Country Presentation Paper

Sri Lanka

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&
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Eng. M. H. M. A. Bandara

Chief Engineer

Department of Agriculture

Peradeniya

I. Overview of the statistics system for agricultural mechanization in the country

a) Responsible agency

Department of Census and Statistics is responsible for collecting data on all categories. Department of Agriculture is also doing separate collection of data on agricultural commodities. Farm Mechanization Research Centre of the Department of Agriculture is collecting information on Farm Machinery. However it is not properly organized due to lack of enough staff and effective network.

b) Channels, ways and frequency to collect, report and disseminate the agricultural mechanization statistics

There are many channels available. One is the import data from the Sri Lanka Customs. And the other reliable source is through grass root level extension field staff. Other possible source is to carry out island wide survey.

A comprehensively complied data on farm machinery statistics was prepared by GTZ in 1980's titled "Facts and Figures of Farm Mechanization in Sri Lanka". This was updated once in the latter part of the decade. However due to various reasons it was not updated since then. Data given in that booklet could be used as a sample to prepare a comprehensive data base in the regional basis.

c) Quantity and quality of agricultural mechanization statistics

There are some irregularities between the figures of Department of Census and Statistics and Department of Agriculture. Import data does not reveal the actual figure in operation.

d) Does agricultural census cover component of agricultural mechanization?

At present very low priority is given for the number of machinery in operation. However mechanization statistics is being in consideration in calculating cost of production of different food commodities.

II. Gaps and Needs

a) What are the challenges and constraints for the statistics collection and management?

There was a very effective extension network in 1980s and at present that system has been changed. Most of the grass root level field officers are attached to Department of Agrarian Development, which has the mandate of providing agricultural inputs in order to increase production. The mandate of Department of Agriculture is to conduct research and disseminate new technology. Therefore there is no formal coordination with the field level staff. Their priority is to distribute agricultural inputs and they dont response to the request made by outsiders.

b) What are the minimum data and statistics requirements of agricultural mechanization in the country?

It is important to have the following data

- List of local manufacturers

- Type and scale of local production

- Number of imported machinery in each category

- Number of machinery in operation

- Contribution of machinery in crop production

- Comparison of mechanized cultivation and traditional cultivation.

- Distribution of farm machinery in the country

- Cost of each farm operations

- Farm power availability in regional level

- Mode of Accessibility to the available machinery

III. Solutions and Suggestions (Both State and Regional Perspective)

a) How to improve the current statistics collection and management?
- Establish a reliable data collection mechanism operating under one umbrella, Department of Agriculture
- Convince the policy makers the importance of collecting and analyzing of farm machinery data in the development of agriculture in the country.

b) Needs and feasibility of establishing a regional database of agricultural mechanization in Asia and the Pacific

- With a great effort data can be collected. It needs additional man power.

c) How you could contribute to the proposed regional database of agricultural mechanization?

- Contribution can be done by co-coordinating all relevant stake holders.
- Data already provided to prepare SAARC data base can be updated