



STATISTICS BOTSWANA

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THE 2015 AGRICULTURAL CENSUS BREAKFAST SEMINAR

GABORONE

WELCOME REMARKS

BY:

STATISTICIAN GENERAL

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Director of Ceremonies,
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agricultural Development
and Food Security.
Acting Deputy Statistician General (STO)
Acting Deputy Statistician General (ES)
Deputy Permanent Secretaries, MoA,
Directors from Statistics Botswana & MoA
Managers from Statistics Botswana
Statistics Botswana and MoA Officers,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentleman
A very good morning to you all.

- 1.** Let me first acknowledge the cordial collaboration between Statistics Botswana and the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food Security for the successful execution of the general agricultural statistics agenda for Botswana and specifically, for the successful implementation of the 2015 Agricultural Census.
- 2.** Ladies and Gentlemen, Agricultural Censuses are conducted with a 10 years interval as part of the Statistics

Botswana's intercensal programme of household surveys. Both censuses and Annual surveys provide data on agricultural production indicators to the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food Security and other key stakeholders. Botswana has been generating national agricultural statistics since 1967 through these instruments.

- 3.** Distinguished guests, The 2015 Agricultural Census results were first disseminated through a Statistical Brief in December 2016. The results were also widely publicized through radio and Television interviews. The main census report has been released and publicized through the Statistics Botswana website.

- 4.** Agricultural Census produces a lot of data and all this data needs to be fully analysed the extent possible so that what can be described as an optimal environment which enables informed planning, policies formulation and decision on matters relating to agriculture is achieved. It is for this reason that Statistics Botswana engaged two researchers to conduct an indepth analysis of the crop and livestock subsectors from the 2015 Agricultural Census results.

5. As I have stated above, in order to maximise the value from any census data, it is general practice everywhere that after the release of any census results, interested researchers are invited to further analyse the data available to augment the agricultural statistics information that would have been produced by the National Statistical Organisation. This is very important when one takes into consideration the high cost of censuses and that they have a long periodicity of conduct every ten years.

6. The main objective of the Breakfast Seminar, is to receive presentations of the analytical papers from two independent analysts from the Botswana Institute for Development policy Analysis and the Botswana University of Agriculture & Natural Resources.

7. Ladies and gentleman, In 2012 Statistics Botswana designed a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). This provides a robust, comprehensive and coherent framework to facilitate the development of statistics and enhance their utility in the country. This framework advocates for statistics usage by decision makers and

development partners and promotes communication within sectors, among sectors, as well as between sectors and Statistics Botswana. It is our hope that seminars such as this one will promote the desired usage of statisticians.

- 8.** Director of Ceremonies, National development in Botswana is guided by the evolving national agenda which includes the long term Vision, National Development Plans, and other national priorities. This calls for mainstreaming of statistics into policy and planning processes to make statistics more relevant to national development processes. We are here to facilitate such mainstreaming.

- 9.** With these few remarks, I welcome you to the Agricultural Census Breakfast Seminar.

- 10.** Thank you.