



SAARC & The Future of Agricultural Statistics

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The Relevance

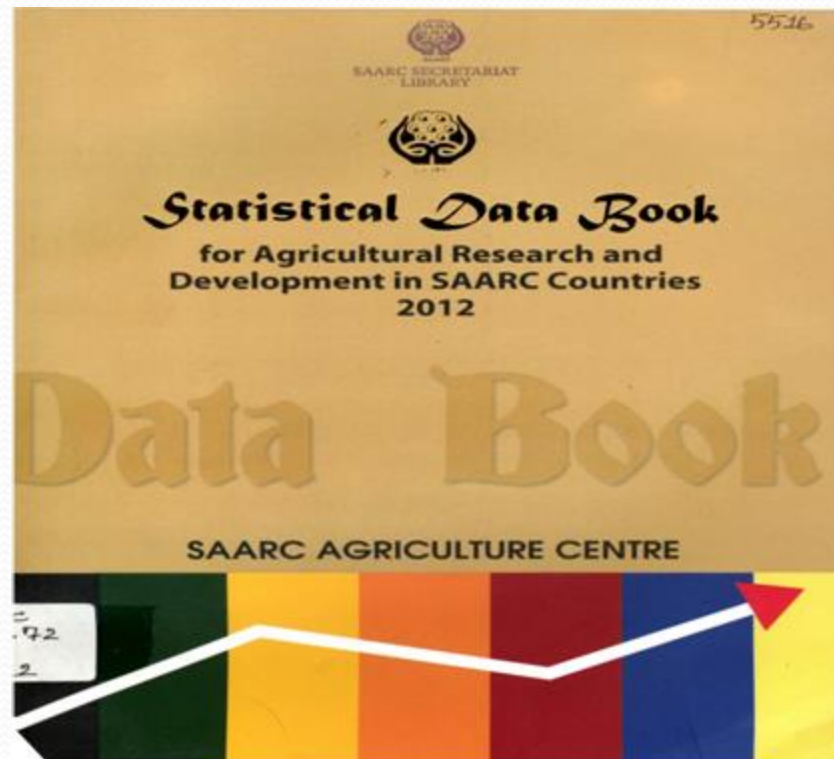
- SAARC accounts for a quarter of the global population (roughly 1.7 bn)
- Agriculture is the Source of Livelihood for 51% of the South Asians
- 42% of South Asia's landmass is under agricultural operation

South Asia: Statistics Situation at present*



- Subscription to GDDS/SDDS: 100%
- CRVS coverage over 90%: 25%
- Population census in the last 5 years: 75% (6 out of 8 countries)
- Agriculture census in the last 5 years: 75% of the countries
- Industrial data: no latest data in the last 5 years
- Trade data: 87.5% of countries with latest data in the last 5 years

SAARC Agriculture Centre: Statistical Data Book





Statistical Data Book: Contents

- Production: Crops, Livestock, Poultry and Fisheries
- Top twenty commodities by quantity and value
- Demographic data
- General presentation of top-9 produces such as cereals, pulses, oil seeds, fruits, vegetables etc.

- Unfortunately no own dataset
- For data, the publication relies on FAO, World Bank, ADB, national statistical bureaus of Member States
- No dedicated information on crop production in the rural areas.
- No analysis comparing timelines/crops
- Inconsistencies caused by variance in information received from different sources could not be addressed

Agricultural Statistics & SAARC: Individual country scenario



INDIA

Key components of agriculture statistics:

Crop statistics

Cost of production

Land use statistics

Input statistics

Agricultural market intelligence

Agri-statistics: SAARC Individual Country (cont'd)



Nepal*

Two major categories

- 1. Basic agriculture statistics generate through census*
 - 2. Current agricultural statistics generated through crops and livestock surveys and other supporting surveys*
- Census conducted in every 10 years*

**Source: Hem Raj Regmi, presentation at the SAARCSTAT, Kathmandu, June 2014*

Nepal Agri-statistics (cont'd)*

- Methodology
 - Interview with selected farmers
 - Crop-cutting
 - Situation report and effect on natural disaster
 - Estimation of fishery and other special crops
 - A two-stage sample design is being applied for selection of farming households
 - Data obtained from periodical population/agricultural censuses are taken as a frame for survey

* Source: *Regmi, H (2014)*

Sri Lanka

- Centralized System
- Major components of agri-statistics
 - ✓ Paddy
 - ✓ Highland crops
 - ✓ Livestock
 - ✓ Special surveys for certain crops
 - ✓ Cost of production
 - ✓ Food Balance Sheet
 - ✓ Volume Index

Pakistan Agri-statistics

- Key components
 - ✓ Crops
 - ✓ Livestock
 - ✓ Forestry
 - ✓ Fisheries
- Census data are used at both federal and provincial levels
- Agricultural Census Wing plans, executes and publishes the data, the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) is the apex research body for agricultural statistics, the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) is the coordinating authority




SAARCSTAT


- May 26-27, 2005: First Meeting of the Heads of Statistical Bodies of all SAARC countries held in Kolkata, India
- Pakistan was assigned to develop the SAARCSTAT website
- With inputs from all Member States, the website, <http://www.saarcstat.org/> was launched on 24 April 2012



www.saarcstat.org



**SAARC GROUP
on
STATISTICS**
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation



Afghanistan Bangladesh Bhutan India Maldives Nepal Pakistan Sri Lanka

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Member Countries Clock

Afghanistan:Tue, 09:59:34
Bangladesh:Tue, 11:29:34
Bhutan:Tue, 11:29:34
India:Tue, 10:59:34
Maldives:Tue, 10:29:34
Nepal:Tue, 11:14:34
Pakistan:Tue, 10:29:34

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About SAARCSTAT

Cooperation in the field of Statistics:

1.1 The South Asian region is richly endowed in terms of human resources and has to its credit several internationally renowned statisticians. Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis, the founder of Indian Statistical Institute was one of them who visualized, in early 40's, Statistics as the "Key Technology of the era". Over decades, Statistics has been used as the technology on how to measure various social and economic indicators in order to understand our Society better. This will be clear from PARIS21 document which quoted "IF YOU CANNOT MEASURE YOU CANNOT MANAGE".

1.2 It is now imperative that the Statistics has to play an important role for closed cooperation within the SAARC region be it analysis of Intra-regional Trade Statistics according to common denomination and standardized Trade Classification or various socio-economic statistical parameters including poverty profile of the region.

1.3 Thus, for justified reason, the proposal for establishing cooperation in Statistics received enthusiastic support of the SAARC Member States which got the approval at the Thirtieth Session of the Standing Committee of SAARC (Islamabad, 18-19 July 2004). Subsequently, the Twelfth Meeting of the Committee on Economic Cooperation (Islamabad, 20-21 November 2004) welcomed the offer of India to host the First Meeting of the Heads of Statistical Organisations of SAARC Member States to examine the possibility of initiating cooperation in the field of statistics with a view to finalizing standard formats for exchange of statistical data in various economic and social fields.

SAARCSTAT : Cont'd.

- Agricultural Statistics not yet incorporated in SAARCSTAT
- We are contemplating a web-based, user-friendly portal/database for agricultural statistics to be created and maintained by the SAARC Agriculture Centre.
- Efforts would be to make the database as comprehensive as possible so that professionals and policy makers can use it for important policy decisions



Agri-statistics: Future for SAARC

- Agriculture and Agricultural Statistics was picked up as the theme for the Sixth Meeting of SAARCSTAT (held in Kathmandu in June 2014). Statisticians exchanged views on extent of agricultural statistics in the respective Member States. There were presentations from India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.



Agri-statistics: Future (cont'd)

- Developing a comprehensive and user-friendly agri-statistics database high on the agenda of SAARC
- SAARC Agriculture Centre is now engaged in developing the SAARC Food Security Information System, as decided in the last meeting of the SAARC Food Bank Board (2014)
- SAARC Agriculture Centre to create and maintain the database
- Data sharing and development of interface with similar database of other regional organizations such as BIMSTEC and ASEAN
- SAARC welcomes any timely idea

Thank You!

