



STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURAL MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEMS GLOBALLY AND IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

In June 2011, the G20 Ministers of Agriculture recognized the importance of timely, accurate and transparent information in addressing food price volatility and policy dialogues, and launched the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS). The system is a collaborative food information initiative that unites G20 countries and Spain, as well as seven other main producing and consuming countries of the commodities monitored by AMIS (wheat, maize, rice and soybeans). The system serves as a platform through which countries, international organizations and the private sector can work together to strengthen synergies and collaboration in order to improve data reliability, timeliness and frequency. The project, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, aimed to contribute to the initiative by strengthening the AMIS platform globally and with the national information systems of three selected countries: Bangladesh, India and Nigeria.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project was successful in helping countries with the implementation of various activities that were designed specifically to meet the needs of each country, such as improving price monitoring and estimation (Nigeria and India), stock estimation (India and Bangladesh) and crop production forecasts (Bangladesh), and estimation methodologies and/or techniques. In India, a report was produced, "Status of Agricultural Markets in India: Need for Harmonization", which increased awareness and understanding among top government officials on the need to harmonize market price data collection among government agencies, avoid duplication of efforts, and ensure compatibility among the databases and harmonization of standards and grades of varieties. The training sessions, development and piloting of improved methodologies, research studies and tools/techniques specific to each country contributed to enhanced knowledge, understanding and skills, thereby improving national capacities.

IMPACT

The project built capacity to produce reliable and timely information. This will contribute significantly to better global food market information, which will increase transparency and restore confidence in markets, reduce uncertainty, and provide a more level playing field for poor countries, by enhancing the dissemination of quality food market information. It will therefore help address food price volatility and reduce speculation.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 5 512 178

Duration

August 2012 - July 2018

Resource Partner

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Partners

National Statistical Offices (NSO) of the selected countries (Bangladesh, India, Nigeria) and Ministries of agriculture

Beneficiaries

National statistical offices and statistical services of ministries of agriculture in charge of agriculture market monitoring and analysis; the governments of the three target countries; the private sector, including smallholder farmers and agencies; and food consumers, particularly poor people who will benefit from reduced food price volatility

ACTIVITIES

- The Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS)/Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Tool was enhanced.
- A crowdsourcing approach was tested in the Philippines for its applicability for crop production forecasting.
- In Bangladesh, the existing crop estimation system and crop monitoring and production forecasting system followed by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) was reviewed and improved; and the situation of private stock of food grain was assessed.
- A total of 1 000 field officials/staff members of BBS and 600 of the Department of Agricultural Extension were provided with two training sessions on the new methodologies on area estimation and crop production forecasting; and training courses were organized for 95 officials/staff members of BBS, the Statistics and Informatics Division, the Ministry of Agriculture and five coordinating agencies on crop estimation, crop monitoring and production forecast, and the application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in agriculture statistics.
- In India, the “International Seminar on Approaches and Methodologies for Private Food Grain Stock Measurement” was organized in New Delhi and attended by 93 participants from government and Non-governmental Organizations from ten countries.
- In India, a comprehensive review and analysis of data from ongoing surveys covering the domains of private food grain stock in the supply chain was undertaken, to identify the data gaps and evolve the approach for the measurement of food grain stocks.
- In Nigeria, assessments of market prices were carried out in the pilot states Abuja, Kaduna and Niger.
- In Nigeria, a crowdsourcing pilot initiative was implemented in ten local government areas and four trader markets in Kaduna state, to test the responsiveness and reliability of a crowd composed of the local agricultural community; determine the sustainability of data collection through a crowdsourcing approach using simple technology; and obtain individual and market level data across several data categories.
- In Nigeria, various training activities were organized for a number of organizations, which were related to the need to harmonize the market information, Computer-Assisted Personalized Interviewing (CAPI) and data archiving and documentation systems.

Project Code

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Project Title

Strengthening Agricultural Market Information Systems globally and in selected countries (Bangladesh, India, Nigeria) using innovative methods and digital technology

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