

TAG Views on the Specification Lists From Africa and Asia

Response of the Technical
Advisory Group to a Request to
Review Regional Product Lists

Back from the Future

- **1. Planning for Future ICP Rounds in the regions and at the center will be simpler and more scientific when it is known what SPs were priced in the 2004-5 round.**
- **2. A major purpose of the SPDs was to provide a framework that would give continuity to future rounds. Standard coding of products and their characteristics in all regions will provide data on what products were in the markets. The task of developing product lists will then become much simpler.**
- **3. But for this round, that luxury is not available.**

Some Areas of TAG Agreement on Methods: Linking of the Regions

- **1. For the current ICP round the regions will be linked through a ring comparison of sets of countries from each region, a total of say, 20 countries.**
- **2. This linking will involve estimation of heading parities for all of the ring countries based on prices of SPs collected by the ring countries. Many of these SPs will involve additional pricing by ring countries, but as many as possible will use prices collected in the regional comparisons.**

Some Areas of TAG Agreement on the Africa and Asia Product Lists

- **1. It is hard to compare the African and Asian lists because:**
 - **a. The African list has not been reviewed by countries whereas the Asian list has. When countries in Africa actually decide what they will price, it will then be easier to judge the number of items for Africa.**
 - **b. For the Asian list, the TAG does not really know what instructions will be given to collectors so we do not know what information we will have in addition to the price and the existing SP provided for Asia.**

Concerns of *Some* of the TAG with the Asian and African Lists

- **1. The African list includes some items that are directed towards the budgets of the very poor, like day-old bread. While the TAG sees the potential interest in collecting prices for such items, it was also noted that we do not know from Household Expenditure Surveys which deciles consume them.**
- **2. Outlet type is recorded on the form. There is no indication in any of the Asian SPs as to a preferred outlet type for each item. Is the intention that each country price in an outlet type that they ordinarily would for that type of product in the CPI?**

TAG Questions Continued

- 3. The principal TAG question is what price determining characteristics will be recorded along with the price when they are not given in the product description.
 - a. When a range of sizes are given?
 - b. When packaging is not indicated.
 - c. When brands or country of origin may be important for price.