

# MALDIVES

**REGIONAL COURSE ON COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY FOR AGRICULTURAL AND  
RURAL  
STATISTICS  
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# MALDIVES

Maldives is an island nation in the Indian Ocean, consisting of a double chain of twenty administrative atolls.

- Population (2014) – 341,256
- Area (including sea) - 115,300 sq. km
- Land area – approx. 300 sqkm
- Number of Islands – 1192
- Inhabited Islands – 188
- Resorts – 105
- Leased islands by MoFA for agriculture, mariculture and aquaculture - 79



# INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

## National Statistical System in Maldives

- The statistical system has evolved in a decentralized way
  - National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is responsible for the core statistical activities
  - Role of NBS,
    - Coordinate National Statistical System
    - Conduct population census, national accounts, price statistics, poverty statistics, major HH surveys (HIES,ES)
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# INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS (CONT'D)

- Role of National Statistics Coordination Committee
    - Represented by statistical units of National Statistical System for overall guidance and coordination
  - Role of other government agencies includes;
    - Collecting data on their respective areas – mostly through administrative channels, registers and related surveys
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## INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS (CONT'D)

- Within the decentralized system, the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture provides
    - fisheries data through fish catch and earning and other fishery related surveys
    - Agricultural data mostly through administrative records and farmers registers established at island level and other related agri surveys
  - The Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture has a Statistics Unit, which happens to be the largest statistical unit outside NBS.
    - It is lodged in the Economic Research and Statistics Services and comprises 13 staff, in a fisheries unit (8 staff) and agriculture unit (4 staff).
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## INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS (CONT'D)

- Under the Planned improvement proposed in the NSDS, for agriculture and fisheries includes that,
  - The Ministry of Fisheries & Agriculture will;
    - Investigate alternative methods for collecting agricultural production data, including backyard cultivation and from agriculture islands that are solely leased for agriculture.
    - Conduct pilot studies for the more promising methods for complete coverage.
    - To improve its cost and earning survey of fisher folk and farmers
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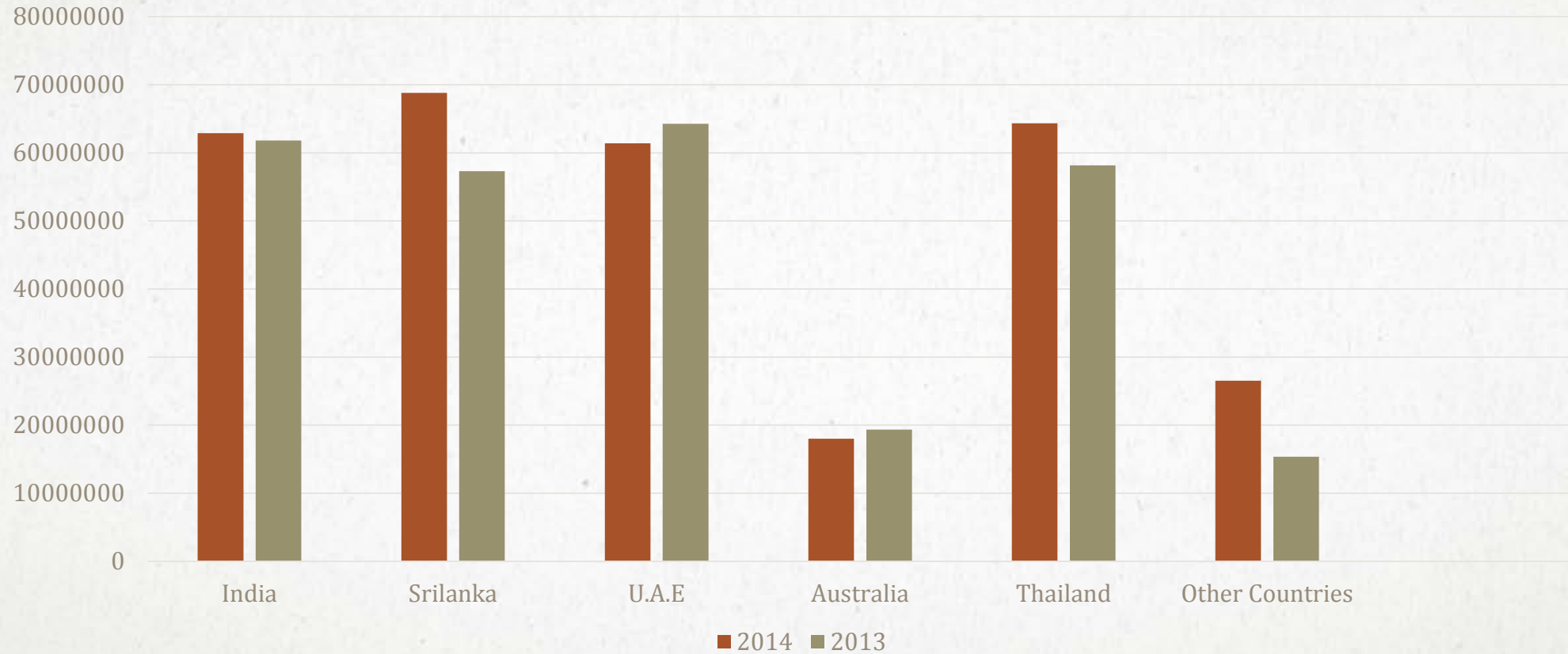
# AGRICULTURE DATA DISSEMINATION - MOFA

- Agriculture statistics is disseminated: Published at the MoFA website
  - Daily/Weekly/Monthly fact sheets: on agriculture production and prices taken at Male' Local Market (target on local produce)- takes into account the produce from islands where it gets distributed to local shops and resort
  - Daily/Weekly/Monthly fact sheets: fish production and prices at national and international level
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# AGRICULTURE DATA DISSEMINATION - NBS

- NBS disseminates Agriculture statistics via:
  - Statistical Yearbook of Maldives Every year (Fisheries & Agriculture Chapter)
    - Imports of Fresh Agricultural Crops Mainly Produced in Maldives (By Country)
    - Imports of Fresh Agricultural Crops Mainly Produced in Maldives (In Kilo grams)
    - Imports of Fresh Agricultural Crops Mainly Produced in Maldives (By Year)

# IMPORTS OF FRESH AGRICULTURAL CROPS IN MALDIVES FROM 2013-2014 (BY COUNTRY)



# DISSEMINATION AND USERS OF AGRICULTURAL DATA

- Main data users of SYB  
Agricultural data are Government agencies, Researchers and College Students

	Government	Public	College Students
Statistical Yearbook (Hard Copy)	Provided to all line agencies annually	Sold	Sold
Statistical Yearbook (CD)	Provided to all line agencies annually	Sold	Sold
Statistical Yearbook (Web Version)	Available to all users	Available to all users	Available to all users

# NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND MONITORING

- Maldives is in the stage of compiling National Development Plan (National Strategy)
  - Draft Indicators produced by Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture are being reviewed by Ministry of Finance & Treasury

# CURRENT MEASURES USED TO COMMUNICATE AND ADVOCATE AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

- Statistical Publications
    - Statistical Yearbook – Frequently used by Government agencies, International organizations and College students
      - Some times does not work well for public and college students as the publication is sold
      - For travellers and office use it is very convenient
      - Does not include those relevant to the users.
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# CURRENT MEASURES USED TO COMMUNICATE AND ADVOCATE AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

- Online Publications
  - Statistics Maldives Website – Nationwide used by Government agencies, International organizations, College students and other local public/private companies
    - Works very well with all users
    - Advantage is that tables are available in .pdf and .xls
    - Limitation is when there is no access to internet and places where there is slow connections

<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/index.php/en/statistics/agriculture-statistics/80-agri-statiscs-en>

<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/index.php/dv/statistics-dv/market-price-dv/114-2014-01-05-04-17-19>

<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/images/publications/agri14/2015/03/fact sheet 26th march 2015.pdf>

# CURRENT MEASURES USED TO COMMUNICATE AND ADVOCATE AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

- Database
  - MaldivInfo– A country adapted data dissemination tool that is produced in collaboration with UNICEF,
    - Agriculture related indicators that is published in SYB is included
    - Statistical Reports can be generated using the software

# PROBLEMS FACED IN EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATING AND ADVOCATING AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

- Agricultural indicators that are identified and published are very minimal
  - Data is not received to related agencies on a timely manner
    - Hence NSO is not able to produce agricultural data in the monthly and annual publications
  - Low human resource endowment in terms of number as well as capacity,
  - Absence of basic infrastructure and inadequate attention/support from the Government have emerged as main constraints on the development of a robust agricultural statistics system
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# HOW THE PROBLEMS CAN BE ADDRESSED

- Integrating statistics in national policy planning – politically need to give importance
  - Capacity building programmes to address shortage of qualified/trained statisticians at all line ministries
  - Improving data quality: detailed data analysis especially policy-related analysis
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**THANKYOU**