

The National Statistics Office of the Republic of Georgia (GEOSTAT) and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) have collaborated since 2007 on improving statistical methodology for agricultural surveys in the Republic of Georgia. The paper discusses the process of developing a series of new agricultural surveys on agricultural establishments in Georgia. Despite limitations of financial and human resources faced by developing countries, the Republic of Georgia recently implemented a series of agricultural surveys on different types of agricultural establishments. In 2015, new surveys were implemented for livestock slaughter houses, commercial grain storage facilities and cold storage facilities. New surveys are being developed for green houses and aquaculture establishments. GEOSTAT selected web based reporting as the mode of data collection for the new surveys, instead of a personal interview using a paper questionnaire. GEOSTAT also utilizes web based reporting for data collection of Agricultural Enterprises (large farms) in Georgia.

The paper will address the challenges of improving capabilities of GEOSTAT staff, technological strengthening and advances in a developing country. The successes and challenges of developing new agricultural surveys and implementing new methods of data collection are outlined. The paper will also address preparations and challenges in preparing for new agricultural surveys and enhancing future surveys.