



GCP/RAS/171/JPN  
Field Document No. 2/NEP/1

IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS  
IN ASIA AND PACIFIC COUNTRIES  
(GCP/RAS/171/JPN)

**General Status of the System  
of Food and Agriculture Statistics  
in Nepal**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
BANGKOK, 2000**

This publication is printed by

**The FAO Regional Project**  
**For the Improvement of Agricultural Statistics in Asia and Pacific Countries**  
GCP/RAS/171/JPN

The designations employed in the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The opinions expressed in each paper are those of the author or authors alone and do not engage the responsibility of FAO in any way.

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means – electronic, mechanical or otherwise – without the prior written permission of the copyright owner. Applications for such permission, with a statement of the purpose and extent of the reproduction, should be addressed to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Athit Rd, Bangkok 10200, Thailand.  
© FAO 2000

**For copies, write to:**

Regional Project for the Improvement of  
Agricultural Statistics in Asia and Pacific Countries  
c/o FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
Maliwan Mansion  
39 Phra Athit Road  
Bangkok 10200, Thailand

**Contact address:**

Ryuki Ikeda  
Agricultural Statistics Expert  
Tel. 66-2-281-7844 Ext. 354  
Fax. 66-2-629-2144  
Email. <Ryuki.Ikeda@fao.org>

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## General Status on the System of Food and Agricultural Statistics in Nepal

1. Organizations Concerned with Agricultural Statistics	1
2. Agricultural Statistics at the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)	1
2.1 Organization of CBS	1
2.2 Activities on Agricultural Statistics at the CBS	2
2.2.1 Agricultural Census	2
2.2.2 Agricultural Surveys	3
3. Data Collection on Agriculture at Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)	7
3.1 Organization of the Ministry	7
3.2 Activities on Agricultural Data at the MoA Collection	8
3.2.1 Data Collection Methods for Crop Area	8
3.2.2 Data Collection Method for Yield	9
3.2.3 Plan for an agricultural Geographic Information System	10
4. Conclusion	10
4.1 Issues Between CBS and the Ministry of Agriculture	10
4.2 Expectations for CBS Activities	11
4.3 Expectations for the Agriculture Ministry's Activities	11

## ANNEXES

1. Organization Chart of Central Bureau of Statistics	15
2. Organizational Structure of Ministry of Agriculture	17
3. Flow of the Statistical Data and Information of Ministry of Agriculture	19
4. Statistics Act 2015 (1958 in the Christian Era)	21

# **GENERAL STATUS OF THE SYSTEM OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE STATISTICS IN NEPAL**

## **1. Organizations concerned with agricultural statistics in Nepal**

The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) under the National Planning Commission of the Royal Government of Nepal is the main statistical agency in the country and its responsibilities cover all sectors. Nonetheless, the statistical system in Nepal is, to some extent, a decentralized one. Broadly speaking, there are three public agencies involved in statistical work – the Central Bureau of Statistics, the statistics division of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Nepal Rastra Bank – as well as semi-public agencies.

In the field of agriculture, to avoid duplication of statistical activities among agencies, the government in 1993 gave CBS sole responsibility for the collection and publication of current agricultural statistics. Before 1993 the responsibility was with the agriculture ministry. In 1993, thirty-three district statistical offices under the ministry were transferred to CBS.

Although the mandate for agricultural statistics was transferred to CBS, the statistics division of the Ministry of Agriculture still gathers many kinds of agricultural data for the ministry's own use, such as basic data for extension and promotion of agriculture, and measurement method policies. CBS and the agriculture ministry are thus the two main agencies involved in the collection and dissemination of agricultural statistics.

## **2. Agricultural statistics at CBS**

### **2.1 Organization of CBS**

With the enactment of the Nepal Statistical Act 2015 (1959 AD), CBS was established and given the responsibility of collecting, analysing and publishing statistics at the national level. The bureau collects, processes and disseminates data from primary and secondary sources. Estimation of national accounts, population censuses, agricultural censuses and surveys, censuses of manufacturing establishments and household surveys are among the main activities of the bureau.

CBS is headed by a director-general. The activities of the bureau are divided between two divisions – Social Statistics and Economic Statistics. Each division is led by a deputy director-general. The subject-matter sections – the Agricultural Census, National Accounts, Census and Survey, Annual Crop Survey, Price and Index Survey, and Livestock, Fishery and Horticultural Survey sections – come under the Economic Statistics Division; and the sections on population censuses, household surveys, social

statistics data processing, publication and library, as well as training, are under the Social Statistics Division.

The personnel of CBS have much increased in number since 1993. There are now 166 staff members in the central office in Kathmandu, and the 33 district-level offices, which are called Branch Statistical Offices (BSOs) and cover all 75 districts of the country, have altogether 494 staff members. Twenty-four BSOs cover two districts each and nine cover three districts each.

## **2.2 Activities on agricultural statistics at CBS**

### **2.2.1 Agricultural census**

Nepal has conducted four decennial agricultural censuses since 1961/62. The last one, the National Sample Census of Agriculture 1991/92 (NSCA-92), covered all the districts of the country. The concepts, questionnaires and procedures were developed based on the guidelines provided by FAO (Programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture). NSCA-92 was developed so as to form the baseline upon which an integrated programme of annual surveys would be evolved and executed for about 10 years, i.e. before the next census is undertaken. The next NSCA will be implemented in 2001/02. The design and scale of NSCA-2001/02 will be the same as NSCA-92.

#### **a. Census methodology**

All four agricultural censuses have been undertaken on a sample basis, using a similar methodology. The sample design was constructed to publish the data by district.

A population census was undertaken before the agricultural census and included two questions concerning agricultural activities of households – “total area of holding operated” and “total number of livestock”. This information was used to identify whether each household constituted an agricultural holding for the purposes of the agricultural census. This was used as an aid in the selection of the sample for the agricultural census.

An agricultural holding was defined as an economic unit of agricultural production under single management including all livestock and poultry kept, and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes. In Nepal, small landholdings make a significant contribution to agricultural production. However, very small units were omitted for cost or operational reasons.

For the sample design, a two-stage sampling was applied. The primary sample unit was the enumeration area, and the secondary sample unit was the households in each sample enumeration area. Enumeration areas were defined as wards,

which are administrative units under the district, or groups of wards, usually containing between 30 and 100 agricultural holdings.

The number of enumeration areas per district was 50 to 80 and it was used as a measure of the importance of each district. Sample enumeration areas were selected by the random sampling method.

To select the sample of holdings in each selected enumerated area, enumerators visited each area to compile a complete list of all holdings in it. Holdings were divided into four strata according to the size of operating land.

The target number of holdings sampled from each selected area was set at 25. Then the samples of holdings were allocated to each stratum proportionally to the number of holdings.

The total sample size was 122 270 agricultural holdings, representing 4.47 percent of all holdings. Between 1 250 and 2 000 holdings were sampled in each district.

#### **b. Census items**

The survey items of the census were based on FAO guidelines for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture programme. The main items were:

- characteristics of farm households;
- farm labour;
- land and water resources;
- crop cultivation for each parcel;
- livestock: animal numbers by type;
- farm machinery and facilities;
- ancillary activities on farm holdings including forestry and fisheries;
- agricultural credit; etc.

### **2.2.2 Agricultural surveys**

#### **a. Former survey system, 1995-1997**

Since the transfer of responsibility from the Ministry of Agriculture, CBS has been working to strengthen the system and design of current agricultural surveys to improve the quality of data. For this purpose, CBS initiated a sample survey system for agricultural statistics in 1995.

The methodology was based on the stratified two-stage sampling method, using the master-sampling frame derived from NSCA-92. Sub-ecological development

regions\* were set up as design units. The sample size of 7 560 holdings was decided from the point of view of cost-effectiveness. Lower-level (district) estimation was based on information collected from secondary sources such as district estimates derived from NSCA-92, information of the agricultural development officers, i.e. the district-level agricultural officers, etc.

## **b. Construction of a new survey system**

The district is the most important administrative unit in Nepal, and most of the agricultural planning is done at district level. As such, it is important that the agricultural statistics system be designed to provide statistics for each district. In order to progressively improve the range and quality of agricultural statistics, the government sought the assistance of the Asian Development Bank, which was forthcoming to CBS through the Supporting Agriculture Statistics Development Project (TA-2861 NEP). ADB provided technical expertise and undertook to coordinate the various activities of the project.

The project, which has a 24-month implementation span, started in January 1998. ADB allocated US\$400 000 to it. ADB technical assistance aims to assist the government in upgrading the institutional and technical capacity of CBS in the field of agricultural statistics.

In particular, the ADB project assists CBS in institutionalizing a system of agriculture surveys, enhancing the administrative and technical capacity of CBS through personnel training, and implementing a partially decentralized and more efficient data-processing system.

## **c. Crop and livestock survey since 1998**

The main activity of the project was to construct a new sample survey system for a crop and livestock survey. With the methodology developed through the assistance of ADB, CBS started an integrated Crop and Livestock Survey in 1998 to provide estimations of crop and livestock production in each district at least twice a year. Two survey rounds have been carried out so far, one in December 1998, the other in June-July 1999, to collect data on temporary and permanent crops, livestock, and poultry within the specified reference periods.

The sampling design of the survey was applied to a probability proportionate two-stage sampling procedure.

As first stage of the sampling, enumeration areas were generated on the basis of the 1991 population census. The enumerated areas that were covered by CBS

---

\* There were 15 sub-ecological development regions in the country, covering all 75 districts. SEDRs were spread across a combination of five development regions (Eastern, Central, Western, Mid Western and Far Western) and three ecological regions (Mountain, Hills and Terai).

were the primary sampling units. Sample enumerated areas were selected by measuring their size in terms of the number of landholdings they held.

As second stage of the sampling, agricultural holdings were listed as secondary sampling units. Then, fifteen holdings were selected in each enumerated area, using the method of systematic sampling after stratifying the holdings according to size. Local staff members of CBS collected the data through interviews with farmers following a systematic questionnaire on crops and livestock.

The various parts of the questionnaire were as follows:

- Part 1 – identification of the holding
- Part 2 – area and land use of the parcel
- Parts 3 &4 – temporary crops (Temporary crops include cereals, pulses, oilseeds, tubers, vegetables, spices and other crops. Area, production and intention were observed parcel by parcel. The survey could generate quarterly data. Since the data of harvest and probable harvest were collected, forecasting production was possible.)
- Part 5 – prices received by farmers
- Part 6 – permanent crops
- Part 7 – livestock and poultry inventory as of date of visit
- Part 8 – livestock and poultry products.

Altogether 9 405 sample holdings were enumerated in 627 listed sample areas.

Computerized tabulation of the data was done both at the central office and in the BSOs in the Terai region. (The Terai plain, located in the south of the country, is the main crop production area of Nepal. Several computers were deployed in the Terai BSOs as part of the ADB project.)

Survey estimations for crops and livestock were prepared at the national and BSO-coverage level according to the sampling design.

#### **d. Results of the survey**

The following tables were prepared:

##### **Crops tables**

Table 1. Area harvested, production and yield of temporary crops, 16 July 1998 to 15 July 1999

Table 2. Area harvested, production and yield of cereals, 16 July 1998 to 15 July 1999

Table 3. Area harvested, production and yield of pulses, 16 July 1998 to 15 July 1999

Table 4. Area harvested, production and yield of oilseeds, 16 July 1998 to 15 July 1999

Table 5. Area harvested, production and yield of spices, 16 July 1998 to 15 July 1999

Table 6. Area harvested, production and yield of selected crops, 16 July 1998 to 15 July 1999

Table 7. Area harvested, production and yield of temporary crops by irrigation use, 16 July 1998 to 15 July 1999

Table 8. Area harvested, production and yield of temporary crops by improved seeds use, 16 July 1998 to 15 July 1999

Table 9. Area harvested, production and yield of temporary crops by inorganic fertilizer use, 16 July 1998 to 15 July 1999

Table 10. Area harvested, production and yield of permanent crops, 16 July 1998 to 15 July 1999

Table 11. Farm gate prices received by farmers for selected crops, 16 July 1998 to 15 July 1999

Table 12. Distribution of agricultural holdings by sex, as of 15 January 1999

Forecast table. Area, actual/estimated production and actual/estimated yield of selected temporary crops, 16 July 1998 to 15 July 2000

### **Livestock tables**

Table 1.1. Livestock and poultry production, as of 15 January 1999

Table 1.2. Livestock and poultry production, as of 15 July 1999

Table 2.1. Total livestock by sex, by breed, as of 15 January 1999

Table 2.2. Total livestock by sex, by breed, as of 15 July 1999

Table 3.1. Number of milk animals and milk production by breed, as of 15 January 1999

Table 3.1. Number of milk animals and milk production by breed, as of 15 July 1999

Table 4. Total meat production by type of slaughtered animal, 16 July 1998 to 15 July 1999

Table 5. Egg production by type of poultry, 16 July 1998 to 15 July 1999

Table 6. Wool production by species, 16 July 1998 to 15 July 1999

### **e. Other activities of the ADB-supported project**

The ADB project also implemented pilot surveys other than the crop and livestock survey: an actual measurement survey of crop yield and area, and a survey on commercial meat production and poultry practices.

The actual measurement survey for crop yield and area targeted paddy, and consisted of crop cutting to obtain data of yield per hectare and measurement of plots by the triangle method.

The survey on commercial meat production and poultry practices was implemented to estimate output of livestock, such as inventory of livestock, production of milk, meat, eggs, wool, skin and feathers and work animals.

Though the methods of the surveys were established, there have been periodical difficulties in implementation due to costs in terms of human resources and time.

#### **f. Workshop on the crop and livestock survey**

In December 1999, the first phase of the joint CBS-ADB project came to an end. A workshop was held on 13-14 December to evaluate the new survey system and introduce data users to its characteristics.

During the workshop, the activities of the project and the result of the survey were presented. The system used for the crop and livestock survey was well planned and successfully implemented. The CBS officers who were involved in the project were well trained. Starting from the year 2000, the crop and livestock survey will be a regular undertaking.

A second phase of the technical assistance provided by ADB has been considered for other areas of agricultural statistics.

### **3. Data collection on agriculture at the Ministry of Agriculture**

#### **3.1 Organization of the ministry**

Since the transfer of the mandate on agricultural statistics to CBS, the Ministry of Agriculture has continued to collect agricultural data for its own use, i.e. extension and promotion of agriculture, prevention and control of blights, pests, etc.

The main statistical data that the Ministry of Agriculture collects are for crop and livestock. At the central level, the Agricultural Statistics Division, under the Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, functions as a main body of data collection on agriculture. At the local level, organization of data collection can be divided into two – crops, and livestock.

The data on crops are collected under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture. The next administrative level is that of the District Agricultural Development Offices, which number 75. Below them are the Agricultural Service Centres, which number about one thousand and cover some four thousand villages countrywide. The data on crops are collected by the service centres and sent through the district development offices to the Agricultural Statistics Division of the ministry.

Ditto for livestock data, which are collected by one thousand-odd Livestock Service Centres at village level, passed on to the 75 District Livestock Development Offices (which are under the Department of Livestock Service at the ministry) and on again to the Agricultural Statistics Division.

The Marketing Development Division of the Department of Agriculture collects agricultural marketing information. The division also compiles the trade data on agricultural commodities, the consumer price indices, the food balance sheet and others.

### **3.2 Agricultural data handling at the Ministry of Agriculture**

The Ministry of Agriculture is directly involved in data collection, compilation, processing and dissemination for cereal, cash and other crops. The cereal crops are paddy, maize, wheat, millet and barley. Cash crops comprise potato, sugarcane, tobacco, jute, and oil seeds. Pulses, spices, tea, cotton and cardamom are referred to as other crops.

The data on area and production of cereal and cash crops are collected through monthly reports of the District Agricultural Development Offices. But so far as the crop situation reports are concerned, the planning cells of these offices are directed to dispatch them on a weekly basis. Thus, the data collection for the main crops is done at least twice a week in a given season.

Efforts are made to incorporate the available statistical information on irrigation, inputs, credit, prices, etc. The Agricultural Statistics Division of the ministry estimates and compiles data received from the district level.

The agricultural and livestock service centres at village level gather the primary information, which is sent to the statistics division of the ministry through the relevant district-level offices. Service centre personnel gather the data by going around their domain, interviewing village heads. They also implement crop cutting for the estimation of yield for the main crops.

The agriculture sector is broad in scope, as it includes cereal crops, cash crops, other crops, fruit and vegetables, livestock, fishery and forestry. At present, the agricultural data produced by the Ministry of Agriculture are based on both primary and secondary data sources.

Processed data is reported by either the Agricultural Statistics Division or the extension divisions of the agriculture and livestock departments of the ministry.

Besides, the Marketing Development Division of the Department of Agriculture provides retail and wholesale prices of selected agricultural commodities in different districts, retail prices at Indian border markets, export and import of agricultural commodities and related information, wholesale prices and market-arrival quantities of fruit and vegetables at the Kalimati wholesale market in Kathmandu.

### **3.2.1 Data collection methods for crop area**

In the past, for the estimation of the crop area, the Agricultural Statistics Division used to apply two methods. One consisted in sampling for cultivated land using stratified two-stage sampling based on the area frame. This method was used for the 57 (out of 75) districts where the cadastral survey had been completed. For the remaining 16 districts, information was reported through administrative channels from village level to the ministry.

The method of sample survey to estimate crops in cultivated land areas at district level was as follows:

1. The districts were divided into a number of strata, generally two to five, according to geographical proximity and with consideration of soil fertility, irrigation facilities, agricultural practice, and extension coverage.
2. The cultivated land within each stratum was divided into a number of segments. The size of a segment was 800 *ropanis* (about 41 hectares) for a district in the Hills and 100 *bighas* (about 67 hectares) for a Terai district.
3. In this design, the segment was the primary sampling unit and the parcels within the segment were the secondary sampling units. Fifteen percent of the segments were selected at random, then all of the parcels within the segments were confirmed by eye observation.
4. For the estimation of figures at district level, the ratio estimation method was used. In this case, cultivated land was an auxiliary variable.

However, it now appears that the sampling method has not been really effective. Therefore, the reporting method is a mainstay of the survey of the crop area.

### **3.2.2 Data collection method for yield**

The methodology of crop cutting is used for the main crops, especially paddy, maize and wheat, to meet a double objective –to estimate yield per hectare in cases of litigation among farmers over production, and to estimate the average yield at village level. Each agricultural service centre thus collects area and yield records exclusively to estimate the average production level attained in its area.

In the past, crop cutting was based on three-stage stratified random sampling, which was a system similar to the sample survey for crop area. In the first stage 40 segments were selected out of the total number of segments in the surveyed area. In the second stage, one parcel under a particular crop was selected from each selected segment. In the third stage, a plot was selected within the selected parcel. At each stage, the selection was done by using random tables.

However, these days, parcels for crop cutting are selected by purposive selection, taking representativeness into account. The number of parcels for crop cutting in

a district averages 40 per main crop. The allocation of sample numbers to the service centres is decided by the district development office.

### **3.2.3 Plan for an agricultural geographic information system**

In 1998, the Agricultural Statistics Division of the ministry set up an Agricultural Geographic Information System (AGIS) unit to create an integrated database system on agriculture at district and local levels. In the future, concrete activities are expected.

## **4. Conclusion**

### **4.1 Issues between CBS and the Ministry of Agriculture**

In the field of Nepalese agricultural statistics, both the Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Agriculture carry out surveys for the same commodities but through different methods and for different purposes.

CBS in the main undertakes macroeconomic surveys for the calculation of the national accounts, gross domestic product and the like, whereas the Ministry of Agriculture is more concerned with microeconomic studies linked to the extension and promotion of agriculture.

On the other hand, CBS has been carrying out a crop and livestock survey with the assistance of ADB. Although the survey will be implemented twice a year from now on, neither its frequency nor its contents are sufficient for the needs of the agriculture ministry, especially regarding growing conditions of crops at village level. Therefore, both organizations will continue their respective activities on data collection.

The inevitable duplication of efforts in overlapping areas of interest may not be very significant at the national or district level, but it may lead to confusion for data users. The government should therefore review existing statistical programmes and systems and clearly identify the responsibilities of the various agencies involved in order to avoid duplication. A framework should be prepared for the development of an integrated agricultural statistics system. This is a task for the National Planning Committee.

Co-operation between the Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Agriculture should be strengthened through periodic meetings to exchange data and discuss the reliability of agricultural statistics and agricultural information. Organizational co-operation for data collection at the grassroots between the bureau and the ministry should also be considered.

## **4.2 Expectations for CBS activities**

The survey method developed by CBS uses scientific statistical techniques and tries to achieve objectivity. However, the method depends exclusively on the interview method, and results may suffer from non-sampling errors due to incorrect replies by some households. Therefore, a crop and livestock survey should include such measurement methods as actual measurement of crop area and crop cutting, as the pilot survey implemented under the ADB-supported project shows.

The National Sample Census of Agriculture (NSCA) is the sole survey on the structure of Nepalese agriculture. CBS should implement NSCA 2001/2002 on schedule to provide up-to-date information.

## **4.3 Expectations for the agriculture ministry's activities**

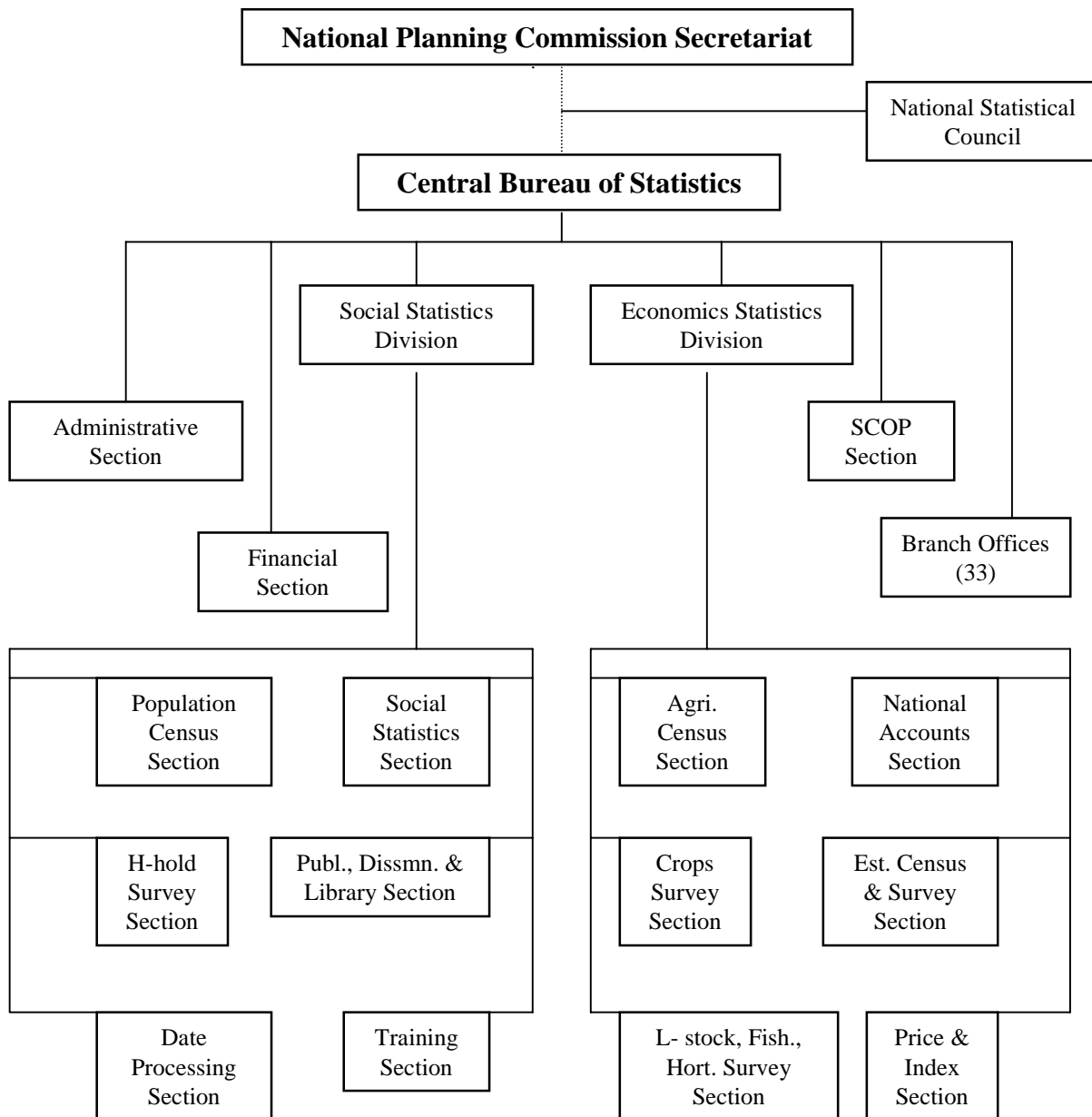
The Ministry of Agriculture can get up-to-date information through its village-level offices. Its field officers go around their domain intensively interviewing village heads and implementing crop cutting as an actual measurement method. Through these activities, the ministry obtains information on the growing condition of crops, the status of livestock and so on. This information is essential to the extension and promotion of agriculture.

The availability of grassroots-level offices is a big plus in the collection of agricultural information. However the system of sample selection by crop cutting lacks objectivity. Introducing the random sampling method is recommended instead.

## **ANNEXES**

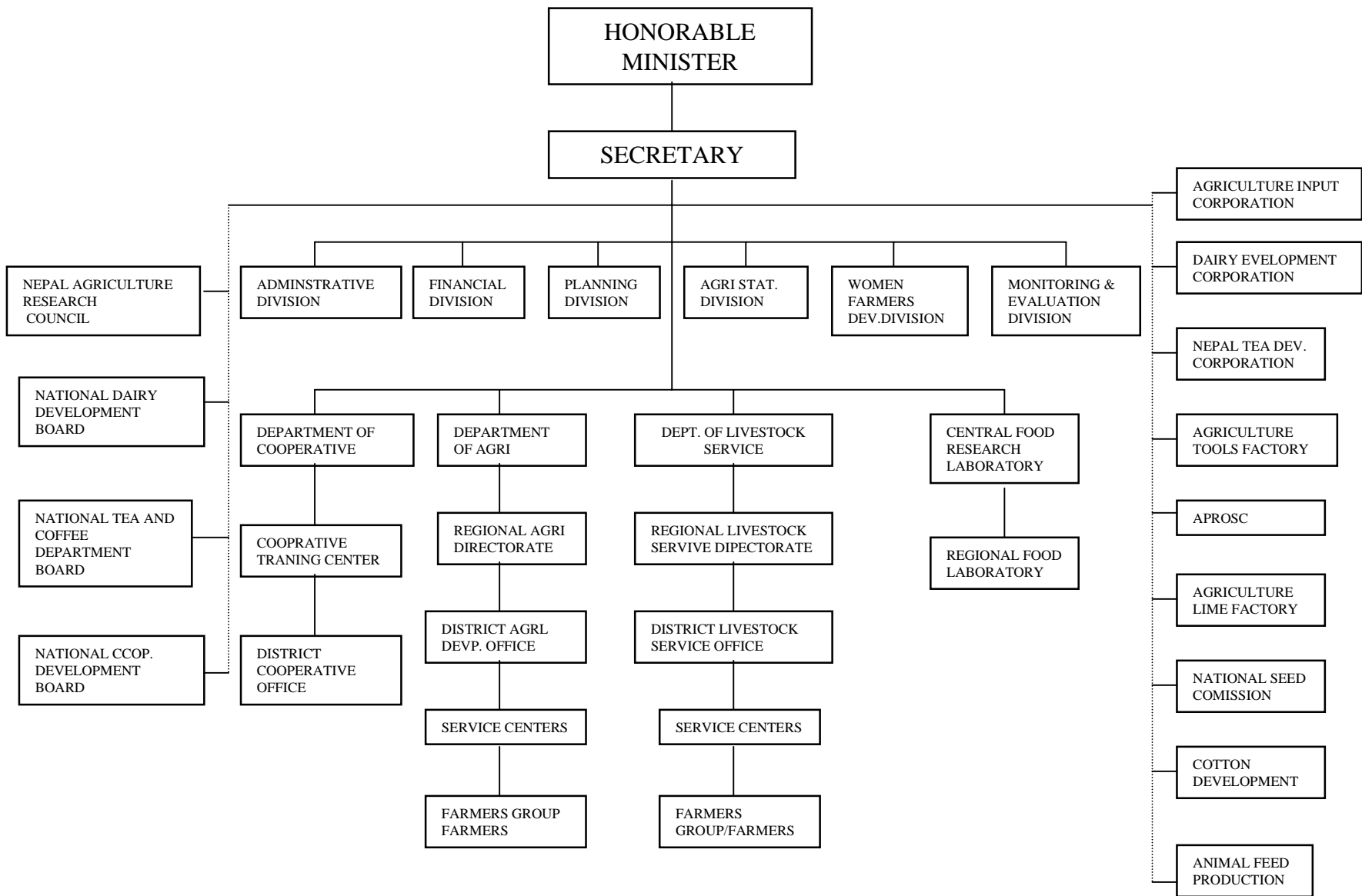
- 1. Organization Chart of Central Bureau of Statistics**
- 2. Organizational Structure of Ministry of Agriculture**
- 3. Flow of the Statistical Data and Information in Ministry of Agriculture**
- 4. Statistics Act 2015 (1958 in the Christian Era)**

# ORGANIZATION CHART OF CBS

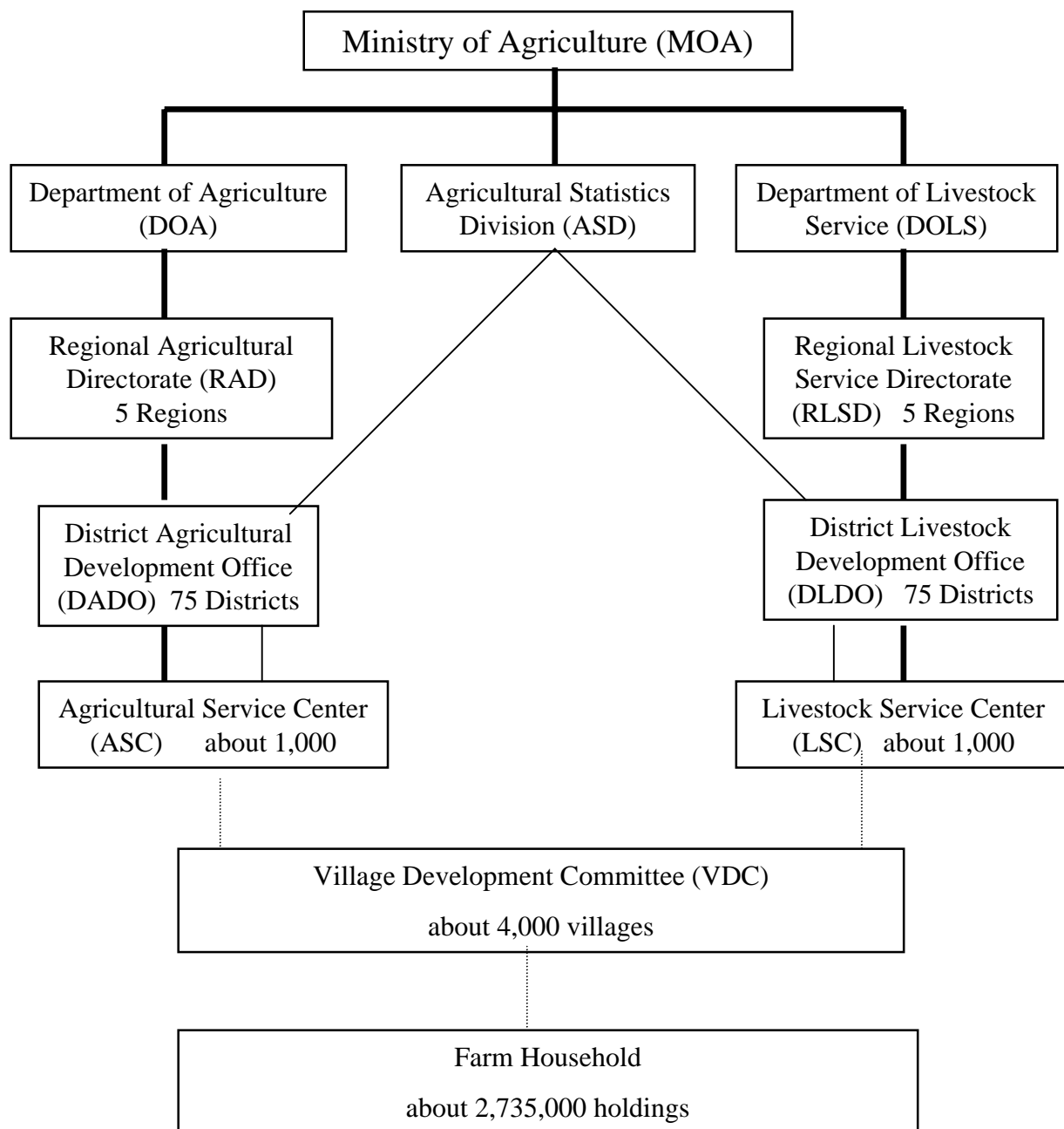


	Central Office	Branch Office
Director General	1	
Deputy Director General	2	
Deputy Director	14	
Statistical Officers	51	33
Assistants and other staff	98	416
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>494</b>

**Organizational Structure of MOA**



## Flow of the Statistical Data and Information in MOA



Note : — ; Chain of the organization

— ; Flow of Statistic Data and information

# **STATISTICS ACT**

## **2015**

**(1958 in the Christian Era)**

**(Revised and Upto Date)**

**HMG**

National Planning Commission Secretariate

Central Bureau of Statistics  
Nepal.



# Statistics Act, 2015

Royal Seal affixed  
on 2015-8-10

Date of Publication in  
Nepal Gazette 205-8-18

---

## Amendment

<u>Amending Acts</u>	<u>Royal Seal affixed on</u>	<u>Date of Publications in the Nepal Gazette</u>
Statistics (Amendment) Act, 2018	2018-9-13	2018 9-13
Certain Nepal Laws (Amendment and rearrangement) Act, 2020	2020-11-16	2020-11-16
Summary Proceedings Act, 2028	2028-12-20	2028-12-20
Statistics (Second Amendment) Act, 2030	2030-12-11	2030-12-11
Judicial Administration Reform Act, 2031	2031-4-18	2031-4-18

## Act No.20 of 2015

### An Act made to facilitate the collection of Statistics

Whereas, in order to formulate policies that may bring forth substantial benefit to the people in greater extent, enhance the administrative efficiency of the government departments and acquire actual informations regarding the economic activities in the country. His Majesty's Government requires realistic basis and to acquire such basis, it is expedient to make provisions to facilitate the collection of statistics and to establish a Central Bureau for the collection, consolidation publication and analysis of statistics, and thereby\* to maintain peace and tranquility and provide for the comfort and economic well being of the people in general, Now, therefore His majesty the King has, with the advice of the Cabinet, made and promulgated this Act.

#### 1. Short Title, Extent and Commencement

- (1) This Act may be called the "Statistics Act, 2015"
- (2) It shall extend throughout the Kingdom of Nepal.
- (3) It shall come into force immediately.

## 2. Definition

In this Act, unless the subject or context otherwise requires :-

- (a) "Authorised Officer" shall mean the officer authorized by a notified order to collect statistics and details of informations pursuant to the provisions of this Act.
- (b) "Director General" shall mean the Director General of the Central Bureau of Statistics appointed by His Majesty's Government.
- (c) "Notified Order" shall mean an order published in the Nepal Gazette.
- (d) "Officer of the Bureau" shall mean an officer specifically appointed as the officer of the Central Bureau of Statistics.
- (e) "Prescribed" or "as prescribed" shall mean prescribed or as prescribed in the rules framed under this Act.

## 3. Power to require production of details

His Majesty's Government, by a notified order, may require of persons of any class to supply to the Director General such information, schedules and statistics in their possession or control in such format and within such time as may be specified in the notified order.

\*

## 4. Power to give direction to collect statistics

- {1} His Majesty's Government may, by a notified order, issue direction for the collection of statistics concerning any matter as provided in this section.
- (2) The following arrangements may be made by an order notified pursuant to sub-section (1):-
  - (a) Specify the details of information to be collected;
  - (b) Appoint or designate officers authorised to collect information, prescribe the functions, duties and powers of such officers, and prescribe procedures for the exercise and carrying out of such functions, duties and powers; and
  - (c) Provide for all other contingent situations or make such provisions which in the opinion of His Majesty's Government would facilitate the collection of statistics to be collected pursuant to such order.

\*

## 5. Power of the Director General to require production of details

The Director General may by himself or through any other officer issue a written notification and inform to require any person to submit any information, details and statistics, in such format and within such time as may be specified in the notification.

## 6. Power to inspect records

The Director General or any of the authorised officers working under his jurisdiction or any officer exercising powers conferred by the Director General in writing pursuant to Section 5, may, either for the purpose of collection of statistics concerning anything that may be specified in the order issued pursuant to Sections 3 or 4 or under the notification issued pursuant to section 5 or for the purpose of ascertaining the veracity of schedules, particulars, detail or information collected pursuant to such order or notification take any of the following steps:-

- (a) To enter, by giving prior information and within a reasonable time, in any land or house in the possession or control of any person under the duty to provide any information or detail;
- (b) To order production before himself of any document or article in the possession or control of such person

---

\*As amended by certain Nepal Laws (Amendment and rearrangement) Act 2020.

+As changed by statistics (Second Amendment) Act 2030.

and to examine such document or article; and

- (c) To ask any question to any person about whom he has reasonable ground to believe that he has information about any data to be collected pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

#### **7. Power to demand for details:**

The Director General may, by notification published in the Nepal Gazette request persons of any class to submit before him such information or data in such format and within such time as may be specified in the above notification.

#### **+7 A. Permission of Central Bureau of Statistics required to collect data**

- 1) Any government office, government owned such other organisations receiving government aid for this purpose or foreign national or any other institution desiring to collect any detail, information or data for professional purpose shall have to obtain permission from the Central Bureau of Statistics.
- 2) Any person or organisation, desiring to obtain permission for the purposes of collecting data under subsection (I), shall provide detailed informations to the Central Bureau of Statistics regarding the purpose of collection of data, the area in which the collection is to be made, the methodology for the collection of data and the programme for carrying out such activities.
- 3) If the request to collect data pursuant to subsection (1) appears to be reasonable, the Central Bureau of Statistics shall give its permission. The Bureau may specify in its permission the methodology and other conditions deemed to be essential for such collection.

#### **+7 B. Data to be authenticated before use or publication**

- 1) Any person, organisation, having obtained permission pursuant to section 7A. to collect data, shall, before making use of or publishing such data, cause them to be authenticated by the Central Bureau of Statistics.
- 2) In case the Central Bureau of Statistics has to incur expenses in connection with the authentication of the data pursuant to subsection I) above, the person or organisation which seeks such authenticity shall pay the cost to the Bureau.
- 3) No statistical information shall be given to any foreign national or institution or international institution without the permission of the Central Bureau of Statistics.

#### **8. Restriction on publication of information and details**

1) Any information or details relating to any person, family, firm or company, which has been supplied, obtained or prepared pursuant to section 3, section 4, section 5, section 6 or section 7, or any part of such information or details, shall not be disclosed or published directly except to the Director General or to any officer of the Bureau without the written permission of the person or of his authorised representative supplying such information or details.

2) For the purpose of instituting any suit under this Act, nothing mentioned in sub-section (I) shall be deemed to prevent production of such information before any court of law.<sup>+</sup>

---

<sup>+</sup> As inserted by the Statistics (Second Amendment) Act, 2030.

## 9. Punishment

(1) Any person, having the duty to supply information or details pursuant to section 3, section 4 or section 5, and committing any of the following offences shall be liable to be punished with a \*fine upto two hundred rupees or imprisonment upto two months or both for each offence.

- \*a) Deliberately with holding or refusing to supply information or details within the prescribed period:
- b) Deliberately giving or causing to give false information or details.

Provided that if any offence under this sub-section is committed by any company or any corporate organisation, except when it is proved that the crime was committed without their knowledge or that they had done their utmost to prevent such crime, the Director, Manager, Secretary or any other Officer or representative of such company shall be punishable with + fine upto three hundred rupees or with imprisonment upto three months or both.

(2) Any person obstructing the exercise of power of the Director General or any other officer authorised by him under section 6 to make entry into any house or land pursuant to clause (a) of the same section, or deliberately refusing to produce any document or article required to be produced pursuant to clause (b) of the same Section, or refusing to answer any queries or deliberately giving false answers to queries made pursuant to clause (d) of the same section, shall be liable to be fined upto rupees one hundred or imprisonment upto one month or both.

\*(2.A) Any person or organisation, who collects data without obtaining prior permission in accordance with section 7 A, or who collects the data against the methodology or the conditions stipulated while granting permission or who makes use of any data or publishes it without obtaining prior authentication pursuant to section 7B. before using or publishing them, shall be punishable with a fine upto five thousand rupees for each offence.

Provided that if any offence is committed under this subsection shall be imposed on the General Manager, Manager or the chief of the organisation except it is proved that the offence was committed without his knowledge.

(3) In case the Director General or any: officer of the Bureau or any officer authorised under this Act commits any of the following offences he shall be liable to punishment for each such offence with a fine upto two hundred rupees or with imprisonment upto two months or both

- (a) Has published any information or details or any par. there of in contravention of section 8;
- b) Does not carry out or refuses to carry out any order issued in pursuant to this Act or the rules framed thereunder, or does not exercise due care or show promptness; or
- (c) Has destroyed statistical records negligently, or deliberately or has caused damage to such record in any manner, or has fabricated or used in any other manner, so as to cause wrong results, or has used such record for his personal gains or unauthorised purpose.

(4) Any person who obtains information or details from any authorised officer or any officer of the Bureau in contravention of Section 8, shall be liable to punishment with fine upto two hundred rupees or with imprisonment upto two months or both.

Provided that if the information so obtained has been published as well, the punishment shall extend upto five hundred rupees as fine or imprisonment upto five months or both.

(5) Any person who induces (he general public not to obey any order issued pursuant to this Act or not to supply information or details lawfully demanded by any authorised officer, or not to answer any questions put to them by such officer, shall be liable to be punished with a \*fine upto five hundred rupees or imprisonment upto five months or both.\*

---

\* As amended by the Statistics (Amendment) Act, 2018

+As amended by the Statistics (Second Amendment) Act, 2030.

#### **+10. Power to hear cases and appeals**

- (1) The following officer or court shall have the power to try cases and impose penalty for the following offences
- (a) The Chief District Officer with regard to offences mentioned in sub-section, 1), 2) and 5) of section 9:
  - (b) The Director General with regard to offences mentioned in sub-section (2A) of section 9:
  - (c) The Zonal Court with regard to offences mentioned in sub section (3) and (4) of section 9.

(2) No complaint for any offence punishable under this Act shall be filed without the prior approval of His Majesty's Government if it is against any officer of the gazetted rank and without the prior approval of the Director General if it is against any employee working under the Central Bureau of Statistics.

–(3) Any decision made by the chief District officer or the Director General pursuant to subsection (1) shall be appealable to the Regional Court

#### **\*10. A Delegation of power**

His Majesty's Government may, with regard to any power vested in the Director General by clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 10, delegate such power to any officer by a notification published in the Nepal Gazette.

#### **–11. His Majesty's Government to be complainant**

Offences to be tried under this Act shall be proceeded as state cases of His Majesty's Government.

#### **12. Orders not open to challenge**

No order given in pursuance of the power vested by this Act shall be challengeable in any court of law.

#### **13 Power to Frame rules**

His Majesty's Government may frame rules to carry out the purpose of this Act.

#### **14 Repeal**

Census Act, 2013 has been repealed.

---

—As amended by *Judicial Administration Reform (Act, ) 2031*.

\*As inserted by *Statistics (Second Amendment) Act, 2030*.

As amended by the *Statistics (Second Amendment) Act, 2030*.