



## **Methodology for Improving Administrative Data for Use in an Integrated Agricultural Statistics System**

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According to Principle 5 of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources. However statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents. It is known from various country experiences and practices that using administrative data sources is cheaper and therefore will continue to play an important role in any agricultural statistics system as it requires fewer resources and are therefore more sustainable as a source. These sources also provide high frequency data and can better generate small area statistics based on technical and cost considerations. Most of the data for commercial crops, trade data, livestock, fisheries, forestry, water and early warning in developing countries are collected administratively. While administrative data is usually of good quality for executing administrative functions, concerns have been raised regarding the quality of this data for official purposes especially in developing countries. In addition, the assessment of the quality of the administrative data is done subjectively and is not detailed enough to cover the different quality dimensions. For the administrative data to serve a statistical purpose there is need to compile this data following a systematic, objective and standardized approach. A comprehensive analytical framework using a structure, conduct and performance paradigm and a data quality evaluation framework have been used to review the administrative sources in terms of production, quality and use of this data; to identify strengths, weaknesses and suitability of the existing agricultural data systems and review and analyze gaps. Because of lack of comprehensive and up to date information on the different review components in developing countries, beginning with Africa, a more in-depth analysis of the data set generated from the Africa country assessment to improve agricultural and rural statistics, has been undertaken to provide additional information on country experiences and practices. In developed countries, there have been many research activities, empirical studies and country experiences on the use of administrative sources for statistical purposes. Lessons and experiences identified that are relevant for improving the quality and use of these sources in developing countries will be presented. A proposal of a strategy and methodology so developed for improving administrative data and approaches for using this data as an element of a cost-effective agricultural statistics system combining sample surveys and administrative data sources will also be presented and discussed.

**Keywords:** Sources, Quality, Use, Experiences