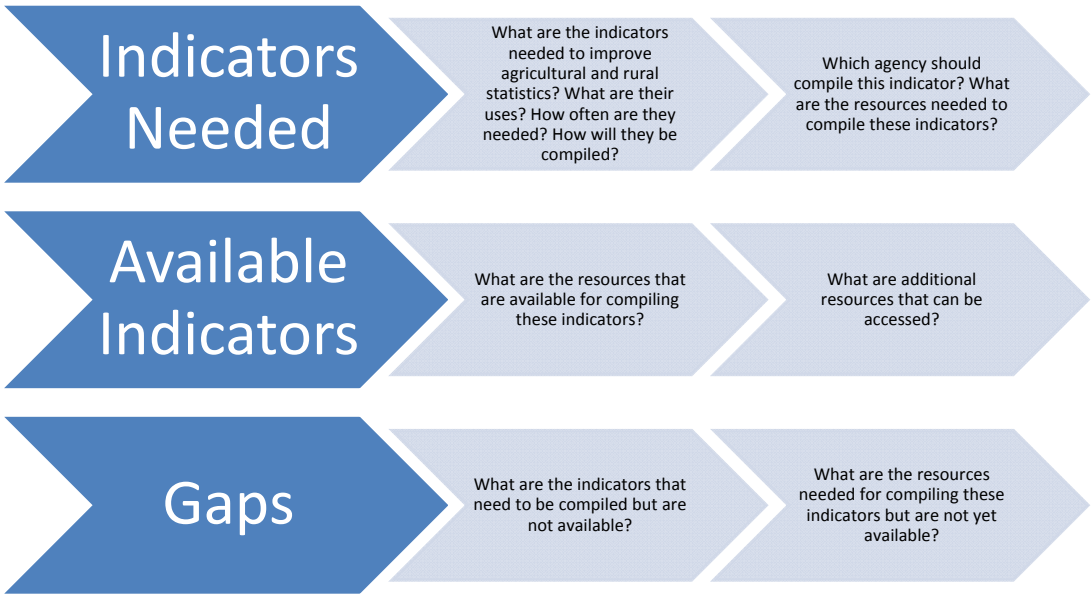
Theme III: Identifying gaps and setting priorities (Economic Indicators)

Identifying Gaps



Setting Priorities

- Establish criteria for setting priorities
  - Usually based on needs and available resources
- Who sets the priorities?
  - Different priorities are set at different levels of hierarchy because of the system of resource allocation
- Who monitors results?
- Seek convergence across the statistical system through coordination

Process for needs assessment

- May be done through interviews for each type of stakeholder or through workshops
  - Different types of stakeholders must be identified and studied
  - Comprehensive analysis data system should be done
  - Consultative workshop in which all stakeholders are represented more beneficial
- Technical adviser and Process facilitator needed to support the process

Needs Assessment: Some Questions Questions

- What do you think are the agricultural and rural indicators that can help policy makers and government agencies in planning and monitoring?
- What agency should be responsible for monitoring them?
- How frequent should this indicator be measured?
- What are the possible sources of data for these indicators – administrative reporting system or surveys?
- Is there a need to improve the quality of available indicators?

Points to consider in setting priorities

- Improving agricultural and rural statistics requires not only compiling additional indicators but also, improving timeliness and quality of available indicators
- More indicators to compile require more resources – but additional resources are not generally obtained by adding indicators
- Assistance from outside the statistical system may be possible (bilateral, multilateral, from intergovernmental organizations)

SOME INFORMATION ON DETERMINING NEEDS AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Primary Data Sources

- Censuses
- Sample surveys
- Administrative records
- International & Other Sources

Household Censuses: (of agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries)

Characterized by:

- Wide area coverage
  -- full enumeration or very large sample.
- Results for smaller areas than sample surveys
- Narrow subject matter scope
  -- mainly structural variables
- Done infrequently
  -- because of high cost and intended use

Community Censuses

- These involve full coverage of local government units (LGUs)
  - respondents are key informants, e.g. LGU chief
  - Rule of thumb: do not ask same question asked from household (census)
- Full coverage administrative reporting systems (ARS) may be considered community censuses
  - but these often violate above rule of thumb vis-à-vis other censuses and surveys, resulting in duplicative and conflicting statistics.

Census Uses

- Small area statistics not available from surveys, e.g. data on land use, livestock & forest inventory
- Update benchmarks every 10 years or so
- Frame data needed for designing inter-census sample surveys

  -- small area data not available from publications
- International obligation

Sample Surveys

Characterized by:

- Wide scope (thick questionnaire) , includes temporal variables such as areas planted, production, prices, livestock numbers.
- Provide time series , e.g quarterly, annually; but …
- Not intended to provide reliable estimates for small areas
- Complex sample survey design, which requires advanced technical human resources.

Administrative Sources: GOs (national & LGUs), NGOs

Use sometimes constrained by:

- (Non)comparability -- different LGUs-different methods.
- Incompleteness -- some do not report, or not on time.
- (Non)sustainability -- LGU leadership change, funding stopped
- Accessibility -- processing behind data volume growth; different data management methods.
- Suspected bias -- same agency doing project implementation and data collection, report subject to LGU review.
- Limited scope -- e.g. to agency's mandate
- No measure of measurement errors.

On the other hand, these data are cheaper, relevance to agency needs is assured.

International and other sources

Main sources of -- other countries' data, data compiled externally, data not collected/compiled by individual countries

- FAO, USDA, UN databases, country databases, e.g. CountryStat.
- Remotely sensed data & maps, e.g. Google, NOAH, MODIS, SAR.
- Internet & Media; e.g Bloomberg, Reuters

DISCUSSION ON GAPS AND PRIORITIES BY INDICATOR

Minimum Core Indicators from the Global Action Plan for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics

Group	Key Indicators	Core data items
Economic		
Output	Yield / Productivity	Yield (MT/hectare) of paddy, corn, cereals, potato, cassava, sugarcane, peanut, soybean and other main perennial crops
Trade	Exports in quantity and value	Exports volume and value of rice, coffee, rubber, cashew, tea, seafood and other fishery and forestry products
	Imports in quantity and value	Import volume and value of cotton, dairy products, meat and meat products

Minimum Core Indicators from the Global Action Plan for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics

Group	Key Indicators	Core data items
Economic		
Stock of Resources	Land cover and use	Annual crop land, perennial crop land, forest land, water surface for aquaculture, land for sea salt production
	Economically active population	Number of people involved in farming/agriculture production, fishery, forestry and sea salt production
	Livestock	Number of live buffaloes, cattle, goats, sheep, pig, chicken, ducks, geese
	Machinery	Quantity (unit) and capacity of tractors, ploughs, sowing machines, harvesters, milling machine, dryers, generator, motorized boats and ships for aquaculture

Minimum Core Indicators from the Global Action Plan for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics

Group	Key Indicators	Core data items
Economic		
Inputs	Water	Quantity of water withdrawn for agricultural irrigation; number of pump stations in the commune; length of irrigation channels under commune or cooperative management
	Fertilizers in quantity and value	Source, kind and quantity of fertilizer used for main crops
	Pesticides in quantity and value	Source, kind and quantity of pesticides (e.g. fungicides herbicides, insecticides, disinfectants) by core crops

Minimum Core Indicators from the Global Action Plan for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics

Group	Key Indicators	Core data items
Economic		
Inputs	Seeds in quantity and value	Value and volume of seeds bought by household for production of rice, vegetables and other perennial crops
	Feed in quantity and value	Value and volume of feeds used for livestock production
Agro Processing	Volume of core crops/livestock/fishery used in processing food	Volume of processed meat, dairy, dry pig skin, seasoning, spices and other products used as ingredients
	Value of output of processed food	Revenue received from processing (salting, refrigerating, drying)
Prices	Producer prices	Producer prices and indexes of agriculture (i.e rice, corn, potato, cashew), forestry and fishery products
	Consumer prices	Consumer prices and indexes of agriculture (i.e rice, soybean, peanut), forestry and fishery products

Minimum Core Indicators from the Global Action Plan for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics

Group	Key Indicators	Core data items
Economic		
Output	Production	Production (MT) of paddy, corn, cereals, potato, cassava, sugarcane, peanut, soybean and other main perennial crops
		Production of meat and meat products; dairy and poultry products
		Production of wood and timber
		Production of main fishery and aquaculture products
	Area harvested and planted	Cultivated and harvested areas (hectares) of paddy, corn, cereals, potato, cassava, sugarcane, peanut, soybean and other main perennial crops; area of concentrated forest

Minimum Core Indicators from the Global Action Plan for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics

Group	Key Indicators	Core data items
Economic		
Final Expenditure	Government expenditure on agriculture and rural development	Public investments, subsidies
	Private Investments	Investment in machinery, in research and development, in infrastructure
	Household consumption	Consumption of rice, corn, peanut, tea, fish and other fishery and aquaculture products
Rural Infrastructure (Capital Stock)	Irrigation/roads/communications	Area equipped for Irrigation / Roads in Km / number of communes with telephone lines connected, with local radio systems

Groups

1. Bangladesh & Bhutan
2. Indonesia, Thailand & Viet Nam
3. Lao PDR & Sri Lanka
4. Malaysia & Republic of Korea
5. Philippines & Samoa

Group Work: Theme III

- Discuss the activities that need to be undertaken to identify and prioritize economic indicators.
- Plan an effective approach for achieving a priority list of indicators that will be supported by all major stakeholders.

Note that you will present your plan in the plenary.