



Distr.: For participants only
5 November 2010

English only

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Committee on Statistics

Second session

Bangkok, 15-17 December 2010

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Items for information: Situation of agricultural statistics
in the basic policy for development of statistics in Japan**

**Situation of agricultural statistics in the basic policy for
development of statistics in Japan¹**

1. The Basic Policy for Development of Statistics in Japan

In line with the Statistics Act which was enforced since 1947, Japan has taken decentralized system in official statistics clearly. Every ministry has responsibility to make statistics in its field.

The new Statistics Act came into effect in Japan in April 2009, thoroughly revised and promulgated in May 2007 for the first time after sixty years since its enforcement, in order to promote systematic and efficient development of official statistics and to ensure the usefulness thereof through specifying basic matters concerning the production and provision of official statistics, and thereby to contribute to the sound development of the national economy and enhancement of the living standards of the citizens, recognizing that official statistics are critical information for the citizens in their reasonable decision making.

The new Statistics Act describes to set up the Statistics Commission as a technical and neutral organization for research and deliberation, which consists of up to 13 learned and experienced experts. The Commission plays a central role in the systematic development of official statistics by researching and deliberating on the Basic Plan and Fundamental Statistics and gives advice to the ministers concerned. The Basic Plan can be said as the Basic Policy for Development of Statistics. It will be revised every five years in light of the

¹ This document was contributed by the Director-General for Policy Planning on Statistical Standards of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Government of Japan. It has been reproduced without formal editing. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations.

evaluation for effectiveness of statistical activities and social/economic situation basically.

The summary of the Basic Plan

1. Fundamental policy regarding measures for compiling Official Statistics

(1) Role of that Official Statistics

Considering official statistics are important information to assist the public in making rational decisions, it is necessary that official statistics be compiled as information resources that can be used by a broad spectrum of society.

(2) Basic perspectives in designing measures

“Ensuring the Usefulness of Statistics” is an important objective in developing statistics. The following four perspectives are essential to improve the usefulness of statistics.

- (a) Systematic development of statistics
- (b) Responses to socio-economic changes
- (c) Effective use of statistical data
- (d) Efficient production of statistics, and effective use of statistical resources

2. Comprehensive and systematic measures in the development of Official Statistics

(1) Development of “fundamental statistics” as the core of statistical systems

(2) Ensuring and improving the consistency and international comparability of statistics

(3) Compilation of statistics in response to needs due to socio-economic changes

3. Necessary matters for promoting the compilation of Official Statistics

- (1) Effective production of statistics
- (2) Ensuring effective use of statistical resources
- (3) Responses to socio-economic changes
- (4) Promotion of effective use of statistical data
- (5) Others

4. Promotion and evaluation of the Basic Plan

2. Situation of Agricultural Statistics in the Basic Policy for Development of Statistics in Japan

As mentioned in chapter 1, the sector of agriculture has already been integrated into the National Strategy for Development of Statistics in Japan.

All of the official statistics including agricultural statistics are coordinated and approved by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (with hearing the opinions of the Statistical Commission, if necessary) in terms of efficiency and effectiveness and to avoid duplication of survey items among other official statistical surveys according to the Basic Plan, which is the Basic Policy for Development of Statistics.

The result of official statistical surveys can be referred for public not only at the every concerned ministry's web site but also at the "Portal Site of Official Statistics of Japan (e-Stat) aims to provide a "One-Stop-Service" for statistical information. The e-Stat collects and integrates statistical information from websites of all ministries, and provides it via the e-Stat system.

The "e-Stat" also developed the GIS system using inter-ministerial statistics such as Population Census, Establishment and Enterprise Statistics, statistics on medical, health and welfare, Census of Agriculture and Forestry. Users can analyze inter-ministerial statistics in municipality level on the map easily.

3. Comments from our Experiences

Based on the experience of Japan, following things might be recommended to the countries intended to introduce the Basic Policy for Development of Statistics

- Need of the establishment of strong organization to obtain commonsense and to coordinate relevant stakeholders and ministries
- Need of the capacity for the coordinating organization to review national statistics implemented by ministries and develop the national strategy from the point view of avoiding duplication and adding necessary survey items
- Need of the coordination of structural operation between agricultural and population censuses, for developing and/or agricultural countries, to reduce the manpower/budget, to obtain no-contradicted result and efficient coupling of two survey data in household level

Appendix: Present State of Statistics on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in Japan

History

- 1947 Establishment of Statistical Survey Bureau and Crop Reporting Offices
- 1950 Changing name of Crop Reporting Office to Statistical Survey Office
First full-scale Census on Agriculture and Forestry in Japan
- 1961 “Agricultural Basic Law” was established.
This law stipulates submission of Annual Report to the national diet.
- 1987 Systematization of information processing with national on-line network
- 1992 “Direction of new food, agriculture and rural area policies” was established.
- 1996 Installment of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Information Center
- 1999 “Basic Law on Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas” was established.
- 2000 Promotional program for statistics on AFF in response to policy reform
- 2002 Drastic review on statistics on AFF was started
- 2003 Separate statistics section and information section
- 2006 Reform of structure of Regional organizations

Statistical surveys related to agriculture

- 1 To understand the basic agriculture structure
 - Census of agriculture and forestry
 - Survey of new farmers joining the agricultural corporations
 - Survey on farming situation of new farmers
 - Survey on movement of agricultural structure
 - Survey on agricultural resources
 - Status survey on community farming
 - Survey on community farming activities
- 2 To understand the actual state of economic activities of farmers
 - Statistical survey on farmer management and economy
 - Statistical survey on agricultural product prices
- 3 To understand the actual use of resources and production
 - Statistical survey on crop
 - Statistical survey on minor crop
 - Statistical survey on livestock
- 4 To understand distribution of agricultural products from processing to consumption
 - Statistical survey on food waste
 - Statistical Survey on milk and dairy products
 - Survey on trend of price and sales of perishable food
 - Survey on food prices at various stage of distribution
 - Survey on vegetables and fruits wholesale markets
 - Survey on livestock products wholesale markets
 - Survey on movement of the food industry

Statistical surveys related to forestry

- 1 To understand the basic forestry structure
 - Census of agriculture and forestry
- 2 To understand actual state of economic activities of forestry
 - Statistical survey on forestry household economy
- 3, 4 To understand the actual state of production and distribution
 - Statistical survey on lumber
 - Survey on distribution structure of lumber

Statistical surveys related to fisheries

- 1 To understand the basic fisheries structure
 - Census of fisheries
 - Survey on persons engaged in fisheries
- 2 To understand the actual state of economic activities of fisheries
 - Survey on Fisheries economy
- 3 To understand the actual state of fisheries production
 - Statistical survey on marine fisheries production
 - Statistical survey on inland fisheries production
- 4 To understand the actual state of fisheries product distribution
 - Survey on marketing of fisheries products

Utilization for agricultural policies

Statistics on production costs of agricultural and livestock



“Improvement in productivity of agriculture”
“Stability of prices of agricultural products”

Farm household economy survey



“Expansion of gross production of agriculture, and selective expansion of agriculture”
“Progress and independence of family farmhouse management”

MAFF Home Page: <http://www.maff.go.jp/eindex.html>