

Statistics Mauritius staff trained on CSPro Android at the US Census Bureau

After the Tourism Surveys, SM will extend the use of tablets to other data collection activities, such as the Continuous Multipurpose Household Surveys, the Customer Satisfaction Surveys and price collections for the Consumer Price Index.

In this context, Mr S. Bhonoo, Ms S. Samy and Mr E. Romjon attended a course on Census and Survey Processing System (CSPro) from 15 to 26 June 2015 for building of CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) applications for data collection using Android tablets and smartphones. The training which is organised by the US Census Bureau has shown ways to adapt survey instruments to smaller screens, to ensure data quality through integrated data checks, and to control the user interface and program flow using logic programming. The training also dealt with ways to build tools for survey management, tracking, and data transfer.

The three officers will share knowledge acquired with colleagues through a series of workshops and act as resource persons on CSPro for Android tablets.

Presentation on "Cane Industry" by Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture (MCA)

As part of mechanisms put in place to build capacity and raise awareness, SM has been organising regular presentations on topics of common interest for producers of official statistics. Ms Sauzier, General Secretary of the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture (MCA), has accepted to talk about the 'Cane Industry' which has known a drastic change during the past 30 years. Sugar production which was more than 600,000 tonnes in the early eighties dropped to around 400,000 tonnes in 2014 while the number of millers went down from 21 to 4 during the same period. Today, the industry is highly centralised and has diversified its activities and products.

During her presentation, Ms Sauzier elaborated on the mandates and responsibilities of major stakeholders, namely the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture (MCA), Mauritius Sugar Producers Association (MSPA), Mauritius Sugar Syndicate (MSS) and the Mauritius Cane Industry Authority (MCIA). The latter, established since 2012, is the result of a merger of six institutions of the cane industry to ensure and promotes the sustained development, efficiency and sustainability of the sector. She also mentioned that MCA is currently working on the harmonisation of definitions of millers and planters across the cane industry.

Africa Public Service Day

23 June is celebrated every year as the Africa Public Service Day to recognize the value and virtue of service to the community.

This year, the Africa Public Service Day has been unfurled under the theme: **"The Role of the Public Service in Women Empowerment, Innovation and Accessible Service Delivery"**.

The theme provides public service and administration stakeholders with an opportunity to reflect on the extent to which women are represented within senior management positions in the public service.

On the occasion of the Africa Public Service Day 2015, the Honourable Alain Wong, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms stated that all policies in the Civil Service are gender neutral which leave no room for discrimination. Women officers, who now constitute a major component of the public service workforce, are now empowered. He also made an appeal to the collaboration of one and all in building a strong Civil Service for our country to better face the challenges of global environment and excel in service delivery and delight the citizens at no cost to them.

Open Data Readiness Assessment (ODRA)

The Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation (MTCI) had engaged with the World Bank (WB) for carrying out an Open Data Readiness Assessment (ODRA) with a view to assist Government in the development of an Open Data Policy and chart the way forward for making publicly held data valuable under the Open Data concept. Open Government Data can be conceptualised as being non-confidential information, public or otherwise, which anyone is free to use, re-use and redistribute.

SM was invited to be part of the Government Team, comprising representatives of MTCI, Central Informatics Bureau, Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms, Government Online Centre, Attorney General's Office and Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

An assessment mission from the World Bank visited Mauritius from 8 to 12 June 2015, during which meetings with key stakeholders, including SM, were held. The WB will produce a report with recommendations for consideration for Mauritius.

Following the observation made by the WB representative, SM office is working in collaboration with the MTCI on 'Copyright' and 'Terms and Conditions' notes for posting on its website.