Experience and Challenges in compilation of Environment Statistics in India

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Present Status

• Systematic compilation commenced in 1997
• UN FDES 1984 framework broadly followed
• Annual Publication “Compendium of Environment Statistics: India” started in 1997
• Latest Publication available for 2013 (Published in Feb 2014)
• Broadly Covers five core parameters:
  • Biodiversity: Contains data on Biogeographic Zones, Plant Species Flora, Fauna, Forest etc.
  • Atmosphere: Air quality, Effluents from polluting industries (Sugar, Petrochemicals etc.), Coal, Gas, Petroleum products etc.
  • Land and Soil: Land use, Agriculture, Mines, Minerals, Natural Disaster etc.
  • Water: Availability, Rainfall, Inland water resources etc.
  • Human Settlement: Birth, Mortality, Poverty, Housing, Sanitation, etc.

(Compendium encompass statistics on natural resources, natural disasters as well as human activity and effects on the environment and human. In other word, almost every aspect is included)
Challenges

• Environment Statistics collected from diverse official data source agencies
• India has established official statistical system which is decentralized in nature
  • Horizontal horizontally decentralized with different Union Ministries/Departments and their Organisations having their own Statistical System
  • Vertical vertically decentralized with separate Statistical Agencies at provinces level (State/UTs)
• At Initial years, the challenges included
  • Data availability, timeliness, data gaps
• Challenge was to produce reliable statistics based on data received from various agencies
• Over the period these challenges have been sorted out to a greater extent.
Challenges... contd.

• To equip the officers with the necessary knowledge and expertise.
• Central Statistical Office played a crucial role in supporting the training programmes for the staff of the various government Departments.
Recent Developments

- Climate change is currently an important global issue with social, economic and environmental impacts.
- India has published for the first time, a publication titled ‘Statistics related to Climate Change India, 2013’ in November, 2013.
- This publication provides a compilation of Statistics related to climate and climate change.
- The publication has used a frame work developed by an Expert Committee constituted by CSO. The publication provides information on causal factors for
  - climate change(Green house Gases, Waste Generation, Forest Cover/area, forest produce and biomass, land use, water, Transport, Energy),
  - Impact of climate change(Ocean, Temperature and precipitation, Glaciers and landslides, Biodiversity, Health, Soil and Land, Agriculture, Disaster and extreme events)
  - Mitigation and Adaptation(Renewable energy, Energy use, Dry land agriculture, Afforestation, Quality Standards).
Task Ahead

FDES 2013 challenges:

• India is also keen to adopt the 2013 frame work along with other nations. The 2013 frame work will be adopted the guidelines on implementation are finalized.

• India has actively participated in formulation of FDES 2013. India also participated in the pilot exercise before finalization of the frame work.

• Challenges
  – Data not available on regular basis
  – Data not available in case of many indicators/ statistics; data gap filling exercise is to be started
  – most of the core set of Environment Statistics can be compiled at National level.
Suggestions

• Flexibility to implementing FDES 2013

• Capacity Building
  ▪ Detailed training manual is to be developed
  ▪ Training Statistical functionaries
  ▪ Technical cooperation among countries coordinated by UNSD
  ▪ A dedicated website for environment statistics
Thank you