

Background: The unit measurement survey is the first of its kind to be initiated by the Central Statistical Office. The evidence from the recent pilot survey, HIES 2000 indicated that a majority of our rural population still use local units for their daily transaction. The data collected during the HIES 2000 survey based on the local unit has very limited use and did not allow us to further explore the possibilities of reporting the consumption pattern in quantity. The ADB under the TA 3669 has agreed to fund the special survey. The main objective of this survey is to prepare a methodology to convert the local unit to International Standard Unit. The information and conversion table prepared by the CSO through this survey will be distributed to all the user agencies in the country. Also this unit conversion survey would be an important input to our forthcoming nation-wide living standard measurement survey.

Coverage: The standard units measurements survey tentatively covered all the two hundred one geogs in the country and the urban centers. As a standard measure the survey will take a sample of five measurements for each unit by crop/item under each geog/town. Through this it is assumed that estimate would be reliable in determining an accurate average weight of the particular crop/item.

Who should be approached: For measuring different items by different local units, it is best first to contact the respective gups, mangaps and then the respective chupens who are familiar with the situation in their area. However, you may also contact an older person who has been staying there for many years and have an idea of different units being used in their place. You may also take the assistance of the Agriculture Extension Workers or Livestock Extension Workers in the geog.

Purpose, Importance and usefulness of the measurements: You are asked to tell the gups, mangaps, chupens and older persons that this exercise is of great importance to the government. Such standard units are lacking so far in the country that is not only to determine the calorie intake by individual but also to work out any item quantity to be estimated or projected in future. You may also explain to them more through the objectives of the survey.

Instruction for filling up the block-wise units conversion:

Block 1: This block is meant for cereal and cereal preparation. In this block, if there are different types of units being used for instance, under changdre and khaw there are various sizes of this particular unit, try to measure all unit sizes and take an average of it. You may have to work it may be even by chupen-wise to get an average of this unit. You have to find out and make the measurement of the unit if there are unit that is not listed here. Similarly, find out and write the items that are not included here. In the case of bangchu, at least measure three different types of bangchu sizes and write the units in the respective space. It is

possible that cereals are measure in dalda tin and in such cases write the approximate weight of the unit. It is estimated that approximately 16 kilograms is equal to one dalda tin weight. Please not that the weight may vary according to the type of cereals and make sure to measure it properly. In the case of millet, there are two types of millet one is called a finger millet and other is called a fox tail millet. You can distinguish these two by looking at their colour. The former is in red colour and later is in white colour. Similarly, there are two kinds of buckwheat – bitter buckwheat and sweet buckwheat (in dzongkha former is called Jho and later is called Garay). Since they do vary in weight, please measure it separately atleast 5 samples. In the fried rice (zaw), there are atleast three types – ngonza, shunza and бага. You are requested to measure separately atleast five samples. Five samples means – take one measurement from each household or shop and measure it for five households or shops.

Block 2: This block is for the vegetables (both fresh and dry vegetables). The asterisk mark shows the leafy vegetables and this unit can be in bundle such as lom or tshoechu. You have to measure it atleast of three different sizes under this item. The availability of items depends upon the seasonality. Therefore, you are requested to measure the item if it is available at the time of your survey and don't waste time for finding the item. For units like bangchu and numbers, try to measure atleast three different sizes and write the units in the given space.

Block 3: This block relates to the fruits both fresh and dry. The items like pineapple, jackfruit, mangos teen, Pomegranate and Persimom, the units should be in numbers. Try to measure atleast three different sizes for these fruits and write the unit in the given space. The unit for sugarcane can be either in bundle or numbers. The other fresh fruits should be measured in dozen and obtain atleast three different sizes of the items in the given space. The unit of phita can be used for dry fruits and also obtain three different sizes of the item.

Block 4: This block is meant for tobacco and related products. In the case of tobacco leaves, there are two types one is called “bayla and other is dopdo” used for chewing and snuff respectively. This unit can be either in numbers or bundle. If it is in bundle, measure atleast three different sizes. Similarly, the units for bedi and pan leaves can be in bundle. For pan leaves, measure atleast three different sizes and for bedi measure only one bundle and write the weight in column 1. For snuff and khaini, see if the net weight is given in the timchu and if not measure one timchu and write the weight in the numbers column. In the betelnut item, measure one pon and find out this weight and calculate the weight per betelnut and write the weight in the numbers column. This is to get rid of different sizes of betenut. For lime, the unit can be either in poto or timchu. If there are different sizes of poto and timchu, measure atleast two to three sizes and take the average of the weight and write it in the respective column.

Block 5: This block is for any form of liquid. This block is divided into two parts one is mainly applicable in the rural and other is in the urban areas. In the case of urban, the measurement can be done in Thimphu market and for the rural areas it is to be done in the geog level. The unit for ara in the rural areas can be either bottle, palang and plastic jarkins. It is estimated that a plastic jarkins is equal to 2 kilograms and 5 kilograms. You are requested to make sure of it in the field and write the weight in the given space. The unit for bangchang/sinchang can be either in bottle, palang and throchu. For tongpa, the unit is in ball. A ball is made of bamboo. In the urban areas, the unit other than the frooti can be either in bottle or peg. The unit for frooti is in numbers.

Block 6: This block is for dairy products. The unit for milk can be in bottle and unit for butter can be in tsang and pori in western region, phok in the east and ser in the southern region. The unit for cheese and egg can be in ball and numbers respectively. In the case of meat, the unit can be in tsang, pori, phok, ser, bundle and Goe. It is estimated that one goe is equal to 5 kilograms. However, you should measure the unit and confirm the conversion rate. Cheese are sold in fresh and dried. Dried may be in the form of chu-shey. You should weigh the chu-shey and write the conversion rate in the given space.

Block 7: This block is meant for spices. The unit for fresh and dry chillies (local) can be in dre, gunny bags and bangchu. In case the unit is bangchu, you should measure atleast three different sizes of bangchu and write the standard unit in the given space. For the other two units you should take an average of the unit. In case of other spices except ginger, the unit can be either in timchu, poto and packet. Write the weight of the packet if it is written on it.

Block 8: This block is particularly for the religious items such as tsangzay powder. If the unit is in bangchu, measured atleast three difeerent sizes and write the standard unit in the respective space. In the case of poto and dre unit write the standard unit in the given space. You can also write other items which is not listed anywhere in other block and write the local unit for that item and measure it through the standard unit.

