Statistical Capacity of the Agriculture Sector in Uganda

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Outline of Presentation

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Introduction and Background

- Uganda is a land-locked country in East Africa
- Total surface area - 241,550.7 square kilometres (sq. km) of which 199,807.4 sq km is land and 41,743.2 sq km are open water and swamps,
- Altitude ranges from 620 metres to 5,111 metres
- Temperatures range from 15 to 31 degrees celsius
- Rainfall is between 735 to 1863 millimetres per year.

Introduction and Background Contd

- The total population of the country is 31.8 million (2010 mid-year estimate based on the 2002 Population and Housing Census).
- The next Population and Housing Census (PHC) is slated for August 2014.

Agriculture in the Ugandan Economy

- Agriculture is the dominant sector of Uganda's economy.
- Contributes about 22.8% to total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and over 90% to total export earnings.
- Provides 80% of employment and most industries and services in the country are based on this sector.
- About 85% of the population live in rural areas of the country where they derive their livelihood from agriculture.

Agriculture in the Ugandan Economy (*Cont..*)

- Much of the agricultural production in Uganda takes place at household level essentially using household labour.

- Currently, there are about 4.2 million holders who carry rain-fed agriculture and who on the average cultivate less than 2.0 hectares mainly using hand-hoes, pangas and ploughs.

- It has been estimated that 80 percent and 60 percent of women and men respectively are employed in agriculture as their main activity.

Agricultural Statistics in Uganda

- The statistics collected are on;
  - Production of main cash crops
  - Area planted and production of major food crops
  - Livestock
  - Fisheries
  - Rainfall statistics for selected centers.
  - Land cover statistics by district
  - Area under land and under water by district
  - Quantity and Value of Exports

Agricultural Statistics in Uganda *(Cont..)*

- A number of agencies are involved in collecting various aspects of Food and Agricultural Statistics (FAS) and the main players include:-
  - ➢ Uganda Bureau of Statistics
  - ➢ Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and its affiliated agencies
  - ➢ Statistics Department (Bank of Uganda)
  - ➢ Department of Meteorology
  - ➢ National Forestry Authority
  - ➢ Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment
  - ➢ Ministry of Health
  - ➢ Ministry of Local Government

Agricultural Statistics in Uganda *(Cont..)*

- In the National Agricultural Statistics System (NASS), the main institutions responsible for AS are UBOS and MAAIF

- UBOS is responsible Censuses and Household Surveys, while MAAIF is responsible administrative/current agricultural statistics

- There is however, strong collaboration between the two institutions on their roles.

Position regarding the Agricultural Statistical Capacity

- The statistical capacity within MAAIF has not yet been developed to the required Standard
- The Statistics Division of MAAIF is not yet able to collect regular data from the field on regular basis
- Most of the information published is by imputation from Censuses and National House Hold Surveys
- Inadequate physical Statistics infrastructure
- Inadequate ICT Infrastructure

Position regarding the Agricultural Statistical Capacity (*cont..*)

- Statistics Division and the semi-autonomous institutions do not have sufficient financial and human resources for effective data collection and analysis

- The result is that no regular national agricultural production statistics are produced in Uganda

- UBOS and MAAIF have experienced budgetary cuts from Government that have caused suspension, delays or even cancellations of important statistical activities like censuses and sample surveys

Main challenges faced in Collecting, Compiling and Processing Agricultural Statistics

- Poor coordination mechanism within the sector
- Lack of an agriculture statistics reporting system
- Lack of a National Agriculture Data Centre
- Limited use of new IT for data capture, processing and dissemination
- Lack of commitment of District administration for data collection, funding and use of agriculture statistics
- Lack of specialized surveys

Main challenges faced in Collecting, Compiling and Processing Agricultural Statistics *(cont..)*

- Outdated methodologies and data collection instruments in use for the production of administrative data within the agricultural sector

- Lack of administrative system for collecting data on cash crop procurement, livestock trade and slaughter, aquaculture and apiary production

- Lack of Agricultural Central Database

Solution to Data collection Challenges

- Acquisition of field transport facilities to the Districts and Sub-counties
- Harmonisation of data collection tools
- Acquisition of data collection equipment (GPS, Laptop computers)
- Training on the use of GPS and Smart Phones
- Training in GIS
- Training in Agricultural production estimation methods
- Training in mainstreaming gender in agricultural statistics
- Solicit for financial resources to carry out regular Agricultural Surveys

Solution to Data Storage Challenges

- Develop Agricultural Central Database using SQL Server 2012 (*need a consultant to design*)

- Procurement and installation of the Agricultural Central Database infrastructure (Hardware & Software)

- Training staff in the Agricultural Central Database maintenance

- Procurement and installation of Agricultural Central Database network infrastructure

Solution to Data Analysis Challenges

- Development of the Agricultural data Analysis Plan
- Acquisition of licensed data analysis packages (software)
- Training staff in Agricultural data analysis and interpretation of results
- Training on the computation of Food Balance Sheet
- Acquisition of high speed desktop computers for data processing

Solution to dissemination challenges

- Development of an Agricultural Information Dissemination strategy
- Interactive Ministry Website
- Compact Disks (CDs)
- Development of MAAIF ICT Strategy

Solutions to the General Challenges

- Strenghening the Sector Statistics Committee
- Develop an agriculture statistics reporting system
- Establish a national Agriculture Data Centre
- Exploit the use of new IT for data capture, processing and dissemination
- Strengthen the commitment of District administration for data collection, funding and use of agriculture statistics
- Need to develop a program for more specialized surveys

Solutions to the General Challenges *(Cont..)*

- Review and audit methodologies and data collection instruments in use for the production of administrative data within the agricultural sector

- Put in place an administrative system for collecting data on cash crop procurement, livestock trade and slaughter, aquaculture and apiary production

Policies/programs implemented to enhance the Agricultural Statistical Capacity

- An agricultural module in the Population and Housing Census (PHC) every 10 years

- An agricultural module in the National Household Surveys every 2 years *(not always)*

- A census of agriculture every 10 years, one or two years after the PHC.

- A core agricultural sample survey module on household based holdings integrated into the core Uganda National Panel Survey.

Policies/programs implemented to enhance the Agricultural Statistical Capacity *(cont..)*

- The Community Information System (CIS) to collect information on the current levels of productivity, food stocks, cultivated areas and outputs and to establish a rural reporting system.
- The Permanent Agricultural Statistical System (PASS)
- The Agricultural Information System (AIS)

International Cooperation experiences for enhancing Agricultural Statistical capacity

- Participated in the development of the *Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics which was produced and endorsed in February 2010 by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC)* to respond to the declining quantity and quality of agricultural statistics in developing countries

International Cooperation experiences for enhancing Agricultural Statistical capacity (cont.)

- To improve agricultural and rural statistics for better decision making, the FAO, African Development Bank and UNECA have prepared an Action Plan for Africa. Uganda is one of the participating countries in its formulation and implementation.

- Uganda is a member state of the East African community. Participated in the Development of the East African Community Strategic Plan for Statistics, harmonized EAC Agriculture indicators for comparison across the partner states.

- Participation in CountrySTAT (*financed by FAO*)

Thank you !