

Third RAP Regional Workshop on
Building Training Resources for Improving Agricultural and Rural
Statistics: Use of Administrative Records for Producing Agricultural
and Rural Statistics

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PPT presentation by

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(Broad) Topics

- Agricultural Statistics, Rural Statistics: definitions, uses, cases
- Characterizations of Statistical Systems: centralized-decentralized; horizontal-vertical; influence on ARS-based statistics, on coordination, on training.
- Administrative Reporting System (ARS)-Based Statistics: definition, scope. Are summaries from survey/census of key informants such as village chiefs included? FGD? RRA?
- Investigating quality of ARS data: selected actual numerical examples
- Draft CAPs of Pilot Countries: Bhutan, Laos, Maldives, Vietnam, with emphasis on
 - Partitioning of Core data sets into ARS and non-ARS- based.
 - Coordination of ARS statistics production
 - Training for ARS statistics production
 - Research needed to improve ARS data

Sources

- Over 30 years work with statistical systems in Asian and Pacific countries.
- Consultant for 2008 FAO Team that reviewed FAO's Statistics Asia Program.
- From 2012, RAP-related work in ADB pilot countries Bhutan, Laos, Maldives, Vietnam. Workshops and missions resulting in draft CAP in each country.
- Continuous research and development work in the Philippines, including Special Committees to Review PSS --- the last one leading to a 2013 statistics act and reorganized PSS; consultant for 2012 CAF and current project to redesign the PSS master sample for household surveys.

Comparison of Administrative Reporting System (ARS) and Survey System (SS)

- ARS is cheap; SS is expensive
→ *prolonged donor dependence for censuses and surveys in SS*
- ARS is quick; SS is slow
→ *more use of ARS than desired*
- ARS seldom available at household level; SS can be available at household and person level
→ *household or individual level analysis not possible with ARS*

ARS and SS comparison, cont'd

- Errors not estimable in ARS; possible in SS if probability sampling;
however, not all SS surveys use probability samples; and even when they do, errors not always computed/published.
- ARS integrated with political system → *loss of independence/objectivity, more room for pandering, revision, “subjective intervention”.*
Objectivity enjoyed by SS *depends on NSS leadership and political system.*
Probability SS results can be “subjectively intervened” also.
- Comparability and Consistency: *Some LGUs tend to stray from uniform standards, concepts and definitions set by NSS; less training given to LGUs on NSS standards. Delays in reporting of some LGUs lead to delays at higher levels.*

- ARS data, just like any, could be used indirectly or directly.
- Examples of indirect use – stratification, size measure in pps selection during survey design stage. Errors may not necessarily lead to bias in the survey estimates, but will lead to loss in precision of estimates – e.g. misstratification. (See “Keeping Survey Designs Simple” for numerical example).
- ARS data used directly to compute “statistics” and indicators, such as those in the minimum core set in countries CAPs.

- Most comparisons between estimates from ARS and sample surveys and censuses are anecdotal. Eg China and Vietnam GDP. These have to be upgraded to systematically planned and carefully implemented empirical comparisons upon which reasoned, evidence-based acknowledgement that there is a problem follows. This acknowledgment of the problem is necessary for deeper understanding and decisions for solving the problems to happen.