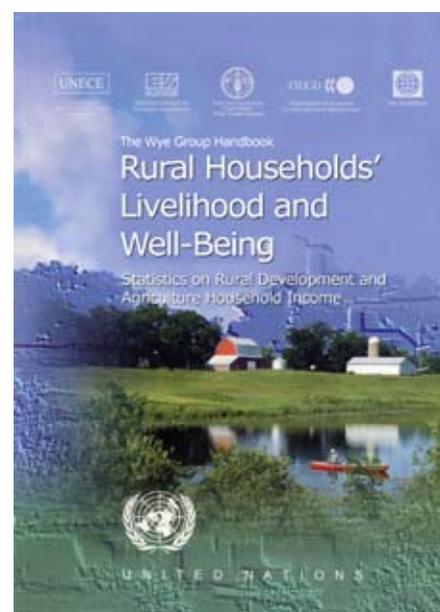


Announcing the Third Global Conference on Agricultural and Rural Household Statistics

Background

The **Wye City Group** has been formed as a successor to the IWG.AGRI Task Force on Statistics on Rural Development and Agricultural Household Income, which had its final meeting in June 2006 following the publication of the handbook *Rural Households' Livelihood and Well-Being: Statistics on Rural Development and Agriculture Household Income* (www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/ess/pages/rural/index.htm).

As a result of their collaboration on the handbook, statisticians and economists in national statistical offices, especially in North America, Western Europe, and in multilateral institutions have an established, shared interest in improving methods for collecting data on rural development, communities, and farm and non-farm households. Such information is becoming of increasing importance as policy for agriculture broadens, as rural issues rise up the political agenda, and as the structure of farming and rural areas evolves.



Objectives of the Wye City Group

The city group has as its main objective the promotion of the refinement and adoption of international standards in statistics for rural areas and agriculture household incomes. Within this mandate, the city group would:

- Consider challenges to consistency of adoption of comparable methods of data collection across countries;
- Give special focus to the application and value of the data standards in developing countries, especially as it may support the construction of indicators for the Millennium Development Goals;
- Assess and explore the potential for the use of improved statistics as policy-relevant indicators and in empirical analysis of policies for farm and rural households, natural resources, and regional economic development; and
- Determine the need for any changes or updating to the handbook and, if indicated, organize and execute the revision.

The Third Wye Global Conference

The Wye City Group on Rural Statistics and Agricultural Household Income is hosting its third global conference on agricultural and rural household statistics. The conference will be hosted by the Economic Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and is cosponsored by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and the World Bank.

Conference objectives

- Support the U.N. Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics by highlighting international needs and opportunities to improve statistics on rural and farm households, and strengthen the process of collecting and disseminating statistics on rural and farm households in OECD and developing countries; and
- Review and discuss revisions to the Wye Group Handbook on Rural Households' Livelihood and Well-Being, and preparation of a Supplement to the Handbook on issues related to agricultural and rural statistics in developing countries.

Conference venue

May 24-25, 2010
Waugh Auditorium
Economic Research Service
1800 M St., NW
Washington, DC 20036

Registration

Complete online registration form, or contact
John Pender, Economic Research Service
(jpender@ers.usda.gov; 1-202-694-5568)

Call for papers

We invite papers that address emerging issues in agricultural and rural household data and statistics, *particularly those pertaining to and/or with applications in non-OECD countries*. Authors should consider the scope of the material in the current Handbook in preparing their papers, but should not feel strictly limited by either its format or content. Papers may be of any length; a mix of both shorter and standard-length papers would be ideal. A session of the conference will include brief presentations and discussions of key findings of accepted papers.

Key topics that might be examined include:

- Data collection needs to support critical research on farm and rural household well-being;
- International comparisons of data collection and dissemination efforts: relative strengths and weaknesses for policy analysis;
- Improvements necessary to understand the linkages between agriculture and the rural economy.

We request that you submit electronically an abstract of up to 300 words in English no later than April 9, 2010. Your submission should include the title and abstract of the paper, names of all authors, and full postal and e-mail addresses of the corresponding authors. Abstract acceptance will be communicated before April 16, 2010. Send abstracts to Robert Gibbs at rgibbs@ers.usda.gov.