2. PROBLEM AND METHOD OF COLLECTING FARM MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Data Gathering Methods in Farm Management:

Data Sources: There are two main types of data sources in this respect and these are:

a) Primary data gathering technique: Collection of unprocessed data through the use of survey instruments such as questionnaire, interview guide, checklist, etc.

b) Secondary data gathering technique: Collection of processed data from data generating agencies such as FAO statistics, UNESCO, National Bureau of Statistics, Central Bank etc.

Method of Data Collection:

Generally, data collection could be through:

1. Interview
2. Simulation
3. Observation

Data Collection through Sampling

This is divided into probability and non-probability sampling

Probability:

a) Simple random sampling: The advantages include those of easy procedur e, representativeness and objectivity. Disadvantages include its expensive nature, may not be applicable where many specific groups are in the population

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b) Systematic random sampling: It is convenient. It can be adopted to ensure representativeness at different sampling points in a location.
c) Stratified random sampling: It is a useful technique to combat heterogeneity in the sample
d) Cluster sampling technique: It is applicable for samples where differentiation exists within samples.

Non-Probability:
a) Snowball: It is convenient. However, it is seldom representative
b) Purposive: It is used when the sample population is sparse. It may not be fully representative especially where the farm manager/researcher cannot compass the study location effectively.