Quality Assurance for National Accounts Statistics

National Accounts Division, CSO, MOSPI

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MOSPI's Notification of NQAF

- Notified on 6th April, 2018
- In order to assure quality of the statistical product generated by various Statistical agencies, MOSPI considers the NQAF endorsed by UNSC as **beneficial** to Indian Statistical System
- The Framework would be useful to producers of official statistics in designing a statistical collection or product that is fit for purpose.
- It would also be helpful to users in making informed decisions of using the product quality.
- Implementation is voluntary

Guidelines

- MOSPI has issued certain guidelines also
- Each of the 250 elements be mapped to the quality assurance practices presently in vogue in respect of each of their statistical products, to identify the degree to which the framework existing in each product complies with the elements.
- In the mapping exercise, choices may be indicated against each element in the NQAF by marking in terms of tick mark under the listed categories of Yes, No, Partially true and Not applicable, which best describes current quality assurance practices and framework of each product.

NQAF guidelines

- The official agencies are requested to place the template filled in on the above lines in respect of each statistical product in the public domain.

- In the filled-in template in respect of the choices, 'No', 'Partially true' and 'Not applicable', the agencies may further review the specific reasons furnished with the aim of continuous improvement reviwed every year.

- NQAF module may be included in the training curriculum

- MOSPI may be intimated about the statistical products so mapped.

- NQAF CHECKLIST 2013_28augFINAL .xls

DQAF Dimensions of IMF

- **Integrity:** Ensures that the principle of objectivity in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics is firmly adhered to

- **Methodological soundness**: Ensures that the methodological basis for the statistics follows internationally accepted standards, guidelines or good practice

- **Accuracy and reliability**: Ensures that source data and statistical techniques are sound and that statistical outputs sufficiently portray reality

- **Serviceability**: Ensures that statistics are relevant, timely, consistent and follow a predictable revisions policy and

- **Accessibility**: Ensures that data and metadata are easily available and that assistance to users is adequate.

UNSCs NQAF Dimensions

- Quality Context
- Quality concepts and frameworks
- Quality assurance guidelines which in turn comprises of 19 NAQFs
- Quality assessment and reporting
- Quality and other management framework

Quality Context

- Quality = "Fitness for use"
- Degree to which a set of inherent characteristics fulfils requirements
- The products have not been brought out in the templates suggested but Quality Assurance being looked at under ISO certification.
- The statistical product of the NAD is of utmost importance for knowing the economic trends and for policy formulation.
- Its scope is not only limited to national level but internationally.
- Hence the quality aspect needs prime focus in order to have a consistent credibility on the sets of estimates published. This led to the ISO-9001 certification of the NAD.
- With this a series of quality improvements occurred in the functioning of the NAD including maintenance of files and records, proper documentations and backups of the work done.

Quality concepts and frameworks

- Statistical quality frameworks
- •Quality frameworks provide a coherent and holistic system of quality management

- The Quality concepts for all the respective units of National Accounts Division adhere to the Quality Manual of the NAD. All the activities carried out are well laid in the Annual Action Plan for the Organisation.

Quality assurance guidelines which in turn comprises of 19 NAQFs

A	**Managing the statistical system**
NQAF1	Coordinating the national statistical system
NQAF2	Managing relationships with data users and data providers
NQAF3	Managing statistical standards
B	**Managing the institutional environment**
NQAF4	Assuring professional independence
NQAF5	Assuring impartiality and objectivity
NQAF6	Assuring transparency
NQAF7	Assuring statistical confidentiality and security
NQAF8	Assuring the quality commitment
NQAF9	Assuring adequacy of resources
C	**Managing statistical processes**
NQAF10	Assuring methodological soundness
NQAF11	Assuring cost-effectiveness
NQAF12	Assuring soundness of implementation
NQAF13	Managing the respondent burden
D	**Managing statistical outputs**
NQAF14	Assuring relevance
NQAF15	Assuring accuracy and reliability
NQAF16	Assuring timeliness and punctuality
NQAF17	Assuring accessibility and clarity
NQAF18	Assuring coherence and comparability
NQAF19	Managing metadata

Adherence of NAD to NQAF

- ISO:9001certified: maintenance of files, records, process documents, record matrix, external origin files, documentation, back ups and regular audits.

- Presently in the process of obtaining ISO:2015 certification which involves maintenance of quality manuals, work flow, timelines, induction material and trigger points in addition to the existing documents.

- The ISO framework guarantees quality and provides provision for quality checks too.

Adherence of NAD to NQAF...Cont

- Co-ordination: intra as well as inter ministry and also with state government.

- Has guidelines and manuals providing the methodology. (as per SNA-2008)

- Conducts regular meetings at various levels to discuss diverse issues.

- Capacity building: Conducts regular trainings.

- Suggestions are sought from International agencies and also state governments from time to time.

- User's feedback are taken through data-user conferences.

Adherence of NAD to NQAF...Cont

- There is no political intervention with the set of estimates released.

- The estimates are compiled in an unbiased manner.

- Any major change is done with the proper approval and the same is also communicated with reasons.

- The estimates are Internationally comparable.

- The metadata including the concepts, definitions are well documented and are available to the website.

- The release dates and the revision policy are communicated well ahead of the releases.

- Data transparency and also confidentiality is maintained.

Adherence of NAD to NQAF...Cont

- Adopted the policy of e-office: taken the revolutionary step towards making a paperless office.

- Induction material for easy handing and taking over of officers and staff

- Press conferences are also organised to release sets of estimates.

- Awareness workshops are organised from time to time.

- Officers participate in seminars and contribute papers

- Use COS Act for collection of data

Quality assessment and reporting

- User feedbacks regarding the data quality are taken positively.
- If required some of them are also addressed in a press conference before the media by the Chief Statistician of India.
- The division is in process to get the advanced version of the ISO certification which will a boost to the quality assurance.
- Awareness workshops on National Accounts are held whenever the new series is launched.
- Officers participate in seminars and debates and also contribute invited papers.

Challenges and way forward improving quality of estimates

- Estimates are required to be produced by the state governments at sub state level
- The State level estimates are not at par with the All India estimates.
- Micro Macro Linkages
- Take Advantage of SSSP
- Matching Samples and Pooling
- Use of administrative data and save resources for surveys
- Economic Census
- Various For a for states to participate- COCSSO, IARNIW

Challenges and Way forward

- DES should also take their line departments in their stride
- With annual surveys being proposed the state level and National aggregates are poised to improve
- Generating Quality and high frequency Employment Estimates is a challenge
- Compilation of Business Register, GST data and Annual SUTs the quality of the estimates would further improve.
- Need is to integrate different data sources using modern technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Big Data Analysis etc.
- With regular discussions and workshops with the state DES the quality of the estimates are improving.

THANK YOU