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SEEA Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (SEEA AFF) – Statistics Canada's experience in the pilot

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Overview

- Statistics Canada's involvement in the pilot project
- Policy relevance of the SEEA AFF
- Institutional arrangements in the country
- Challenges/feasibility of implementation

Statistics Canada's involvement

Project initiation

- FAO presented SEEA AFF pilot project in November 2013 at the London Group meeting
- Statistics Canada representatives showed interest to help given:
 - The Bureau's continuing support of SEEA development
 - The large amount of agriculture statistics produced internally including the quinquennial Census of Agriculture
 - Publishing of tables based on SEEA AFF in the article *Agriculture in Canada* released in Human Activity and the Environment 2014

Statistics Canada's involvement

Implementation steps

- Review of the data availability and conceptual issues as well as usefulness of the proposed framework
 - Presentation of outcomes at the SEEA AFF Expert Group meeting and at the London Group meeting in Oct 2014
- Coordinate the national response to the global consultation of the SEEA AFF first draft
 - Statistics Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Canadian Forest Service were asked to provide comments
- Prepare the Country Case Study to support discussion at the international level

Policy relevance of the SEEA AFF version 1

- Canada well positioned to test draft SEEA AFF tables:
 - Significant agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors
 - Bordered by three oceans, with the world's largest stock of surface freshwater
 - Home to 9% of the world's forest, with 7% of the total land considered farm land
- Participating in this pilot did not emerge directly from any specific policy pressure but from StatCan's leadership role in implementing SEEA
 - Comments from other departments showed an interest in bringing together economic and AFF data in one location
 - Relations with stakeholders at the working level have been established, ongoing policy relevance will require senior level discussion and commitment

Institutional arrangements in the country

- AFF activities are under the umbrella of several federal and/or provincial and territorial agencies, including:
 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Environment Canada
- Many of these agencies are data collectors or they ask Statistics Canada to collect data on their behalf
- Collaboration of various programs within Statistics Canada: industry accounts, environment statistics and agriculture statistics programs all release data with links to SEEA AFF

Challenges / feasibility of implementation

Feasibility:

- Data required to fill the majority of the proposed tables are available annually, at the national level at least
 - Same concepts and definitions
 - Most economic variables are available at the commodity level; environmental variables exist at a more aggregated level
 - Food nutritional value statistics would be a data gap
- Main data contributors were the Canadian food balance sheet, and livestock, fisheries and crop production data
- Some modelling based on supply-use tables might be necessary (e.g., in areas such as employment data and farm gate value)

Challenges / feasibility of implementation

Challenges:

- No legal requirement to produce environmental accounts in Canada, and environmental statistics are collected by various departments
- Necessity of engaging stakeholders at a more senior level in next round of consultation to develop awareness of SEEA AFF and seek interest
 - Help policy makers understand the potential of SEEA AFF accounts
 - Inter-departmental comments on the draft SEEA AFF suggest there is broad interest in contributing to this work in the future – continue working these players and add provincial/territorial jurisdictions

Questions?

Thank you

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