Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics: Identified needs in Sri Lanka

Department Census and Statistics (DCS)

Sri Lanka

Strategic framework for agriculture statistics

- **Many government agencies compile and disseminate various demographic and socio-economic statistics**

- **National Statistical System (NSS) consists of all these agencies with DCS as the key institution**

- **There is a NDC to oversee the national statistics system**
  - **NDC defines the role and responsibility of different stake holders in the statistical system for data collection and dissemination of statistics**

- **There is currently no NSDS in place**

Commitment of Government to improve agriculture statistics

- **Agriculture plays a key role in Sri Lanka's economy**

- **Most agricultural data collection activities are funded from Government resources**

- **The Government of Sri Lanka has given high priority to the agricultural sector in its socio-economic development plan**

- **The government has welcomed the Global Strategy initiative and is fully supportive of its activities in Sri Lanka**

Structure of the National Statistical System and the main agency responsible for Ag stats

- **Sri Lanka has a centralized statistical system**

- **Department of Census and Statistics**

  - **conducts major national censuses and surveys**

  - **has a well-established statistical system for annual livestock statistics and crop statistics, except for plantation crops and export agricultural crops**

  - **publishes the official crop and livestock statistics**

  - **places statistical staff in many government agencies**

- **Line ministries and their agencies have their own statistics sections and collect some data in addition to DCS**

- **Statistics on plantation crops, export agricultural crops, fisheries and forestry are collected and published by the respective line agencies**

Legal and administrative framework for collection of statistics

- **There are two ordinances which provide DCS with the authority to collect statistical information**
  - **Census ordinance**
  - **Statistics ordinance**

Priority Short-Medium Term Needs

- **Assessing data needs for National Accounts**

- **Improving paddy crop cutting surveys**

- **Improving crop forecasting**

- **Processing and dissemination of agricultural census data**

Assessing data needs for National Accounts

- **Gap/deficiency**
  - ◦ **DCS is currently updating and rebasing the national accounts. Agriculture contribution to GDP is significant, but not accurately measured**
- **Activities**
  - ◦ **a review of the quality, timeliness and frequency of the data contributing to national accounts;**
  - ◦ **an evaluation of data weaknesses and gaps**
  - ◦ **identification of priorities for improving agricultural data**
  - ◦ **a way forward for improving agricultural statistics**
- **Impact**
  - ◦ **improved decision making for the agricultural sector as a result of more reliable measures of national accounting aggregates such as GDP**

Improving paddy crop cutting surveys

- **Gap/deficiency**
  - ◦ **Current operational procedures for the paddy crop cutting survey are inadequate**

- **Activities**
  - ◦ **Evaluate the operations of the paddy crop cutting survey**
  - ◦ **Identify operational weaknesses and recommend changes in procedures.**
  - ◦ **Conduct a Pilot survey to test new methodology**
  - ◦ **Implement the new methodology**
  - ◦ **Report on the implementation of the new methodology**

- **Impact**
  - ◦ **Improved decision making based on more reliable measures of paddy yield and production**

Improving crop forecasting

- **Gap/deficiency**
  - **A need for better quality crop forecasts**

- **Activities**

  - **Review the existing crop forecasting methodology**
  - **Evaluate alternative approaches**
  - **Identify additional forecasting related information**
  - **Prepare a report on the way forward to develop and implement the new approach to crop forecasting**
  - **Train staff in new forecasting methodologies**

- **Impact**
  - **improved short-term decision making, especially in relation to food security issues**

Processing and dissemination of agriculture part of economic census data

- **Gap/deficiency**
  - Lack of sound editing systems and a dissemination plan
- **Activities**
  - Advise on the processing and editing of the census data
  - Develop a dissemination plan for the agricultural census
  - Oversee data processing and editing
  - Advise on the preparation of dissemination products

- **Impact**
  - access to a wide range of structural data from the 2014 economic census,

Other Priority Areas	Relevance
Improving production estimates of selected highland crops	Crops such as potatoes and big onions are important in diet and price sensitive. Data in these crops are high priority
Improving cost of production statistics for fisheries	Sector has high priority in the country's national development plan and needs better quality statistics
Improving Cost of Production Statistics for Rice	Rice is the most important crop in the country, accounting on its own for 1.3 percent of GDP
Improving Data Quality in Food Balance Sheets	Data is critical for improving food security and promoting dietary diversifications
Improving Livestock Production Statistics	Discrepancies in production data from the different sources impact effective planning and policy making

Thank you