

ASIS AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Twenty –second Sessions

COUNTRY UPDATE REPORT – SRI LANKA

The Meta data for the national agriculture statistics in Sri Lanka is published in 2006 and there after some improvements and modifications have been made in the area of data collection.

1 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SRI LANKA

1.1 Data Collection Procedure of Agriculture Statistics

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS), as the National Statistical Office in Sri Lanka mainly responsible for collection, compilation and dissemination of statistical data requirements of the government, initiated to hold provincial level workshops annually for the purpose of building close liaison with the staff attached to 25 districts statistical offices located in the District Secretariats and streamline the data collection procedures.

Based on a proposal received in the workshop held in 2006, a Hand Book was introduced to Primary Reporters for the purpose of collection of data with regard to highland crops and livestock statistics. Earlier, Primary Reporters were used a separate forms to report data and it created problems in comparability. This exercise would be very useful to streamline the processes to cater with the current trends and visualize the future needs.

In addition to that simplified software also created in order to transmit data electronically from field office to head office

1.2 Availability of statistics farmers' income

At present, data related to farmers' income is not being collected exclusively and annually. However, the Income and Expenditure Survey conducted by the Department once in four years provide information on income for sectors namely: urban, rural and estates. Predominantly farmers are based in the rural sector and estate sector from which we can determine the range of income of those farmers income lies.

1.3 Adoption of information technology and internet access

Presently, mostly needed data related to agriculture are being disseminated with website of the DCS as well as in RDES site. The page on Agriculture Statistics in the Department web site has now arranged in a user-friendly manner enabling users to capture information they required.

2. EMERGING ISSUES

The main problem of collection data is accuracy and timeliness. The procedure leads to process data with a short period and also to disseminate them to the policy makers.

The rate of adoption to new technologies is low in some remote areas.

The primary reporters (Enumerators) who collect many information at grass root level related to some of the surveys are not belonged to the DSC, and they have been entrusted many functions other than collection of data. As such monitoring them and obtaining information in time has become a emerging issue. Due to budgetary problems DSC is not in a position to increase its cadre to employ enumerators exclusively for data collection purpose.

Requirements for smaller area statistics is one of the emerging issues in Sri Lanka.