

A New Survey Model to Bridge the Agricultural Data Gap: A Case of Uganda's National Panel and Annual Agricultural Surveys.

The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) has undertaken the National Panel Survey (UNPS) since 2009/10 and an Annual Agricultural Survey (AAS) since 2017. The two surveys are conducted by two UBOS Directorates, namely; Directorate of Socio-Economic Surveys (DSES) and Directorate of Agriculture and Environment Statistics (DAES). Whereas AAS is a mainstream farm/agriculture survey, the UNPS is a socio-economic survey with an agriculture module. The two surveys use different samples and questionnaires. As a result, they produce conflicting estimates for the same variables, yet they remain critical in filling existing data gaps required at national, regional and international frameworks.

In 2019, a need to integrate the two surveys arose out of the desire to avoid conflicting estimates, save costs, and gain trust and confidence of the data users. National governments and donors that provide funding for these surveys have increasingly found it difficult to do so due to a large sum of funds required amidst constrained resource envelopes and competing survey needs.

Uganda is the first country to implement the integrated survey approach, a model that will be used by the 50x2030 initiative to bridge the global agricultural data gap by transforming country data systems in 50 countries in Africa, Asia, Middle East and Latin America, by 2030.

The integration process in Uganda has involved use of a shared sample and questionnaires, harmonized data collection methodologies and calendar. The advantage of integration is that the program will yield rich data sets, more quality data, among others, that can be used for multi-dimensional analyses, avoid potential inconsistencies in estimates generated when the two surveys are undertaken separately and will lead to a reduction in survey costs. Despite the anticipated benefits of integrating these surveys, there are challenges to the process. Key among these is agreeing on a common sample. This paper highlights the challenges experienced during the integration process and proposes possible solutions.

Key words: Household Survey, Integrating, Methodology, Cost Saving.

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