

Making Use of Various Datasets to Meet the Data Needs of ICP-Africa 2011

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Abstract

Lack of timely and completed data in macro economic statistics such as national income and related aggregates in many African countries seems to pose a big challenge in the carryout and achievement of the data collecting activities for the National Accounts component of the International Comparisons Program such as ICP-Africa 2011.

To cope with the problem, an empirical study is conducted to pull together various datasets that are maintained and hosted by different international and regional organizations, for example, the Supply and Utilization Accounts and Food Balance Sheets at FAO, Government Finance Statistics at IMF, Comtrade at UNSD; and put them into the system and framework of the Supply and Use Table and Input-Output Table for African countries. Applying the commodity-flow approach, it is hoped to assess the amount of data needs by ICP-Africa 2011 that can be met by processing these datasets; and thus identify the remaining data gaps to be filled by member countries directly.

A better way of making a full use of the existing datasets will probably not only help reduce the burden so that the remaining needed data can be reasonably collected and compiled by member countries; but also add additional value to the ICP-Africa 2011 Program as the data sources of the above-mentioned datasets usually come from line ministries other than the national statistics offices (NSOs) which are participating in ICP-Africa 2011 but may not have the direct access to those data sources.