

AFRICAN
COMMISSION ON
**AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS**



COMMISSION DES
**STATISTIQUES
AGRICOLES**
POUR L'AFRIQUE

Institutionalization of ASTI in a Large National Agricultural Research System: The Experience of Nigeria

Dr. Musa Musa, ASTI Focal Point for Nigeria

Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN)

Hammamet, Tunisia, 24 – 28 November 2025





Outline

New Approach to ASTI Data Collection

Institutionalization of ASTI Project

❖ **Implementation of the FAO led**

Challenges

ASTI Pilot Phase

Lessons Learnt from the Pilot Phase

Conclusion and Next Step

New Approach to ASTI Data Collection

- ❖ **Review of Agencies list for Nigeria**
- ❖ **Establishment of Institutional Focal Points for NARIs & FCAs (32)**
- ❖ **Established contact with the Universities through the Directors of Academic Planning (DAP)**
- ❖ **The DAPs served as the Focal Points in the Universities**
- ❖ **Established contact with the National Agricultural Seed Council (NASC) for updated information on active Private Seed Companies.**
- ❖ **Joint letter of introduction signed by the ES, ARCN was attached to the survey forms.**
- ❖ **A mix of communication medium; Direct phone calls, SMS, WhatsApp messages, E-mail were used for follow up on data retrieval.**

Implementation of the FAO led ASTI Pilot Phase

Through informal discussions, the two agencies (ARCN & NBS) agreed on the following roles and responsibilities:

- ❖ Participate as members on the ASTI Technical Committee and Steering Committee
- ❖ Update the agency list
- ❖ Jointly prepare introductory letter to agencies
- ❖ Sensitize agencies on pilot phase
- ❖ Liaise with regulatory agencies participating in the ASTI project
- ❖ Conduct the pilot survey using both online tools and physical visitation
- ❖ Retrieve completed questionnaires
- ❖ Carry out pilot data cleaning and upload to ASTI DMP
- ❖ Prepare results and host dissemination workshop
- ❖ NBS enforce its position as coordinator of the NSS to encourage non-compliant agencies to complete questionnaires

Lessons Learnt from the Pilot Phase

- ❖ There are lessons learnt from the new data collection model which we intend to improve on in future operations.
- ✓ The use of focal points in NARIs and FCAs has proven to be an extremely successful action.
- ✓ The use of the Directors of Academic Planning (DAPs) in the Universities served as a link between the VCs and the participating Faculties/Departments
- ✓ Sustain the use of existing platforms of the Deans of Agriculture in Nigeria Universities/NARIs and FCAs FP for constant interaction on ASTI matters.
- ✓ A review of the agency list showed that some private agricultural companies are nonexistent or do not engage in research and development.
- ✓ Utilise the NBS-led national enterprise census to identify active private enterprises engaged in AR&D
- ✓ ARCN is considering harmonizing its annual data collection on human capital resources in NARIs and FCAs with ASTI data into one operation.
- ✓ The NBS will provide the legal backing in data collection and formalize the adoption of ASTI into the NSS.

Institutionalization of ASTI Project in Nigeria

The institutionalization process started with the visit of ARCN ASTI team to NBS in May, 2024

The overview of ASTI project and outcome of the training workshop in Rome was presented to the joint team (ARCN-NBS)

The meeting also discussed the modalities for implementing the pilot study, particularly on the data collection strategy.

A formal constitution of joint ASTI technical team was agreed upon.



Institutionalization of ASTI Project in Nigeria Cont'd

- ❖ The visit of the ES, ARCN to the SG, NBS with the FAO Country Rep in attendance led to the constitution of joint steering committee to oversee the Institutionalization of ASTI Project in Nigeria.
- ❖ The visit by the FAO delegation to the ES, ARCN and SG, NBS on the 8th November, 2024 provided an opportunity to discuss further on the Institutionalization process.
- ❖ The ES and SG both reiterated their commitments to support and sustain the project.
- ❖ Support to the capacity building workshop on ASTI Data Visualization.



Institutionalization of ASTI Project in Nigeria Cont'd

- ❖ To present a clearer understanding of the institutionalization process and facilitate the completion of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), a concept note was developed to serve as a guide to the stakeholders

Objectives of the MoU

- ✓ Partner in the Institutionalization of ASTI project by providing expertise in data collection, validation and analysis.
- ✓ Utilize the NBS platforms for broader dissemination of in-country outcome of ASTI.
- ✓ Use evidences from ASTI outcome to advocate for increase funding of agricultural research in Nigeria
- ✓ Establish a platform for dialogue with policy makers and other stakeholders on increase investment in research and development across the Nigeria National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS).
- ❖ The MoU clearly identified the role of each party, obligation of the parties, Joint role etc.

Challenges

❖ Funding

- ❖ Limited understanding on how to complete ASTI questionnaire (FAO led ASTI Guideline will be of help)
- ❖ Lack of refresher training for Institutional Focal Persons (In-country training)
- ❖ Lack of feedback mechanism from respondent on previous exercise (FAO has developed evaluation form)

Conclusion and Next Step

Conclusion

- ❖ The implementing agencies (ARCN & NBS) are committed to taking ownership of the of the ASTI project. A formal agreement is being finalized to reinforced the collaboration between the two agencies on the institutionalization of ASTI in Nigeria.

Next Step

- ❖ Build strong partnerships that will help accomplish the objectives of the ASTI project.
- ❖ Develop capacity of the ASTI team members on data collection including soft skills such as communication, stakeholder management, and public relations.
- ❖ Expedite action to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ARCN and NBS on ASTI project
- ❖ Source for funding (Internal and external)

AFRICAN
COMMISSION ON
**AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS**



COMMISSION DES
**STATISTIQUES
AGRICOLES**
POUR L'AFRIQUE

