

Recommendations

STATISTICS

- 1) To continue to improve data quality according to the standard requirements, analyzing the data sources, providing/uploading metadata and evaluating estimations methodologies to fill the gaps
- 2) Ensure to have the same data in CountrySTAT and FAOSTAT for the CORE data and to be consistent with CountrySTAT Sub-National data

Actions for both recommendations:

- Analyze and compare historical time series before the TWG and then provide metadata to address discrepancies issues during the TWG) (*FAOSTAT team / FAO/ National and Regional Focal Points*);
 - Harmonize the CountrySTAT time series with data from FAOSTAT questionnaires and upload during the TWG (*National and Regional Focal Points*);
 - Revise the data to address inconsistencies and outliers and harmonize data from different national sources and collect metadata (*National and Regional Focal Points*)
 - Evaluate and analyze estimation methodologies for missing data in collaboration with FAOSTAT and share experiences with other countries (*FAOSTAT team / FAO/ National and Regional Focal Points*)
 - Assist the countries to adopt the international concepts, definitions and classifications for food and agriculture (FAO) (*FAO/ National and Regional Focal Points*)
 - Statistical reference manual draft should be shared with National Focal Points to gather feedback (*FAO/ National and Regional Focal Points*).
 - Strengthen technical collaboration between FAO and Regional Organizations (EAC, SADC,...) (*CountrySTAT team, Regional Institutions Experts*)
- 3) Finalize table of correspondence between National Classification and FAO classification (*Action to be taken by FAO/ National and Regional Focal Points*)
 - 4) Improve the data flow between FAOSTAT and CountrySTAT

Actions:

- Define a calendar to validate and upload data and metadata in order to be synchronized with the questionnaire shipments (FAOSTAT team / CountrySTAT team)

- The CountrySTAT National Coordinator will be in copy for information when FAOSTAT Questionnaires are sent to countries (FAOSTAT team);
 - Focal point for FAOSTAT Questionnaires should be a member and attend TWG Meetings (*National and Regional Focal Points*)
- 5) Use and distribute the E-Learning module to the users and improve some other tools (Audio, CD availability, Tutor on line, certificates, make e-learning illustrations more international) (CountrySTAT team)
- 6) Implementation of FBS methodology (FAOSTAT team / CountrySTAT team/ *National and Regional Focal Points*)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

Communication:

- 1) Create conditions to build a community of CountrySTAT developers by establishing a completely open source project.

Actions:

- Complete the software technical documentation and prepare guidelines for new developers (*CountrySTAT team*)
 - Advertise the project and the possibility to contribute to its development to the CountrySTAT member countries and the international community (*CountrySTAT team*)
 - Prepare training modules to assist the users in familiarizing with the application (*CountrySTAT team*)
 - Create an open repository for CountrySTAT application (SVN + WIKI) (*CountrySTAT team*)
 - Establish a software validation process to evaluate and eventually embed third party software into the CountrySTAT core system (*CountrySTAT team*)
- 2) Link CountrySTAT to social media to enhance the visibility of the project and to raise awareness of the availability of the CountrySTAT database and application.

Actions:

- Identify best social media channels (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Delicious, Google+, Flickr, YouTube) for advertizing the system through social media channels. (*CountrySTAT team*)
- Open a forum/ mailing list to help users to communicate with the FAO and to exchange ideas and experience. (*CountrySTAT team*)
- Develop a strategy to efficiently support the social media-related activities (*FAO/ National and Regional Focal Points*)

- 3) Setup a user survey to gather requirements and suggestions from a broader user community.

Actions:

- Define the content of the survey and implement it (*FAO/ National and Regional Focal Points*)
 - Make a summary of the survey results and take this output into consideration for the software development plans (*CountrySTAT team*)
- 4) Insure a linkage between CountrySTAT website and National Institutional websites (CSO, MoA etc...)

Actions:

- Identify websites and other institutional channels for linkage to CountrySTAT (National and Regional Focal Points)
- Implement the links (*FAO/ National and Regional Focal Points*)

Institutional Building:

- 1) Motivate the government to prioritize CountrySTAT implementation and sustainability.

Actions:

- Provide services to strengthen the official communication/information channels, such as website, bulletins and reports, etc. (*FAO/ National and Regional Focal Points*)
- Ensure that CountrySTAT tools and functions help streamlining the current in-country data processing and publication practices and strengthen data flows across countries and regions. (*FAO/ National and Regional Focal Points*)

Software Development:

- 1) Develop basic data checking (Ranges, Consistency against standard ...) / comparison tools (e.g. CompSTAT) to help validate data before publication.

Actions:

- Gather detail requirements from the CountrySTAT focal points (*FAO/ National and Regional Focal Points*)
- Define the implementation approach and time schedule (*CountrySTAT team*)
- Develop and test the tools with the assistance of the focal points (*FAO/ National and Regional Focal Points*)

- 2) Ensure that the technology used to build the system will also be ready to face the new technological challenges such as working on mobile devices (smartphones, tablets, etc.).

Actions:

- Consider implementing mobile version of CountrySTAT (*CountrySTAT team*)
 - Increase modularity and capacity of personalization of the application (*CountrySTAT team*)
- 3) Consider developing a standalone and/or on-line lighter version of CountrySTAT to help countries with low bandwidth.

Actions:

- Make an assessment of the country constraints and needs (*FAO/ National and Regional Focal Points*)
 - Evaluate alternative options for running CountrySTAT in a local machine (*CountrySTAT team*)
 - Estimate costs and time (*CountrySTAT team*)
 - Implement the convenient solution if needed and feasible (*CountrySTAT team*)
- 4) Add Food Balance Sheet (FBS) functionalities in CountrySTAT.

Actions:

- Gather country requirements for FBS data and functions (*FAO/ National and Regional Focal Points*)
 - Consult with the focal point to find out whether the AMIS Commodity Balance Sheet could be adapted for CountrySTAT use; consider other possible alternatives (*FAO/ National and Regional Focal Points*)
 - Implement the best option (*CountrySTAT team*)
- 5) Build a utility to alert the CountrySTAT administrator of the need to update datasets in time. The application should use the “Next Update” element to flag the need to update a specific file

Actions:

- Define the functionalities in detail based on the requirements (*CountrySTAT team*)
- Implement the tool (*CountrySTAT team*)

COMMUNICATION

Draft Brochure

- 1) Key Messages for the new brochure should include (*Actions to be taken by CountrySTAT team*):
 - Highlight decision-making, an open source system which is free of charge, and that the various sectors that contribute to the diversity of data on the site;
 - CountrySTAT promotes data quality
 - Indicate what CountrySTAT is not - it does not replace national structures
 - Clarify the meaning of sustainable and accountable
 - Give a history of implementation which lists countries and official launch dates. Then it is easy to see who has more experience in CountrySTAT.

- 2) CountrySTAT Diagram presenting the 3 Pillars should be modified (*Actions to be taken by CountrySTAT team*):
 - Instead of Main Activities indicate Main Components
 - You have activities in components
 - Capacity development should be a component as it can stand on its own
 - The diagram should be presented as interlocking components because the 3 pillars are not separate

- 3) CountrySTAT data flow should be modified:
 - It would be good to have a schematic flow to show the CountrySTAT data flow, starting from the National Secretariat to the general public.
 - Add the CSO

- 4) Brochure draft should be shared with National Focal Points to gather feedback (*FAO/ National and Regional Focal Points*).

Draft Communications Strategy

- 1) Internet connectivity is a limiting factor for communications. It makes presentations difficult and performing demonstrations of the site is a challenge in meetings.
 - Preparation of presentation tailored to the country should be considered (Part of the National Communication Strategy) (*CountrySTAT team*);
 - Provide guidelines on Power Point presentation creation best practices (*CountrySTAT team*).

- 2) Meetings in country with national communications focal point is important going forward

- Ensure liaison by CountrySTAT Communication Officer with National Communication focal point and when possible during in-country missions (*FAO/ National and Regional Focal Points*).
- 3) More sensitization work for various data users & producers
 - 4) Communication strategy draft should be shared with National Focal Points to gather feedback (*FAO/ National and Regional Focal Points*).

GENERAL

- 1) Motivate the government to prioritize CountrySTAT and include it in the agency's regular budget.
- 2) Guarantee the sustainability of CountrySTAT by ensuring that the TOR of national staff responsible for implementing the system specifically include CountrySTAT activities.

Actions:

 - Focal point to liaise with government officials to follow up on this matter
- 3) Strengthen the links between MoA and CSO for the implementation of the CountrySTAT activities.

Actions:

 - Define roles and responsibilities for the two institutions
 - Define (and document) a workflow that involves the participation of the representatives of the MoA and CSO
- 4) Strengthen the capacity building activities.

Actions:

 - Intensify training activities
 - Provide more opportunities for information sharing such as regional workshops, etc
- 5) Sustainability of CountrySTAT
 - Commitment of the CountrySTAT Secretariat & TWG members to continue coming together to update datasets published on CountrySTAT
 - Commitment of high level national and regional authorities to promote and support CountrySTAT and RegionSTAT
 - Increase the resources
- 6) Preparation and finalization of the 2013 work plan by December, 15th 2012.
 - Align activities in the work plan with the release of key official data (crop production, questionnaires...)
- 7) Adopt the recommendations made by the EAC regional TWG meeting in Lusaka, 8-10 November 2012

- 8) FAO and SADC make an effort for the 10 remaining SADC countries to join the CountrySTAT family