for planning and policy purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ A coordinated, sustainable system of RNR statistics for use in interventions in the RNR sector and beyond, ultimately contributing to increased food security and eradication of poverty.

1. Short-term needs (*contd*)



Activity 4: Gather & publish updated environmental data (NEC)

Identified issues	Activity proposed to address the issues	Impact of under taking the activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Updated map on environmental data (land cover, water and forests) is not available.✓ Updated data on assessment of GHG emission is also lacking.✓ Bhutan Environment Outlook (State of Environment Report) needs to be updated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Train staff in use of the land cover mapping system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Enabling environment for guiding environmental and forest policy, programs and plans.

Note:

- Data on land cover, water and forest are included in **Activity 5: Land Cover Mapping**.
- Assessment of GHG emission will be undertaken via other means.
- Enhancement of staffs' capacity is taken care in **Activity 3: Increase institutional and HR capacity**.

2. Medium & long-term needs



Activity 5: Land cover mapping (MoAF)

Identified issues	Activity proposed to address the issues	Impact of under taking the activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Capacity of staff in MoAF in land cover mapping is rather limited.✓ Crucial, updated benchmark data on land and water is not available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Enhance capacity of staff in land cover mapping.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ A powerful and lasting impact on formulation of evidence-based policy and in sustainable management and utilization of natural resources.

2. Medium & long-term needs (contd)



Activity 6: Conduct of RNR Census (MoAF & NSB)

Identified issues	Activity proposed to address the issues	Impact of under taking the activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ The “frame” used in the RNR census is not sound.✓ The past censuses lack comprehensive structural data on RNR & include fast changing variables.✓ Capacity of staff in MoAF in census data processing and analysis is poor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Add RNR-frame related questions in the population census questionnaire.✓ Link “frame” of Population census with RNR census.✓ Enhance staff capacity in census data processing & analysis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Domestic capacity increased for evidence-based policymaking in land cover, land tenure, crop intensification and diversification at national, districts and lowest administrative levels.✓ Benchmark data with increased reliability available.



Thank You
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