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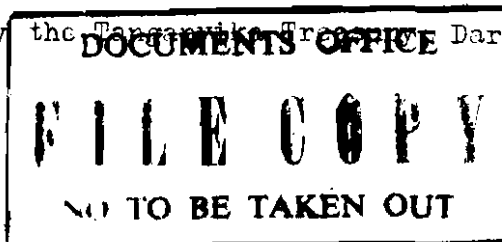
T A N G A N Y I K A

ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

OF STATISTICS

IN TANGANYIKA

(Submitted by the Tanganyika Bureau of Statistics, Dar Es Salaam)



T A N G A N Y I K A
DIVISION OF ECONOMICS & STATISTICS

I. ORGANISATION

As a result of the desire of the governments of Tanganyika, Kenya and Uganda to have their own statistic and economic organisations, the E. A. Statistical Department will be dissolved with effect from 1st July, 1961. Accordingly, the Tanganyika Unit of the E. A. Statistical Department will become a part of the Division of Economics and Statistics in the Tanganyika Treasury from 1st July, 1961.

The establishment of the Division is as follows:-

Chief Economist/Statistician
Deputy Chief Statistician
Senior Economist
4 Statisticians
1 Economist
2 Statistical Officers
1 Economic Officer
3 Statistical Assistants
1 Economic Assistant
23 Other Personnel.

The total cost of personal emoluments of the Division is in the range of £30,000.

The main functions of the Division are as follows:-

- (i) STATISTICS:
Organisation, development and maintenance of all statistics in the Territory;
- (ii) ECONOMICS:
(a) Economic research, appreciation and analysis;
(b) Economic Planning: Resources' forecast

appraisal of projects, co-ordination and continuity of development planning.

The compilation and analysis of statistics plays an indispensable role in the formulation of economic policy and the design of development programmes. The decision of the Government of Tanganyika to set up a joint Division of Economic and Statistics stems from the recognition of this fact and also from past experience of many countries where the existence of separate economic and statistical organisations has often resulted in a lack of co-ordination and in duplication of effort. The joint responsibility of the Chief Economist/Statistician for both the economic and the statistical services in Tanganyika is designed to secure close co-ordination of work and efficient utilisation of scarce professional staff.

Grades of Staff

The following are the grades of staff and qualifications required:-

Economists/Statisticians:

Honours Degree in economics or economics and statistics, of recognised university standard.

Economic/Statistical Officers:

University degree or several years' experience of government statistical work.

Economic/Statistical Assistants:

Cambridge School Certificate level plus Registered Statistical Assistant qualification of the Association of Incorporated Statisticians of London, or a lower level university degree.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS.

The ordinary work of development and improvement of all statistical series is a continuous process that goes on all the time. But in the course of the next three years special effort will be made in the following fields:

1. National Accounts
2. Capital Formation
3. Personal Income, Expenditure and Consumption
4. Agricultural Statistics

1. National Accounts.

It will be necessary to revise the existing series of gross domestic product to incorporate the additional information available since 1958 when the present series was started. A completely new calculation of the subsistence sector must be made after information has been obtained from the comprehensive rural surveys.

A study of expenditure is urgently required for economic planning and a special effort will have to be made to estimate personal consumption.

In addition new studies will have to be carried out in Transport and Distribution sectors in order to improve the existing series.

The next major requirement will be the calculation of a series of gross domestic product at constant prices. This task will be carried out in stages starting with the sector of Agriculture.

2. Capital Formation.

The present commodity flow approach of capital formation needs supplementing with a direct study of expenditure on capital formation in the private sector. It should be possible to investigate sources

of finance for capital expenditure at the same time.

3. Personal Income, Expenditure and Consumption.

A series of rural surveys are planned to cover the main ecological areas of the Territory. The results of these surveys are required for national accounts and agricultural studies. Work has already commenced on a small scale on one agricultural economic zone, the coastal zone including fishing. If there is no deterioration in the staff position, a second larger survey of the cotton and sorghum zone should follow, utilising the same field organisation. The current survey uses the small permanent field team, together with a similar number of temporary local employees. This field force is stationed in three villages recording the food consumption, income and expenditure of some fifty families. The results of this small survey should indicate the practicability of present ideas and provide some statistics on the rural economy of the coastal sector.

4. Agricultural Statistics.

The first stage of the existing plan for the development of agricultural statistics (acres, yields and production) has been completed. This consisted of a series of pilot surveys and field experiments designed to test the suitability of various sampling techniques, using different sampling frames such as taxpayers lists, census returns and ad hoc lists of householders. Different sampling functions and different measuring techniques have also been tested.

The pilot surveys revealed the difficulties in using lists of taxpayers as a frame, though no practicable alternative to this method was found. Methods of measuring were tested with the result that a clear choice was indicated between very rough, relatively inexpensive surveys using pacing to measure lengths, and reasonably accurate surveys, involving simple land survey techniques, which would require considerable resources.

The second stage of the development plan, a territory-wide sample survey of acreages and yields awaits the availability of staff for this purpose in the agricultural extension services. Present preoccupation with top priority agricultural development schemes is likely to continue in the near future.

III. RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING.

There has been a severe shortage of professional staff and in recent years the Statistical Unit has been functioning with around one-half establishment strength. The main limiting factor in expanding statistical activities is not only inability to recruit, but constant turnover of staff and consequent lack of local experience. Unless professional staff stay for several years, they tend to leave at the point where they have gained experience and become really effective. A continuous inflow of new recruits can, in fact, cause a diversion of experienced staff from collecting statistics to training.

Executive staffing difficulties are reflected in the complete absence of African middle grade staff. An acute shortage of secondary school graduates in Tanganyika is largely responsible for this. Such clerical staff as are available have not adequate basic education for further training. A recent advertisement for training grade statistical assistants directed to secondary school graduates did not produce a single African applicant for interview.

The basic solution will be the recruitment of secondary school graduates to clerical and training grade statistical assistant posts. The Statistical Unit should in future, get its share of these graduates though the supply will remain very limited for some time. The training grade statistical assistants will gain experience on the job, with part time study both in office hours and outside to take professional qualifications,

in this case the Registered Statistical Assistant examination of the Association of Incorporated Statisticians.

A request for a statistician to take charge of Training of African middle grade personnel has been made to the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

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