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STATISTICS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE
AND PLANS FOR THE NEAR FUTURE IN THE
REGION OF THE IVORY COAST

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REPUBLIC OF THE IVORY COAST

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DES AFFAIRES ÉCONOMIQUES
ET DU PLAN

SERVICE DE LA STATISTIQUE
ET DES ÉTUDES ÉCONOMIQUES ET
DEMOGRAPHIQUES

STATISTICS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AND PLANS FOR
THE NEAR FUTURE IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE IVORY COAST

Memorandum prepared by the Government of the
Republic of the Ivory Coast for the Conference of African Statisticians

1. INTRODUCTION

The Government of the Republic of the Ivory Coast has studied with great interest the documents communicated by the Government of the French Republic concerning the proposed Statistical Survey of Africa to be discussed at the forthcoming Conference of African Statisticians in Addis Ababa.

This Government has made a point of presenting to the Conference a comprehensive survey of the statistical work effected in the Republic of the Ivory Coast, as evidence of the efforts made at various levels in the past and as a promise of the results expected in the near future from current

projects. This paper will stress the difficulties encountered in turning into good account the results so far obtained and the necessity to increase facilities for the training of African statisticians, a task in which the Government of Ivory Coast is at present engaged.

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND - AVAILABLE INFORMATION

Though the establishment of the Statistical Office in Abidjan dates back to 1947, the limited facilities at its disposal in the early stages restricted its activities, until 1952, to the preparation of external trade statistics and of certain series for which data were readily available, such as price records in Abidjan and price indices of European consumption.

With the steady increase in the facilities at its disposal since 1952, the Statistical Office has gradually evolved a number of statistical series, which are still far from being comprehensive. The main series, together with their coverage in time, are listed below:

<u>Statistical field</u>	<u>Starting year for available series</u>
Population	
Five-year censuses	1910
Civil registration	1951 (Official order dated 16 August 1950)
Climatology	September 1931
Education) about 1910
Health	
Labour (supply and demand)	1955
Agriculture	1935

<u>Statistical field</u>	<u>Starting for available series</u>
Electric power supply (Government plants)	1939
Mining	about 1910
External trade	prior to 1900 (1)
Motor vehicle registration	1952 (Official order No. 3194/TP/ST, May 1952).
Railways	1906
Traffic in ports	prior to 1900 (1)
Air transport	1940
Building permits	1952

Prices:

Retail prices and indices	4th quarter 1947
Wholesale prices of building materials	January 1954

Finance:

Government budget	prior to 1900
Agricultural friendly societies and co-operative Societies	1929

As regards economic accounts, estimates of the main aggregates as well as sector accounts will soon be completed, their quality being consistent with that of the data from which they are evolved. Forthcoming studies are intended to provide basic material for new series.

(1) At least for certain commodities.

Policy developments since the enactment of the "Loi Cadre" and the accession of the Republic of the Ivory Coast to independence within the Community have not in any way altered the Government's awareness of the necessity for a speedy expansion of statistical information to provide as sound a basis as possible for policy decisions.

For this purpose, the Statistical Office has been steadily endeavouring to broaden the programme of inquiries started in 1954 and has initiated a number of economic surveys generally described in the following table:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Geographical Area</u>	<u>Purpose of the survey</u>	<u>Observations</u>
1954	BOUAKE "Cercle"	Agriculture: Areas and yield of principal crops Study of cultivation patterns	With the co-operation of experts from the FAO and the Ministry of France d'outre-mer. Published
1955-56	BONGOUANOU Sub-division	Nutrition: living standards of the population in the eastern forest region	Published
1956	ABIDJAN	African wages and salaries - incomes - consumption - Weighting system for African consumer price index numbers	Published
1957-58	1st Agricultural Sector	Agriculture: Area under coffee and cocoa and yields from crops; structure of land holdings and agricultural man-power; agricultural equipment.	Under the supervision of students at the BINGERVILLE Demonstration Centre on sampling agricultural surveys. Published.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Geographical Area</u>	<u>Purpose of the survey</u>	<u>Observations</u>
	IBADJAN	Food supply for Ibadjan Economic exchanges with the rest of the country	Results are being processed.
	BOUAKE	Seasonal migrations. Inter-territorial trade:cattle,fish - mainly cola.	As part of the CCTA* study of migrations in West Africa. Results are being processed.
	The territory as a whole	Population survey:popu- lation estimates - structure - birth rate - mortality - future pros- pects	Results are being processed.
1959	The territory as a whole	Pilot agricultural survey preparatory to the World Agricultural Census - structure of land hold- ings - Equipment - area- yields.	Now being conduc- ted - should be completed in February 1960.

As regards methodology, the influence of these surveys by random sampling methods extended beyond the borders of the Ivory Coast and even those of former French West Africa. Many French or foreign specialists in various fields came specially to the Ivory Coast in order to become familiar with the methods used and, as a result, several surveys of this type are now being conducted in other African countries.

Contacts thus made in the Ivory Coast by French and foreign specialists contributed to the success in 1957 of the Bingerville Demonstration Centre

* Commission de Coopération Technique en Afrique au sud du Sahara.

on sampling agricultural surveys set up by the CCTA, the FAO and the Government of the French Republic with the material support of the Government of the Ivory Coast.

III. FUTURE PLANS

The Government's plans in the statistical field take fully into account the paramount need of a permanent statistical inventory for the purpose of drawing up development programmes and the supervision of their execution, as well as for the preparation of current economic policy decisions.

They include:

a) A General Survey of the Agricultural Sector within the framework of the World's Agricultural Census. Following a recommendation by FAO, the Government of the Ivory Coast will initiate a multi-purpose survey starting in 1960 with a view to drawing up an exhaustive inventory of resources in that particular sector.

i) Objectives.

- Estimates of areas, measurement of crop densities (number of plants per hectare) and yields, with their variations according to ethnical groups and cultivation methods for the main cash crops (coffee, cocoa, bananas) and food crops (rice, cassava, cocoyams, millet, maize, yams, plantains, etc).
- Production estimates.
- Survey of agricultural patterns: land tenure, size of agricultural holdings.
- Survey of agricultural equipment, inventory of means of production (equipment, livestock).

- Survey of housing; classification of buildings (by type of building and kind of building material), time spent on improvement and maintenance of swellings, sheds, etc ..., estimate of construction costs (in man hours).
- Classification of the various soils, after sampling and analyses, in relation to crop density and yield.
- Survey of agricultural practices and time spent on various operations, determination of average working hours for farmers and of the employment rate of the active agricultural population. Agricultural productivity in the Ivory Coast.
- Survey of agricultural manpower (local population, immigrants), types of contacts and wages received by agricultural labourers.
- Budgetary data : marketed share of production and self-consumption, estimation and use of cash income.
- Definition of markets, their geographical distribution and coverage.
Definition of economic regions in view of an analysis of internal trade.

ii) The pilot survey now being conducted covers 700 land holders spread over the whole country. Its purpose is to check the quality of existing questionnaires and to collect information concerning the stratification, evaluation and variability of the main characteristics to be studied, so as to lay as sound a basis as possible for the General Survey sampling scheme.

iii) Duration, financing and execution of the Survey

The General Survey proper - as distinct from the pilot survey - will last two years, the same observations being taken for two consecutive years, so as to discount the meteorological factor. As the results of these studies will serve as a foundation for chronological series compiled on a yearly, two-year or five-year basis, they should as far as possible be unaffected by variations due to exceptional climatic conditions. Differences in crop cycles and the fact that crop marketing can be observed only after actual harvesting should also be borne in mind.

- Estimates for the cost of this survey will amount to 200 million.

The "Fonds d'Aide et de Coopération de la Communauté Franco-africaine" and the "Fonds d'investissement de la Communauté Economique Européene" have been requested to finance this undertaking.

- The staff will consist of specially trained enumerators under the supervision of graduates from National Schools of Agriculture trained for this purpose and agricultural officers specialized in tropical agronomy.

b) The improvement in the quality of labour statisticians and the preparation of series concerning the working population, man hours and effective wages and salaries. Periodic surveys of the labour situation in enterprises. An index of industrial production.

Following a proposal by the I.L.O., the Government of the Ivory Coast has requested the cooperation of an expert from this agency in these matters.

c) Civil registration records prepared by the so-called "itinerant" sampling method.*

IV. LIMITATIONS TO A SPEEDY DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICAL STUDIES

a) The inadequacy of mechanical data processing facilities

As a consequence of this, the results of surveys undertaken since 1957 could not be processed with reasonable speed. An electronic calculator will soon be installed in Abidjan and dispose of this difficulty.

b) The shortage of qualified staff

Even if the available equipment had coped with processing requirements, the number of trained statisticians would not have been up to the tasks of consolidating results and preparing publications.

The Government is considering this problem of the training of intermediate and senior statistical staff. It is already proposed to open a Training Centre for intermediate statistical staff (technical assistants and computers) early in 1960; concurrently, the Government is endeavouring to attract students towards statistical careers (at graduate level).

CONCLUSION

It will be seen from the above survey of activities in the Republic of the Ivory Coast in the field of quantitative and qualitative statistical

* "Etat civil itinérant".

development that, while substantial progress has been achieved, important deficiencies have still to be made good. The Government fully realizes the need to increase the production of its statistical services and will welcome the results of the proceedings of the Conference of African Statisticians concerning a future programme for statistical development in Africa as well as any proposals for assistance which might be made by the Economic Commission for Africa.

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