FAO STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES 2

PROGRAMME FOR THE 1990 WORLD CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATISTICAL
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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
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FOREWORD

The Statistical Development Series provides comprehensive technical manuals for assisting countries in planning, developing and operating the integrated statistical programme component of a National Information System for Food and Agriculture. Although a rather full potential "state of the arts" statistical programme that even the most advanced country could benefit from is planned for the series, some of the more advanced programmes such as a country-wide early crop estimates sampling capability and remote sensing crop monitoring capability must await future technological developments, cost efficiencies and coverage. And most of the subjects covered in early issues will be improved upon with field experience and subsequent revision. But every country, even the poorest and least developed, both economically and in statistical capability, can, after evaluating its statistical needs and current capability, initiate the planning and development of an effective national statistics programme to serve its policy and planning needs. The first cycle of such a programme will reflect marginal improvements in the country's current capability and each successive one to two year programme development cycle can result in a larger and more integrated programme.

Because statistics must have a sound conceptual base with theoretical concepts relevant to real world problems on the national policy agenda successfully operationalized, and the resulting data interpreted and analysed to become useful information to policy analysts, planners and decision makers, the first issue of the series places statistical programmes in the context of a national information system for food and agriculture. As the census of agriculture provides both data on agricultural structure and a frame for specialized surveys, this second manual in the series is devoted to the Programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture. Data needed for monitoring and evaluating agrarian reform and rural development places one of the largest burdens on a national information system. Accordingly a separate volume in this series will cover guidelines on socio-economic indicators for monitoring and evaluating agrarian reform and rural development. Basic data development components such as household surveys and community level statistics are treated in successive issues, as is the use of administrative records as a source of secondary data. Subject matter statistics on use of land and water, credit, fertilizers, machinery and other manufactured inputs, farm management, labour force, marketing, food balance sheets, commodity supply and utilization accounts, agricultural input and output prices, food prices, consumption and nutrition, economic accounts for agriculture and other relevant socio-economic areas will take up most of the remaining volumes. Because computers provide the arterial system through which the life blood of statistics - data flow, another volume will cover data processing.

In all areas, from the agricultural census as the cornerstone of the basic data development programme to the use of socio-economic indicators in a multidisciplinary approach to monitoring and evaluating agrarian reform and rural development, the emphasis is on a balanced programme of data collection, processing and analysis as integral and inseparable statistical programme parts of a national information system for food and agriculture.

Leroy Quance
Director
Statistics Division

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