

Problems Encountered in Data Compilation

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Status

The fish processing activities in Brunei Darussalam is presently on a cottage industry level. The number of processors in Brunei Darussalam is about 50, each with just one to five workers only. The production is inconsistent and generally follows market demand.

The products produced are crackers, fishballs, fishcakes, fermented products, dried-salted fish and dried smoked fish. In addition there are a few supermarkets which freeze products for their own outlets. The output of these fish processing establishments is between 5 to 100 kg per day of finished products.

Problems Faced

1. The processors are required to fill in forms provided by the Fisheries Department on a monthly basis. The data is either collected by our staff or returned by the processors. However problems arise when the processors were unable to return the data, or to return the forms on time.
2. There are processors who do not record their production. In this case the fisheries staff has to work with the processors to calculate the production figures. Therefore the figures are sometimes estimates.
3. Rapid changes in staff responsible for data handling in the supermarket also present a problem.
4. Limited manpower in the Fisheries Department for data collection.
5. Difficulties in getting previous production figures due to inconsistencies of operation or changes to data collection.

Suggestion

1. In order to get accurate data compilation I would like to suggest that all ASEAN countries have standard methods of collecting data.

2. Training of staff in statistics and data compilation to standardize procedures.