

COUNTRY UPDATE REPORT CENTRAL STATISTICS ORGANIZATION AFGHANISTAN

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AFGHANISTAN ...

- Most parts are barren and rocky mountains
- Seasons of freezing cold and summer heat
- 15 % of total land area suitable for farming
- Afghan economy largely depends on agriculture:
 - ✓ 53% of its GDP
 - ✓ About 70 - 85% of the population directly or indirectly related to agriculture



AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS ...

- ... very important in Afghanistan
- ... plays a major role in improving the nation ravaged by more than two decades of war
- ... should be collected and interpreted to make it responsive to data needs for agricultural planning and development



AFTERMATH OF WAR ...

... statistical system was destroyed during the war era

... CSO is now confronted with resources constraints in all aspects – human, technology, equipment, financial and others



CSO'S RESTRUCTURING & RE-STRENGTHENING STRATEGIES...

- ... trainings to staff
- ... scholarship for Master's degree in Agriculture
- ... upgrading the Agriculture Section in CSO to a department



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN ...

1. Current and planned collection of agricultural statistics

... at present, Ministry of Agriculture/FAAHM collects agricultural data and is assisted by FAO. CSO collaborates with the MoA

... CSO, in collaboration with MoA, will conduct Agricultural Census in 2011

... CSO will collect agricultural data through surveys, in collaboration with MoA, starting 2012



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN ...

2. Legal framework under which agricultural statistical activities operate

STATISTICS LAW of AFGHANISTAN

Article 16: *“Conduct of Agricultural Census every ten years”*

Article 8: *“CSO shall collect, compile, analyze and publish statistical information relating to commercial, industrial, financial, social, economic, environment and general activities and condition of the people”*



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN ...

3. Availability of statistics on farmers' income

Data will be available after the conduct of the following surveys by CSO:

- ... Labor Force Survey
- ... Household Income and Expenditure Survey



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN ...

4. Emerging issues

- Low technical capacity of the CSO Staff
- Responsibility of collecting data from agricultural surveys
- Sampling frame and design for agricultural surveys



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN ...

4. Emerging issues

Issue: Low technical capacity of the CSO Staff

How to address:

- ... Trainings,
- ... Provision of scholarship for master's degree in agriculture,
- ... Assistance of technical expert, and
- ... Upgrading of positions



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN ...

4. Emerging issues

Issue: Responsibility of collecting data from agricultural survey

Ministry of Agriculture with technical expertise in agricultural matters

CSO with technical expertise in data collection

How to address:

... CSO should maintain close collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN ...

4. Emerging issues

Issue: Sampling frame and design for agricultural surveys

Last Population Census in Afghanistan was in 1979; Household Listing in 2002/2004

How to address:

... Conduct a Household Listing in 2009 with variables needed for development of sampling design for Agricultural Surveys

... Sampling design expert to assist CSO



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN ...

5. Structure of the statistical system, institutions and responsibilities

... CSO is mandated to collect data through censuses and surveys, but at present, it is the Ministry of Agriculture/FAAHM collecting the data

... close collaboration with Min. of Agriculture for technical expertise will continue

... capacity building for central and field staff will be undertaken



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN ...

6. Funding sources of the different institutions dealing with agricultural statistics

... In most countries, low budget earmarked by government for statistical data collection, especially for agricultural censuses and surveys

... Afghanistan government budget priority is in reconstruction – infrastructure, economic and social development

... Most statistical activities in Afghanistan are funded by international organizations



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN ...

7. Availability of agricultural statistics databases

... CSO compiles agricultural data collected by the Ministry of Agriculture/FAAHM

... Agricultural statistics database contain data for 15 years



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN ...

8. Adoption of information technology and internet access

- ... Information technology and internet access in most parts of the country, especially in provinces outside Kabul is still bad
- ... Communication to and from Kabul is mostly done through telephone, however FAAHM has developed its own system of contact
- ... Exchange of information through internet is still very limited
- ... CSO is currently undertaking some improvements in its website to make information as accessible as possible to all



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN ...

9. Current dissemination strategies of agricultural statistics

- ... Printed publication (Yearbook, fact sheets, brochures)
- ... Press conferences
- ... CD-Rom
- ... CSO website, currently under reconstruction





Thank