

Agricultural and Rural Statistical Development in China

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Abstract: This paper provides a review of statistical survey development in rural China. Statistical survey in agriculture and rural China can be described as in three stages:

1. The initial stage of agricultural production statistics,
2. A transition period to agro-economy statistics, and
3. A development stage in terms of rural socio-economic statistics.

The characteristics of statistical surveys in rural China which focus on socio-economic development in the Chinese rural sector are collected and monitored as something relatively independent in terms of statistical objects and system of indices. The system of indices covers the “three rural issues” of agricultural production, rural households and rural areas.

The Chinese rural statistical survey system is based primarily on the census with sample surveys playing a supplemental but important role of providing a more “comprehensive” and “specific” focus. Contents of rural survey include the following: household income and expenses survey, crop yield survey, rural socio-economic survey on employment and flow of rural labour force and community development, price of farm produce, monitoring of economic development, which covers rural poverty and determination of society well-being.

The paper discusses how information sources for government and the public have been expanded due to statistical survey in rural China which has greatly increased the availability of data and information on agriculture, rural areas and farmers. Survey provides a scientific basis for government at all levels to formulate strategic planning and policies concerning agriculture and rural areas, and for macro-level decision-making. Information service is provided to farmers and other users for purpose of production and business decision-making.

Statistical survey development in rural China has help promote international exchange, cooperation, and integration. An example of this is the development of a system of indices that is compact in structure and uniform in standards to meet the requirements of government decision-makers at all levels and national accounts.