Global Strategy
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Indicators on Country Capacity to Produce Agriculture Statistics

A Framework for Assessing Country Capacity to Produce Agricultural and Rural Statistics

Orientation Program 2015 GS countries: 16 March 2015

Outline

- Why Statistical Capacity Assessment
- Basis of the Capacity Assessment Framework
- Agriculture and Rural Statistics Assessment framework
- Indicators for Assessing Statistical Capacity
- Using Statistical Capacity Indicators
- Way Forward

Why Statistical Capacity Assessment

- Agricultural development is vital to **achieving the MDGs** related to poverty, food security, and the environment
- A nation's capacity to produce coherent, reliable and timely ARS is **key to effective agricultural planning** and programs
- Many developing countries still lack the basic capacity to produce and report even the minimum set of agricultural data
- *Global Strategy* aims at **improving** the country capacity to produce MSC data
- Assessing the statistical capacity of countries is the **first step** in implementing the ***Global Strategy Action Plan***
- **Capacity Assessment** Framework was needed to obtain the baseline information and monitor capacity improvement over time.
- At ICAS-V, Kampala (2010) a task force was constituted under FAO leadership.

Concept of Capacity

- **Statistical capacity**, **statistical capacity building**, **performance of statistical system** often used in literature
- Key characteristics of capacity
  - **Empowerment and identity**, that allow an organization or system to survive, to grow, diversify and become more complex.
  - **Collective ability**, the combination of attributes that enables a system to perform, deliver value, establish relationships and renew itself.
  - Capacity is *a state or inherent condition of a system.* Outcome of a complex combination of institutional infrastructure, organizations, commitments, attitudes, resources, strategies and skills.
  - Capacity is a *potential* state. It is about "latent" as opposed to "kinetic" energy.
- The term 'building' adds time dimension to it
- **Performance** is determined by capacity, **existence of capacity** is no guarantee for performance
- Capacity Indicators are **more difficult to establish**

FAO Capacity Assessment Framework defines it as a 'stock variable' rather than a 'flow variable'

Basis of the Assessment Framework

- Early assessment efforts have met with limited success as they have focused on assessing **data quality**
    - evidence of sound statistical methods and practices in use (statistical inputs)
    - evidence of regularity in production and dissemination of data (statistical outputs)

- Data Quality Assessment Framework by **IMF**
- Capacity Assessment indicators by **WB**
- Foundation of the "**Capacity** Assessment Framework" is the **PARIS21** to develop **indicators** of Statistical Capacity Building based on 6 criteria
    - Institutional Prerequisites
    - Integrity
    - Methodological Soundness
    - Accuracy and Reliability
    - Serviceability
    - Accessibility

Agriculture and Rural Statistics Capacity Assessment Framework

- ✓ Capacity is <u>not exactly</u> the same as Quality
- ✓ Both Capacity and Quality manifest themselves throughout the production process
- ✓ Proposed Frame work comprehensively covers statistics production process

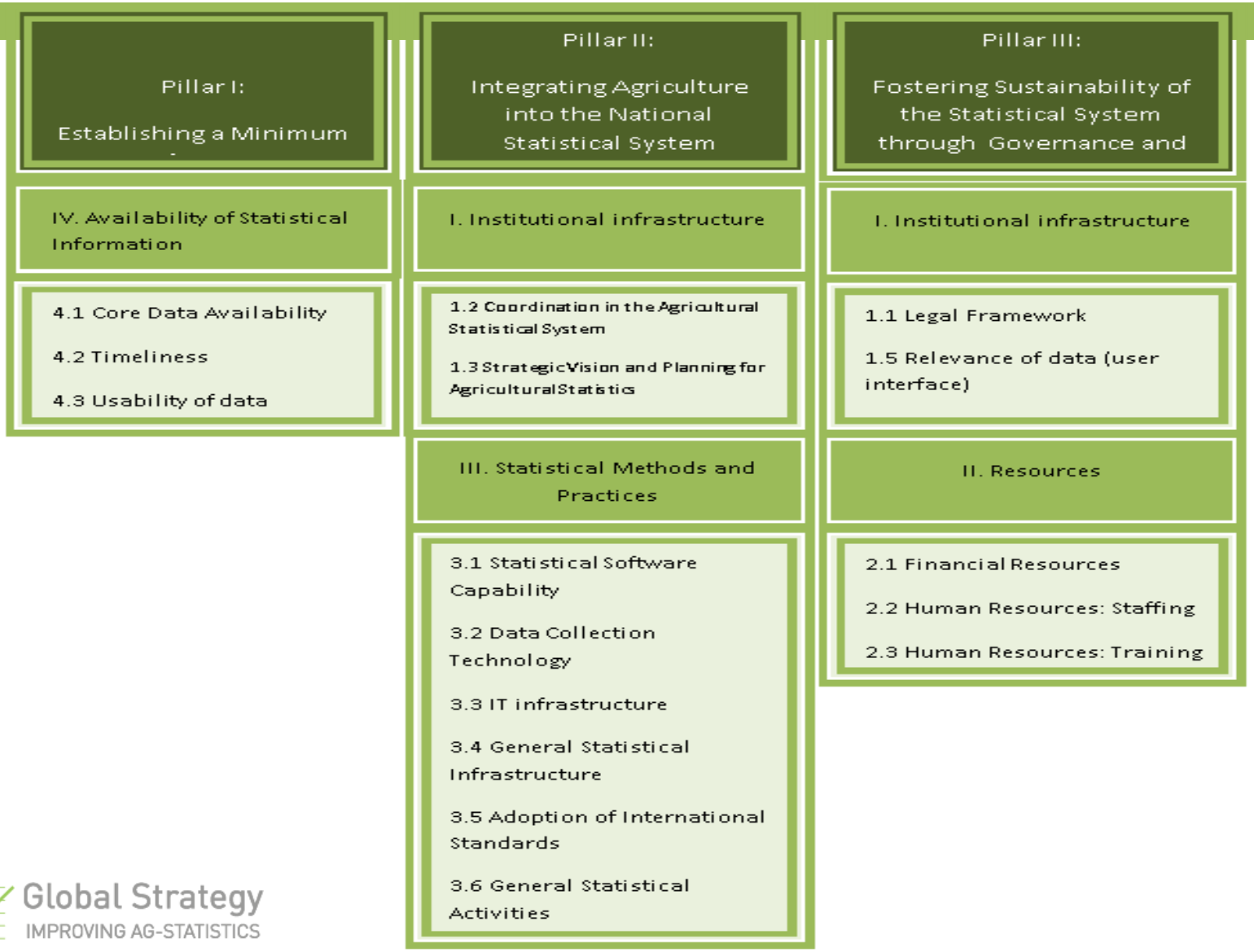
Assessment is made along 4 dimensions

- Institutional Infrastructure (Prerequisite of capacity)
- Resources – Financial and Human (Inputs)
- Statistical Methods and Practices (Throughputs)
- Availability of Statistical Information (Outputs)

Agricultural and Rural Statistics Capacity Framework

Capacity Dimensions	Elements
I. Institutional Infrastructure (PREREQUISITES)	1.1. Legal Framework
	1.2 Coordination in the Agricultural Statistical System
	1.3 Strategic Vision and Planning for Agricultural Statistics
	1.4 Integration of Agriculture in the National Statistics System
	1.5 Relevance of data (user interface)
II. Resources (INPUT DIMENSION)	2.1 Financial Resources
	2.2 Human Resources: Staffing
	2.3 Human Resources: Training
	2.4 Physical Infrastructure
III. Statistical Methods and Practices (THROUGHPUT DIMENSION)	3.1 Statistical Software Capability
	3.2 Data Collection Technology
	3.3 IT infrastructure
	3.4 General Statistical Infrastructure
	3.5 Adoption of International Standards
	3.6 General Statistical Activities
	3.7 Agricultural Market and Price Information
	3.8 Agricultural Surveys
	3.9 Analysis and Use of Data
	3.10 Quality of Surveys
IV. Availability of Statistical Information (OUTPUT DIMENSION)	4.1 Core Data Availability
	4.2 Timeliness
	4.3 Usability of data
	4.4 Data Accessibility

Pillars of the Global Strategy and the Capacity Assessment Framework



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Key Issues for each element

Capacity indicators (dimensions)	Capacity sub-indicators (elements)	Key issues underlying the indicators
Capacity Indicator I Institutional Infrastructure (PREREQUISITES)	1.1 Legal framework	- Existence, operation and adequacy of a legal framework
	1.2 Coordination in the Agricultural Statistical System	- Existence of an active coordinating body - Span of coordination
	1.3 Strategic Vision and Planning for Agricultural Statistics	- Existence of a strategy and/or a plan for agriculture statistics
	1.4 Integration of Agriculture in the National Statistics System	- Existence of strategy and plan for agriculture statistics and its integration in the NSDS - Span of coverage of sub-sectors of agriculture by the strategy - Use of population census for collecting agriculture information and common cartography for agricultural and population censuses - Coverage of sub-sectors in agricultural census
	1.5 Relevance of data	- Existence and Extent of data user interface in agriculture statistics, and channels for receiving user feedback - Span of representation in the data user bodies - Functioning of data user bodies
	4.4 Data Accessibility	Existence of websites and databases for agriculture statistics

Indicators for Assessing Statistical Capacity

Indicators for 4 dimensions and 23 elements are:

- built on a **common understanding** of the concept of capacity
- ensure meaningful **comparisons between and within countries** over time
- derived for each element of capacity **based on a set of "key issues"**
- presented on a **scale of zero to one hundred**, though a few indicators can take only three or four possible values on this scale
- generally based on a number of questions and the scoring criteria **normally assign equal weight to all questions** in the indicator
- The element-level indicators can then be aggregated **using simple averaging** to build indicators on each of the four dimensions
- It is also possible to construct user defined indicators from the data

Using Statistical Capacity Indicators

Strengths

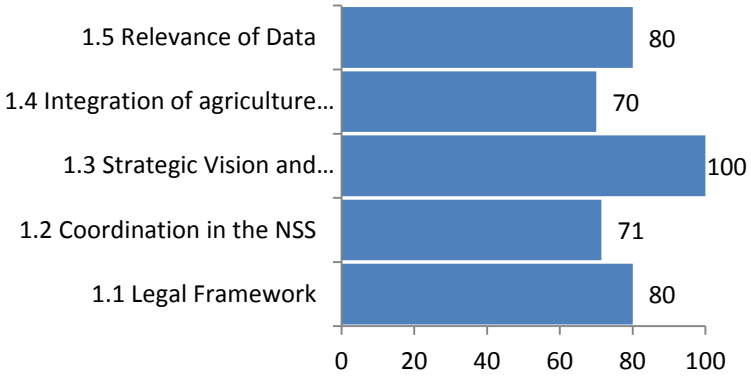
- They are simple yet sensitive enough to be a reliable means to identify countries with weak capacities
- Can be combined as per user focus to monitor progress in certain specific domains

Limitations

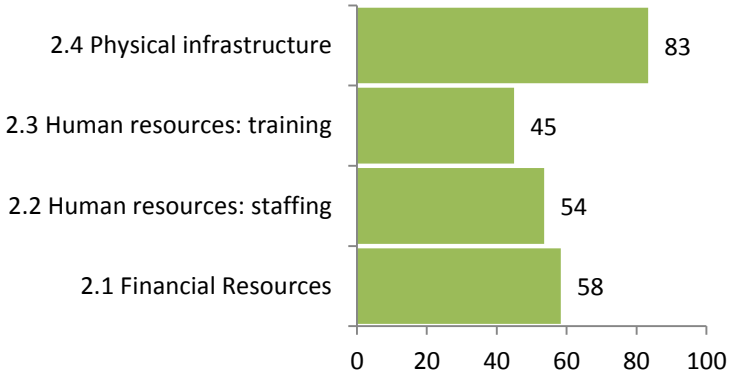
- Indicators are not “Measures of Country Capacity” in absolute terms.
- While there are some strong, proven and robust indicators in the suite, it also has some indicators that are new. For example, information on financial budgets and human resources for agricultural statistics, are often distributed across and among various line ministries and departments within a country and reliable data are a challenge.

Bangladesh

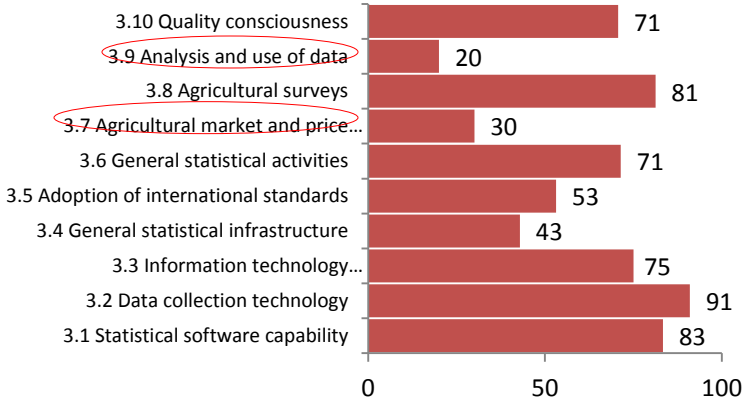
Institutional Infrastructure*



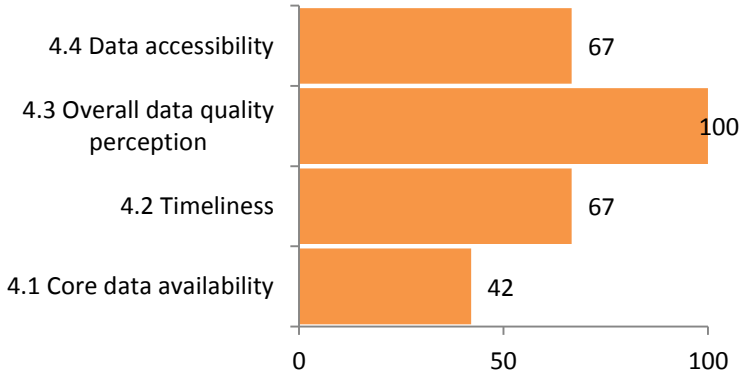
Resources*



Statistical Methods and Practices*



Availability of Statistical Information*



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*Representative of National Statistics Office (BBS)

Expectations from countries

- First stage assessments during 2012 provided the **benchmark data** to monitor change over time with objectively verifiable indicators
- During in-depth country stage, this dataset is being collected again. NSC and National consultants assistance will be sought to collect accurate data.
- Country assessment questionnaire will be discussed in a separate presentation

Statistical capacity assessment framework is the result of a global consultative effort. **Guidelines** on the framework have been published by FAO and are now available at http://www.gsars.org/