



AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY

STATEMENT

Dr Burton Mguni
STATISTICIAN GENERAL

18TH NOVEMBER, 2022



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY 2022

NOVEMBER 18

Hashtag #ASD2022 #JAS2022
Facebook African Statistics Day –
Journée Africaine de la Statistique

“Strengthening data systems by modernizing the production and use of agricultural statistics: informing policies with a view to improving resilience in agriculture, nutrition, and food security in Africa”

1. I am very pleased to deliver the **2022 African Statistics Day Statement**.
2. Each year, on the 18th of November, the African continent celebrates African Statistics Day to raise awareness of the importance of statistics in all aspects of social and economic life.
3. The theme for this year is “**Strengthening data systems by modernising the production and use of agricultural statistics: informing policies with a view to improving resilience in agriculture, nutrition and food security in Africa**”.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. This year's theme is aligned to the African Union's theme, “**2022, the Year of Nutrition: strengthening resilience in nutrition and food security on the African continent**”, and is intended to be a call to modernise data systems for the production, dissemination and use of agricultural statistics.
5. The theme for **African Statistics Day 2022** was chosen to raise awareness among decision makers, technical and financial partners, data producers and users, including researchers, and the public about the importance of data and statistics in building resilience and ending hunger in Africa.
6. Over and above that, the theme is meant to impress upon all African Nations to promote understanding about the importance of statistics in all dimensions of life, including society, the economy and the environment.
7. Let me hasten to point out that it is encouraging to note that today, almost all African Nations have recognised the need for better agricultural statistics, not only as a tool for evidence-based policy design and planning, but also to better support policy implementation, monitor progress and evaluate outcomes and impacts of development initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals.
8. In Botswana, this is evidenced by the use of agriculture statistics in monitoring and evaluating performance on National Development Plans, Vision 2036 goals, Africa's Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. The National Statistical System (NSS) plays a central role in modernising data value chain processes, including data generation, dissemination and documentation, with a view to attaining the timely production and use of reliable official agricultural statistics, which are critical for evidence-based policymaking. Additionally, civil society, academia and the private sector all have complementary and supplementary roles to play as stakeholders who provide further analysis to official statistics.
10. Although the COVID-19 pandemic adversely affected the NSS adversely financially and operationally, it also revealed the clear need to modernise the NSS, and to develop and adopt alternative methods for agricultural data collection. This modernisation process needs to be strengthened appropriately and sustainably to achieve the goals of Agenda 2030, and the Africa We Want Agenda.
11. These agendas or frameworks coupled with those at country level have led to ever-increasing data demands arising from their implementation. In 2020, the Statistical Commission for Africa commenced the journey of modernising official statistics by endorsing the formation of the African group on transformation and modernisation of official statistics, which will strategically guide and coordinate the work. The implementation of the road map for the transformation and modernisation of official statistics in Africa, 2023–2030, is expected to bring about significant improvements in the efficiency of all data processes for monitoring and reporting on the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. Botswana has made significant progress towards modernising production and use of agricultural statistics. A major development being the collaborative commitment by Statistics Botswana and the Ministry of Agriculture to utilise modern technological methods of data collection such as Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) for all agricultural surveys and censuses. These efforts are in line with the "Digitisation" priority of the Reset Agenda. With this development, it is anticipated that agricultural statistics will be produced more efficiently, with results being available timely for decision making. The use of CAPI will also enable Statistics Botswana to meet the ever increasing demand for agricultural statistics.
13. To strengthen data systems for the development of agricultural statistics, Statistics Botswana has facilitated the adoption of international standards, which harmonise methodologies, concepts, definitions and classifications. These standards ensure that statistics produced by Statistics Botswana and the agricultural sector through surveys, censuses and administrative data are fit for purpose, comparable and as such meet the quality requirements for official statistics.
14. Botswana's official agricultural statistics, and indeed statistics for all sectors of the economy are available to government, and other stakeholders such as farmers, researchers, investors, analysts and the general public. Statistics Botswana ensures that these statistics are available and easily accessible through the use of technological platforms including the Statistics Botswana website (www.statsbots.org.bw), social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube and Instagram), and open data portals. These platforms allow customers to access data and information from the comfort of their homes or offices, or from anywhere and as such facilitate the increased use of agricultural statistics for planning and decision making.
15. I cannot conclude without buttressing the fact that for the country to produce quality official agricultural statistics, all stakeholders need to collaborate effectively. This includes the farming community in its entirety. In this regard, I wish to urge all farmers-commercial and subsistence-at farmsteads and ranches-to continue to provide data upon request to Statistics Botswana so as to enable the timely production of quality data to the agricultural sector. Answering to these regular clarion calls will promote evidence-based policy formulation, planning and decision making.

Happy African Statistics Day!!!

RE A LBOGA BAGAETSHO, NELWANG KE PULA!



STATISTICS BOTSWANA

Private Bag 0024, Gaborone **Tel:** 3671300 **Fax:** 3952201 **Toll Free:** 0800 600 200
E-mail: info@statsbots.org.bw **Website:** <http://www.statsbots.org.bw>

AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY
STATEMENT