

National Strategies for the Development of Statistics and Their Expected Impact on Agricultural and Rural Statistics

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Recently the international development community has shown considerable interest in the preparation and implementation of national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS). These are increasingly being promoted as the best way of responding to the demand for better data to monitor development progress. At all levels, demand for statistical data and hence interest in statistical systems is increasing, driven by the preparation of poverty reduction strategies, monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals and the need to demonstrate development results. This increasing interest is mobilizing additional resources for capacity building. The international community is now committed to improving statistics and is focusing on the NSDS approach as the best way to do this. If agricultural and rural statistics are to benefit, then it is essential that these data systems participate fully in both preparation and implementation. There are a number of challenges and opportunities facing managers. Efforts are needed to integrate and coordinate more closely with other components of national statistics, there must be closer collaboration in all data processes and effective management structures must be set up. In particular, it will be increasingly important to demonstrate that results are being achieved and that the needs of data users are being addressed.