REDUCTION OF RESPONSE BURDEN BY REPLACING SURVEY QUESTIONS WITH REGISTER DATA: CASES OF CROP ROTATION, NON-REGULAR NON-FAMILY LABOUR, AND NUMBER OF ANIMALS

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In ESS statistics Eurostat supports the use of administrative data. Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) has a long experience of using administrative registers as a source for statistics. However when the administrative data develops, new possibilities arises. Our objective is to replace survey data in forthcoming farm surveys with register data, and to develop required survey estimation procedures. We examine the usability of the agricultural registers data to reduce the response burden and reducing the information collected directly from the farms:
1) Crop rotation (FSS variable "Share of arable land included in crop rotation"), source register: IACS parcel data from the Finnish Agency for Rural Affairs.
2) Farm relief workers' amount of work (part of the FSS variable "non-family labour employed on a non-regular basis"), source register: The Finnish Farmers' Social Insurance Institution.
3) Number of pigs, sheep and goats, source registers: Pig register and Sheep and Goat register maintained by the Finnish Food Safety Authority.

The general objectives in our study are:
1) To investigate possibilities for a broader analysis of crop rotation based on the IACS parcel data icluding the new geospatial parcel data obtained from the farmers through farm subsidy administration from the year 2015 on.
2) To pilot the use and examine the quality of the individual level register information that can be linked with identificators to farm level from a register other than IACS as a source of FSS data.
3) To evaluate the quality and feasibility of Pig register and Sheep and Goat register as sources of data for animal statistics and FSS.

Common advantages of the use of registers are the almost total coverage of farms and the avoidance of misinterpretations by farmers when answering the questionnaires which is a significant factor in the case of the crop rotation variable, for example.

References

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