AVANTI
Advancing Knowledge for Agricultural Impact

Eval Forward
Evaluation for Food Security, Agriculture & Rural Development

e-Panel

Data quality in agriculture and food security in the time of COVID-19

Background

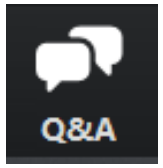
AVANTI - Advancing Knowledge for Agricultural Impact

an IFAD-funded initiative implemented by Helvetas and Itad that engages with Ministries of Agriculture to facilitate self-assessments ('AG-Scans') of their capacities to manage for development results in the agriculture sector.

EvalForward –Evaluation for Agriculture, Food security and rural development

a Community of Practice aimed at facilitating knowledge sharing and enhancing capacities in these fields. A joint initiative of the evaluation offices of FAO, WFP and IFAD.

Tech tips



Questions

Post your questions in the Q&A box

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In the spirit of knowledge and learning:

this event is being recorded for further sharing

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Tim Njagi

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Joas Tugizimana

Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources

Republic of Rwanda

e-Panellists

Poll

Where are you joining us from?

- Answer 1: Asia and the Pacific
- Answer 2: East and Southern Africa
- Answer 3: Latin America and the Caribbean
- Answer 4: Near East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia
- Answer 5: West and Central Africa
- Answer 6: Other

(Options according to IFAD's regions)

Tim Njagi

Fellow, Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development, Egerton University

Republic of Kenya

Keynote address

Improving agricultural data quality during the COVID-19 pandemic

Data is essential to contextualizing agricultural transformation in SSA

- Why is Ag transformation important?
  - Economies in developing countries largely agricultural–based
  - Linkages with other sectors i.e. manufacturing, trade, health
- Agriculture data is vital decisions made in these sectors
- Track progress in Ag transformation
  - Changes in key transformation indicators
- Track progress
  - SDGs, AU Agenda 2063, country development strategies

Tim Njagi
Keynote

Status of Ag data in developing countries

- No one single source of comprehensive data
- Publicly available data largely irregular and long processing time
- Numerous data generators
  - Act independently
  - Multiple sources
  - Varies in objectives, methodologies, type and formats
- Scarcity of reliable and good quality data
  - Limited in scope and content
- Lack of comparability and harmonization
  - Within and across countries

Tim Njagi
Keynote

Huge investments in improving quality & availability of data in recent years

- Massive public sector investments in agriculture data in recent years
  - Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN)
  - CGIAR Big Data
  - African Development Bank

- Significant advances in use of data & evidence in decision making
  - This must be supported through increase in availability & utilization of high quality, timely & credible data & evidence

Tim Njagi
Keynote

Effects of COVID-19

- Collection of data is constrained
  - food production, consumption, prices, trade, market access, nutrition
- Wrong, imprecise, incredible, unreliable data can undo the gains to have evidence-based policymaking
  - How then can we ensure the quality of the available data that is coming in?
  - How can we evaluate the quality of analysis and subsequent inference to ensure that we influence the correct policy prescriptions?
  - How can we promote collaboration and lesson sharing during these times?

Tim Njagi
Keynote

Emerging innovations

- Use of remote data collection methods
  - Satellite data
- Use of phone surveys with CATI
- Use of SMS surveys

Tim Njagi
Keynote

Experiences on data collection during pandemic

- Building on existing datasets
  - Methodologies used in collecting data
  - Improving precision preciseness of collected data
- Rapid assessment surveys
  - High frequency data
- Enhance focus on quality and external validity

Tim Njagi
Keynote

Poll

Based on your experience, what is the most important factor affecting data quality?

- Answer 1: Capacity of staff at the HQ level
- Answer 2: Capacity of data enumerators at the field level
- Answer 3: Resources to collect data
- Answer 4: Capacity of staff analyze and interpret data
- Answer 5: Other

Armand Zoa

Head, Monitoring Unit,
Ministère de l'Agriculture et
du Développement Rural

Republic of Cameroon

Importance of the agricultural sector in Cameroon

- The primary sector is the engine of the national economy:
  - Contributed to 45% of GDP in 2009
  - Employs more than half of the active population
  - It is the leading supplier of foreign exchange with 55% of total exports.
- *"the rural sector is considered to be the privileged platform for the revival of growth and the reduction of poverty."*
- The Ministry of Agriculture's services and benefits are the most scattered on the national territory and collects and processes a significant flow of data such as on production, yields, climate, pests etc.

Armand Zoa

Main users of agricultural statistics

- Political decision-makers, public and parapublic administrations
- International institutions including multilateral development partners (AfDB, FAO, UNDP, World Bank, etc.) and bilateral cooperation (GIZ, Belgian Cooperation, etc.), NGOs
- Researchers and academics
- Private sector and investors
- Citizens, producers and populations

Armand Zoa

Challenges encountered in collecting data

- The security environment
- The deficit in the production of agricultural statistics
- Data irregularity
- Inconsistency and unreliability of data
- Difficulties accessing information and lack of archives

Armand Zoa

Strategies and suggestions to overcome challenges

- Support from development partners
- Complete the preparation of the General Census of Agriculture and Livestock
- Short term data
  - Production and distribution of a harmonized data collection template;
  - Build the capacity of the staff in charge of data collection
  - Call follow-up
  - Triangulation of data

Armand Zoa

Joas Tugizimana

Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources

Republic of Rwanda

Background

The Ministry of Agriculture in Rwanda has two implementing Agencies:

- **RAB** : Rwanda agriculture and Animal development Board
- **NAEB**: National Agriculture Export board

These institutions work closely with Districts (local entities) where they have their representative staffs.

Planning: Joint planning and Ministry allocate the required budget to its affiliated agencies and Districts (local Government)

Joas Tugizimana

Background

Implementation:

- Ministry provides budget, guidelines and technical assistance while RAB, NAEB and Districts execute the program/ projects initiated by the Ministry
- Performance contracts are signed between each institution with Ministry, and by all staff with his/her supervisor as commitment to implement the planned targets and report the achievements on regular basis

Monitoring and reporting:

- Data collection: Data are collected through MIS (Management Information System) so far established, Surveys report (NISR) and M&E plat form in place.
- Data quality are verified through field visit conducted across the country on quarterly basis, digital platform like crop monitoring system

Joas Tugizimana

Challenges due to COVID-19

- Limited field visit to be conducted for M&E purposes - cross check
- Data quality: We doubt on data accuracy and representativeness of the reported data for agriculture
- Budget constraints: Budget allocated to M&E reduced (some activities were not prioritized in this particular period)

Joas Tugizimana

Envisaged solutions

1. Upgrading or scaling up the digital platforms of M&E in place:

- **MIS (Management Information System):** Web based system which helps filed staffs to report using computer or android phone
- **Crop Monitoring system:** Used to monitor crops status in the country through satellite images.
- **SMART Nkunganire System (SNS):** a mobile phone application that enables farmers to register and access subsidized agriculture inputs. It helps to monitor the use of fertilizers and seeds across the country
- **E-Soko (E-market):** Helps farmers and others agriculture players to get access to market information using mobile phones
- **Livestock database management System (DMS):** digital system used to manage the National Agriculture Insurance using an android phone. The system provides accurate and timely data on insured cows , enrolment and cows death status
- **Agricultural Land Information System (ALIS):** A web platform that allows the monitoring of available land for investment

2. Engaging Ministry's stakeholders to support M&E activities and look for other alternative M&E software.

Joas Tugizimana

Tim Njagi

Fellow, Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development, Egerton University

Republic of Kenya

Effects of security issues & COVID on data generation

- COVID-19 was first reported in Kenya in March 2020
  - Restrictions kicked in by mid-March
    - Social distancing & working from home
    - Nation wide curfew and partial lockdowns from early April
- Usual field surveys not possible from March 2020
  - Security & health of respondents and enumerators
- Tegemeo postponed all fieldwork from March 2020

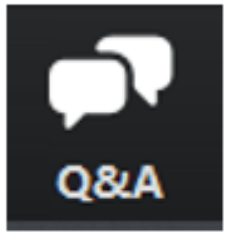
Tim Njagi

How did we cope & what did we learn?

- Rapid assessment surveys
  - Can help respond to some questions,
    - Challenges in undertaking virtual calls
- Use of phone surveys
  - Building on existing datasets
  - Existing pool of trained enumerators retrained virtually
  - Phone survey must be as short as possible (20~30 minutes)
- All data quality assurance protocols maintained
- Demand for accurate, timely, credible data still high

Tim Njagi

Q&A



Questions

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Kai Schrader

Thank you

STAY SAFE
&
STAY TUNED

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