

REMARKS BY MR. A. K .M KILELE, MBS, DIRECTOR GENERAL, KENYA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS COMMITTEE ON 18TH MARCH, 2010 AT GARDEN HOTEL-MACHAKOS

Director of Agriculture,
Development Partners,
Representatives of Ministries
Representatives of Research Institutions,
Representatives of NGOs,
Distinguished Guests,
All protocols observed

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to join you on this important occasion of launching the Agriculture, Nutrition and Environment Statistics Technical Committee.

As the Government strengthens efforts to boost economic recovery following poor performance over the last two years, the agriculture sector has been identified as one of the key sectors through which the country could realize quick economic gains. Restoring food security across most parts of the country will set the foundation for improved and sustained performance for the other sectors of the economy.

The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics in close consultation with various ministries and key stakeholders has been spearheading the establishment of a technical working committee. The committee is expected to be meeting regularly to coordinate, review, harmonize and improve provision of food, agriculture and environment statistics in the country.

The overall goal of this Committee will be to provide a forum for stakeholders to establish the status and guide the provision of quality agriculture, nutrition and environment sector statistics in the country. Through this forum, stakeholders will be able to evaluate the quantity and quality of these statistics and explore ways of enhancing the same. This committee will therefore bring together a wide spectrum of agriculture statistics producers and providers.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The committee will further be responsible for coordination of production and provision of comprehensive, accurate and timely statistics. In addition, the committee will also promote capacity building in the production and dissemination of quality agricultural and related statistics.

As some of you may be aware, the National Statistical System currently boasts of several databases including the **CountryStat, KenInfo and IMIS**. These databases are used for both storage and dissemination of statistical information. Consequently, part of the mandate of this technical committee will be to compile policy relevant indicators in their respective institutions. Ultimately, this will serve to update the databases that are already established.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This committee will face the new challenge of identifying appropriate indicators to monitor emerging data needs mainly related to global warming, land and water use, and diversion of traditional food commodities to the production of bio-fuels, among others. This committee will therefore be expected to identify existing data gaps and recommend appropriate intervention measures necessary to fill these gaps.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Currently, a lot of agricultural data is produced by different stakeholders in the national statistical system. Individual institutions routinely produce statistical information in formats that suit their needs. As institutions generate statistical information, a lot of duplication of efforts has been witnessed. As a result, different institutions spend massive resources to separately produce similar data due to lack of coordination and information sharing among these institutions. This has had the negative effect of needless wastage of resources and the production of conflicting data values on the same subjects of research. Through this committee, there will be enhanced networking and stakeholders will be able to synergize their efforts to minimize these negative effects.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Successful implementation of the activities of this technical working committee calls for commitment by all institutions identified to participate in this forum. It is expected that institutions will pool resources to support modest financial requirements to maintain this committee. The committee will need to meet regularly in order to evaluate currently available data and agree on the most crucial indicators that can be compiled and assembled into the database. Consequently, there is need for continuous engagement in the sharing of technical and statistical expertise among the various stakeholders.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I conclude, I note that a number of papers have been organized for presentation during this workshop. These papers have purposely been selected to give snapshots of the type of data, collection methods and challenges encountered by the different actors in the agriculture, environment and nutrition sectors. Understanding these presentations will enrich your discussions and make them more fruitful.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the World Bank for providing financial support through the STATCAP to hold this workshop.

May I wish you all fruitful deliberations that will make it possible to achieve the objectives of this workshop.

With these remarks, I officially launch the Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Statistics Committee.

Thank You



**PARTICIPANTS OF THE LAUCH OF AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS
HELD IN GARDEN HOTEL, MACHAKOS, FROM 17TH TO 29TH MARCH 2010**

08.18.2010 09:57