



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
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Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

AFRICAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Twenty-third Session

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RECOMMENDATIONS

AGENDA ITEM 3: ACTIVITIES OF FAO IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SINCE THE 22nd SESSION OF AFCAS

1. Appreciates the quality of the activities undertaken by FAO since the 22nd session and the efforts made to implement its recommendations.
2. Recommends that FAO establish a Global Commission on Agricultural Statistics in order to: (a) ensure better coordination and standardization of the activities and recommendations emanating from Regional Commissions and bodies; (b) provide a global forum for Country Representatives to review and endorse methodological and other normative work; *and* (c) create a peer-review process for data published and methodologies used by FAO.
3. Recognizes that low response rates by countries to FAO questionnaires could be improved through the following measures: (i) identifying and designating focal points at national level; (ii) improving coordination mechanisms with the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS); (iii) organizing specific training and workshops addressing data related issues; *and* (iv) developing and using new data sharing technologies, such as web based questionnaires, Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), and Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange formats (SDMX).
4. Encourages FAO continue working on the integration of CountrySTAT with FAOSTAT with a view to using CountrySTAT, where operational, as a standard vehicle for easier provision to FAO of national data from member countries.

- 5.** Encourages countries, where CountrySTAT is not yet available, to establish it as a standard platform.
- 6.** Suggests countries to consider CountrySTAT as the recommended platform for the integration, management and dissemination of official statistics for food and agriculture.
- 7.** Recommends CountrySTAT broaden its data coverage to include data from agriculture censuses and surveys as well as country-level satellite images, remote sensing, and crowd-sourcing, where appropriate.
- 8.** Recommends CountrySTAT broaden its scope to become the Food Security information hub. Recommends it also includes other statistical satellite accounts, such as the Economic Accounts of Agriculture (EAA), the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for agriculture (SEEA-AGRI), Cost of Production, and Greenhouse Gas Emissions from agriculture.
- 9.** Encourages member countries to collect, analyse and disseminate timely and reliable data on Food and Agriculture in conformity with international classification schemes such as CPC version 2.1 for production and HS for trade.
- 10.** Endorses progress made by FAO in integrating agriculture, fishery and forestry into major international product classifications and data domains, and encourages member countries to complete the FAO Survey on National Classifications for Agriculture and Food Products.
- 11.** Recommends member countries and regional organizations in Africa, including FAO-RAF, strengthen partnerships and collaborations on international classifications.

AGENDA ITEM 4: GLOBAL STRATEGY

- 12.** Appreciates the efforts made to mobilize funds and to implement the three components of the Global strategy action plan for Africa. Recommends to accelerate its implementation and encourages to make greater use of relevant sub-regional institutions in the implementation of the Global Strategy regional action plan, in accordance with their respective capacity and availability of funding.
- 13.** Recommends that the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) of the Africa Action plan consider regional organizations, notably the AfDB, UNECA, AFRISTAT, CEEAC, CEMAC, COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS, SADC, UEMOA, etc. to help with the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the regional action plan of the Global Strategy, including the possibility of leveraging south-south cooperation where appropriate and relevant.

- 14.** Encourages countries to implement the recommendations of the GS by mainstreaming them into the NSDS.
- 15.** Takes note of the conclusions, recommendations and the roadmap of the workshop on the Agricultural Statistical Capacity Indicator and recommends its implementation.
- 16.** Recommends the inclusion of animal health indicators in the list of core indicators of the GS.

AGENDA ITEM 5: WORLD CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

- 17.** Welcomes the FAO initiative to prepare the guidelines for the 2020 round of the World Census on Agriculture. Endorses the conceptual framework, the strategy, and the modular approach proposed for WCA 2020. Considers the WCA recommendations a living document that will be updated as progress is made and experience is collected.
- 18.** Concurs to place agricultural censuses in the context of an integrated survey program, with modular, theme-based surveys between censuses.
- 19.** Recommends countries adopt multiple sampling frames where conditions are in place, and that they exchange experiences on implementing such approaches.
- 20.** Recommends, in principle, to document the increased use of new technologies, such as GPS, Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI), and remote sensing.
- 21.** Recommends pooling new technological tools and sharing access to them across countries. However, suggests that technology-specific shortcomings need to be taken into account, such as battery lifetimes of CAPIs, recharging options in the field, readability of small monitors under field conditions, or the limits of GPS-based systems for small scale agricultural holdings.
- 22.** Recommends linking of population and housing censuses with agriculture censuses be considered as a useful approach. However, carrying out a population and an agricultural census as a single undertaking be discouraged.
- 23.** Recognizes that African countries are not yet prepared for using administrative data as an alternative to agricultural censuses. However, recommends countries develop registers for large farms for use in WCA 2020.
- 24.** Recommends undertaking sample censuses as a possible alternative to a full enumeration, provided that the sample is large enough for adequate small area estimates.

- 25.** Supports improving access to anonymised disaggregated census data and guidelines on this subject.
- 26.** Recommends improvement of the methodological work on livestock statistics, given their significance to Africa, including specialized livestock surveys in country level survey programs.
- 27.** Recommends increasing the collection of gender disaggregated data in WCA 2020, particularly with respect to inclusion of items regarding land ownership and/or management and providing clearer guide about their collection. Also recommends including variables that capture the impacts of Climate Change and other emerging issues that affect the agricultural production environment.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

- 28.** Recognizes the potential role of food waste and food losses on food security, but stresses that the measurement of food waste and losses be improved.
- 29.** Recommends distinguishing all instances of food waste and losses throughout the value chain, from “farm to fork,” and encourages the Global Strategy to develop and produce appropriate measurement methods.

AGENDA ITEM 7: RECENT ADVANCES IN ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS

- 30.** Endorses the work undertaken by FAO in developing an agri-environmental indicators database in FAOSTAT.
- 31.** Recommends that FAO work with member countries in developing agri-environmental indicators that are integrated with the FDES and SEEA and are relevant for the region.
- 32.** Endorses the methodological scope and coverage of the SEEA-AGRI to be developed by FAO, and recommends working with member countries in implementing the SEEA-AGRI framework in the region.
- 33.** Endorses the work undertaken by FAO in developing a Greenhouse Gas Emissions database in FAOSTAT and its value as a useful platform for analysis of mitigation data.
- 34.** Recommends that FAO continue working with countries, individually and at regional level, to support their analysis and estimation of greenhouse gas emissions.

AGENDA ITEM 8: RECENT ADVANCES IN ECONOMIC STATISTICS

- 35.** Recommends that FAO continue its work on measuring agricultural investment, and requests member countries review and provide feedback to FAO on Country Investment Profiles and information contained therein before dissemination on FAOSTAT.
- 36.** Encourages member countries to share information on other data sources, at country level, that could improve agricultural investment financing datasets.
- 37.** Recommends that FAO continue its work on Cost of Production (CoP) in Agriculture, and encourages countries to critically review emerging methodological issues, provide feedback and contributions to the CoP Handbook, and participate in the field-testing of components of the Handbook.
- 38.** Recommends that FAO continue its work on measuring producer and consumer prices and price transmission and volatility, and encourages member countries to provide feedback on the methodological developments regarding agricultural price statistics.
- 39.** Recommends that FAO collaborate with regional organizations, such as UEMOA, that collect, produce, and publish national and regional price statistics, to ensure harmonization.

AGENDA ITEM 9: METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN FOOD SECURITY STATISTICS

- 40.** Recommends that FAO continue with the work on the suite of food security indicators and the compilation of a composite Food Security index. Asks countries to provide critical feedback on the proposed set of indicators and indices, potential data collection challenges, and country-level sensitivities.
- 41.** Endorses the multiple dimensions of the measurement of food insecurity to allow mainstreaming food security within countries' policy frameworks.
- 42.** Recommends the creation of more opportunities for exchanging views on the FAO methodology on estimating the Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU). Encourages countries to provide all data required for estimating the PoU and other information contained in the suite of food security indicators.
- 43.** Recommends that member countries collaborate with FAO and other relevant international organizations, including the International Household Survey Network, to harmonize standards and tools used in household surveys and to develop optimal design of food consumption modules.

- 44.** Recommends that countries produce their own Food Balance Sheets (FBS), with special emphasis on producing reliable and detailed information on food utilization. In this regard, recommends FAO assist countries in: (a) the FBS compilation process; (b) the adoption of the most recent methodological improvements; *and* (c) the development of necessary statistical capacity.
- 45.** Encourages that countries consider the possibility to make micro data from household surveys available to help FAO to improve measurement of food insecurity (nutrient content, unit of measurements, population distribution of consumption etc.). Requests FAO address carefully possible concerns, both of a technical and data confidentiality nature, through Memoranda of Understanding (MoU).
- 46.** Recommends that countries work closely with FAO to agree on common methodologies, standards and tools to be used for food security monitoring. These tools include, *inter alia*, Food Balance Sheets, household surveys, the ADePT Food Security module and the Food Insecurity Experience Scale.
- 47.** Recommends that the Voices of the Hungry project collect data in a wide set of countries and the results be integrated into the FAO Suite of Food Security indicators.