

Workshop on Strategic Planning for Agricultural and Rural Statistics
17-19 March 2015, Bangkok

Country Presentation
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Bhutan

1. Brief overview of National Statistics System

- ✓ Bhutan has a decentralized statistical system. Line ministries and agencies collect, compile, analyse and publish their data.
- ✓ National Statistics Bureau (NSB) is the apex body for the country's statistical development and statistics dissemination.
- ✓ The NSB provides technical guidance and statistical survey clearances and coordinates development of national statistical development strategy (NSDS).
- ✓ The legal and institutional authority of NSB is based on executive orders and decrees issued by the Cabinet. Administratively, NSB is directly accountable to the office of the Prime Minister.
- ✓ Statistical Acts of Bhutan awaits approval of the Cabinet /Government.

2. National Statistical Development Strategy (NSDS)

- ✓ The NSB, in consultation with all the line ministries, international and national experts and through the assistance of the World Bank, has developed a NSDS in 2008.
- ✓ In the absence of a Statistical Acts the NSDS has not been fully implemented. The NSB continues to follow-up with the government on the enactment of the Statistical Acts
- ✓ In the last quarter of 2014, the NSB with assistance of the World bank conducted a two-day Workshop to review NSDS 2008, which was attended by all national stakeholders of National Statistical System (NSS).
- ✓ The MoAF through its PPD provided support to NSB in the development of NSDS in order to improve coordination role in the agricultural statistical activities of other sectors.
- ✓ The revised version of the NSDS is at its final stage at the NSB and will soon be distributed for implementation.

3. Agricultural and Rural Statistics System (ARSS)

- ✓ There are various sectors producing agricultural and rural statistics besides MoAF. Collection, and dissemination of statistics is further decentralised to respective sub-sectors of MoAF. The overall coordination of Agricultural statistical activities rests upon PPD in the MoAF.
- ✓ In MoAF, statistical plans are included in both sectoral and sub-sectoral development plans. They also set the priorities for statistical developments. Government budget allocations are rather inadequate for statistical activities.
- ✓ To strengthen coordination and improve statistical quality, the MoAF has developed “RNR Statistical Framework” as an “Implementation Guidelines” in 2012.
- ✓ The RNR Statistical Framework has been revised (now in draft) to mainly include steering committee members from other relevant sectors as it is important for the sustainable development of agricultural statistics.
- ✓ Further the implementation of NSDS and SPARS would bridge the data gaps and improve integration of sectoral statistics.

4. Distribution of agricultural and rural statistical activities across various sectors

Sectors / Agencies (major)	Statistical activities
MoAF	Crop, livestock and forestry statistics
DRC (MoF)	External trade statistics (admin. recordings)
MoLHR	Statistics on employment in the agricultural sector (surveys)
NRDCL	Statistics on commercial production and disposal of natural resources (admin. recordings)
FCB	Food purchase, distribution and national food reserve information (admin. recordings)
NSB	PHCB, BLSS, BMIS and price statistics. Compilation of sectoral statistics and publication of Statistical Yearbooks

- ✓ The MoAF compiles its relevant statistics produced by other sectors by visiting their websites and through official request letters. Most of the data are available in the statistical Yearbook of NSB.

5. Distribution of agricultural and rural statistical activities across various departments of MoAF

Agencies (major)	Statistical activity	Frequency
Department of Agriculture	Crop statistics (surveys)	Annual
Department of Livestock	Livestock statistics in including fishery (censuses)	Annual
Department of Forests and Park Services	Forestry statistics (mostly admin. recordings)	Regular
Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives	Marketing information and compilation of trade statistics (mostly admin. recordings)	Regular
Policy and Planning Division	Agricultural (RNR) Censuses	10 years

6. Implementation of GS to improve agricultural & rural statistics

The implementation of the GS strategy was started as early as September 2012 with stakeholders workshop supported by ADB followed by another stakeholders meeting with assistance of FAO in November 2013. As of this date, we have the following documents in place.

- ✓ **IdCA report**, which provides an insight into the problems in the domain of agricultural & rural statistics. The report is very useful reference document for both national and international communities (FAO).
- ✓ A **Country Proposal**, which was prepared based on the findings of the IdCA. The plans were broken down to short-term (4) and long-term projects (4) depending on their priorities. The projects in the short-term await actions from FAORAP as reflected in the Country Proposal (FAO).
- ✓ A **draft Roadmap** with timeline for the development of Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (FAO).
- ✓ A draft revised RNR Statistical Framework which will be finalized in parallel with the development of SPARS.
- ✓ A draft report on **Comparative Analysis of BLSS 2003, 2007 and 2012** in regards to rural households (ADB)
- ✓ A draft report on **Analysis of Data Sources** for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (ADB).
- ✓ As part of the GS implementation, 17 national stakeholders' officials were trained in "Documentation of statistical studies and Metadata production" (ADB) in 2014.



Thank You