## Best Practice 2: Data Entry

The recently developed and implemented Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS) seeks to support SADC Member States in data gathering, storage, processing, and analysis. The system itself is an integrated webbased application and has an Application Programming Interface to ensure interoperability with other systems within the SADC region or externally.

The AIMS infrastructure is designed to enable each Member State to share agricultural information in a standardized format, and to ensure that up-to-date information is readily available for reporting and evidence-based decision-making. Member States share information by using a harmonized data entry questionnaire (Figure 1) or by directly using the built-in data entry module (Figure 2).

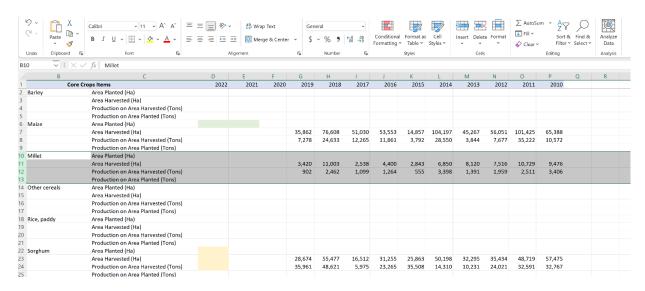


Figure 1: AIMS Harmonized data entry questionnaire

SADC Member States have been allocated data entry questionnaires which are compatible with the AIMS web application. The questionnaires have meta-data that are aligned with agricultural indicators that provide monitoring functionality against the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).

These two options are the only recommended approaches to ensuring that the information submitted to the AIMS is always up to date, which will facilitate quality, real-time reporting. This means that decision-making by the Member States will be based on the latest information retrieved from the regional database.

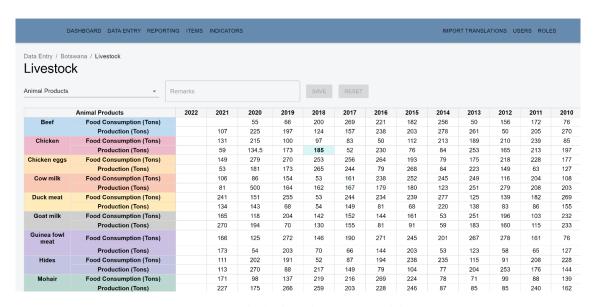


Figure 2: The built-in data entry module