



Results of 77th round of NSO survey released

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Friends, greetings from DEAR. Hope you are enjoying D-Talks. Hope you all know that work on NAFIS 2.0 is in progress. Agency selection process is on. The second round was originally planned for the year 2019-20 as we envisaged NAFIS every three years. However, around the same year, NSO planned its 77th round surveys. When I say NSO, it rings National Statistical Office in your mind. We all know the NSO is the statistical unit under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), GOI. National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), which is part of NSO is well known to us for its large-scale surveys it carries on various sectors of the economy. Recently, it released its findings of two surveys of 77th round recently which is of interest to NABARD. One of them is All India Debt Investment Survey (AIDIS) which was started as All-India Rural Credit Survey in 1951-52 and expanded in 1961-62 as All-India Rural Debt and Investment Survey. From 1971-72 onwards the survey covered urban areas also and is renamed as All-India Debt and Investment Survey. After the earlier round in 2012-13, the survey was originally due in 2021-22.

The other survey is Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households which was started in 2002-03 (59th round) and repeated in 2012-13 (70th round). SAS for 59th round covered farmer households (i.e., those who owned land) while the SAS 70th round covered agricultural households who earn a living from agriculture and allied activities irrespective of land ownership. These two rounds of survey generated lot of interest as they estimated income of agricultural households first time after a long gap as NSSO stopped estimating income due to certain methodological and measurement issues. The report is widely quoted for its incidence of indebtedness and income estimates till NAFIS came into the scene. We positioned NAFIS such as way that it could cover various aspects covered in AIDIS and SAS in a single survey. Also, NSSO surveys were done once in decade and results used to take long time on which I wrote in EPW suggesting the interval to 5 years and quick turn out of results. Though NAFIS was envisaged every three years, since NSO planned an additional round (77th) in 2019, we shifted our survey to 2020-21 not to duplicate efforts and to provide estimates for years in between NSO surveys.

In the 77th round, NSO has combined its Land and Livestock Holdings Survey with SAS while maintaining the concepts and definitions the same. This makes the results of these two surveys comparable with earlier round. NSO has kept both the reports on their website. The pdf documents of over 6000 pages together rich data on rural (incl agricultural) and urban households. NSO has also given unit level data (HH data) simultaneously. Another interesting feature in these documents is that if one clicks an entry in the list of detailed tables, a save as dialogue box opens where one can save the table as excel workbook. This feature is quite handy to researchers as I know how difficult it was to convert the voluminous data in pdf reports into spreadsheet format. About the results, may be some other time. Till then, happy reading.

Our previous D-Talks on: Will the Indian government bond yield soften further? by Neha Gupta and Appeal for a habitable tomorrow by Shivangi Shubham can be accessed at <https://www.nabard.org/Publication.aspx?cid=50&id=24> and https://www.nabnet.in/v3/solutions/dearcorner/pages/Speech/staff_articles.aspx

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