

Workshop on Strategic Planning for Agricultural and Rural Statistics

Commonly encountered issues in the agricultural statistical systems: Experience of NASS in Asia and Africa

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Overview

- NASS Engagement
- Statistical Environment
- Building a Statistical Program
- Shortcomings
- USDA/NASS Program Delivery

- Global Strategy Countries
 - Bangladesh
 - Tanzania
 - Rwanda
 - Senegal
 - Malawi
 - Uganda

- Additional USDA/NASS Countries
 - Georgia
 - Pakistan
 - Afghanistan
 - Ghana
 - Nigeria
 - Indonesia
 - Haiti
 - Benin

NASS Engagement

- Funding
 - USAID funds for NASS activity
 - Expands resources to implement Global Strategy

- Development Partners
 - FAO
 - World Bank
 - African Development Bank
 - Asia Development Bank
 - Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
 - European Union

- Development Partners (countries)
 - United States
 - Japan
 - Sweden
 - Ireland
 - Norway
 - Brazil
 - Great Britain
 - Germany

- ***Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency***
 - Relevance to policy issues
 - Credibility among data users
 - Trust among data providers
 - Independence from political and other undue external influence

- Statistical agency independence
 - Let the numbers speak for themselves
 - Statistical agency/Agricultural statistics needs its own line item in the budget
 - Partners can assist in initiation phases
 - Countries need to prepare to assume responsibility
 - Enumerators under control of statistical agency

- Sample Frame
 - Population census with agriculture module
 - Census of Agriculture
 - Lists of “Large/Specialty Farms”
 - Farm Registers
 - Area Frames
 - Multiple Frame

- Defining the Program/Survey
 - Begin with the end in mind
 - Begin with what we want to publish
 - What do we need to know
- Engage our data users
 - National political/policy officials
 - Private market participants
 - University researchers
 - Farmers and agricultural households

Building a Statistical Program

- Subject matter experts define the survey program
 - Agriculture/livestock/fisheries along with NSS

Shortcomings

- Capacity deficiencies:
 - Specifications development
 - IT Departments cannot salvage a data collection effort suffering from improper planning
 - Data analysis
 - Administrative data sources
 - Analysis across data collection efforts

Shortcomings

- Lack of:
 - Staff, staff turnover, staff skills
 - Equipment
 - Time
 - Funding

Shortcomings

- Technical
 - Stand alone systems
 - IT systems
 - Single use systems
 - Surveys
 - One off surveys with unique questionnaires
 - Updated each iteration of survey
 - New variable naming for each survey
 - » Need standardized Meta Data across data collections

Shortcomings

- Overreach
 - Survey data at the district and village level
 - Sample sizes do not support statistics at these lower levels
 - Work initially at National and regional levels
 - Far ranging questionnaires
 - Begin with core crop/livestock/fishery items
 - Expand to more complex subjects once infrastructure is in place

- Endurance and patience leads to success
 - Select a project to learn and apply principles
 - Cannot transplant a system from another country
 - Learn and apply principles
 - Expand to new areas
 - Additional commodities
 - Lower geographic levels
 - New Subjects
 - Environmental surveys
 - Cost of Production Surveys

- NASS Technology Deployment
 - GPS units deployed on area frame surveys
 - Remote Sensing deployed for land use stratification
 - GIS data display training provided
 - Hand held data collection devices
 - Wonderful tools for collection and transmission
 - Currently, not deployed by NASS
 - Need to build the basic statistical system and ensure it is sustainable

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