

Challenges to Agriculture Statistics in an Environment of Government Restraint

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Increased client expectations and sophistication, improvements in technology, and new approaches to sampling methodology and population frames, have created significant challenges to the provision of high quality agricultural statistics in an environment of government restraint.

This paper examines the major challenges facing statistical organisations attempting to satisfy the increasingly sophisticated demands placed on them by users of agricultural statistics. Challenges in maintaining relevant population frames, improving the efficiency of sample design, providing more relevant statistics and responding quickly to changing user needs in an environment of government restraint are discussed in this paper. Practical solutions to these challenges are presented and discussed in the context of the Australian situation.

The paper also examines the opportunities presented to organisations through rigorous reviews of procedures and output.