

# **A New Approach to Improving Sample Design for Crop Forecast and Post-Harvest Estimates in Zambia**

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The Agriculture and Environment Statistics Division of the Zambia Central Statistical Office (CSO) is responsible for the production of official statistics on food and agriculture. The Division has two branches namely: the Agricultural and the Environment Statistics Branches. The Agricultural Statistics Branch consists of two sections namely; large-scale farm section and small and medium scale farm section. The Environment Branch also has sections dealing with land degradation, air pollution, water sanitation, forestry and the wildlife and fisheries.

The CSO has been conducting annual agricultural surveys since the 1970/71 agricultural season and mostly these have been the Crop Forecast Survey (CFS) and the Post Harvest Survey (PHS) for small-medium and large-scale agricultural holdings. Both the CFS and PHS use the same methodology, i.e., survey sampling and are conducted in conjunction with Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives using questionnaires during the periods March/April and November/December each year, respectively. This paper presents a new approach to improving sample design for crop forecast and post-harvest estimates in Zambia.