

Allocation of Output Over the Quarters in Quarterly national Accounts: The Case of Agriculture in Ghana

Bernice Ofosu-Baadu
IARIW

Agriculture in Ghana is predominantly on a smallholder basis in Ghana. About 90% of farm holdings are less than 2 hectares in size, although there are some large farms and plantations, particularly for rubber, oil palm and coconut and to a lesser extent, rice, maize and pineapples. Main system of farming is traditional. The hoe and cutlass are the main farming tools. There is little mechanized farming, but bullock farming is practiced in some places, especially in the North and also agricultural production varies with the amount and distribution of rainfall. The estimation of agricultural output (crops, forestry livestock and fishing) is complicated by the fact that the process of production may extend over the accounting period. Thus, according SNA 93: para 6.95 growing crops, standing timber, and stocks of fish or livestock reared for purposes of food have to be treated as work-in-progress - that is, as output which is not yet sufficiently processed to be in a form which is ready to be marketed. The 1993 SNA recommends that Agricultural output should be recorded as being produced continuously and distributed over the quarters in which production has been taking place in proportion to the total cost incurred in each quarter. Thus, the paper will describe the approach used in Ghana to allocate production to the appropriate quarters. It will also discuss the estimation of output and value added of Ghana's Agricultural industry on quarterly and annually basis as well as the challenges encountered.