



**WORKSHOP ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKET
INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM
PORT-OF-SPAIN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
15-17 FEBRUARY 2011**

REGIONAL STATISTICS

www.caricomstats.org



OVERVIEW

- Introduction
- Goal
- Key Result Areas and Major Areas of Focus;
- Key Achievements
- SCCS and The Advisory Group on Statistics
- RSWP
- Agricultural Statistics – Status and developmental work



Introduction

Most of what is accomplished in Statistics and what is being done is based on:

- The Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas;
- Mandates from Heads of Government and relevant Organs of the Community, such as COTED and COHSOD;
- Decisions of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS);
- Developments at the International Level.



GOAL

To provide the Community with high quality statistical products for decision-making and to monitor, guide and assess the impact of the development process



Key Result Areas

- Comprehensive and harmonised systems of statistics including Economic, Social, Environmental and Information and Communication Technology statistics developed in Member States/Associate Members and at the Secretariat;
- Statistical capacity in Member States strengthened and sustained through the development and implementation of appropriate mechanisms and programmes;
- Statistics and indicators including those of the Millennium Development Goals, produced and disseminated in accordance with regional and international standards;



Key Result Areas cont'd

- Programme including mechanisms for assessing quality, compliance with international/regional methodologies developed and implemented;
- High quality data and metadata are accessible to users on a timely basis;
- Advocacy on the use of statistics and mechanisms to inform and obtain feedback from stakeholders established and implemented;
- A Programmatic approach to statistical capacity building developed and implemented



Main Areas of Focus

- Economic Statistics – (National Accounts; Merchandise Trade Statistics; International Trade in Services; Tourism Satellite Accounts; Investment Flows; Balance of Payment Statistics; External Debt Statistics; Agricultural Sector Statistics etc;
- Social Statistics - Labour Force and related Statistics ; Education; Population Household and Families; etc
- Environmental Statistics
- Population and Housing Census;
- Statistics on ICT;
- Government Procurement Statistics;



How are the Results achieved?

- Projects:

- 9th EDF – Several Activities related to improving and harmonising economic statistics are in progress

- ✓ Enhancement of Trade Information Systems in Member States;
 - ✓ Improvement in the Production of Basic Data for National Accounts;
 - ✓ Improving Trade in Services and Investment Statistics;
 - ✓ Organisation and Use of Statistical Databases;
 - ✓ Development of a Web-Based Infrastructure;
 - ✓ Establishment of a Statistics Help Desk Facility; Statistical Programming

- IDB - 3 projects are currently in progress

- ✓ Common Census Framework for 2010 Census – jointly with UNFPA and contributions from DFID;
 - ✓ Common Framework for Statistics Production focusing on the Development of Implementation Plan for RSWP, preparation of Model Statistical Legislation and establishing a framework for data warehousing and archiving
 - ✓ Common Literacy Framework in CARICOM – to provide a common framework to improve the measurement of literacy- its quality and relevance;

- Workshops and South-South Co-operation



Key Achievements

- Focus on compiling and Disseminating Statistics to support the development of the Integration process in a wide range on areas
- Production of a Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP) in collaboration with the SCCS – approved by Community Council in 2005
- A Resolution calling on Governments to invest in statistics as a priority – passed by Community Council in 2005;
- Convening of a High Level Advocacy Forum;
- Capacity building activities at the national level in a number of areas;
- Establishing of Online Data Dissemination and Help-Desk facilities



The Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS)

- SCCS was established in 1974 based on a Resolution passed at the Fourth Meeting of the Common Market Council of Ministers.
- **OBJECTIVE:** “To foster increased recognition of the importance of adequate statistical services to the countries of the Region; to widen the scope and coverage of statistical data collection; and to improve the quality, comparability and timeliness of statistics produced”
- Over the years the SCCS has been the main mechanism where statisticians of the Region sought to equalize and harmonise statistical development across the region.



THE ADVISORY GROUP ON STATISTICS

- Sub-group of SCCS established in 2007
- **OBJECTIVES:**

Establish and develop a framework to achieve the implementation of the Regional Statistical Work Programme in CARICOM Member States and Associate Members in a manner that will result in the production of common core harmonised, high quality and timely information on the Region.

Implement the Resolution on strengthening the national statistical systems.



Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP)

- In 2005, the Community Council of Ministers of CARICOM approved a three-year Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP) AND passed a resolution calling on Governments of the Region to increase investment in Statistics;
- The RSWP covers six themes:
 - i. Economy, Finance and Investment
 - ii. Population, Demographics And Social and Living Conditions
 - iii. Environment
 - iv. Information and Communication Technology
 - v. Public Relations and Data Dissemination; and
 - vi. Statistical Coordination
- Each theme comprise programme areas such as merchandise trade , National Accounts etc.



Status of Agricultural Statistics

- **Trade**

- Regional Statistics Programme maintains a comprehensive merchandise trade database (TradSys) – 1993 to present for almost all Member States
- Detailed annual data
- Quarterly summary
- Detailed trade on Agricultural Products

- **Production** - Limited and dated

- **Labour Force Statistics** – limited to Census years and in some cases to surveys

- **Agriculture Commodity Report: 2000-2003** – focused on top agricultural commodities imported and exported.



Developmental work

- A template for the collection of Agriculture Statistics is being developed –awaiting feedback from Heads of Statistics in the Region
- Examples of suggested indicators are: Agriculture imports as a % of total Imports, top 5 Primary agriculture products, Employment in Agri Sector. Agriculture as a % of total GDP, etc
- Encourage greater inter-agency collaboration – National Statistics Offices, Ministry of Agriculture and other related agencies



Developmental Work

- At the last meeting of the SCCS two initiatives were presented for feedback:

1. CARICOM-FAO Food Security Project – the establishment of Early Warning Systems

- ✓Countries were requested to provide feedback in general as well as the implications for statistics/harmonisation
- ✓The approach that would be required to executing the project relative to the National Statistical System and the current resource constraints and activities that may pose a challenge
- ✓Possible best practice that currently exists that may impact the project



Developmental Work

2. The Statistical Conference of the Americas Initiative – Regional Policy Formulation on Agriculture and Rural Statistics

- The main objective of this regional project is to contribute to the improvement of agricultural and rural statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean to make them useful and relevant for policy making.



THANK YOU