

SM celebrates African Statistics Day

18 November was African Statistics Day. This year's theme was *Quality Data to support African Progress*. As is the tradition now, SM celebrated this special day through a half day workshop which was held at Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel, Caudan on 18 November itself.



Mr. Gilbert Gnany, Statistics Board Chairman, delivering his opening speech

Representatives of international organizations, government ministries and departments, the private sector, academia, NGOs and media were present. Aimee Cheung, SM Director gave the welcome address and Gilbert Gnany, Chairman of the Statistics Board proceeded with the workshop opening.

In the first part of the workshop, Set Fong Cheung, Principal Statistician gave a presentation on *Data quality initiatives*. In the second part on Household Budget Survey 2012, Statisticians Sanjev Bhonoo, Rajive Ajodhea and Chandranee Rughoobur presented on *Household income and expenditure*, *Household indebtedness* and *Poverty* respectively.

Judging by the level of the questions asked to the presenters, the workshop sparked the interest of the audience on the topics discussed and provided some insight about how to shape our statistical analysis to suit users' needs.

FAO supports Mauritius to conduct the Census of Agriculture

FAO is providing support to the Mauritian Government to conduct the Census of Agriculture in 2014. The aim is that the capacity of Government is strengthened to develop a sustainable Food and Agriculture Statistics System so that planning and policy decision-making are based on timely and reliable data.



FAO representative, Mr. P. Talla Takoukam (4th from left) together with FAO, SM and MAIFS colleagues during a visit at SM

To mark this collaboration, a project document was signed on 4 November 2013 by Mr. Patrice Talla Takoukam, FAO Representative and Mr. Ram Prakash Nowbuth, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security (MAIFS).

The project will last from September 2013 to August 2015 and is being executed jointly by SM and MAIFS.

SM recruits a consultant to improve data dissemination and promote statistical literacy

SM is implementing the recommendations of the Statistics Board and has recruited a consultant to improve data dissemination and promote statistical literacy. The consultant is Soobrayen Kalasopatan. He will, in the course of his assignment spanning from mid December 2013 to mid August 2014:

- develop dissemination and statistical literacy strategies and assist in their implementation;
- assist in the production of publications with improved editorial design and building content;
- develop statistical literacy materials; and
- build capacity of SM staff in the process.

SM recruits another intern under the Service to Mauritius (STM) Programme

SM has recruited another intern under the STM programme namely, Ridwan Rajabally, who joined SM on 11 November 2013. He is working under the supervision of Yasmin Cassimally, Deputy Director in the programme Data dissemination and Customer Support.