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Report of the Wye Group on Statistics on Rural Development and Agricultural Household Income

Prepared by the Wye Group

**WYE CITY GROUP ON STATISTICS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT
AND AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION

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INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

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AGRICULTURE (NASS);
STATISTICS CANADA;
UNITED NATIONS FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION (FAO);
WORLD BANK

Background

The Wye City Group on Statistics on Rural Development and Agricultural Household Income (“Wye Group”) was formed in 2007 as a successor to the IWG.AGRI Task Force on Statistics on Rural Development and Agricultural Household Income, which had its final meeting in June 2006, following the publication of the Handbook *Rural Households' Livelihood and Well-being: Statistics on Rural Development and Agriculture Household Income*. The terms of reference for the group were approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) during its meeting in February-March of 2007. Under the original plan, the group is to meet through Spring of 2011.

The objectives of the Wye Group are to:

- consider challenges to consistency of adoption of comparable methods of data collection across countries,
- give special focus to the application and value of the data standards in developing countries, especially as it may support the construction of indicators for the Millennium Development Goals,
- assess and explore the potential for the use of improved statistics as policy-relevant indicators and in empirical analysis of policies for farm and rural households, natural resources, and regional economic development, and
- determine the need for any changes or updating to the handbook and, if indicated, organize and execute the revision.

The main outputs of the group were envisioned to include proceedings from annual meetings of the group and revision of the 2005 Handbook, if deemed appropriate.

This report discusses the activities and outputs of the Wye Group through November, 2010, and presents a proposal for the future of the group following the expiration of the current terms of reference of the Group.

Wye Group Meetings

Since 2007, the Wye Group has held three international meetings – the first in York, United Kingdom in April 2008; the second in Rome, Italy in June, 2009; and the third in Washington, D.C., United States in May 2010. Reports from the first two meetings have been provided to the UNSC. A detailed report on the third meeting is provided as Annex A to this report. The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, offered to host the next meeting of the Wye Group in Rio de Janeiro in 2011.

Since the third meeting in May, 2010, members of the Wye Group participated in the Fifth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS-V) in Kampala, Uganda, and made a presentation to the conference on the revisions being made to the Wye Group Handbook (more on this below). Members also met and discussed the way forward for the Group, which is reported in the final section of this report.

Revision of the Wye Group Handbook

In 2009, the Wye Group decided to draft a supplement to the Handbook, focusing on material relevant to developing countries, and a Handbook revision focusing on OECD countries. Subsequently, it was decided that a single revised handbook would be produced. It was

decided to put the Handbook into a web-based format, enabling broader access and facilitating future revisions. The structure of the Handbook has been revised, with material applicable to all countries kept as the Handbook core, and material focusing on specific regions or countries linked to the core material as hyperlinks or as separate sections. All of this material has been revised and is being peer-reviewed before the revised Handbook is released. Links to extended references (not peer-reviewed) are also being provided in the revised Handbook. It is envisioned that such links could continue to be added in the future, as well as additional focus pieces, without changing the core material. This does not preclude future revisions of the entire Handbook, including the core material, but will enable more ongoing updating of the Handbook without a complete revision. The revised Handbook will be released during the first half of 2011.

Future of the Wye Group

A consensus among members exists that the Wye Group should continue its work with a new mandate from the UNSC, and that future activities of the Wye Group should directly support implementation of the Global Strategy (GS) for Agricultural and Rural Statistics. The GS encompasses household income and rural statistics and calls for research to strengthen the methodology for all areas of agricultural and rural statistics. Several members of the Wye Group have also been active in the development of the GS. The Wye Group provides a unique international forum with statistical agencies, policy research agencies, and academic experts. Participants benefit from the multiple perspectives to shape the direction of their future research and develop international best practices.

A consensus also exists to focus on future work on rural statistics. This is a broader area that has not received much attention from the UNSC or other international groups and would set this group apart from other City Groups that focus on poverty or income. Rural encompasses a broad set of topics that have been identified as core indicators or issues in the Global Strategy. Key topics that might be addressed include:

- Collection of gender-disaggregated statistics;
- Clarification of rural definitions and boundaries;
- Measures of well-being beyond income (such as consumption and wealth);
- Identification of core indicators as part of a common implementation plan with the Global Strategy;
- Development of a micro-macro approach to statistical data collection, including methods to reconcile national accounts with survey estimates;
- Development of master sample frames to link household and agricultural surveys.

The Wye Group will make a future proposal to continue either as a City Group or as part of a group formed to implement the Global Strategy. The Group intends to broaden participation to include greater participation of organizations from developing countries, and to focus on providing technical support to implementation of the Global Strategy as well as continuing to provide a forum for discussion among researchers and statistical agencies of methodological issues related to collecting, disseminating and using rural and agricultural statistics.

A more precise proposal for the future of the Wye City Group will be formulated when the Governing Mechanism of the Implementation Plan of the Global Strategy has been finally agreed upon.

ANNEX A. WYE CITY GROUP ON STATISTICS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Third Meeting

USA, Washington, DC, 24-25 May 2010

Venue: Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Final report

Overview

The Wye City Group on Statistics on Rural Development and Agricultural Household Income held its third meeting at the Economic Research Service in Washington, DC, on May 24 and 25, 2010. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Support the U.N. Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics by highlighting international needs and opportunities to improve statistics on rural and farm households, and strengthen the process of collecting and disseminating statistics on rural and farm households; and
- Review and discuss revisions to the Wye Group Handbook, with emphasis on addressing issues related to agricultural and rural statistics in developing countries.

The meeting began with a keynote speakers' session, with speakers from the United States, the World Bank, Uganda and Brazil providing their perspectives on needs and opportunities for improving rural and agricultural household statistics.¹ Following the opening session, the proposed structure and content of the revised Handbook were presented and discussed. Papers were presented and discussed in four paper sessions, covering topics including measurement of household well-being; dynamics of assets, income, and consumption; data sources and measurement of well-being in Latin America; and special topics including the aggregation problem, gender issues, a typology of rural regions based on remoteness, and linkages between oil exploration and agricultural development in Nigeria and implications for qualitative data collection. During the afternoon of May 25, several invited speakers offered suggestions on the way forward for the Wye Group and linkages to the UN Global Strategy, after which two working groups were formed to address issues related to 1) completing revisions of the Wye Group Handbook, and 2) the future of the Wye Group and its linkages to the Global Strategy. During the final session, the findings and recommendations of the working groups were presented and discussed, and the next steps for the Wye Group were summarized.

The conference was attended by 51 participants from North and South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia.² Participants included representatives of national statistical and economic research agencies, universities, and international organizations such as the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the World Bank, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

¹ The conference program is included in Appendix A1.

² The list of conference participants is included in Appendix A2.

Opening Session

Kitty Smith, Administrator of the Economic Research Service (ERS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), welcomed and thanked the participants and conference organizers, and presented a U.S. perspective on rural and farm household statistics. She emphasized the growing need for reliable statistics on rural and farm households globally, and the unfortunate reality that in many countries the availability and quality of such statistics has declined in recent decades. She explained the history of the Wye City Group and its role in helping to address this problem, and reviewed the objectives of the present conference. She then provided a U.S. perspective on the importance and roles of agricultural and rural household statistics, giving examples of how such statistics are used in policy making in the United States, citing some shortcomings in U.S. statistics (especially related to statistics on rural areas) and emphasizing the importance to the United States of reliable statistics globally, especially in developing countries, given the high priority that the United States Government places on eliminating poverty and food insecurity throughout the world.

Eija Pehu, leader of the World Bank's programs on sustainable agriculture and gender in agriculture within the Agriculture and Rural Development Department, discussed the need for improved collection and dissemination of agricultural and rural household statistics. She emphasized the importance of agriculture for achieving economic growth, poverty reduction and sustainable use of natural resources in developing countries. She highlighted improved opportunities for achieving sustainable agricultural development, including changing diets and technological and institutional innovations; but also discussed the significant challenges still to be overcome, including increasing scarcity of natural resources, inadequate investment in agricultural research and development, public "misinvestments" in agricultural subsidies, and rising rural-urban disparities. She argued that agriculture is re-emerging as a top priority on the global agenda, and that better information is needed to support more and better investments in agricultural development. She cited the importance and challenge of collecting gender-disaggregated data on agricultural and rural households, and other challenges such as inadequate capacity and coordination problems in many developing countries. She stressed that the World Bank is engaging to help address these issues, and strongly supports the U.N. Statistical Commission's (UNSC) Global Strategy. She ended by providing examples of good practices being implemented in developing countries and citing lessons learned from the World Bank's International Comparison Program that involves partnerships with statistical agencies in over 100 countries.

E.S.K. Muwanga-Zake, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), presented Uganda's experience in collecting statistics on agricultural and rural households. He provided an overview of the relevant statistics collected in Uganda, discussed how this information has been used in policy making, identified gaps in the data and discussed the Ugandan Government's plans to address these, discussed the lessons learned from Uganda's experience and offered concluding comments on the challenges ahead. He explained how data collected by UBOS and other agencies informed the development of the Poverty Eradication Action Plan, the Plan for the Modernisation of Agriculture, and the recently launched National Development Plan, and how these data are being used to monitor and evaluate the success of these plans. Key data gaps include a lack of continuous data, especially for agricultural statistics, and limited data for lower administrative levels. New data collection efforts have been initiated to fill gaps, such as recent Agricultural and Livestock Censuses, the National Service Delivery Surveys, and a Community Information System to collect basic information on household welfare. Many lessons have been learned

from Uganda's experience, including the importance of improving coordination between different agencies responsible for statistical data collection and dissemination; the risk of relying on donor resources to finance collection of agricultural statistics; the need for increased investment by national governments in data collection; the need to evaluate and increase the cost effectiveness of different methods of data collection; the value of recent methodology improvements, such as use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS); the value of linking population census and household survey data; the value of participatory sources of information such as the Uganda Participatory Poverty Assessment Process in bringing the voices of the poor into planning processes; the critical needs for capacity building and strengthening partnerships between academics and staff of government statistical agencies; and others.

Eduardo Pereira Nunes, President of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics and Chairman of the Friends of the Chair Committee of the UNSC, discussed Brazil's experience in collecting agricultural and rural household statistics, offered some comments on the Wye Group Handbook, and suggested next steps for the Wye Group to help improve agricultural and rural statistics in non-OECD countries. He cited some statistics about agricultural and rural people based on the National Household Sample Survey and the Agricultural Census, and discussed examples and problems of coordination between the National Statistical Office and Government Ministries. He commented that the Wye Group Handbook offers useful guidance on production of statistics on rural development for OECD countries and on rural poverty for developing countries, and suggested that for developing countries a broader system of statistics is needed to integrate information on agricultural economic activity, rural household income and living conditions. Lack of data integration is an important problem in Brazil. In developing its own integrated statistical system, Brazil seeks to learn from other countries' experiences, such as the Agricultural Resource Management Survey implemented by USDA. Brazil is planning a new system of agricultural surveys following the recommendations of the UNSC Global Strategy. He stressed that population and agricultural censuses are very expensive and that there is need for new methods and technologies that are cost effective. He suggested that the Wye Group could help illuminate new issues and approaches, such as the need for statistics on the living conditions of rural employees and on diversification of smallholders into non-farm activities. He stressed that these issues are not covered by the existing Wye Group Handbook or the Global Strategy, and that the Wye Group could play an important role in support of the Global Strategy by identifying such underrepresented subjects, analyzing new concepts and improving methods of data collection.

Discussion

During the discussion period, a question was raised about how to reconcile data collected at different times using different instruments. This was acknowledged to be a difficult challenge. One participant emphasized the importance of clarifying the links between data collection and policy making, so that the case for investing in data collection is strengthened. Several participants agreed with the importance of collecting data on rural employment and livelihood diversification, and the need for gender-disaggregated data. One participant argued for the need to move beyond a focus on farms in rural areas, since urban people are also involved in farming and people move in and out of rural areas.

Session on the Wye Handbook Revision

Graham Eele of the World Bank provided a brief review of the history of the Wye City Group, its objectives, and progress since 2007. *Carola Fabi* of FAO then discussed the outcomes of the 2009 Wye Group meeting in Rome and the planned next steps. Graham then discussed progress since the Rome meeting in updating the Handbook and developments in thinking about how the Handbook would be structured. The structure of the revised Handbook is to include three levels: i) “level 1” core text that is relevant to all countries, including OECD and non-OECD countries; ii) “level 2” material consisting largely of out-takes of material from the existing Handbook specific to OECD or developing countries, and new material relevant to one of these groups; and iii) links to “level 3” material in existing documents, papers and websites. It was noted that the progress in revising the Handbook had fallen behind the original schedule for various reasons. Core text is available for all chapters, but review, editing and some substantial rewriting will be needed for many chapters, especially to ensure relevance to developing countries. Level 2 and 3 material has been identified mostly for OECD countries; more material will be needed for developing countries. The target is still to complete a draft of the revised Handbook to be presented at the ICAS V meeting in Kampala, Uganda in October, though it will still be a work in progress. Graham summarized the process for revising the Handbook, and *Elisabetta Aurino* of FAO discussed these steps in more detail, illustrating the process based on the work completed on Chapters I and III. Graham then presented the current structure of the Handbook and highlighted important decisions that have to be made, such as what can be produced within the resources and time available, who will host and maintain the Handbook, the process for review of the revised Handbook materials, strengthening linkages with the Global Strategy, and design considerations. He ended the presentation by summarizing the issues for discussion.

Discussion

During the discussion, many issues were raised and comments and suggestions offered, including the following:

- OECD vs. non-OECD or developing countries: One participant felt that integrating materials on OECD and non-OECD countries is a good idea. Another argued that the OECD – developing country dichotomy is not useful for considering agricultural and rural statistics; while another argued that a developed-developing country distinction is useful since there is a difference in how welfare is measured in these contexts (with more emphasis on consumption measurement in developing countries). Another participant argued that saying the problem is primarily poverty in rural areas of developing countries is short-sighted; that demographic processes such as urbanization and depopulation of poor areas are important policy issues in some countries. Another participant emphasized institutional problems with data collection and reporting in some developing countries, where in some cases data can be changed “overnight” due to political considerations. There are more protections against such problems in most developed countries.
- Agricultural vs. Rural: One participant felt that the Group should consider also integrating agricultural and rural issues. These should be linked – with the linkage occurring at the household level (i.e., agriculture is an employment choice and rural is a locational choice at the household level). Another participant noted that it is important to consider how different countries define agricultural vs. rural – for example, in Canada, agriculture is seen as a business, whereas rural issues are about

welfare. Another suggested that clarification of the issues on agricultural vs. rural and rural/urban may warrant a separate section in the Handbook.

- Measuring income: One participant highlighted the importance of measuring income in developing countries, highlighting a new emphasis on this at the World Bank, supported by the Gates Foundation. Is this a topic that the Wye Group could provide methodological support on?
- Developing country capacity: One participant noted that recommendations on collecting statistics need to take into account developing countries' capacity.
- Donor coordination: The need for improved coordination among donors' efforts to promote statistical data collection was noted.
- Integration of statistics in national systems: One participant argued that agricultural and rural statistics need to be integrated with the system of national income accounts, and require consistent definitions of terms such as rural across countries. Another argued that opportunities exist to improve integration of administrative data with other statistical data. For example, could crop cutting measurements be linked to household data collection (i.e., done for households that are part of a household survey), so that better integration could be achieved. This could be something to address in the Wye Group Handbook. Others agreed that there are opportunities to improve integration of data in national systems, and pointed out that this is related to the issue of how to combine data from different sources. Helping to address this topic is an area where the Wye Group could contribute to the Global Strategy.
- Suggestions for Handbook revision: One participant suggested that more emphasis is needed on what we don't know and what we need to do to improve statistical systems. Another suggested that the editing process be opened up, with the editors providing the framework and clear guidelines and highlighting gaps, and then members of the Group can provide material to add and suggest where to include it. One participant suggested that someone should be in charge of the review process who is not one of the authors or editors, similar to the review process used by journals; and this was supported by other participants. On the format of the revised Handbook, it was suggested that it be in a web-based format like a Wiki, with lots of links, but with gatekeepers to provide more structure and quality control of the content. Other participants supported this idea. ERS volunteered to work with FAO to develop a web-based version of the Handbook, using existing materials. FAO indicated that it will continue to host the website and contribute to revisions, including working with ERS on the web-based version. It was argued that the goal of completing the Handbook revision by October is not realistic, but that we should target having a preliminary draft by then, which can be reviewed and discussed by participants in the ICAS meeting. It was noted that the level 2 material requires more work, especially for developing countries, and representatives of developing countries in the conference were asked if they could contribute material. Some of the participants offered to provide material on developing countries (on Nepal and Latin America). Another participant argued that Wye Group efforts will be more sustainable if we go to a fully internet based approach that involves key experts in updating and review - a lot of specialist knowledge is needed, and this should be self-financing. He argued that only limited editing should be required, and that it would be difficult to finance an editor to continue with heavy editing. Another participant cited an example of a Wiki developed by Natural Resources Canada. Several participants argued that there is a need for a strong and robust core text, while the task of providing level 2 and 3 text will never be completed. Another participant argued that the core text should be able to change over time to address new issues; what is required is a clear delineation of

responsibilities. It was suggested that what is needed is a process for filtering level 3 text to level 2, perhaps by asking authors of level 3 materials to provide short synthesized text for level 2, while another process would be needed to revise the core text, which should be less frequently required. Although some participants argued for a decentralized approach to continuing the work of the Wye Group, others argued that a secretariat is needed to provide a strong “center of gravity” to keep momentum going, especially to maintain a web-based product rather than a one-off book. One participant argued that we should be wary of recommending “best practices” in the Handbook, considering the diversity of needs and capacities across countries; but rather can suggest “good practices” drawing on good case studies.

Paper Session 1: Measurement of Household Well-Being

Pasquale De Muro presented the paper, “Rethinking rural well-being and poverty”, by P. De Muro.

Abstract: Most statistics represent rural well-being and poverty in terms of income and wealth. Other dimensions of well-being are generally not considered or receive much less attention and play a marginal role. Recently, this conventional view has been challenged. On one side, multidimensional approaches to well-being and poverty have been proposed by some scholars and organizations, including OECD, EU, and UNDP. The merits and the difficulties of these approaches are discussed in the paper, with special reference to measurement issues. On the other side, this paper suggests that multidimensionality is necessary but not sufficient to assess properly well-being and poverty, because a sound theoretical framework is needed as well. A section of the paper is devoted to the presentation of some concepts that are useful to a better multidimensional analysis of well-being and poverty. This novel approach is particularly relevant for rural people and areas, as their disadvantages cannot be generally grasped in the income or wealth dimension. The approach has also important implications for data collection, rural statistics and indicators, as well as for rural policies.

David Culver presented the paper, “A broader perspective of measuring the well-being of rural farm and non-farm households”, by F. Nimpagaritse and D. Culver.

Abstract: The concept of well-being refers to a dynamic process that gives people a sense of how their lives are evolving. Although it has multidimensional aspects, it is traditionally measured by economic indicators, such as the level of income, incidence of low income, wealth, etc. Moreover, some economic indicators have limitations in terms of measuring the financial aspects of the well-being. In Canada, certain measures such as cash accounting can be used by farmers which can distort financial indicators such as income. Indicators that focus only on the economic aspects of well-being do not provide a comprehensive measure of the well-being of families. The non-economic aspects, such as health, education etc, are as important as many economic measurements and are interconnected with economic indicators. For example, changes in education are linked to income and health. The paper provides a broader discussion on the well-being and how areas of the well-being are interconnected. It also highlights areas where data collection may need to be improved to support research on farm and rural household well-being.

Alberto Zezza presented the paper, “Measure for measure: systematic patterns of deviation between measures of income and consumption in developing countries. Evidence from a new dataset”, by C. Azzarri, G. Carletto, K. Covarrubias, Ana Paula de la O, C. Petracco, K. Scott and A. Zezza.

Abstract: This paper uses an innovative household level database to ask two basic questions related to the well-known issue of income underreporting in household surveys in developing countries: (a) The extent of this underreporting in practice, and (b) whether and how it varies systematically with respondent, household, income, and survey design features. Drawing on rural household data from 17 developing and transition countries, our results indicate that the observed differences between income and consumption are extremely large, being on average 31 percent. We also find evidence of the underreporting being systematically associated with key individual, household and survey characteristics. Agricultural income is the component suffering more than any other from underreporting. Implications for policy analysis and for future research are drawn.

Discussion

Several comments and questions were provided to the presenters, including the following:

For De Muro:

- The relationship between household income and well-being may be different for poor vs. rich people.
- Composite indicators are needed not only for a broader notion of well-being. Even to measure financial well-being, income is not a sufficient measure.

For Culver:

- It would be useful to know what improvements in indicators can be made.
- Are there any comparisons in well-being of farming vs. non-farm households?
- Has there been any effort to make a composite index of well-being in Canada?
- Is there a way to convert absolute threshold levels of well-being indicators to relative ones that are comparable across countries?

For Zezza:

- We know that there are measurement errors in income, but this may not be such a problem if more interested in relative rather than absolute income levels. (The response was that there are systematic errors in income measures, and these are correlated with other factors of interest. It is important to understand the nature of these systematic biases to be able to draw conclusions about the factors affecting income).
- The problem in measuring income is in part a problem of asking for too much information in one survey; especially to estimate agricultural income along with other components. Are there ways to combine data from multiple surveys to get better estimates; for example, using separate surveys for agricultural and non-agricultural income?

General:

- This is an excellent set of papers on concepts, methods and measurement. All of these matter for outcomes desired by policy makers.

- Some of this material and discussion could go into the chapters of the Handbook on measuring well-being and on data sources.

Paper Session 2: Dynamics of Assets, Income and Consumption

Gero Carletto presented the paper, “Improving the availability, quality and policy-relevance of agricultural data: the Living Standards Measurement Study – Integrated Surveys on Agriculture”, by G. Carletto, K. Beegle, K. Himelein, T. Kilic, S. Murray, M. Oseni, K. Scott, and D. Steele.

Abstract: The recent food crisis has sharply highlighted both the importance of sound agricultural policies as well as the weaknesses in agricultural information systems that hinder knowledge generation, innovation and change. Despite the importance of the agricultural sector and its critical role in meeting the MDGs and buttressing governments’ poverty reduction and growth strategies, serious weaknesses in agricultural statistics persist throughout sub-Saharan Africa. There are a number of reasons why the quality and quantity of agricultural data have seldom matched their importance in policy-making. First, poorer countries, for which agriculture is a critical source of livelihoods, often have the poorest data. Second, agricultural data are often collected in institutional isolation, with little coordination across sectors and little analytical value-added beyond the sector. Third, the lack of analytical capacity has created a vicious cycle of poor analysis undermining the demand for high-quality data. Finally, inadequate data and measurement issues have affected the ability of policy analysts and researchers to contribute to the design of innovative and more effective policy. The Living Standards Measurement Study – Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMS-ISA) program is a new initiative of the Development Research Group of the World Bank, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, aimed at developing and implementing innovative household panel surveys in six Sub-Saharan African countries, with a strong focus on agricultural and rural development. A number of tenets are central to the LSMS-ISA project. First, the collection of agricultural data must be integrated into a broad, multi-sectoral framework that goes well beyond agriculture. Second, the collection of agricultural data must be buttressed by a well-matched institutional setting conducive of collaboration and integration of data sources. Third, national capacity needs to be strengthened to enhance the value of the data generated and bolster the link between data producers and data users. This, in turn, negatively affects the quality and availability of policy-relevant analysis. Poor dissemination of the available data and results has further aggravated the problem. The paper highlights the main features of the LSMS-ISA project, how it is addressing some of the current weaknesses of agricultural and rural statistics, and summarizes the experience to date in introducing the program in a number of Sub-Saharan countries.

Ajoy Bista presented the paper, “A study of association among rural household expenditure inequality, asset inequality, and poverty”, by A. Bista.

Abstract: This paper examines the relationship between rural household expenditure inequality and asset inequality and their link with poverty. Nepal was selected for the study because poverty had unexpectedly decreased during recent years. Three rural communities that were more likely to have measurable changes in the household expenditures and assets over the recent years and covered by the Living Standard Surveys in 1995/96 and 2003/04 were selected for the study. The analysis covers “expenditure” and “asset” assessments, arguably the most important dimensions of poverty and fundamental inputs into multi-

dimensional poverty analysis. For a better understanding of poverty, inequality, relative poverty, and subjective poverty were also assessed. The poverty rate in the sample households significantly increased between 1995/96 and 2003/04 but it decreased in 2007. There were indications that the panel and the cross-section households saw growth in average per capita assets. However, the growth was associated with an increase in asset inequality. On the other hand, the average per capita expenditure did not grow as much but was associated with a decrease in expenditure inequality. There was evidence that the households surveyed, in general, had a high propensity to consume, which compromised their ability to maintain or build their productive assets.

Discussion

For Carletto:

- What are the lessons learned from working with national statistical organizations in the LSMS-ISA project? (Response: A long term perspective is needed. You need to pay a lot of attention to developing institutional relationships. It is not easy sometimes to work with ministries. There are a lot of turf issues between institutions, such as between national statistical organizations and ministries of agriculture. It will take time to develop collaboration).
- How can the problem of respondent burden with panel surveys be addressed? (Response: It is hard to sell a panel survey to statistical offices. It is much easier to work with research organizations for this. We are still trying to sell the idea).

General

- Should the Handbook discuss consumption expenditures as an indicator of well-being?

Paper Session 3: Data Sources and Measurement of Well-Being in Latin America

Flavio Bolliger presented the paper “Agricultural household in the context of household surveys and Agricultural Census in Brazil”, by W. Soares, F. Bolliger, and A. Costa.

Abstract: Household surveys have been used by many groups of Brazilian researchers in order to know more about the living conditions of the rural population. The information on agricultural households can also be obtained from the 2006 Agricultural Census, especially in relation to family income and the economic, social and environmental characteristics, for example, of the rural establishment. The purpose of this paper is to evaluate the limits of the data in relation to gaining further information about the agricultural household by starting a discussion about the application of this concept, which is different in each case. To explore it, three kinds of household estimates were prepared: total number of agricultural households; farming income, and off-farm income. In relation to the last indicator, its chief importance is associated with the increase in pluri-activity and the recent income transfer programs applied by the government. It is expected that household surveys are more able to collect off-farm income data while the Census data has better estimates for farming income. With regard to the set of household surveys data available for this type of study, it is customary to use the National Household Sample Survey (PNAD) in Brazil, although the Brazilian Household Budget Survey (POF) 2002-2003 has also been used herein. Lastly, there is a section that discusses the pros and cons of the possible choices and the need for greater conceptual and methodological development of the treatment of mixed-income segments such as the agricultural household.

Adrián Rodríguez presented the paper, “Poverty incidence and income profiles of rural households in twelve Latin American countries”, by A. Rodríguez.

Abstract: Using recent Household Surveys from 12 Latin American countries we define a typology of rural households that classifies them into four categories: a) agricultural; b) non-agricultural; c) multiactivity; and d) transfer-dependent. For each household group we estimate poverty rates and define income profiles. Income sources are classified into four large groups, which reflect the condition of occupation: a) salary income; b) income from self-employment; c) income generated by employers; and d) transfers. Countries with high rural household poverty rates are characterized by having traditional agrarian rural economies. Countries with low poverty rates are classified into those with a diversified rural economy and those with a dominantly modern agricultural rural economy; and countries with mid-range poverty rates are characterized as having a transition rural economy. The paper highlights the importance of four types of policies: a) policies for small-scale family agriculture both productive and social, particularly in high poverty countries with extensive self employment and un-paid family members in agriculture; b) labor market policies that allow to improve quality of employment, especially in countries where salaried labor is the main source of jobs; c) productive development policies to promote the diversification of the rural economy; and d) social protection policies to protect economically inactive households.

Carlos Zuniga González presented the paper, “Comparisons of LSMS-ISA data collection and dissemination efforts in Central America”, by C. Zuniga González.

Abstract: This article aims at the comparison of LSMS surveys in Central American countries to increase current knowledge of survey methodologies and ensure the most efficient dissemination and utilization of the results. It seeks to improve the availability, quality and relevance of agricultural data for policy and research in Central America. The criterion for this comparison consists of household survey data production, methodological validation/research, capacity building and dissemination. The integrated approach considers a multi-topic questionnaire as agriculture plus nonfarm, nutrition, inter alia, consumption – based welfare measure, for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural Statistics. The methodological validation/research is an extension of LSMS IV for improvement of the following measures: crop yields (plot size, quantities, measurement tool, diaries/crop cards, crop cutting), module development/sourcebooks (income source, fishery, livestock, and community governance/empowerment. The results would have the following priorities and principles: a) Support and build longitudinal data systems that improve policy decision making, resource allocation, and priority setting, b) Ensure free public access to all data as soon as possible, c) Lower the costs of using data through data access platforms, harmonization of methodologies, and through outreach and capacity building, d) Capitalize on synergies from integrating different types of data (e.g. broad representative surveys as LSMS, more intensive surveys/sentinel sites, censuses, geospatial data, etc.).

Discussion

For Bolliger:

- Is it possible to classify farm households using census data using data on structure of production rather than actual income, to yield a more stable classification?
- Comment from Eduardo Nunes: Using household budget surveys we showed that 84% of farm families had expenses greater than income, and may need to borrow in

financial markets as a result. 11 million families received aid from the government in Brazil; most of these in rural areas.

- It is difficult to collect income data from only one survey, need several sources of data. Did you try to integrate data from different surveys? (Response: We didn't try to integrate different sources of data, just comparing them).

For Rodríguez:

- How were the poverty rates used in the study defined? Are they absolute or relative? Are they consumption or income based? Are they comparable across countries? (Responses: They were defined by each country. They reflect absolute poverty, and are income based. They are fairly comparable across countries, since the countries collected the data in relatively homogeneous fashion using ILO standards. There are differences in definitions of rural vs. urban, however).
- It would be good to explore the implications of different definitions of rural areas.

For Zuniga González:

- How is consumption data collected in LSMS surveys? Are they getting high quality data? (Response: Panel data is needed; invite the World Bank to work on this in Latin America).
- Why the low participation of universities? Did you try to improve relationships with universities? (Response: Universities are not aware of the importance of LSMS surveys. There is not enough concern about using evidence to support claims; this needs to be promoted).

Paper Session 4: Special Topics

Edoardo Pizzoli presented the paper, “The aggregation problem in historical perspective: a summary overview”, by G. Lutero.

Abstract: This document covers the problem of aggregation in the context of statistical and econometric linear modeling under rural development. A brief updated overview on this topic, much debated and approved, will be given in different conceptual frameworks: longitudinal or spatial, temporal and contemporaneous. It will be shown the possible introduction of bias in aggregate macroeconomic models and the stochastic characteristics change from higher frequency models to lower ones. The concept of multi-dimensionality as a means to overcome the one dimensional analysis of development and poverty and also as an alternative measure of welfare will be discussed in its empirical and methodological aspects. A focus will be dedicated to the specific steps necessary to identify the weights and the aggregation methods in the construction of composite indices.

Mary Ahearn presented the paper, “Gender issues in agricultural and rural household well-being”, by M. Ahearn and D. Tempelman.

Abstract: Women allocate their work time and manage risk differently than do men for a complex set of reasons. Partly, this is related to the unique child-rearing responsibilities of women, differences in life expectancy, and the result of cultural gender roles and differences in access to agricultural productive resources. In many countries, family roles, responsibilities, and rights are gender-related and extend beyond biological differences. The basic decision-making unit in society is a household; therefore, intra-household relationships,

such as bargaining power, must be understood to fully understand incentives and behaviors. Gender-specific information that can be included in national data collection efforts as proxies for bargaining power include education, shares of family income earned, unearned income, inherited assets, assets at marriage, and the extent of involvement in agricultural labor and management activities. In societies where the majority of the population depends on agriculture and where food security may especially be a critical issue, it is important to have gender-specific data on access to and control over productive resources, including individual's labor and access to family labor.

Research and development experiences have shown the importance of considering the gender of farm and rural people in efforts to understand and influence their behavior and improve the conditions of those in extreme poverty and hunger. Certainly, some statistics indicate that the well-being of women and girls is lower than the well-being of men and boys; however, for many indicators the rural-urban divide is a greater factor in determining well-being. Consequently, information on the unique role played by women in their family and homes is important to understanding and improving the well-being of all rural and agricultural people, regardless of gender.

Gender continues to lack significant visibility in statistics for agriculture and rural areas. The paper describes evidence of the feminization of agriculture in the developing world, and for both developed and developing countries, the feminization of poverty. The extent of visibility varies by country, making it difficult to generalize. Many in the development field, as well as national and international organizations, have made a convincing case for the importance of understanding the role of gender and that understanding is reflected in the MDGs. These include policies directed at strengthening the education of girls, eliminating workplace discrimination against women, developing and encouraging the adoption of agricultural technologies that increase productivity, and reforming property rights to provide equitable control over assets between men and women. The paper provides an overview of the issues: why gender-specific data are important to measuring household well-being, the current state of gender relevant data, and recommendations for improving sex-specific data reflecting gender differences.

T.G. Apata presented the paper, "Linkages between crude-oil exploration and agricultural development in Nigeria: implications for relevant qualitative data collection and analysis to improve the rural economy", by T.G. Apata.

Abstract: Crude oil exploration has led to environmental problems in the producing communities. This has adversely affected livelihood activities in agriculture leading to low income. For survival and sustenance, people in this area tend to rely on multiple choices of non-farm rural activities to improve household's income. In this study, livelihood diversification strategies of farming households in crude oil-polluted areas of Nigeria were examined. Based upon the available information of the population size, the sampling procedure employed was Multi-stage random sampling. This technique helped to identify 150 polluted communities with 600 farming households covered. A total of 590-sample sizes were retained for subsequent analysis. Information was collected on household size, farming enterprise, different livelihood diversification strategies, costs of inputs, volume of outputs sold, revenue and household expenditure. Data were subjected to descriptive statistical, budgetary, regression and Foster-Greer-Thorbecke (FGT) poverty procedure. The average age of household head was 48.0 ± 8.2 years. The household size of 9.6 ± 5.3 members and average farm size of 2.8 ± 0.8 ha were obtained. Major farm income activities were fisheries (65.0 %) and crop production (35.0 %). The livelihood diversification index of 0.4 (CV 42) showed that majority of the household heads

undertook one form of livelihood diversification strategy or another. Eighty-nine percent of the respondents diversified into non-farm activities. Livelihood diversification has significant effect on household income at $p < 0.05$. A 1.0 % increase in livelihood diversification will lead to 1.4% increase in income signifying an elastic relationship. The poverty status showed that 85.2% of the household heads that relied only on farm income were unable to meet household basic needs compared with 32.3% for those that diversified into non-farm activities. Farming activities related livelihood strategies have low net income compared with non-farm activities. Livelihood diversification strategy is related to improved household income and reduced poverty status. Thus, there is dire need for comprehensive qualitative data collection to support critical research on the linkages between agricultural development and the rural economy.

Ray Bollman presented the paper, “Refinement of the OECD regional typology: economic performance of remote rural regions”, by Lewis Dijkstra and Vicente Ruiz.

Abstract: To account for differences among rural and urban regions, the OECD has established a regional typology, classifying TL3 regions as predominantly urban (PU), intermediate (IN) or predominantly rural (PR). This typology has proved to be meaningful to better explain regional differences in economic and labour market performance. However, it does not take into account the presence of economic agglomerations if they happen to be in neighboring regions. Remote rural regions face a different set of problems than rural regions close to a city, where a wider range of services and opportunities can be found. This paper suggests a refinement of the current typology to include a criterion on the accessibility to urban centers. The results show a clear distinction between remote rural regions and rural regions close to a city in terms of declining and ageing population, level of productivity and unemployment. This extended typology, which includes a measure of distance from cities for the population living in a rural area, is applied to North America and Europe. Our aim is to extend it in the future to the other OECD countries and evaluate the feasibility to apply a similar method to non OECD countries.

Working Group Session: The Way Forward for the Wye City Group

The working group session started with brief presentations by Fred Vogel, Naman Keita, and Cynthia Clark offering perspectives on the needs and opportunities for improving agricultural and rural household statistics, and suggestions of contributions that the Wye City Group could make.

Fred Vogel reviewed the UN Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, with emphasis on how it relates to the Wye City Group, and offered suggestions on the way forward for the Wye Group. He provided examples of interlinkages among policy issues that relate to agricultural and rural statistics, and presented the conceptual framework, sample frame and integrated survey framework proposed by the Global Strategy. His suggestions for the way forward emphasized the importance of working within the framework of the Global Strategy, determining where issues affecting agricultural households overlap with those affecting rural households, determining where rural household issues overlap with those of urban households, and determining where labor, employment and other issues overlap between agriculture and other sectors. He recommended that the Wye Group consider the priorities of data – whether it is to be used for national or international purposes – and if international purposes are a priority, he stressed the need to have a common definition of the rural domain. He recommended that the Wye Group establish linkages with the Household Survey Network, document household issues that should be included in National Strategies for Development of Statistics, and facilitate countries with established statistical systems forming partnerships with developing countries. He highlighted three important dimensions of data quality – timeliness, comparability and availability – and urged that the Group help set standards for data access policies.

Naman Keita reviewed the history of the Wye City Group and its achievements to date, the rationale and main pillars of the Global Strategy, and the contributions that the Group could make to the research component of the implementation plan of the Global Strategy; and posed questions for the Group to consider related to the institutional arrangements for the Group after its current mandate expires in the spring of 2011. Concerning possible roles of the Wye Group to support the research component of the Global Strategy, he suggested that the Group could provide technical advice and assist in adaptation of the conceptual framework of the Global Strategy to different contexts; play an active role in identifying new and emerging cross-country policy issues, gaps, needs for corresponding indicators, and data requirements; document and disseminate country experiences and good practices; serve as a resource group for technical discussion of best practices and contribute to development of improved methods for sampling, survey integration, database management and analysis; and serve as an advocacy forum to promote implementation of the Global Strategy, advocate use and analysis of data on agriculture and rural development as identified in the Global Strategy, and identify shortcomings in data systems of countries that need to be addressed to be consistent with the Strategy. He raised three questions for discussion about i) whether this City Group is the best vehicle to support implementation of the Global Strategy, ii) how participation of developing countries in the Group can be increased to generate commitment to address their needs, and iii) what should be the source of resources to support the activities of the Group.

Cynthia Clark summarized the goals of the Wye City Group and the goals of the Global Strategy, highlighted common areas of focus of the Wye Group and Global Strategy, and suggested ways forward. Among the common or complementary areas that she observed were concern about measures of income, an expanded view of the agricultural sector including fisheries and forestry, the fact that the Wye Group's focus on expanding measures of well-being could enhance the value of indicators proposed by the Global Strategy, and the fact that the Global Strategy's focus on comparable practices across countries provides a foundation of good practice for the Wye Group to incorporate in its recommendations. She recommended that the Group continue its intellectual contribution to development of broader measures of well-being, apply the methodological suggestions and research direction of the Global Strategy in developing measures of well-being, and think strategically about how collection of data related to farm households can be enhanced to meet needs for data on rural households.

Below are notes from the working group discussions.

Working Group 1: Completing the Handbook Revisions

1. What can be presented at the ICAS meeting in October?
 - Core text can be drafted and initial review completed (assuming limited changes to structure)
 - Determine structure of level 2 with some text
 - Level 3 is relatively easy to provide; helps to think about future material
 - References; Other papers--begin thinking about how to introduce them in level 2 where appropriate
 - Should start extracting material (esp. Wye conference papers) for Level 2. Work is already beginning on this. Ask authors to contribute to this effort [Edoardo P. available also for this task; Benedetto R. offered to work to identify core text to be expanded]
 - Present material in HTML format
 - Seek additional feedback in Kampala

2. What changes should be made to the Handbook structure?
 - Links to Global Strategy:
 - Make links in introductory material (which chapter?)

- At the end of each part emphasize explicitly how material in be viewed in terms of GS objectives-- 3 pillars
 - Take a hard look at areas of overlap and duplication and remove/pare.
 - Incorporate gender issues
 - Incorporate cross-urban/rural work/residence in existing chapters
 - Include a fuller treatment of well-being, not only income
 - Chapter 14 – selected countries – update these?
 - Establish guidelines for updating the data presentation where appropriate
 - Electronic indexing (post Kampala?)
3. Suggestions of authors to contribute new material
 - Gender: Mary Ahearn and Diana Templeton
 - Urban/rural/ag interface: Flavio Bolliger.
 - Other aspects of HH well being in Part II (change title to I & WB): Pasquale de Muro
 - New material should be commissioned within 2-3 weeks
 4. Review process
 - Need review process outside the editorial process
 - Coordinator(s) – Rome Group?
 - Receives material from editorial team
 - 2 reviewers per section (Levels 1 and 2) can be inside/outside Group, but maintain separation between editing and review
 - Material should begin to send to review coordinator immediately and will flow sequentially to September
 5. Editorial responsibility
 - Material extracted from handbook still needs editing for Chapters 7-14; call for commitment for editors of individual chapters (beginning immediately)
 - Editors will revise outline with further detail on status of each chapter/section within 10 days and send out for call
 - Less work needed in Part 2 than in Part 1
 6. Financial support for editor
 - Berkeley continues until the end of June
 - Graham will continue to October
 - Veronica is available to October
 - If significant financial support is not possible, appoint small team to provide (in-kind) editorship
 - Call for commitment
 - Copy editor for style—someone other than editorial team—ERS?
 7. Putting Handbook in HTML format
 - FAO and ERS can work together to think about structure and technical requirements of putting material into HTML
 - Ensure that the material is printable (some form of pdf)

Working Group 2: The Way Forward for the Wye City Group/Linking to the Global Strategy

1. Should the Wye City Group seek a continuation of its mandate from the UNSC next year?

- There was consensus that the Wye Group should continue, but not about whether it should continue as a City Group
 - Advantages and disadvantages of continuing as a City Group were discussed
 - Advantages include some funding, easier to justify travel and organizational contributions for a City Group with a U.N. mandate
 - Disadvantages include need to define a specific output, less flexibility
2. What should be the main goals and roles of the Wye Group?
- Short term (until Spring 2011):
 - Finish Handbook revision
 - Serve an advisory role to the Friends of the Chair Committee (FOC) of the U.N. Global Strategy as it develops the implementation plan for the Strategy
 - Longer term (after Spring 2011):
 - Supporting the Global Strategy implementation should be a main goal, but not necessarily the only goal of the Wye Group (WG)
 - Relationship of the WG to the FOC is key, and should be clarified
 - Areas WG and FOC can work together:
 - FOC's role is to propose implementation plan for the Global Strategy – e.g., data collection, funding commitments, capacity building, technical support
 - WG can provide technical support and capacity building to FOC
 - WG can assist in developing the core set of indicators
 - Input of WG on indicators beyond agricultural statistics
 - WG can think about methods and concepts – FOC needs support on this
 - WG can provide ideas on statistics on agriculture, household concepts, income
 - WG can help to translate the broad orientation of Global Strategy to specific practices
 - FOC mainly data providers; can WG represent views of data users, if expand membership?
 - Can the Global Strategy implementation plan include a section on the Wye Group and its roles in contributing to GS implementation?
 - One of main tasks of this group should be to see how the Global Strategy can best be implemented in different contexts.
 - Comparative advantage of WG – international group with experience including data producers and users. The strength of the WG is its ability to provide ideas about relevant methods and concepts to implement the Global Strategy. Need broader membership; expanded view of income and well-being can be useful
 - Involving universities, reps of statistical agencies in discussion of concepts, cost effectiveness of methods
 - Look at what is missing in the Global Strategy – i.e., the cost of data collection processes; possibility of working together to be more efficient in solving problems – sharing knowledge and interests, south-south cooperation, economies of scale; capacity building as part of work plan of group; bring in regional reps from different parts of world, develop a network of counterparts
 - Can WG provide technical support on institutional issues – e.g., identifying good practices to address coordination issues

- Advocacy role of the WG is also important – need a body to promote the agenda of the Global Strategy
- WG can also develop some areas outside of the Global Strategy. As researchers, part of the goals of the Group can be to come together to learn from each other; clarifying, collecting and storing knowledge in form of the Handbook (continually updated).
- WG could have development of a HB for developing countries as an output (some concern was raised about this suggestion)
- WG should be much more demand driven than before.
- WG can help to identify frontiers for developing and applying new concepts; e.g., going beyond income to broader measures of well-being. WG can include environmental and social aspects of well-being related to agriculture and rural areas.

Conclusion:

- Consensus that WG should continue
- Need to clarify and strengthen linkages between the WG and FOC
- Can start with FOC involving WG in development of implementation plan for Global Strategy; WG members can have technical input on this. In this process, we can jointly define the roles of the WG in support of the Global Strategy for the longer term (e.g., capacity building, methods and concepts, advocacy, technical assistance).

Issue to discuss still

- In what form should the WG continue – as a City Group or in some other form?

Plenary Discussion

After the working groups' discussion, the participants reconvened in a final plenary session. Reporters from each working group summarized the findings and recommendations of the working groups. During the final discussion, Eduardo Nunes, President of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, offered to host the next meeting of the Wye Group in Rio de Janeiro in 2011. Mary Bohman summarized the accomplishments of the conference, thanked all of the conference participants and asked for their continued involvement, and closed the conference.

Appendix A1. Conference Program

[Cosponsors: ERS, FAO, Farm Foundation and World Bank]

**WYE CITY GROUP
ON STATISTICS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURAL
HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

THIRD GLOBAL CONFERENCE

May 24-25, 2010

**Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC**

Monday, May 24

8:30 – 9:00	Registration	
9:00 – 11:00	Welcome and keynote speeches	
	Chair: Robert Gibbs, ERS	
	Welcome and US perspective	Kitty Smith, Administrator, Economic Research Service
	World Bank perspective	Mark Cackler, Sector Manager, ARD, World Bank
	Perspective from Uganda	E.S.K. Muwanga-Zake, Chairman, Uganda Bureau of Statistics
	Perspective from Brazil	Eduardo Nunes, President, Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics
	Comments/discussion	
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee	
11:15 – 12:15	Handbook and Supplement on agricultural and rural household statistics	
	Chair: Fay Abizadeh, Agriculture Canada	
	Structure of Handbook and Supplement	Graham Eele, World Bank
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch	
13:15 – 14:15	Handbook and Supplement (continued)	
	Questions/discussion	

- 14:15 – 15:45 Paper Session 1: Measurement of Household Well-Being
Chair: Naman Keita, FAO
- Rethinking rural well-being and poverty Pasquale De Muro, Università degli Studi Roma Tre
- A broader perspective of measuring the well-being of rural farm and non-farm households David Culver, AAFC
- Systematic patterns of deviation between measures of income and consumption in developing countries Alberto Zezza, FAO
- Questions/discussion
- 15:45 – 16:00 Coffee
- 16:00 – 17:00 Paper Session 2: Dynamics of Assets, Income and Consumption
Chair: Jeffrey Smith, Statistics Canada
- Improving the availability, quality and policy-relevance of agricultural data: the Living Standards Measurement Study – Integrated Surveys on Agriculture Gero Carletto, World Bank
- A study of rural household expenditure inequality and poverty: sources and implications for sustainable rural communities in Nepal Ajoy Bista, University of Guelph
- Questions/discussion
- 18:00 – 20:00 Reception at World Bank

Tuesday, May 25

- 9:00 – 10:30 Paper Session 3: Data Sources and Measurement of Well-Being in Latin America
Chair: Koen Boone, WUR
- Agricultural households in the context of the household surveys and Agricultural Census in Brazil Flavio Bolliger, IBGE
- A characterization of poverty incidence and income profiles of rural households in twelve Latin American countries Adrián Rodríguez, CEPAL
- Central American comparisons of LSMS-ISA data collection and dissemination efforts Carlos Alberto Zuniga González, National University of Nicaragua

	Questions/discussion	
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee	
10: 45 – 12:45	Paper Session 4: Special Topics	
	Chair: Edoardo Pizzoli, ISTAT	
	The aggregation problem in its historical perspective: a summary overview	Giancarlo Lutero, ISTAT
	Gender issues in agricultural and rural household well-being	Mary Ahearn, ERS
	Linkages between crude oil exploration and agricultural development in Nigeria: implications for relevant qualitative data collection and analysis to improve rural economy	T.G. Apata, Joseph Ayo Babalola University, Nigeria
	Remote rural regions in the EU and North America	Vicente Ruiz, OECD, and Lewis Dijkstra, EC
	Questions/discussion	
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 16:00	Working Group Session on the Way Forward for the Wye City Group	
	Chair: Graham Eele, World Bank	
	Some ideas on the way forward	Fred Vogel, WB Naman Keita, FAO Cynthia Clark, NASS
	Organization of working groups	Robert Gibbs and John Pender, ERS
	Working group discussion of key questions	
16:00 – 16:15	Coffee	
16:15 – 17:00	Plenary Discussion of Working Group Findings and Wrap Up	
	Chair: Mary Bohman, ERS	

Appendix A2. List of conference participants

Name	Surname	Organization	Country
David	Culver	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Canada
Fay	Abizadeh	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Canada
Carlos Alberto	Zuniga Gonzalez	Autonomous National University of Nicaragua, Leon	Nicaragua
Adrián	Rodríguez	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	Chile
Mary	Ahearn	Economic Research Service (ERS), USDA	USA
Mary	Bohman	ERS, USDA	USA
Jason	Brown	ERS, USDA	USA
Cheryl	Christensen	ERS, USDA	USA
Anna	D'Souza	ERS, USDA	USA
Tracey	Farrigan	ERS, USDA	USA
Robert	Gibbs	ERS, USDA	USA
Carol	Jones	ERS, USDA	USA
Sarah	Low	ERS, USDA	USA
Alex	Marre	ERS, USDA	USA
John	Pender	ERS, USDA	USA
Kitty	Smith	ERS, USDA	USA
David	Torgerson	ERS, USDA	USA
Timothy	Wojan	ERS, USDA	USA
Elisabetta	Aurino	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Italy
Carola	Fabi	FAO	Italy
Naman	Keita	FAO	Italy
Alberto	Zeza	FAO	Italy
Flavio	Bolliger	Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia E Estatística (IBGE)	Brazil
Eduardo	Pereira Nunes	IBGE	Brazil
Edoardo	Pizzoli	ISTAT	Italy
Temidayo Gabrel	Apata	Joseph Ayo Babalola University (JABU), Ikeji-Arakeji, Osun State	Nigeria
Koen	Boone	LEI Wageningen UR	Netherlands
Sophia	van der Bijl	Millennium Challenge Corporation	USA
Molly	Brown	NASA	USA
Ray	Bollman	Statistics Canada	Canada
Jeffrey	Smith	Statistics Canada	Canada
E.S.K.	Muwanga-Zake	Uganda Bureau of Statistics	Uganda
Pasquale	De Muro	Università degli Studi Roma Tre – Department of Economics	Italy
Benedetto	Rocchi	University of Florence, College of Agriculture	Italy
Ajoy	Bista	University of Guelph, Ontario Canada	Canada
Tim	Essam	University of Maryland	USA

Name	Surname	Organization	Country
Kevin	Barnes	USDA – National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)	USA
Richard	Barton	USDA-NASS	USA
Bob	Bass	USDA-NASS	USA
Rhonda	Brandt	USDA-NASS	USA
Cynthia	Clark	USDA-NASS	USA
Hubert	Hamer	USDA-NASS	USA
Kevin	Hintzman	USDA-NASS	USA
Michael	Mathison	USDA-NASS	USA
Joe	Prusacki	USDA-NASS	USA
Michael	Steiner	USDA-NASS	USA
Gero	Carletto	World Bank	USA
Graham	Eele	World Bank	UK
Ronald	Luttikhuisen	World Bank	USA
Eija	Pehu	World Bank	USA
Fred	Vogel	World Bank	USA