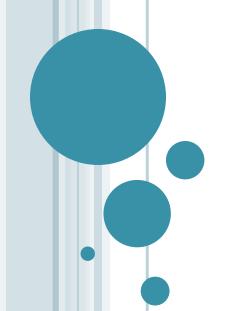
STATISTICS ON AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' WELFARE

(SITUATION ASSESSMENT SURVEYS OF NSSO)



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EVOLUTION OF NSSO SURVEYS ON AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED SECTOR

- •At the time of inception of National Sample Survey, the Indian economy was literally agrarian with
 - 51.81% of the GDP in 1950-51 at current prices contributed by *Agriculture and Allied Sector*
- The need for timely and reliable data on this sector was recognised

EVOLUTION OF NSSO SURVEYS ON AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED SECTOR

- Rightly represented in the subject coverage in the initial survey activities of NSS
- Special Tabulation for Cultivator Households/ Self employed in Agriculture/ Agricultural labour households in other surveys
- 'Agriculture and Animal Husbandry' was a topic for 7 consecutive rounds

EVOLUTION OF NSSO SURVEYS ON AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED SECTOR

• 'Prices and Disposal of cereals by producer households' was carried out in NSS 15th round

- Economic Conditions of small cultivator households'
 (Schedule 16.1)
 - NSS 25th round (July 70- June 71)

- Conducted first time in the year 2003 at the behest of Ministry of Agriculture
- To have a comprehensive assessment of situation of farmers in the country
- The areas of interest were
 - their level of living as measured by consumer expenditure
 - income and productive assets, their indebtedness
 - farming practices and preferences, resource availability,
 - their awareness of technological developments and access to modern technology in the field of agriculture

Farmer

 A farmer was understood to be a person who possessed some land and was engaged in agricultural activities on any part of that land during the last 365 days

• Farmer household

 a farmer household was defined as one which had at least one farmer as a member

•Conducted in two visits-

- Same household was visited twice
- To have information on two seasons (Kharif and rabi) of the agricultural year July 2002-June 2003
- conducted as part of the central sample alone except for Maharashtra and Meghalaya,

Information collected –

- Household & Demographic characteristics
- Household perception on sufficiency of food
- General awareness/ perception and other aspects of farming
- Particulars of land possessed –visit wise
- Area under irrigation
- Farming resources used for cultivation
- Use of energy
- Loans and other liabilities

- •Information collected (cont..)—
 - Access to modern agricultural technology
 - Purchase and sale of productive assets
 - Expenses and receipts for cultivation
 - Expenses and receipts for farming of animals
 - Household consumption expenditure
 - expenditure for purchase and construction of durable goods for domestic use

- The estimates generated from the results of SAS 2003
 - bridged existing data gap in the system to a considerable extent
 - provided much needed official statistics as inputs for farmer oriented policy formulation

- NSSO conducted its second Situation
 Assessment Survey
 - After an interval of 10 years
 - As part of NSS 70th round (January December 2013)
- Along with Debt and Investment Survey and Land and Livestock holdings survey
- Schedule was canvassed both in Central Sample and State Sample

- Definition of farmer and farmer household as followed in SAS 2003 was reviewed and the land possession as an eligibility criterion was dispensed with
 - as significant agricultural activities can be conducted without possessing any land
- Defined Agricultural Household as an 'agricultural production unit'
 - that produces field crops, horticultural crops, livestock and product of any other specified agricultural activities

- Survey conducted during January 2013-December 2013-
 - With respect to the reference period of Agricultural year July 2012- June 2013
- Same household was visited twice to have information on the two halves of the agricultural year Conducted only in the rural areas
- Central Sample covered 35200 households in 4529 villages

- Information Collected-
 - household characteristics & demographic characteristics
 - value of output, disposition for the crops produced
 - particulars of inputs and their expenses for crop production
 - disposition of produce and value of outputs on farming of animals during last 30 days
 - expenses and other particulars of input on farming of animals during last 30 days

- Information Collected (cont..)-
 - purchase and sale of productive assets during July to December 2012
 - loans (cash and kind) payable as on the date of survey
 - household consumer expenditure (2) during last 30 days
 - awareness about Minimum Support Price (MSP), access to technical advice, information about crop loss and crop insurance in respect of the major crops reported by the household

DIFFERENCE IN COVERAGE & CONCEPTS

- Land possession
 - essential for Farmer Households of SAS 2003
 - Agricultural Households of SAS 2013 may or may not possess land
- Exclusion of insignificant agricultural activities
 - Some specific activities were kept out of coverage in SAS 2003
 - An Income criteria was introduced in SAS 2013

DIFFERENCE IN COVERAGE & CONCEPTS

- Valuation of Expenditure
 - Imputed expenditure was considered in SAS 2003
 - Only out of the pocket expenditure was considered in SAS 2013
- Reporting of Agricultural activity
 - Collected for Kharif and Rabi seasons in SAS 2003
 - For the two halves of the agricultural year in SAS 2013

ISSUES IN COMPARABILITY OF RESULTS

- The estimates are not strictly comparable due to change in coverage and difference in some important concepts
- Resulted in the lack of time series data
- Information like perception about the profitability of agriculture/ liking agriculture as a profession as collected in SAS 2003 was not available in SAS 2013
 - These has more demands from data users/ in Parliament Questions
- An estimate of 'Agricultural Indebtedness' is not possible from SAS 2013 as information on 'Purpose of Loan' was not collected

SITUATION ASSESSMENT SURVEY OF NSSO: WAY AHEAD

- SAS in more frequent intervals
- Need for a critical evaluation of the information collected in SAS in relation with other surveys of Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare
- Enhanced participation from the State Governments in generation of sub-State level estimates by way of pooling State and Central sample data

SITUATION ASSESSMENT SURVEY OF NSSO: WAY AHEAD (CONT..)

- •A better coordination and increased involvement from all the important stakeholders at various phases of the survey process
 - To make SAS more effective and
 - To establish SAS as a unique survey that complements other existing official data sources for strengthening the official agricultural database of our Country

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