Institutional Arrangements -- lessons learned and challenges in the Production of IMTS

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"If you don't count, you don't count"

Outline

- Key Partners in IMTS production
- Current institutional arrangements in place
- Lesson learned
- Challenges

Key Partners in IMTS production

- In **Rwanda,** the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda has the responsibility to compile and disseminate IMTS
- The key partners in this process are Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA) for customs records, National Bank of Rwanda (NBR) for the Informal Cross Border Trade Survey (ICBT), National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB) for Tea and Coffee exports

Current institutional arrangements in place

- The current statistical law defines the NISR responsibilities and obligations in production and dissemination of key statistical indicators. However, there are formal and informal arrangements established to collect administrative records such as Customs records, data on tea and coffee exports as well as those for electrical Energy. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between NISR and NAEB

Current institutional arrangements in place(2)

- Establishment of the External Trade Statistics committee that meets on a quarterly basis to discuss and validate Trade Statistics to be published and to be used in BoP and National Accounts.
- Regular capacity building plan involving all stakeholders on External Trade Statistics (NISR, NBR, NAEB, RRA, MINICOM)
- Joint project on ICBT

Lesson learned

- Since NISR does not have a direct control for data collection procedures of the above said administrative records, it has been observed that a strong and complete institutional arrangement is required to provide accurate statistics; to liaise with clearing agents for instance increased their awareness on the impact of their work.
- To work closely with BoP compilers helped in identifying other relevant source of non customs records when IMTS the general guideline is not sufficient

Lesson learned (2)

- To work closely with Customs Trade Statisticians always facilitate NISR to understand some updated customs practices with influence on the final outputs of External Trade statistics (case of customs records not available in the main text file sent to NISR and re-exports classifications)

Challenges

- The issue of customs valuation at the first point of entry within EAC due to the Customs Union. This leads to the additional CIF-FOB adjustment from the first point of entry in EAC to the Rwandan border
- High turnover of customs clearing agents which leads to a higher number of mistakes made by new clearing agents.
- Conflict of interest of Revenue collection versus quality of trade statistics

Thank you