

Recommendations for Internationally-Comparable Statistics on Rural Development and Agricultural Household Income - Issues in Constructing a Handbook on Statistics on Rural Development and Agricultural Household Income

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Abstract: A Handbook on Statistics on Rural Development and Agricultural Household Income has recently been published on behalf of a set of international organisations (Eurostat, FAO, OECD, UNECE, World Bank) its aim is to promote good practice in these areas of statistics, thereby raising quality, and achieving greater international comparability. This paper, by the Handbook's principal editors, describes the issues that had to be confronted in assembling it, including the main conceptual problems, and how they differed between the two related subject areas (rural development, and agricultural household incomes). In addition to identifying the needs of present and potential users of these statistics and the practicalities of generating them (including the choice of indicators), an outline is given of the process by which international cooperation in the project was secured. As an evolving subject, a further issue is how methodological developments can be incorporated in future editions of the Handbook. The establishment of a 'city group' (under the framework of the UN Statistical Commission) is seen as the main mechanism by which this can be achieved.