

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)



SITUATION ASSESSMENT SURVEYS (SAS)

- 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
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SITUATION ASSESSMENT SURVEY (SAS) 2003

○ 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



SITUATION ASSESSMENT SURVEY (SAS) OF 2003

○ 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,



SITUATION ASSESSMENT SURVEY (SAS) OF 2003

○ 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



SITUATION ASSESSMENT SURVEY (SAS) OF 2003

- 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



SITUATION ASSESSMENT SURVEY (SAS) OF 2003

- 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



SITUATION ASSESSMENT SURVEY (SAS) 2013

- 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



SITUATION ASSESSMENT SURVEY (SAS) 2013

- 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



SITUATION ASSESSMENT SURVEY (SAS) 2013

- 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



SITUATION ASSESSMENT SURVEY (SAS) 2013

- 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



SITUATION ASSESSMENT SURVEY (SAS) 2013

- 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 (₹) 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

Some Important Estimates from SAS 2013



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



Thank
You

