

Information Needs for Policy Evaluation: The Example of Income Objectives of Agricultural Policies in OECD Countries

Catherine Moreddu
Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

Although securing adequate and stable income levels for farm households is a prominent objective of agricultural policies in many OECD countries, income objectives are not often defined precisely and information to evaluate achievements is often inadequate.

There is, nevertheless, a need to evaluate domestic policy, both in terms of public accountability and economic efficiency. It is a challenge for statistical systems to adjust to new policies that create new needs. It is all the more difficult to interpret those needs when policy makers do not define objectives clearly and in measurable terms.

In the short term, OECD analysts have chosen to use existing information, even if imperfect (incomplete, out of date and not comparable) to evaluate policies with regard to their income objectives. They are, in parallel, trying to raise awareness on information needs, and to suggest solutions for improvement in data collection and analysis. This paper summarizes the main findings of the OECD recent synthesis report on income issues, with a focus on data issues. It then suggests how obstacles to improvements in data collection could be overcome, based on discussions that took place at an OECD workshop on information needs for analyzing farm household income issues, held on 29-30 April 2004 in Paris, and at various IWG.AGRI Seminars jointly organized by [OECD](#), [Eurostat](#), [UNECE](#) and [FAO](#) to identify key issues and future needs in the area of agricultural statistics.