



THE THIRD WYE GROUP GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL HOUSEHOLD STATISTICS:

Uganda's Experience

24-25 MAY 2010, WASHINGTON DC

By

E. S. K. Muwanga-Zake (PhD)
Chairman, UBOS Board of Directors

- 1. Agricultural and Rural Statistics collected in UBOS – Uganda**
- 2. How it has been used in policy making**
- 3. Data Gaps – Compared to Core Data for Global Strategy**
- 4. Plans to Address the Gaps**
- 5. Lessons Learnt in UBOS – Uganda**
- 6. Concluding Remarks/Challenges**

1. Agricultural and Rural Statistics collected in UBOS – Uganda

Several agencies involved in collecting various aspects of Food and Agricultural Statistics (FAS). The main ones are:

- UBOS (formerly Statistics Department,); This is lead and coordinating agency for all data collection activities in the country and is therefore involved in FAS data collection.
- Ministry of Agriculture , Animal industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and its semi-autonomous bodies;
- Ministry of Local Government;
- Bank of Uganda: Research and Statistics Departments;
- Other Parastatal, industry based and Regulatory Bodies: International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA)- FOODNET, FEWSNET, etc.

Details being put in www.countrystat.org

- UNHS since 1988 collected socio-econ data
- Agric Module included in the UNHS since 1994/5 – collected data on crop production
- Agric module also included in the 2002 Population and Housing Census to construct sampling frame for agric censuses & surveys
- UBOS, Bank of Uganda (BOU) and the Uganda Revenue Authority have carried out Informal Cross Border Trade Survey (ICBT) since Oct 2003 – covers agric commodities

Livestock census carried out in Feb 2008 - collected data on livestock numbers, production and other related characteristics.

- A Uganda Census of Agriculture (UCA) carried out during 2008/09 - covers current & basic stats.
- The Community Information System (CIS) introduced by in 2007 under the Rural Development Strategy – Aims to collect & analyse data for local govts.
- National Service Delivery surveys; in 2004 & 2008. These surveys assess the satisfaction of households with public services.



MAAIF - Department of Agricultural Planning, Statistical Unit



- In collaboration with the Statistics Department (later UBOS), the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries collected agricultural statistics through a number of instruments: the Census of Agriculture 1963/1965 & 1990/91; follow-up surveys in 1967/68 and 1968; the Livestock Census 2008, and follow-up sample surveys in 1991/92 and 1992/93.
- Works with UBOS to impute annual agricultural data used in the computation of GDP and published in the Statistical Abstract
- Also works with the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) to produce food early warning information.
- Some data collected by related parastatals.

2. How the Data has been used in policy making

- A Program to Alleviate Poverty and the Social Costs of Adjustment (PAPSCA) 1990–5 was designed to provide safety nets for vulnerable groups.
- It included a Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) component which aimed at enhancing social policy planning by providing and statistical analysis; a statistical database on the level and evolution of household living conditions.
- The living conditions survey sub-component was to provide data for commissioned policy studies, as well as practical training in statistical analysis.
- The then Statistics Department (now UBOS) implemented the SDA surveys component through the household surveys outlined above.

Data Use in policy making (2)

- The development of the Poverty Eradication Action Plans (PEAPs) from 1997, as the national planning framework entailed mainstreaming of poverty into budgets and programmes.
- To enhance effectiveness and ensure that the PEAP goals were being achieved, emphasis was put on evolving a monitoring and evaluation strategy.
- Government developed a PEAP Policy and Results Matrix.
- Also designed a National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES) under the Prime Minister's Office (OPM) to monitor the results of the PEAP strategic policy actions.
- The Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation System (PMES) used comprehensive information covering the multi-dimensional aspects of poverty, combining both quantitative and qualitative information.
- The statistical series on household consumption produced from UNHS was an exceptionally rich information source.

- The policy environment for the agricultural sector shaped by the Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture (PMA) - a multi-sectoral policy framework for agricultural and rural devt.
- The PMA was to contribute particularly to Pillar 2 of the PEAP (i.e. enhancing production, competitiveness and incomes).
- An M&E system was put in place under PMA Secretariat.
- The system included indicators and most of the data is from the UBOS and MAAIF.
- The PMA M&E Framework was aligned to the PEAP Policy and Results Matrix and the NIMES.

- In 2005 the Rural Development Strategy (RDS) was formulated with the overall objective of raising household incomes with a focus on the sub-county as a basic unit for planning.
- The Community Information System (CIS) was, *inter alia*, put in place to provide the necessary data to the RDS.
- The recently launched National Development Plan (NDP) 2009/10-2014/15 has a specific section on the development of national statistics.
- The NDP clearly specifies the role of UBOS, and statistics in general, in the M&E of the plan (paragraph 915).
- It also acknowledges that one of the constraints to the performance of the agricultural sector is the absence of data and information.
- “*There is lack of regular and reliable agricultural statistics and market information (price, buyers, type of product and quality specifications)*”

3. Data Gaps

- All these efforts for data collection have had mixed success, especially at the output, outcome and impact levels, and obviously have now to be aligned to the NDP.
- Most of the data is from censuses and surveys which have been some what ad hoc. With a lot of “STARTS & STOPS”. So the major gap is lack of continuous data.
- More importantly there is lack of regular current agricultural statistics. What is available on annual basis is imputed between UBOS and MAAIF.
- Further, data is mostly available at national and sometimes regional levels with very few items being available at lower administrative levels.

Compare to the Core Data for Global Strategy

4. Plans to Address the Gaps

Institutional issues:

- a) The co-ordination of FAS data collection, analysis and dissemination main issue.
- b) The Framework for the Development of Agricultural Statistics in Uganda, prepared in 2000, was the first Agricultural Sector Strategic Plan for Statistics.
- c) Recently there has also been an attempt to integrate FAS into the National Statistical System through the Plan for National Statistical Development (PNSD) framework.
- d) The Agricultural Sector Strategic Plan for Statistics, 2007-2011, was prepared by MAAIF in collaboration with UBOS in 2007

4. Plans to Address the Gaps (2)

Institutional issues: (Continued)

- e) An important feature of the framework implementation arrangements was the formation of a permanent arrangement for regular contacts between FAS data producers and users , the National Agricultural Statistics Coordination Committee (NASCC) and the National Agricultural Statistics Technical Committee (NASTC).
- f) NASTC has contributed to reviews and approval of work plans for agricultural censuses and surveys,
- g) The development of national statistics has been included as a Sector in the newly inaugurated National Development Plan 2009/10 – 2014/15. The challenge is to ensure that adequate funds are voted in every budget.

4. Plans to Address the Gaps (3)

- a) With assistance from FAO, UBOS is setting up a FAS metadata.
- b) The recent Livestock and Agricultural Censuses are expected to be followed by a permanent system of collecting annual agricultural statistics. Otherwise data will be got through the UNHS and panel surveys
- c) The CIS is expected to collect basic information from communities and help monitor household welfare. It is also required to generate reports on human population, household characteristics and overall welfare of communities. However, the increasing number of districts makes implementation of the CIS in all districts (now 112 from 80 in 2006) highly unlikely in the near future.



5. Lessons Learnt in UBOS – Uganda



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

- Integration of a 'Statistics Sector' Chapter in the National Development plan and Budget.
- Mainstreaming of Sectors in the NSDS
- Integration of SSPS activities in the main stream strategic plan and MDA annual work plan e.g. BOU, MHLUD, MGLSD.
- Capacity building to compile, analyze and use statistical information.
- Collaboration in data analysis and report writing.
- Development of MDA statistics Web pages.

5. Lessons Learnt in UBOS – Uganda

- a) M&E Systems were set up from the PAPSCA & PEAP with the CSO playing a central and clearly defined role. An attempt was also made to identify the respective indicators.
- b) The Government has also prepared the National Integrated M&E Strategy (NIMES) with a secretariat in the Office of the Prime Minister.
- c) Decentralisation of administration and restructuring of MAAIF to make research and extension separate organizations made the agricultural field staff independent of the central ministry of agriculture and therefore difficult to use them in any data collection. So UBOS should set up a Permanent Field Organisation (PFO) which could also be used by other agencies like MAAIF to collect data.

- d) The local governments, districts and sub-counties, need to be persuaded to vote some funds for statistics activities, including FAS and other rural statistics.
- e) Methodology developments in area measurement using the Global Positioning System (GPS) leads to better area measurement and derivation of other indicators related to area such as productivity per unit area. However, there are problems with measurements for small areas, hilly areas, cloud and tree cover.
- f) Use of agricultural module in UNHS and population census has provided data which would otherwise not be available. The latter is useful for constructing appropriate sampling frames

5. Lessons Learnt in UBOS – Uganda (3)

- g) The design of the subsequent PEAPs after the 1997 version was greatly informed by the findings of the participatory poverty assessment (PPAs) processes. The Uganda Participatory Poverty Assessment Process (UPPAP) provides qualitative perspectives on the nature of poverty by bringing the voices of the poor into planning processes.
- h) The service-delivery surveys, the demographic surveys; and the National Integrity Surveys were also excellent sources of both quantitative and qualitative information.
- i) On financial resources it has been noted that reliance on donor funding for agricultural & rural statistical efforts (indeed for all statistics activities) is a central weakness of past efforts to build a sustainable agricultural statistics system.

j) In terms of preliminary cost per household/holding enumerated:

- ✓ *The 2002 Uganda PHC cost* \$1.00;
- ✓ *The 2005/06 UNHSs cost* \$5.00;
- ✓ *The PASS cost* \$6.00;
- ✓ *The 2008 Livestock Census cost* \$1.50;
- ✓ *The 2008-09 Uganda Census of Agriculture cost* \$200.00.
- Efforts must be taken to work efficiently and contain costs. Can these data be collected more cheaply? According to information and experience available to FAO, the cost of the Uganda Census of Agriculture seems to be very high.

Of course final comparable costs must be obtained first

Human Resources and Capacity Building:

- a) Decentralization of government has implications for statistical training institutions in Uganda. It increases the challenges in setting up a robust, sustainable system of agricultural statistics and hence statistical training. *Basic data collection and analysis skills are needed by many people. So there is need to be more forward-thinking about capacity gaps in statistics – especially agricultural statistics. It has been proposed to develop a statistical manpower development plan for Uganda which would also focus on local government needs. Training is required at certificate & diploma levels*
- b) This would be followed by a training needs assessment and a curriculum review and, if necessary, curriculum revision.
- c) Statistical analysis is a key gap in the current training of statisticians in Uganda.
- d) Human resources whose capacity has been built has also experienced high staff turn-over, making capacity building unnecessarily continuous/ costly.

Human Resources and Capacity Building (Continued – 2):

e) It is necessary to develop and strengthen partnerships between academic statisticians from universities and training centres and official statisticians working at UBOS and other data producers and users.

Scaling up partnerships and interactions between academic staff at ISAE and official statisticians at UBOS enhances the relevance of statistical training at ISAE. Both institutions can together organize on-going, structured, tailor-made, in-service training courses for middle-level and junior cadre staff as well as refresher courses and/or specialized training courses for serving statisticians.

Human Resources and Capacity Building (Continued – 3):

- f) The development of methodologies for data collection, analysis, reporting and dissemination. Areas of methodological research need to be identified.
- g) Financial and technical support is necessary to enable implementation of these training initiatives,

6. Concluding Remarks/ Challenges

- a) A key institutional issue in designing such a system is to clearly define the responsibilities and roles of MAAIF, UBOS, NAADS, MoLG, and several other agencies.
- b) There is also issue of centrally-organized moving teams as against permanent field-based teams
- c) Thirdly, there is the issue of the formation or reinstatement of the Common Statistical Service (Common Cadre). Under the Plan for National Statistical Development, there is consideration of reverting to the earlier common cadre of statisticians within government where all statisticians and economists were centrally appointed under the Ministry for Planning and Economic Development. If the common cadre is to be re-introduced, it would imply that all statisticians would be recruited by UBOS, all planners would be recruited by the NPA and all economists would be recruited by MFPEd. Putting back the common statistical service will enhance coordination and effectiveness.
- d) Lack of final/actual expenditures on surveys and censuses
- e) Co-ordination of data requests from International organisations – any role for co-ordination office?

- Ensuring standards and timeliness in submission of secondary data by the relevant government agencies (migration, education, health, crime, energy, labour and employment, and businesses)
- Poorly generated, delayed and incomplete returns from districts to the ministries.
- Lack of objectivity in data generated at the district level by planning functions.
- Limited information on Meta data – i.e. existing data, institution and form of storage especially for data generated outside UBOS.
- Improper use of information.
- Inadequate resources in light of increased data demands – this necessitates need for more efficient use of available resources
- Lack of final/actual expenditures on surveys and censuses
- Co-ordination of data requests from International organisations – any role for co-ordination office?



END



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

THANK YOU