



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) Raising Awareness about the ASTI Project in NENA Countries

ASTI Implementation in Countries: Lessons Learnt from Nigeria

By

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Introduction

Journey so far

- ❖ Nigeria joined ASTI project about two decades ago
- ❖ Implementation of ASTI project in Nigeria started with stakeholders identification and mapping
- ❖ Awareness/sensitization
- ✓ Key stakeholders
- ✓ Participating institutions
- ✓ In-house ASTI Team
- ✓ In-country preparatory workshop for NARIs/FCAs ASTI Focal Points

ASTI Stakeholder

- ❖ Government
- ❖ Research Institutions/Universities/Colleges of Agriculture
- ❖ Development Partners and Donors
- ❖ CSOs/Professional Bodies/Private Sector
- ❖ Media

The Nigerian National Agricultural Research System (NARS)

- ❖ Nigeria has the largest Agricultural Research system in SSA
 - ✓ Agricultural Research Institutes (16 under the aegis of ARCN)
 - ✓ Federal Colleges of Agriculture (16 under ARCN)
 - ✓ State Colleges of Agriculture
 - ✓ Universities of Agriculture
 - ✓ Faculties of Agriculture in both State and Federal Universities
 - ✓ Faculties of Veterinary Medicine
 - ✓ International Agricultural Research Centers present in Nigeria
(IITA, AfricaRice, ICRISAT, IFPRI and ILRI)
 - ✓ Several Organized Private Sector (OPSs),
 - ✓ Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs),
 - ✓ Community-Based Organizations (CBOs),
 - ✓ Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs)

Data Collection Process

- ❖ Preparatory national workshop for NARIs/FCAs Focal Points
- ❖ Letters of introduction are sent to participating Institutions and are addressed to the Heads (ED/CEO/VC/Provost) etc.
- ❖ Both hard and soft copies of the letters as well as the survey forms are delivered to the participating Institutions
- ❖ In the case of University system, the Deans of Faculties are carried along in the communication process.
- ❖ Follow up on data retrieval via physical visitation, electronic medium (email, direct telephones calls, SMS, WhatsApp).
- ❖ Constant reminders on submission of completed forms
- ❖ Review of individual submission to check for omission or inappropriate response
- ❖ Re-contact the concern Institutions to reconcile information
- ❖ Data entry in the case of hard copy response

Challenges in ASTI Data Collection

- ❖ Communicating high profile ASTI Stakeholders during data collection
- ❖ The use of hard copy questionnaire (previous survey)
- ❖ Technicality of ASTI questionnaire
- ❖ Time
- ❖ Funding
- ❖ Advocacy

The National Statistical System in Nigeria (National Bureau of Statistic)

- ❖ NBS is the biggest statistical system in Africa, comprising the departments in the headquarters
- ❖ Three regional statistical training institutes in Enugu, Ibadan, and Kaduna states.
- ❖ Statistics offices in all the 36 States and FCT
- ❖ All statistics departments in Nigerian universities and other tertiary institutions
- ❖ Statistics department across MDAs

Agreement Reached with other Key National Stakeholders

- ❖ The leadership of ARCN and NBS had constituted a joint committee to oversee the institutionalization of ASTI in Nigeria
- ❖ Constitution of in-house ASTI technical committee for ARCN and NBS
- ❖ Plans are underway to collaborate with regulatory agencies (NUC, NASC) to foster ease of data collection
- ❖ Proposed national workshop to present outcome of pilot study and get stakeholders buy-in

The Pilot Project in Nigeria (Data Collection Improvements)

- ❖ Introduction of NSOs to promote country ownership and use
- ❖ Adoption of Institutional Focal Points for data collection
- ❖ Capacity building and sustainability of ASTI project
- ❖ Institutionalization

Recommendations

- ❖ Data collection should focus mainly on the use of Institutional Focal Points.
- ❖ Effective targeting during data collection
- ❖ Sustain annual data collection focusing on single year data as against the time series data.
- ❖ Collaboration with regulatory agencies
- ❖ Sensitization/Training for Focal Points
- ❖ Annual budgetary provision
- ❖ Increase advocacy/sensitization of stakeholder on the use of ASTI information
- ❖ The need to periodically review engagement strategy
- ❖ Involvement of FAO Country Offices at the initial stage

Thank you