

Effective Coordination for Agricultural and Rural Statistics in China

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Outline

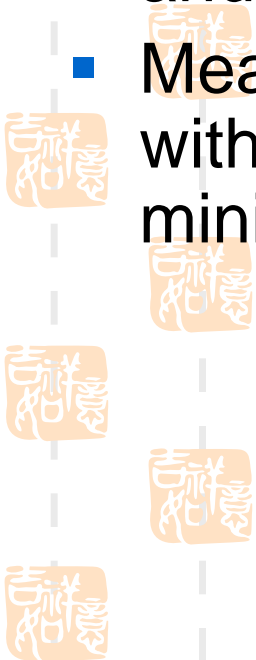
- Overview of China statistical system
- Legislative and administrative provisions for data collection
- Mechanisms for sharing statistical information
- Funding and resource allocation
- Statistical development plan
- Implementation of Strategic Plan
- Conclusions



China Statistical System



- A centralized statistical system
- National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS) is responsible for collecting and publishing most of official statistics in social, economic, environmental and demographic aspects for the whole country.
- Meanwhile some official statistics is complemented with the outcome of statistical programs from line ministries.



China Statistical System



- A hierarchical organization for agricultural statistics within NBS.
- Each province (municipality or autonomous region) has **provincial statistical bureau** in charge of periodical census and some statistical programs by using complete reporting (complete enumeration).
- Meanwhile, NBS has sub-organizations (**survey teams**) which is subordinate to NBS headquarters in each province (municipality or autonomous region) to conduct sample survey independently.



China Statistical System



- Government agencies involved in producing agricultural statistics:
 - (1) National Bureau of Statistics(NBS) , in charge of data collection on crops and livestock statistics.
 - (2) Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), responsible for the statistics of agricultural sales price, land use, agricultural machinery, agricultural services, eco-environment, aquaculture and fishery.
 - (3) State Forestry Administration(SFA), responsible for forestry statistics.
 - (4) Ministry of Water Resources, responsible for the statistics related to cropland irrigation and water management .



China Agricultural Statistics



- Agricultural statistics place an important role in National Statistical System, NBS produce the official statistics of annual grain output for entire country which is a key figure for decision-making of Chinese government to guarantee the grain self-sufficiency.
- In China, agricultural statistics is produced by NBS and relevant line ministries. The division of statistical work between ministries is historically inherited, which was assigned by the central government.
- For most of important agricultural statistics, the outcomes are converged at NBS, which is in charge of disseminating official agricultural statistics at national level.



China Agricultural Statistics



- In NBS, the agricultural census is conducted every decade, the third agricultural census will be implemented in year 2016.
- In NBS, the sample survey method is used for ongoing crop surveys, livestock surveys, agricultural producer price survey and intermediate consumption survey. While the conventional complete reporting is still applied for agricultural facilities, village profile, economic crops such as oil crops, fiber, tea, fruit and nuts etc.
- For line ministries the dominated survey method is complete reporting, meanwhile sample survey is used in some survey themes.



Legislative and Administrative Provisions for Data Collection

- In China, the legislative provision for statistics work is the Statistics Law of P.R.C(revised in 2009), it regulates the statistical activities for data collection, management and data dissemination in general.
- Agricultural statistics is subject to this law which covers all sub-sector of agriculture.
- The Statistics Law of China do not specify the division of agricultural statistical works between NBS and other line ministries.

Legislative and Administrative Provisions for Data Collection

- The Statistics Law confers NBS responsibility for determining statistical programs at national level, hence NBS have the right to evaluate and approve the statistical programs organized by line ministries.
- For example, the statistical program (questionnaires) design by MOA, before its implementation it need to be presented and got approval by NBS.
- In the process of evaluation, the data requirement of users is assessed and data duplications between agencies is avoided.

Legislative and Administrative Provisions for Data Collection

- NBS provide statistical standards and code of conduct for agricultural statistics which could be a guideline for line ministries. But the scope of business for line ministries may not be very familiar by NBS, sometimes questionnaire evaluation procedure involves consultation with the ministries.
- For crop surveys, livestock surveys and agricultural accounting conducted by NBS, specific regulations for survey operation are released under the name of NBS.
- For line ministries, both MoA and SFA released relevant administrative regulations to guide the data collection for their scope of business.

Mechanisms for Sharing Statistical Information

- NBS is responsible for statistical data collection and dissemination of major agricultural statistics at national level. Other sub-sector statistics conducted by the line ministries is released by corresponding ministries.
- All released statistical information by NBS is open access to the public and private.
- There is a loose coordination mechanism between NBS and other ministries to determine user need, plan and formulate statistical programs for agriculture.

Funding and Resource Allocation

- NBS along with its subordinate survey teams in each province is fully funded by centralized budget from Chinese government.
- The statistical work conducted by the provincial statistical bureau is covered by centralized budget, while the payroll for personnel is born by local government.
- The sub-sector statistical programs completed by the line ministries are funded by the budget of corresponding ministries, which are also centralized budget from Chinese government.

Statistical Development Plan



- Only In recent years, 5-year Statistical Development Strategic Plan(2010-2015) is compiled under NBS in line with the periodic cycle for 5-year National Development Strategic Plan.
- In agricultural sector, NBS set priorities for capacity building to strengthen agricultural statistics, especially in (1)expanding the survey themes and develop core indicators, (2) improving agricultural accounting,(3) remote sensing application on crop acreage estimation, (4) electronic data collection.



Statistical Development Plan



- In MoA and SFA, the sectoral development plans mainly focus on the industrial development. Statistics as a means for monitor and evaluation of development progress takes priority for improving capacity either directly or indirectly in sectoral development plans.



Implementation of Strategic Plan

- The making of statistical strategic plan, give an opportunity to assess status of current statistical development and an overall assessment of linkage and coordination with line ministries in producing agricultural statistics.
- It helps to fully understand the facing opportunities and challenges for statistical agency.
- Strategic plan set goals for a 5-year development , which could be break down into annual development goals and be evaluated periodically.
- Through implementation of plan year by year, substantial progress has been made in NBS.

Conclusions



- At national level, legislative and administrative provision for statistical data collection is essential. For China, current legislation is good but not adequate to meet various requirements.
- An effective coordination mechanism between NBS and line ministries is important for producing agricultural statistics and sharing information under optimization of limited resources.



Conclusions



- In order to improve the agricultural statistics including all sub-sectors, NBS need to coordinate with line ministries in a more effective way and make agreement on sub-sector statistical programs among several ministries.
- It had better set up a steering committee consisted of relevant ministries to coordinate agricultural statistics at national level.



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Thanks for your attention.

