

Integrating Agriculture into National Statistical Systems: Connection between NSDS and SPARS

Allan Nicholls

Regional Coordinator of the Global Strategy in the Asia-Pacific Region

5-8 October 2015

Workshop on Strategic Planning for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics for the Pacific
Island Countries

Overview

- What do we mean by integration?
- Why do we need integration?
- Approaches to Integration
- National Statistical System
- NSDS
- SPARS
- NSDS and SPARS
 - If NSDS exists
 - NSDS under development
 - No NSDS
- TYPSS and P-SPARS

What do we mean by Integration?

- Integration of Agriculture into the National Statistical System
 - Agriculture is part of the overall statistics planning and collection processes
 - Use of a master sample frame for agriculture
 - Use of standard concepts, definitions and classifications
 - Integration of the Population Census and Agriculture Census
- Integration of the survey process
 - Sample design, questionnaires, methods of collection, analysis and estimation
- Integration at dissemination phase

Why do we need integration?

- Integration of agricultural statistics into national statistical systems is the second pillar of the global strategy
- Integration will enable
 - Production of coherent and comparable data
 - Through the use of standards
 - In-depth data analysis across sectors/collections
 - E.g. crop and livestock production are often drawn from separate collections. This provides no basis for analyzing characteristics of farms that produce both crops and livestock, or for comparing them to farms that specialize in one or the other
 - Social – economic – environment e.g. livelihood of farmers, are the small farms environmentally friendly, or the big farms?
- Integration will
 - Avoid duplication of effort
 - Prevent the release of conflicting statistics
 - Ensure the best use of resources
 - Reduce the burden of response
 - Enable agriculture to be an integral part of statistical planning and budgeting processes

Approaches to integration

- *Ex Post* – try to link data from different surveys
 - E.g. link household data from Population Census to holding data from Agricultural Census
 - Very difficult if not planned in advance (one-to-many and many-to-one mapping)
- *Ex Ante* – plan relevant surveys so that linking variables are well defined
 - E.g. identify households/ag. holdings in Population Census to give a frame for household selection of Ag Census (list of agriculture households)
 - Update this frame periodically to serve as master sample frame
 - All agriculture surveys are based on this frame
 - Business Register to serve as institutional section of ag. census
 - Use of pre-defined multi-stage sampling reduces the need for fieldwork for updating the frame

National Statistical System

- Many government agencies produce agricultural data
 - NSO for agriculture census
 - Ministry of Agriculture for crop and livestock surveys
 - Ministry of Fisheries for fishery and aquaculture surveys
 - Ministry of Forestry for forestry related surveys
- Sometimes there is cooperation and use of common standards, etc, but mostly not

National Statistical System, ctd

- Integration of agriculture into the National Statistical System will require a high level of cooperation and commitment by a range of agencies
 - Can be achieved through establishment of coordinating bodies and technical working groups to avoid overlapping efforts
 - The Global Strategy process will assist this

NSDS

- National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS)
 - Provides a medium to long-term (5-10 years) vision for the NSS as a whole
 - Basis for activities to improve statistics over time
 - Generally drafted by the NSO in conjunction with other producers of statistics
 - Limited detail about individual sectors (eg agriculture)
 - Revised strategy to encourage sector and sub-national views

SPARS

- Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS)
 - Provides a medium to long-term (5-10 years) vision for agricultural and rural statistics
 - Basis for activities to improve agricultural and rural statistics over time
 - Generally drafted by a working group including the NSO and all relevant ministries
 - Reflects relevant national plans for agriculture
 - May not necessarily have the title “Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics”
 - The guidelines for the development of SPARS follow the guidelines for the development of NSDS

NSDS and SPARS

- NSDS process now encourages the mainstreaming of sector statistics into the NSDS
- Important that the NSDS recognises the existence of a SPARS – not critical that the SPARS is physically linked to the NSDS
- Relationship between the two depends on status of NSDS at time of preparation of SPARS

If NSDS exists

- Ideal to have someone on the SPARS working group who worked on NSDS or is responsible for NSDS
- SPARS should be prepared in a consistent format/structure
- Ensure alignment with the NSDS and the main agricultural sector plans.
- Processes and institutional arrangements of existing NSDS must be taken into account.
- Sometimes NSDS supports ag statistics – SPARS should build on this support

If NSDS exists

- Sometimes aspects of NSDS may need expanding in the SPARS, eg
 - If NSDS proposes introduction/ review of Statistics Law, SPARS should ensure the law covers ag stats
 - If NSDS proposes development of a business register, SPARS should ensure that all units with any ag activity are identified
 - Usually only main activity of a business is coded

NSDS under development

- Ideal time for integration
- Parallel development processes will enable consistency and effective coordination
- The SPARS must become a cornerstone of the NSDS.
- Opportunity to represent agricultural statistics in the governance bodies of the NSDS

No NSDS

- The SPARS must be developed independently
- The SPARS should have an identical approach to that of an NSDS, as this will assist integration of SPARS as a cornerstone of a future NSDS
- Administrative data is important for agriculture but is not often mentioned in NSDS, so SPARS may ultimately influence the NSDS

TYPSS and P-SPARS

- Similar relationship as NSDS/SPARS, but at a regional level

Thank you

Contact us

Email: allan.nicholls@fao.org

FAO website: www.fao.org

Global Strategy website: www.gsars.org