**TITLE : IDENTIFICATION OF AND CONSULTATIONS WITH CENSUS DATA USERS (Mauritius)**

**Key words: identification, consultation, census data users**

**What is identication?Why is this important?**

**What is consultation? Why is this important?**

**Who are the census data users? Why are they important and how are they identified?**

**INTRODUCTION**

*BACKGROUND NOTES ON THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS*

*INCLUDE THE MAP OF MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES*

Area: 2,040 sq. km. (787 sq. mi.); 500 miles east of Madagascar, in the Indian Ocean.   
Dependencies: Rodrigues Island, the Agalega Islands and Cargados Carajos Shoals

Show map of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean and a map of Mauritius Island

Nationality:Mauritian(s).   
Population give latest one from demography (July 2009 est.): 1,284,264, including Rodrigues, Agalega, and St. Brandon.

Ethnic groups: Indo-Mauritians, Creoles Sino-Mauritians Franco-Mauritians

GNP per capita in $

HDI

Languages: Creole (common), French, English (official), Hindi, Urdu, Hakka, Bhojpuri.

**TALK BRIEFLY ABOUT THE CSO**

*HOUSING AND POPULATION CENSUS 2010 ROUND*

*To include the Census LOGO*

The coming Population and Housing Census 2011 are the 18th for the Island of Mauritius and the 8th for the Island of Rodrigues. Census 2011 like the 4 previous ones will be taken in two distinct rounds: the Housing Census followed by the Population Census.

*CENSUS DATE*

The Housing Census will be taken from 31 January 2011 to 31 March 2011 (both days inclusive) and the Population Census round from 20 June 2011 to 10 July 2011 (both days inclusive), in respect of all persons alive in Mauritius at midnight on the night of 3-4 July 2011

The 2010 Population census round was originally designed to be conducted in 2010 but have been postponed to 2011 due to general election.

WHERE HAVE WE REACHED NOW IN THE PLANNING OF THE CENSUS?

IDENTIFICATION OF CENSUS DATA USERS

As mentioned in the handbook on census management for Population and Housing Censuses. Census should produce statistics that are relevant to data users/stakeholders. Census data users /stakeholders are the people who will reap the benefit of census outputs. Hence identification of census data users/stakeholders is a very important step .

Identification of census data users allows the first phase of the Census Cycle to begin that is the user Consultation. Identification spot users which will be involved in the consultation phase. The involvement of stakeholders/ census data users significantly increases the chances of success of the Census as it build confidence in the census products and greatly ease the acceptance of census products in the target audience.

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| **Diagram 1: The Census Cycle** |
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To identify stakeholders we need to find out “Who need the census information and who will benefit from the census output.

How does THE CSO identify census data users?

At the CSO, the identification exercise permits statisticians to spot who are census data users.

The CSO keep a record of all organization who buys CENSUS products and keep an updated list of all individuals who request for information on CENSUS DATA.

CENSUS data users in Mauritius are:

* The public sector comprising: of ministries and governmental department
* The general public
* Researches
* Student
* The media

USER CONSULTATION-TOPIC SELECTION

What is the meaning of user-consultation?

What is its importance and how did the CSO proceed with that for the coming census?

Consultation ensures that the needs of census data users are carefully considered during the planning and questionnaire design of the Census Cycle.

Consultation with users of census data on topics, on definitions and, particularly, on planned tabulations and the development of the census database is an indispensable step in the preparations for the census that should be taken early. These consultations will assist the census authorities in planning for a census that, within the resources available, is as responsive as possible to user needs in terms of the collection, processing, tabulation, storage and availability of meaningful data.(principle and recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 2).

A great deal of information about users’ needs for information is gathered in consultation with users. The producer-user dialogue benefits all;

* It increases the utilization of the data produced
* Enhance statistical literacy-better and more effective use of statistics
* Users knowledge about constraints of the national statistical system increased
* More advocate and greater support for the national statistical system.
* Expanded sources of technical inputs

For Census 2011 the technique of consultation that has been used by the CSO is the organization of user groups to discuss their census data needs. The CSO have also sought written submission on data questionnaire content.

CONSULTATION STATEGY USED BY CSO AFTER IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

Procedures used by CSO for consultation with census data users for the planning of the Census 2011?

1. July 2008 a letter was sent to all ministries and government departments informing them about the coming census and asking them to inform the CSO about their data needs. Also copies of Housing and Population questionnaires used at the last census were attached to the letter and stakeholders were asked to give their views, comments and suggestions for e.g. if any question could be improved in order to satisfy their requirements in a better way.

* List of ministries that were contacted: all ministries and government departments (mention the number).
* Out of the total number of ministries states how many had submit requests and who are these ministries.

1. A technical committee was set up to consider the appropriateness of including stakeholders’ requests in the final questionnaire design.

* Discuss very briefly or just enumerate the characteristics that requests must show (according to CSO) to be included in the final housing or Pop questionnaires.
* Take an example of a request that have been accepted and one that have been rejected.

1. A meeting to present, discuss and finalize the proposed questionnaires was scheduled on **July 2009 and** a representative from each ministry was invited to attend the meeting.

* The finalized housing and pop questionnaires were presented to the stakeholders and the reasons why some of their requests weren’t included and why others were rejected were carefully explain to them.

The user consultation process in terms of census products is a major factor in the development of a dissemination programme. The work done at this stage of the census is important in achieving the objective that the census is relevant to users. As indicated in the quality assurance section of chapter I, this is a major indicator of the quality of the census.

The overall aim of the dissemination phase is to provide information to assist users to make more informed decisions.

In working towards this objective, the dissemination phase should use the results of the evaluation of the output from one census to consolidate and improve the product range for the next census. The focus should be on data relevance, quality and timeliness of delivery. It is likely that the user consultation process will commence with the census agency stating its view on the nature of output to be produced. This view can be developed from the evaluation of the previous census and enhanced by the knowledge of recent developments. However, there will need to be some flexibility to adapt the range of products and services to meet current and emerging needs in the market place that only become identified in the consultation process.

Handbook on census management for pop and housing censes.

Some data users will need specialized products that the census organization is not planning to produce as part of the general census programme. In such cases, it is recommended that the census organization establish a service to meet such specialized requests, usually on a cost reimbursement basis.(principle and recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 2).

Consultation will also assist the census organization in determining the cost that the users are prepared to pay for the services required. For example, if the third level of administrative area is the lowest unit of aggregation

for the dissemination of certain characteristics, users who require more detailed disaggregation

may be charged for the services required to produce these tabulations. Sometimes a major user or user group may contract prior to the census for a specific census product. Such an advance contracting will greatly facilitate census planning

CONSULTATION FOR DISSEMINATION

CONSULTATION WITH RESPECT TO DISSEMINATION

1. As soon as the housing and pop questionnaire are vet by the state law office The CSO conduct a meeting with stakeholders (government departments, the private sector, the media, researchers, academics, etc) to inform them about the coming census and present the final questionnaires content also to investigate about their census products needs.
2. As soon as census results become available, a workshop should to be organized in order to disseminate the census results. All potential users should be invited. This would be an opportunity to market the wide variety of information available from the census. It would also help to create an interest among users on the use of census data. Maximum use should also be made of the opportunity provided by information technology. All the information should be placed on a website for use by potential users. The census results in hard copies should also be disseminated to users.
3. CSO will conduct user survey after release of census products