

**GENERAL DATA DISSEMINATION SYSTEM 2 PROJECT  
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UNITED KINGDOM**

# Agriculture Statistics

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## Summary of Wrap-up Seminar

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Meeting held In Pretoria South Africa

Southern Sun Hotel

July 13-15, 2009

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This document was prepared at the request of Ronald Luttikhuizen, the GDDS project manager. It summarizes the wrap-up seminar that was held in Pretoria South Africa where participating countries discussed the progress that they have made as a result of the GDDS project and their plans and challenges for the future.

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## General Data Dissemination System 2 Agriculture, Wrap-up Seminar

### ***Introduction***

The General Data Dissemination System 2 (GDDS2) project has provided technical assistance to a number of African countries aimed at strengthening their statistical capacity. The projects received financial support from the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom and were managed by the World Bank. Countries had a choice of subject areas for improvement. These included: population, health, agriculture, labor market, justice and security, management of statistical systems, GIS and small area statistics. Five countries (Ghana, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Swaziland and Uganda) chose agriculture as the area for which they wished to receive technical assistance.

The agriculture module of GDDS2 was launched at a seminar held in Maputo, Mozambique in February 2007. Each country identified up to three areas in which they were requesting technical assistance and each of these were addressed during technical missions during the next two years. The work of this module was brought to a close during a wrap-up seminar that was held in Pretoria, South Africa during July 13-15, 2009. This report is a summary of that seminar.

### ***Participants and Agenda***

The meetings followed the agenda shown in **Appendix A**. The list of participants is shown in **Appendix B**.

The meetings were chaired by Ronald Luttikhuisen from the World Bank and Oliver Chinganya from the International Monetary Fund. Consultants Christopher Hill from Mozambique and Ernie Boyko from Canada assisted the meeting by providing overview presentations and leading the reviews of the country reports.

The chair made reference to the remarks made by US President Obama during his African visit.

*“That's why our \$3.5 billion food security initiative is focused on new methods and technologies for farmers -- not simply sending American producers or goods to Africa. Aid is not an end in itself. The purpose of foreign assistance must be creating the conditions where it's no longer needed. I want to see Ghanaians not only self-sufficient in food, I want to see you exporting food to other countries and earning money. You can do that”.<sup>1</sup>*

This suggests that agriculture statistics will very likely play a bigger role in the future and countries should be prepared to embrace this challenge. Initiatives to strengthen agriculture statistics are thus very timely.

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<sup>1</sup> President Barack Obama's Address to Ghanaian Parliament, July 11, 2009, see <http://allafrica.com/stories/200907110013.html?page=2> , accessed on August 19, 2009

Reference was also made to the upcoming meeting of the International Statistics Institute (ISI) to be held in Durban, South Africa. The ISI will also have satellite meetings on agriculture statistics in Maputo, Mozambique as part of the conference program. See <http://www.statssa.gov.za/isi2009/>

## ***Day 1 July 13, 2009***

### ***Opening and Introductions***

Ronald Luttikhuizen opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and by having each person introduce themselves. He outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to serve as a wrap-up for the agriculture statistics module of the GDDS2 project. After the project was launched in Maputo in February 2007, a series of technical missions were carried out for each country. Now that this work has been completed, countries were asked to outline what they had learned, what they achieved and their plans and priorities for agriculture statistics in their respective countries.

Each of the countries presented their information to the group. These reports are summarized below.

### ***Presentations by Countries***

#### **Ghana**

A key area for which Ghana had requested assistance was planning a census of agriculture to be taken after the 2010 census of population and housing. This was the focus of two missions. A third mission focussed on reviewing the methods and processes for conducting annual agriculture surveys.

As a result of the missions, the following progress was made towards the goals of the agriculture statistics program:

1. A plan for conducting a sample census of agriculture was prepared.
2. A streamlined questionnaire which covered all of the key core modules and was greatly reduced in size was produced.
3. A tabulation plan containing a possible 275 tables was developed.
4. A tentative community questionnaire was developed.
5. A broad plan for the redevelopment of an annual agriculture survey (covering crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry) was developed.

One of the lessons learned was the importance of consulting major users while developing plans for censuses and surveys. Future plans include the establishment of a small technical committee to carry

out the final review of project documents and completion of the plans for the remaining census activities. The biggest challenges will be to get the legal authority to carry out the census and to secure funding from the government and development partners.

The consultants agreed with Ghana's plans for moving forward. Much of the success will hinge on a successful census of population which will form the basis for developing the sample for the census of agriculture and the annual survey. It was noted that further technical assistance may be required to design and implement a sample for the census of agriculture once the frame from the census of population is available. It was also noted that Ghana had established a very ambitious tabulation plan for the census of agriculture.

When asked to identify important questions that will have to be addressed in the future, Ghana provided the following:

1. How to strengthen their data analysis capacity
2. Development of plans and procedures to implement the use of GPS in the field
3. Approach to be used for data entry and data processing, and
4. Sourcing of funds for the census.

In the discussion that followed, it was pointed out that CSPro has been used successfully as a data entry and processing software. It is readily available from the US Bureau of the Census (USBC) and the USBC can be available to do training on the use of the software.

Chris Hill pointed out that Mozambique has been able to implement the use of GPS to support their annual survey and have also implemented a system of data entry in the field. This involves the use of paper questionnaires which are captured in the field. Thus, data response problems can be addressed while the team is near the respondent and necessary changes to procedures can easily be implemented with the field staff. The 2009/2010 census of Mozambique agriculture plans to use direct data entry by the interviewers. It is too early to comment on the success of such an approach.

### **Sierra Leone**

The representatives from Sierra Leone commenced their report by describing the role of agriculture in their economy. Agriculture contributes about 46% of the GDP and employs over 60% of the active/mature population. There is considerable scope for expanding the amount of land devoted to agriculture as only 34% of the potential land is currently in use.

The country has benefited from technical assistance to various sectors including agriculture, health, banking and improvements in the national accounts.

Three missions for agriculture were carried out. The first mission provided an overall review of the agriculture statistics system and established the focus for missions 2 and 3. Mission 2 provided training

in survey analysis and the third mission attempted to create an online dissemination database for agriculture statistics. The lack of an appropriate file prevented the database from being put online.

Taken together, the three missions revealed the need for improved coordination between Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL) and the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) (as well as other ministries involved in the collection of statistics for their sectors). In the past, SSL did not have control over the agriculture surveys and as a result do not have files which they can use to produce statistics and receive analysis training.

Strengthening statistical coordination has become a top priority for SSL. The Government of Sierra Leone through Statistics Sierra Leone has recruited statisticians who are now working closely with line ministries for efficient statistical work in all data providing institutions.

Questions to be resolved in the future include the following:

1. Creating a publicly accessible database on agriculture statistics to be placed on the SSL Website.
2. Designing a master sample frame from the 2004 census
3. Developing questionnaires for the Agriculture Census in 2010/11
4. Archiving of existing data sources with copies to be held at both SSL and MAFFS.

The participants at the meeting were in general agreement with the directions identified by Sierra Leone. A regular system of agriculture surveys based on a census is essential to support policy and food security initiatives. The recruitment of statisticians by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) to work in ministries as was done by SSL is definitely a practice that could be emulated by other countries where necessary.

Further technical assistance may be necessary to reach their four goals.

### **Swaziland**

Swaziland identified 2 main priorities during the launch seminar. These had to do with improving their survey questionnaires and reviewing the data capture process. A third mission focused on developing a strategy for agriculture statistics. In addition, a training session which provided an introduction to agriculture statistics was delivered to staff from the Agriculture Statistics Unit, National Accounts, CPI Unit, Data processing as well as staff from the Ministry of Agriculture (National Early Warning Unit, Marketing Unit, and Livestock).

It was indicated that the recommendations of the first two missions concerning questionnaire redesign and public relations with respondents had been implemented. A strategy to collect agriculture data has been developed and is to be budgeted and implemented next fiscal year. As well, a plan to use GPS to do area measurement has been developed.

For the future, the important questions that remain have to do with how the Agriculture Statistics Development Strategy can feed into the National Statistics Development Strategy (NSDS) and to determine whether the Central Statistics Office or the Ministry of Agriculture is the appropriate organization for collecting and disseminating agriculture statistics.

Regarding the integration of the agriculture strategy with the broader NSDS, it should be noted that Ronald Luttikhuizen from the World Bank planned to be in Swaziland the week following this wrap-up seminar and thus this issue may have received some attention. It should be noted that there was a great deal of attention paid to the issue of statistical coordination during this meeting. It was clear in the course of discussions that memoranda of understanding (MOUs) become a very important tool regardless of who handles the actual statistical work. Experience in other countries has shown that either a decentralised or centralised approach to organizing a statistical program can be made to work.

### **Uganda**

Uganda's three missions covered the development of a plan for the sample design for the census of agriculture, training on the development of a Producer Price Index (PPI) for agriculture and training on the development of food balance sheets (FBS). The sample for the census of agriculture has been implemented. In fact, a census of livestock has already been conducted and a census of crops will be conducted later this year. The census methodology involves the use of 2 frames: all farms that have 10 ha. or more are enumerated while those that have less than or equal to 10ha. in size are sampled. A total of 3670 enumeration areas were drawn into the sample. One of the outstanding challenges for Uganda will be to integrate the results from the livestock and crops census with the annual surveys of crops and livestock.

A major challenge for Uganda for the GDDS work was the fact that missions 2 and 3 came at a time when many of the staff were in the field working on the census of agriculture.

Important issues for the future include developing a system of annual agriculture surveys which builds on the census of agriculture, developing the capacity to carry out further analysis of the livestock and agriculture censuses, and further training on food balances and producer price index after the census results are available.

### **Mozambique**

The consultants gave a brief report on activities in Mozambique as the representatives from that country were unable to attend the meetings. The first GDDS mission focussed on dissemination planning. Since it followed a detailed review that had been carried out by an international team of 4, much of the survey program had already been reported on and the GDDS consultant was in agreement with the recommendations. Mozambique has been conducting a successful annual survey program for a number of years. A census of agriculture is being planned later in 2009. Support is being provided by FAO and international donors.

A two week training course which provided an introduction to agriculture statistics was delivered by the two consultants (Boyko and Hill). The material from this training session will be available from the GDDS web site. A scaled down version of this course was delivered to staff in Swaziland by Chris Hill.

Important issues for the future include making the results of the annual survey more visible by producing more official statistics and ensuring that census and survey files are properly preserved. Once the results from the census of agriculture are available, it will be a necessary to integrate these results along with the annual survey results and the previous census into a consistent set of time series. As well, the country will face a challenge in integrating its early warning system with the annual survey.

### **Discussion**

Following all the presentations, the morning session of day one wrapped up with a wide ranging discussion. Highlights are shown below.

- The question was raised as to whether more agriculture questions could be put on the censuses of population and housing? In reply it was stated that adding more questions to the census of population could jeopardize the census by overloading it. Questions on a census of population can never provide sufficient structural information to satisfy the needs of food and agriculture policy makers. At the same time, too many questions on the population census will affect the argument to be made for financing a census of agriculture. As a minimum, the census of population must carry enough agriculture questions to permit the drawing of samples for an agriculture census and annual/special surveys.
- Coordination between the CSO's and the ministries of agriculture is important. It was stressed that MOUs were important tools for coordinating the statistical work within a country. The existence of the National Statistical Development Strategy (NSDS) and the recommendations for coordination has been instrumental in making a breakthrough in agriculture statistics in Sierra Leone.
- Response rates for agriculture surveys in Swaziland have been low as there is no incentive for farmers to complete questionnaires. This underlines the importance of establishing a public relations program as recommended during the first GDDS mission.
- Each country has two main components in its farm population. The first is a relatively small number of large farms which are often plantations or estate farms. These should form part of a list or register which can be used for sample design purposes. The rest of the farms tend to be relatively small and are sampled using a frame obtained from the census of population.

The chairperson asked the countries to provide the information under the relevant headings below. This helps to establish the importance of agriculture within the economy.

Please note: The figures below are approximations and should not be quoted.

Country	% GDP from Agriculture	% exports from Agriculture	% of labour force in Agriculture	% Food self-sufficiency
Ghana	34	10-20	54	70% for rice
Sierra Leone	46	80	70	60% for rice
Swaziland	28	*	*	Aprox. 50—60%
Uganda	21	80-90	75	100% for rice

\*Information not available

### ***Presentations by Consultants***

The consultants made a series of presentations which outlined some of the major best practices normally associated with an agriculture statistics program. Most fundamental is the notion that agriculture statistics generally emerge from an **agriculture statistics system**. The basis for this system is the census of population and housing which provides the sample frame from which samples to conduct a census of agriculture and regular surveys can be designed. Since not all information can economically be collected using a national survey, special surveys must also be designed. These are usually limited in scope and geography. An early warning system for crops can be designed to collect information about crop areas in advance of harvest to give an early indication of the size of the crop. Finally, administrative data can be used to collect supplementary information about such commodities as livestock as well as commodity prices.

The presentations referred to the basic areas of agriculture that need to be measured. These include:

- Crops
- Horticulture and floriculture
- Livestock, poultry and other animals
- Aquaculture (where this is defined as part of the agriculture sector)
- Purchased inputs and investments
- Paid and unpaid labour
- Equipment and capital stock
- Prices paid and received by farmers

Other topics covered included:

- Universe and sampling considerations
- Questionnaires, tabulation plans and data collection
- Data capture and survey processing

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- Analysis, integration and official statistics, dissemination
- Data Management

The following best practices for statistics were outlined:

- The process should be user driven
- The process should employ sound statistical practices
- Respondents should be respected (burden & confidentiality)
- Metadata should be produced to support the understanding and use of data
- There needs to be a range of products available to all users and
- Data files should be properly preserved for the future

### ***Group work***

The seminar participants were divided into two groups and were asked to:

- Identify at least three main questions/issues that they thought must be resolved in order to improve their agriculture statistic program.
- Report back to the plenary

**Group 1**

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
Data entry in the field	This is costly and must be carefully implemented
The use of the GPS for areas measurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• requires proper training of enumerators...</li> <li>• not accurate for small areas...</li> <li>• depends on weather...eg clouds</li> </ul>
Consulting the international organisations in the planning programs	Due to changes in the gov't, conditions of the donors may not be met
Use of crop-cutting methodology	Costly
Calendar coverage of production (seasonality)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unable to conduct surveys for all the seasons [cost and logistics]</li> <li>• Difficult to monitor crops that are continually harvested [e.g., cassava]</li> </ul>
Coordination of agencies responsible for ag. stats in the country	Agencies unwilling to share resources

**Group 2**

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
Stakeholder consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All must be part of the data needs assessment</li> <li>• Install working groups to discuss quality issues</li> <li>• Stakeholders to be consulted regarding the develop methods of dissemination</li> </ul>
Planning and conducting censuses, surveys, pre and post harvest losses and special surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources</li> <li>• Expertise</li> <li>• Political will of governments</li> </ul>
What should be measured?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholders input on the stats required</li> <li>• Work programs to be approved by appropriate (steering) committees</li> <li>• Providing quality control for measurement procedures</li> </ul>
Universe and sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• obtaining sampling frame from census of population and housing</li> <li>• Establishing small area samples that are representative</li> </ul>
Questionnaire, tabulation plan and data collection Develop tabulation plan to eliminate unnecessary questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions short and comprehensive</li> <li>• Responses should be pre-coded</li> <li>• Providing manuals to guide enumerators and supervisors</li> </ul>

Dissemination	Productions should conclude with the dissemination of data through various channels to the public
Data management	Documentation of data and methodology must be taken seriously

## ***Day 2, July 14, 2009***

### ***Presentation of Framework for Analysing Statistical Activities***

The second day began with a presentation by Ronald Luttikhuis on a framework for analysing and assessing statistical projects. The framework was presented as a matrix with a series of activities or building blocks across

the top and elements of the Data Quality Assessment Framework going down.

#### **Framework building blocks**

1. Institutional organization.	2. Internal organization and management issues	3. ICT Tools	4. frames and registers.	5. Surveys.	6. Integration Frameworks	7. Dissemination	8. Users of statistics
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***Each of these major building blocks can be further broken down as follows:***

#### **1 & 2 INSTITUTIONAL & INTERNAL POLICY**

- 1.1 Policy formulation
- 1.2 Defining focus points
- 1.3 Communication policy
- 1.4 Policy meetings
- 1.5 Policy evaluation

#### **3 Information Communication and Technology (ICT)**

- 3.1 System design
- 3.2 Procurement
- 3.3 Installation
- 3.4 Activation and testing
- 3.5 Maintenance and refinement

**4 REGISTERS & FRAMES**

- 4.1 Design and structure
- 4.2 Definition and selection of units
- 4.3 Application of economic unit classification
- 4.4 Selection of variables
- 4.5 Software implementation
- 4.6 Update
- 4.7 Sample frame production
- 4.8 Further improvement

**5 SURVEYS**

- 5.1 Survey design
- 5.2 Questionnaire design
- 5.3 Sample design
- 5.4 Data collection
- 5.5 Data processing
- 5.6 Data analysis
- 5.7 Data production

**6. INTEGRATION FRAMEWORKS**

- 6.1 Design of approach
- 6.2 Data collection
- 6.3 Checks and correction
- 6.4 Completion
- 6.5 Harmonization, analysis, and integration

**7. DISSEMINATION**

- 7.1 Databases
- 7.2 Web
- 7.3 CD-ROM/DVD
- 7.4 Print

## 8. USERS

- 8.1 Understanding the topic
- 8.2 Defining information needs
- 8.3 Select quantitative methods
- 8.4 Apply toolboxes
- 8.5 Reliability check
- 8.6 Examination of usefulness
- 8.7 Presentations
- 8.8 Reporting

### **Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF)**

There are 5 main elements to the DQAF:

- assurances of integrity,
- methodological soundness,
- accuracy and reliability,
- serviceability, and
- accessibility

These elements can also be broken down further. However, rather than attempting to summarize the various dimensions of this framework, readers are referred to the DQAF factsheet available on the IMF web site. See <http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/dqrs/dqrsdqaf/>

Having explained the various elements of the classification matrix, Mr. Luttikhuisen led the group through a few examples of how this could be applied by using the issues that had been raised by the discussion groups. Reviewing the elements of this matrix gave participants an insight as to how the managers of a statistical system could use this to assess progress and set priorities. For more details on how such a matrix can be used, readers are referred to the GDDS website at the World Bank. See [www.worldbank.org/data/gdds](http://www.worldbank.org/data/gdds), click on workshops and scroll down to closing workshops and open the workshop report from the meeting on Management of Statistical Systems: May 25 – 29, 2009, Banjul / The Gambia.

### ***Presentations by Consultants***

The consultants found that there were a number of recurring themes that emerged as the missions were carried out. Following is a summary of the first two of four such cross-cutting issues.

#### **Statistical coordination and key stakeholders**

Coordination is essential whether you are in a centralized or decentralized statistical system. In a **decentralized system** the respective roles of the CSO/NSO and the statistical units in the ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) must be defined and agreed upon. This should serve to eliminate duplication, ensure that the right things are measured and that appropriate knowledge and expertise are brought to bear. MOU's can be used to define roles and responsibilities. There is also the need to share statistical infrastructure such as registers and to have access to specialized resources such as statistical methodologists.

In order to provide statistics in a coordinated manner, adherence to concepts, definitions and standards is necessary to ensure that all sectors of the economy are covered for the national accounts. Two other issues that must be managed are ensuring the preservation of key survey and census files and providing career paths for professional and technical staff.

In a **centralized system**, it is essential for the statisticians to understand the needs of policy makers and to have a good knowledge of the rural and agriculture sector. They must have the ability to work with other data producers, especially those who engage in administrative activities.

CSOs and MDAs need each other and therefore should work together. Donors will often provide funds to agriculture but not to CSOs. Special project funding is often available to carry out agriculture projects and the statistical unit must be in a position to take advantage of these opportunities.

Approaches to strengthening coordination include legislation, memoranda of understanding (MOUs), senior coordinating committees, technical working groups and staff exchanges

### **Strengthening the analytical capacity of statistical units**

Analysis is the process that takes us from 'data to knowledge' which is important for policy makers. The surveys may be well done but if they are not fully analyzed and disseminated, the return on investment (in the surveys) is lost. Integrating data from different sources strengthens the knowledge base and thus serves users better. And finally, analysis gives important feedback for the survey design process.

The need to strengthen analytical capacity was recognised by a number of GDDS countries. This will take some time and determination. Some initial steps would include making analysis a clearly budgeted component of the survey/census. Cooperation with organizations that have the right 'know-how' can strengthen the project team. This expertise can come from within the agency or from outside. Analytical capacity can be built by using outside experts. Finally, it is important to have the right tools (software, hardware and networks) to do analysis.

**Group Discussions**

Following the presentation, two groups were formed to discuss coordination and strengthening analysis. Specifically they were asked to identify their concerns and possible solutions and how these issues should be addressed. Following is a summary of these discussions.

<b>Coordination of Statistical Activities</b>	
<b>Concerns</b>	<b>Solutions</b>
Loss of autonomy	Clear definitions of roles and responsibilities
Lack of proper documentation to properly define the roles and responsibility	Clear definitions of roles and responsibilities
Inadequate manpower to coordinate activities in the various agencies	Human resource policy to address skills improvement and to appoint functions/jobs/tasks
Availability of funding can over ride (distort)the coordinating role of the CSO	Create work plans and have policy/program discussions
Lack of follow-up participation of stakeholders involved in the coordination Legislation	Use of technical working groups to engage stakeholders
Constitution of the coordinating committees	Existing legislation needs to be specific and provide the right elements
The chair/secretariat of the committees	Proper stakeholders must be identified from the institutions
The capacity of these members/ranks	Institutional arrangements should made regarding hosting

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Motivation of stakeholders	Must be taken care of when appointing committee members  Make arrangements to answer the needs of the stakeholders, proper PR policies  Existing legislation needs to be specific and provide the right elements  Proper stakeholders must be identified from the institutions
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Based on the discussions, it was clear that the participants understood the importance of inter-agency coordination. Some countries were in the process of implementing coordinating mechanisms based on input and recommendations from other GDDS missions. While the potential benefits of coordination may be clear, there is still the issue of properly motivating the parties to cooperate and not feel threatened by the process.

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There was clearly an interest in strengthening analytical capacity but there was concern over how this could be done. The consultants pointed out that a large investment may not be necessary. A single person who has analysis as of their responsibility could make a big difference within an organization.

A series of small steps could serve to demonstrate the power and benefit of analysis. Analysis should be conducted in such a way that there is good interaction between the analysts and the staff who have good subject knowledge.

<b>Analysis</b>	
<b>Concerns</b>	<b>Solutions</b>
Lack of analytical tools which are expensive to acquire	Must be made part of priorities for the budget
Shortage of staff with adequate skills	Review the institutional structures to recruit staff
Lack of skills for data manipulation	Train the existing staff in data analysis
Limited national capacity to train staff (HR)	Must be made part of priorities for the budget
Data quality issues	Follow international guidelines and procedures
Procurement issues to acquire software and computers	Stream the procurement process
Maintenance of the system (hardware, software and networks)	Maintenance culture must be developed  IT specialist attached to the section

The resolution of both of the above cross-cutting issues may require intervention at higher levels in the organization. Making reference to the framework building blocks described above at the beginning of day 2, action may be required at the inter-agency level or within the agency at the policy and organizational level.

## ***Presentation by Consultants (Part 2)***

The consultants presented the second set of cross-cutting issues.

### **Strengthening Data Dissemination and Data Management**

Data dissemination is the process through which statistical agencies provide outputs from their surveys and censuses to fulfill the needs of their users. It is up to the statistical agency/unit to publish data/information and thus make it “official”. If the results of the surveys and censuses are not made available to a range of users, the benefits of the process are not realised. Surveys that are under-utilized may be vulnerable to budget cuts because their benefits are not visible.

Official statistics can take many forms depending on the source and the needs of users. A good practice is to produce a tabulation plan as soon as the questionnaire has been produced. Questions which are not part of the plan may not be required. In addition to tables, time series, charts, thematic maps, and research files are useful ways of providing access to survey/census results. Research files are survey level files that have all the identifiers removed and anonymized so that users can perform their own analysis without risking the identification of users and calling on the CSO/NSO to perform further work on the files.

It should be add that both the disseminated products and the surveys/censuses on which they are based must be managed in such a way as to ensure their availability for long term access.

Proper dissemination requires planning. Organizations are advised to start by ensuring that they have a mandate and mission statements that support dissemination activities. If these are not in place, then changes may be necessary. The next step is to identify the main stakeholders (users) and determine their needs. This requires contact and consultation with major groups. Products to meet their needs must be produced and should be tested with users before full implementation. The tools required to do dissemination are statistical packages, spreadsheets, databases, word processors, and web sites. Part of the planning should be an assessment of delivery mechanisms. Paper may support broad use but web sites are also important. An argument can be made to ensure that all products are available on a web site even if other products are also prepared.

Metadata are a vital part of statistics as they support dissemination. This is important for analysis and to support future surveys, archiving and reuse of surveys. The preservation and archiving of data files are part of the data management function. Files must be documented (metadata as referred to above) and saved in a software independent format. It is essential to avoid technological obsolescence.

### **Training, Human Resource Development and Statistical Tools**

Carrying out the work involved in statistics requires specialized knowledge and skills and not all employees have statistical and computing backgrounds. As well, the work requires a range of skills.

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Staff turnover and new work challenges therefore require that training and human resource development be an ongoing process. Like many other aspects of statistics, this requires planning and investment.

Part of the training challenge is to keep up with the software and computing activities required to collect, process, analyse, disseminate and manage data. Following is a list of software tools that can be used in the statistical process.

- Standard office tools that are generally found in most offices, (word processing, spreadsheets, presentation tools).
- CSPro for collection and processing
- SPSS and Stata for survey analysis
- Dissemination helpers (e.g. PCAxis/Country Stat, Devinfo)
- International Household Survey Network tool kit for documentation
- NADA (National Data Archive) software for archiving and access
- Database software and web server tools

### ***Group Discussions***

As was done previously, two discussion groups were formed to discuss dissemination and training issues. Specifically they were asked to identify their concerns and possible solutions and how these issues should be addressed. Following is a summary of these discussions.

<b>Dissemination</b>	
<b>Concerns</b>	<b>Solutions</b>
Lack of planning for dissemination	Time of dissemination should be specified in the work plan/publish a release calendar
Lack of proper a web site.	Web site development skills and resources, improved communication between program managers and web site managers
How to maintain confidentiality	Follow the confidentiality policies using recommended international guidelines and standards
Quality of the output/data inconsistencies and errors	Proper procedures (guidelines) to detect inconsistencies and errors to ensure that the data set is clean

## Report on the GDDS Agriculture Wrap-up Seminar

Data management and archiving skills	Ensure that backups are available for all data sets
Lack of understanding of users skills of audience/Lack of Availability and choice of proper tools/ Accessibility through the channels of dissemination	Insufficient time to discuss

<b>Training</b>	
<b>Concerns</b>	<b>Solutions</b>
Lack of training policy Lack of resources for training	Formulation of training policies (objectives regarding ag stats)/An organizational policy/budget issue
Rigid institutional structures regarding training and development	Training resources are provided in the project budget, training support from donors (at 3 levels - org level, the level of the directorate, level of the individual worker  Review structures to allow training and development when necessary
Inadequate practical skills with new staff	Training for newly recruited staff-proper recruitment policy and training policy of newly recruited staff  In-service training program focused on acquiring practical skills
Retention of skilled staff	Motivation (benefits material and non material ) policy  Training and retraining (motivation)  Career paths for staff
Resource persons to do training  Lack of training materials	Solicit support, internal and external  Consult subject specialists  Develop and use training materials
	21   Page

The remainder of the afternoon was spent discussing the two issues. In general it was felt that dissemination could be improved through better planning which would make dissemination a more explicit part of the survey process. Once some model tables and time series are in place, the outputs could be repeated each year so long as the data are properly validated. Proper dissemination tools will be needed. Solutions to improve training and to get the right mix of skills in place will rest at the broader organizational levels. Finding a solution to training and human resource development will play a significant role in strengthening the analysis and dissemination functions.

### *Day 3, July 15 2009*

The first order of business was presentations by the countries which outlined their plans for the future. These are outlined below and are followed by discussion and comments.

#### ***Presentations by Countries***

Each country presented an outline of their plans for the future. After each presentation, there was discussion and comments made by the group.

#### **Ghana**

Getting ready to conduct a census of Food and Agriculture activities is a key priority for Ghana. Screening questions will be placed on the 2010 Population and Housing census to enable drawing a sample for the 2011 sample census of Food and Agriculture activities. The census will be executed by the Ghana Statistical Service and the research unit of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The questionnaire will be pretested in the second quarter of 2010 and a pilot survey in four districts (one each from the four ecological zones) will be carried out by the third quarter of 2010

Data dissemination activities will be strengthened by using CountrySTAT from FAO. They plan to populate the CountrySTAT system with information obtained from the screening questions and continue to publish updates through CountrySTAT and disseminate information to the public.

As well, consideration is being given to establishing an annual agriculture sample survey to produce updates after the census and to establishing an agriculture producer price Index.

#### **Comments**

It was clear that Ghana had a feasible plan of action on which they must now follow through. Some assistance may be required to establish the sample for the census Food and Agriculture activities.

## **Sierra Leone**

The Government of Sierra Leone and its partners have decided to undertake a special independent production survey to obtain credible and accurate agricultural data on 5 (five) primary food crops and their markets to inform policy makers. These are rice, maize, cassava, sweet potato and groundnuts. The survey will also serve as a base line for one or more impact evaluation(s) of some of the different strategies or programs focused on the rice sector which the Government has prioritized.

They plan to raise awareness to re-sensitize the stakeholders and the general public on the sustainability of the GDDS objectives such as the census and survey activities. This can be done through radio discussions, workshops and seminars and other sensitization programmes

Further technical assistance might be required to assist in building the capacity of SSL and MAFFS in the area of developing a master sample frame for the up-coming agriculture census.

### **Comments**

It is important that the momentum in building the agriculture statistics program be maintained with or without the support of future GDDS projects. It will be necessary to make proposals for undertaking censuses. An example of a document that makes the case for the census was provided to Sierra Leone. Financing censuses is beyond the scope of the GDDS projects as they only provide support for technical missions.

It was noted that the crops chosen for the special production survey were a difficult mix due to multiple seasons. Perhaps there is some scope for using satellite imagery for some of the crops with distinct terrestrial signatures.

## **Swaziland**

Swaziland is planning to implement the agriculture statistics unit strategy based on budgeting for 2009/10. This is part of the Swaziland National Statistics Development Strategy and the agriculture strategy should fit into it. Part of this plan calls for the development of a proposal to conduct a census of agriculture in 2012/13. Finally, the plan also calls for the establishment of an agriculture statistics unit within CSO and to include environmental statistics too.

### **Comments**

Ronald Luttikhuis mentioned that he would be visiting Swaziland in the following week and would be helping the country complete its National Statistics Development Strategy. It is obvious that the agriculture program is depending on the completion and implementation of this initiative.

## Uganda

Uganda plans to establish a system of annual surveys for agriculture starting with an integrated crops and livestock survey.

Further support may be necessary to support the establishment of food balances and the producer price index projects as the staff were in the field working on the census at the time of the two missions. The food balances will need to be updated based on the results of the crops and livestock censuses. There will be a need to analyze the livestock census and to reconcile the results of the previous estimates of livestock numbers with the census results [which is assumed to be more accurate]. Further analysis of surveys in support of policy makers will need to be undertaken with the aim of generating a report for each district from the censuses.

### Comments

The sample size required to provide estimates for 80 districts may not be affordable. Instead, it may be feasible to use modelling based on census weights and annual survey results [and administrative data?] from higher levels of geography.

### *Unpaid Labor Activities*

Ronald Luttkhuizen introduced the group to work that was underway in a number of African countries regarding a comprehensive approach to measuring the total labour supply in the country. This is a project involving the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics and the World Bank. This is related to the work that Mr. Luttkhuizen has been carrying out on the measurement of the informal economy. This involves viewing the total economy as being divided into **formal** and **informal** sectors. Similarly, labor can be formal (where workers have a contract) or informal where workers have no contract. Much of the work conducted within the household sector falls within the latter category. When subsistence farms sell some part of their production they may be considered to have become part of the formal sector.

The participants were provided with a draft questionnaire which was to be tested in Uganda in cooperation with the Uganda Bureau of statistics with which an attempt would be made to identify the total amount of labor activity in subsistence farming.

### *Presentation on GIS in Agriculture*

A representative from GeoSpace International provided a short primer on the use of remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS) to collect information about agriculture activities. See <http://www.geospace.co.za>

GIS systems allow the linking of data to specific geographic points and areas. The data that can be linked in various information 'layers' can come from various sources including remote sensing using satellite imagery, aircraft, and hand held Global Positioning System (GPS) devices. The applications of this suite of geospatial tools can be used for a variety of purposes including the following:

- agricultural surveys
- soil mapping
- precision farming
- land use and watershed management
- livestock monitoring,
- crop health analysis,
- disease analysis,
- chemical application distribution,
- insect infestations,
- hail damage,
- crop inventory

These technologies have been used in various data collection activities including the delineation of enumeration areas for census taking, measuring crop areas, monitoring crop conditions, monitoring extreme weather and demarcation for rural/urban planning.

### ***Presentation of the GDDS Web Site***

The official web site for the GDDS project can be found at [www.worldbank.org/data/gdds](http://www.worldbank.org/data/gdds). The site has the complete documentation for each of the modules. In particular, attention is drawn to the box on the right hand side of the home page that is entitled 'modules'. Clicking on the agriculture module brings up the page shown below.

## Report on the GDDS Agriculture Wrap-up Seminar

The screenshot shows the World Bank's Data & Statistics website. The page is titled "Agricultural Statistics" and is part of the "Statistical Capacity" section. The main content area includes a description of the module's aim, planned activities, and a list of countries that have chosen the module. A table summarizes the schedule of events, including workshops, expert visits, and reports for Ghana, Swaziland, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, and Uganda.

**Agricultural Statistics**

The aim of the agricultural statistics module is to assist the participating countries in improving the coverage and quality of different aspects of statistics on agriculture, food and fisheries.

Planned activities include but are not limited to technical advice regarding upcoming censuses, improved survey taking and processing capacity, and improved data analysis, integration and dissemination.

This module is particularly important given the fact that a large proportion of the national Gross Domestic Product in Africa is based on agriculture and a large percentage of the population lives in rural areas with many of them residing on small agriculture holdings.

Five countries have chosen Agricultural Statistics as subject for advice. Each of them identified its own priorities and developed a work program for data improvements that will be implemented throughout the life of the module.

Launch Workshop	Country	Expert Visit 1	Expert Visit 2	Expert Visit 3	Closing Workshop
March 19-23, 2007 Maputo, Mozambique	<a href="#">Ghana</a>	<a href="#">Nov. 2007</a>	<a href="#">Nov. 2008</a>	<a href="#">Mar. 2009</a>	July 13-15, 2009 Pretoria, South Africa
<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Swaziland</a>	<a href="#">Jan. 2008</a>	<a href="#">Feb. 2008</a>	<a href="#">Feb. 2009</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
<a href="#">Reader</a>	<a href="#">Mozambique</a>	<a href="#">Mar. 2008</a>	<a href="#">Mar. 2009</a>	<a href="#">Mar. 2009</a>	Workshop Report
<a href="#">Workshop Report</a>	<a href="#">Sierra Leone</a>	<a href="#">Mar. 2008</a>	<a href="#">Oct. 2008</a>	<a href="#">Jan. 2009</a>	
	<a href="#">Uganda</a>	<a href="#">Nov. 2008</a>	<a href="#">Dec. 2008</a>	<a href="#">Jan. 2009</a>	

Permanent URL for this page: <http://go.worldbank.org/TD08G3CZS0>

From this page, each of the documents and reports created for this module can be found. Countries may be able to find documents of relevance to their situation.

### Evaluations

The World Bank and DFID are anxious to receive feedback on the GDDS project and the wrap-up seminar. Two evaluation forms were provided to the country participants in order to solicit feedback and suggestions. The completed forms were returned to the GDDS manager. The results were not available to the authors but the forms that were used can be found in Appendix C.

### Conclusions

The chairmen and the consultants expressed their satisfaction regarding the progress that has been made and the fact that the projects in the countries were well underway. The table below summarizes both the accomplishments and the challenges for the countries.

Report on the GDDS Agriculture Wrap-up Seminar

Country	Accomplishments	Challenges
<b>Ghana</b>	Justification/plan for census of agriculture, draft questionnaire, strategy for conducting annual survey	Obtaining financing for census of agriculture, drawing a sample for the census, carrying out pilot survey, implementing CountrySTAT as a dissemination tool, establishing annual agriculture survey and producer price index for agriculture
<b>Mozambique</b>	Review and recommendations for survey program and dissemination activities, training on agriculture statistics for 20 agriculture staff members	Completing the 2009 census of agriculture and integrating the results into time series including the census and annual agriculture surveys, strengthening the analysis and dissemination activities
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	Review of surveys and dissemination, analysis and dissemination training	Implement survey on five key primary food crops, development of master sample frame to support agriculture census and survey taking
<b>Swaziland</b>	Development of an agriculture statistics unit strategy	To integrate the agriculture statistics unit strategy with the National Statistics Development Strategy, plan and implement a census of agriculture in 2013/13
<b>Uganda</b>	Developed sample for census of agriculture and are in process of conducting census; received training and advice for establishing food balances and a producer price index,	Analyse the census results and integrate with previously published data, establish annual surveys for agriculture starting with an integrated crops and livestock survey, implement food balances and producer price index as the data become available

Censuses of food and agriculture were being planned based on censuses of population and housing. Annual surveys aimed at determining annual agricultural production are also being planned. Further assistance may be needed in certain cases to draw samples for the censuses and annual surveys. The importance of strengthening analysis and dissemination activities was also noted.

## Report on the GDDS Agriculture Wrap-up Seminar

The country delegates thanked the GDDS manager for the work that had been done in supporting the strengthening of the agriculture statistics systems. The consultants expressed their thanks to the project manager and the country delegates for the support provided for their work.

**Appendix A: Agenda**

**Agenda**

**Closing workshop for GDDS-Agriculture Module**

**Pretoria, South Africa, Southern Sun Hotel**

**July 13-15, 2009**

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**Objectives**

The closing seminar is an opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved as a result of the GDDS missions carried out during the past 2 years, to share experiences with colleagues in other countries and to look ahead at what still needs to be done.

To focus this discussion, participants are asked to address three questions:

- |  |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. What has been learned and implemented as part of the work in that GDDS Module?</b></li><li><b>2. What can be learned from the experiences of other countries?</b></li><li><b>3. What will be the best way forward for each of these countries on that topic?</b></li></ol> |
|--|

**Meeting Agenda**

**July 13, Day 1.**

09.00 - 09.15 Opening and welcome

09.15 - 09.30 Introduction of the agenda by Ronald Luttikhuizen.

09.30 – 10.30 Presentations by the countries:

Each country will make a presentation on their experiences with the GDDS project in their country. What was learned and what has been done.

Break 10.30

11.00 - 12.00 Presentations by the consultants:

The consultants will discuss the work of the missions that were carried out in each of the countries in terms of the focus of the missions and the results and outcomes.

## Report on the GDDS Agriculture Wrap-up Seminar

12.00 – 12.30 Country presentations:

Each country will identify three outstanding issues and that have yet to be addressed in their programs.

12.30 - 13.00 Discussion

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 15:00 Presentations by the consultants:

Ernie Boyko and Chris Hill will present the approaches and best practices of pertinence to the development of agriculture statistics

15.00 - 15.30 Break

15.30 - 16.30 Sub-group discussions.

The group will be divided into two groups in order to discuss the following:

What are the three main questions/issues that you think must be resolved in order to improve your agriculture statistic program?

16.30-17.30 Plenary: Presentations by each group and general discussion

17.30-17.45 Conclusions

### **July 14, Day 2**

09.00 - 09.30 Presentation by Ronald Luttikhuizen:

Framework for the analysis of statistical activities

09.30 - 11:00 Presentations by the consultants:

Ernie Boyko and Chris Hill will present some of the underlying and cross-cutting issues faced by countries based on the experiences gained during the missions and on the presentations by countries at this meeting.

Topics:

1. Statistical coordination and key stakeholders
2. Strengthening the analysis capacity of the agriculture statistics units

Break

11.15 - 12.30 Sub-group discussions:

## Report on the GDDS Agriculture Wrap-up Seminar

The group will be divided into two groups in order to address the following:

- List the issues that are of concern to you
- List the solutions that you see resolving these issues
- How should these challenges be addressed within your country by the organizations and institutions that are responsible [Who should be responsible]

12.30 - 13.00 Plenary: Presentations by each group and general discussion

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 15.00 Presentations by the consultants-(continued)

Ernie Boyko and Chris Hill will present some of the underlying and cross-cutting issues faced by countries based on the experiences gained during the missions and on the presentations by countries at this meeting.

Topics:

3. Strengthening data dissemination and data management activities
4. Training and human resource development

15.00 - 15.30 Discussion

Break

16.00 - 17.45 Sub Group discussions:

The group will be divided into two groups in order to address the following:

- List the issues that are of concern to you
- List the solutions that you see resolving these issues
- How should these challenges be addressed within your country by the organizations and institutions that are responsible

Plenary: Presentations by each group and general discussion

17.30-17.45 Conclusions

## Report on the GDDS Agriculture Wrap-up Seminar

### **July 15 Day 3.**

09.00 - 09.15 Opening

09.15 - 10.15 Presentations by the countries of their plans for the future.

Break

10.45 – 11.15 Presentations by the consultants commenting on the country presentations.

11.15 – 12.30 Discussion.

12.30 – 13.00 Presentation on GIS technology and applications

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 15.15 Wrapping up, discussion and comments

Break

15.30 - 16.00 Evaluation questionnaires

16.00 - 17.00 Presentation of the GDDS website by Ronald.

Wrap-up

***Appendix B Participants***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Country</b>
Francis Dzah	Ghana Statistical Service	Ghana
Godsway K Banini	Ministry Of Agriculture	Ghana
Momodu M. Kamara	Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security	Sierra Leone
Jinnah Jusu Ngobeh	Statistics Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
Choice Ginindza	Central Statistics Office	Swaziland
Alex Nxumalo	Central Statistics Office	Swaziland
Seth Mayinza	Uganda Bureau of Statistics	Uganda
Hukauza Annunciata	Ministry of Agriculture	Uganda
Ronald Luttkhuizen	World Bank	Washington DC
Oliver Chinganya	International Monetary Fund	Kenya
Christopher Hill	Consultant	Mozambique
Ernie Boyko	Consultant	Canada

## ***Appendix C Evaluations***

Participant Evaluation for the

### **Closing Workshop**

*Closing workshop of the Module on the Agriculture Statistics*

**GDDS 2**

**Pretoria, South Africa, 13 - 15, 2009**

*Please take a moment to complete these questions. Your answers will be used to assess the usefulness of the workshop and will guide future work on the project.*

***Thank you very much!***

**I attended the workshop as**

*(Please check one)*

**As manager or supervisor ( )**

**As a compiler ( )**

**As an observer ( )**

***Please write a rating number in the space provided at the end of each statement***

**1 = I totally disagree (most negative)**

**2 = I mostly disagree**

**3 = I am neutral**

**4 = I mostly agree**

**5 = I strongly agree (most positive)**

**na = Not applicable to me**

#### **Section A: My views on the workshop in general**

1. Overall, **attending the workshop** was useful for me ( )
2. It was of interest to listen to the **presentations** by the experts. ( )
3. The **discussions with colleagues** from other countries were useful ( )
4. We had **sufficient time** to discuss the important issues ( )

5. The workshop was **well organized**

- travelling ( )

- housing in the hotel ( )

- proceedings during the workshop ( )

6. The food was good ..... ( )

**Section B: My views on the training course**

7. Overall, the training **will be valuable** for my country ( )

8. What I need to know was clearly explained ( )

9. This training is a good way to know how to do this in practice ( )

10. This training will **fit my needs** ( )

**Section C: My write-in comments:**

1. Can you describe what experience was for YOU the most important in this training.

.....

2. Can you describe what was for You the least of importance of this training.

.....

3. Can you write a remark that you think is important for us and DFID to know.

\_\_\_\_\_

Participant Evaluation for the

**GDDS II project in general**

*Closing workshop of the Module on the Agriculture Statistics*

**GDDS 2**

**Pretoria, South Africa, 13 - 15, 2009**

*Please take a moment to complete these questions. Your answers will be used to assess the usefulness of the workshop and will guide future work on the project.*

***Thank you very much!***

**I attended the workshop as**

*(Please check one)*

**As manager or supervisor ( )**

**As a compiler ( )**

**As an observer ( )**

***Please write a rating number in the space provided at the end of each statement***

**1 = I totally disagree (most negative)**

**2 = I mostly disagree**

**3 = I am neutral**

**4 = I mostly agree**

**5 = I strongly agree (most positive)**

**na = Not applicable to me**

**Section A: My views on the GDDS II Project for me personally.**

1. Overall, participating in **the GDDS II** was useful for me personally ( )

**I have been involved in:** (Y or N)

a. the launch workshop; (...)

b. the expert mission 1 (...)

c. the expert mission 2 (...)

d. the expert mission 3..... (...)

2. It was of interest to work with the experts, in order to learn more about this topic. ( )
3. It was of interest to work with the experts, in order to learn to change the way we work ( )
4. We had **sufficient time in this project** to make progress in our work ( )
5. The GDDS II Project was **well organized**
  - **workshops** ( )
  - **visits to countries** ( )
  - **communications with the World Bank**

**Section B: My views on the GDDS II for my office and country**

6. Overall, the GDDS II project **was valuable** for my office/country ( )
7. What we needed to know is now clear for our team ( )
8. This GDDS II modular way of working is a good way to improve statistics in our country ( )
9. This GDDS II project was able to address our statistical **information needs** ( )
10. The consultants did a good job (...).
11. The World Bank Project Management Team did a good job (---)
12. When there would be another GDDS project I would like to participate again ( ).

**Section C: My write-in comments:**

1. Can you describe what experience was for YOU the most important in this GDDS II project.

.....

2. Can you describe what was for You the least of importance of this GDDS II Project.

.....

3. Can you write a remark that you think is important for us and DFID to know about this GDDS II project.