



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Proposal to Establish a Global FAO Commission on Statistics



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Proposal for a Global FAO Commission on Statistics

- Introduction and Background
- Current External Governance Structure and Limitations
- Implications of the Global Commission
- Recommendations
- Feedback and Questions



Introduction and Background (1)

- Important and urgent to strengthen governance of external statistics
- Absence of global international platform for country involvement in strategic discussions on agricultural statistics has serious consequences:
 - Limits FAO leverage to facilitate adoption and implementation of statistical norms and standards.
 - Statistical capacity development priorities not established in consultation with countries, resulting in gaps, overlaps and inconsistencies across initiatives.
- Strong support for establishment of a global body on statistics from statistical regional bodies.
- Also acknowledged as a possible priority by FAO's Member Countries.

More specifically:



Introduction and Background (2)

- Establishing a Global Body on Agricultural Statistics:
 - **Recommended** by 26th Session of the FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for the Latin America and the Caribbean (2013) and **Re-iterated** at the 27th Session (2015)
 - **Recommended** by 23rd Session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (2013)
 - **Supported** by 25th Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (2014)
- Proposal and recommendations from Regional Statistical bodies **noted** by FAO Regional Conferences; recommendation **endorsed** by African Regional Conference (2014).
- Proposal **contemplated** in the FAO Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-201



Introduction and Background (3)

- Proposal **reviewed** by Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) at its Ninety-ninth Session (October 2014)
 - Recognized that a FAO body dedicated to addressing statistical matters at global level could be useful
 - Requested clarification on the relationship between existing regional statistical bodies and the global one
- 150th Session of the FAO Council “*noted that the CCLM agreed to consider the proposal to establish the Commission on Statistics at a future session.*” (December 2014)



Current External Governance Structure for FAO Statistics

AFCAS

African
Commission
on
Agricultural
Statistics

Established
under Article
VI-1 of the
Constitution

APCAS

Asia and
Pacific
Commission
on
Agricultural
Statistics

Established
under Article
VI-1 of the
Constitution

FAO/OEA-CIE/IICA Joint
Working Group for Latin
America & the Caribbean

Joint Working Group on
Agricultural and Livestock
statistics

Established in partnership
with the Organization of
American States (OEA) and
Inter-American Institute for
Aquaculture (IICA).

Mandated by Article VI-2
of the FAO Constitution

FAO/ECE/CES Joint Study
Group for Europe

Joint Study Group on
Food and Agricultural
Statistics in Europe

Established in partnership with
Agricultural Division of UN
Economic Commission for
Europe (ECE) and Secretariat of
Conference of European
Statisticians (CES).

**Has been
discontinued!**

International Advisory Group on FAO Statistics - *an informal advisory body*



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Low Visibility:

- No formal/strong reporting to FAO Governing Bodies (FAO Conference and FAO Council)

Inequities:

- differential bodies across regions;
- absence in near Middle East and Europe;
- limited dialogue and coordination amongst current bodies;
- limited/informal role for International Advisory Group on FAO Statistics (IAGFS) with limited/incomplete membership

Limitations of Current Structure

Inefficiencies:

- Overlap/repetition of agenda items in current regional meetings;
- Intensive administrative support from FAO Statistics Division

Absence of country role in global coordination

- Limited dialogue & coordination among current regional bodies
- No international platform for country involvement and participation in strategic discussions on agricultural statistics

Implications of the Global Commission (1)

- FAO Conference resolution 11/2015 recognized the need “to enhance the efficiency of the organization and its governance” and requested the Director-General “to continue to explore methods to enhance cost efficiencies for statutory bodies, in particular, in relation to the meetings of such bodies”
- As noted by the CCLM, the current external governance structure needs to be reviewed and modified, particularly to avoid duplication of effort while exploring opportunities for efficiency and effectiveness gains



Implications of the Global Commission (2)

Advantages of greater Statistics focus at the Global Level:

- More visible and higher-level platform for providing national inputs and expressing statistical needs
 - Greater possibility to influence agenda and the decisions taken by FAO Governing Bodies, such as Council and Conference
 - Potential for a bigger role for the Regional Conferences in addressing statistical matters
- Opportunity for knowledge exchange/interaction across regions
- Improves overall efficiency by:
 - eliminating duplication across the existing bodies
 - lowering costs in view of fewer meetings to coordinate
 - Streamlining current & differential mechanisms to address regional statistical issues, some which have not been reviewed or updated for over 45 years



Implications of the Global Commission (3)

- Proposal: two-tiered approach that leverages the strengths of a Global focus with significant interaction at Regional Level:
 1. Invite all members of regional bodies to participate in the Global Commission
 - One representative from each Region to serve on the Intersession Bureau of the Commission
 - Create dedicated agenda items for the Global Commission focusing on particular regional issues and needs, with the benefit of potential interaction with Members of other regions having similar interests.
 - Upon request, organize regionally-focused side-events as an integral part of the Global Commission's agenda
 2. Create permanent Regional Working Groups of Global Commission in place of the existing regional bodies and to cover regions without any mechanism.
 - To address regional issues raised at the FAO Global Commission on Statistics, the FAO Conference, the Council or the Regional Conferences, and to report back with advice and recommendations
 - As needed, include agenda item and/or side-event on Statistics at a given FAO Regional Conference that is of unique relevance to that region



Recommendations

- The 24th Session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics is invited to:
 - Re-iterate the recommendation made at the 23rd Session in 2013 to establish a FAO Global Commission on Statistics.
 - Endorse the two-tiered approach to integrate the current statistical governance arrangements within a single Global Statistics Commission, with permanent Regional Working Groups and designated regional representation on the Inter-session Bureau of the Global Commission.
 - Include these two recommendations in its final report and to forward them to FAO Regional Conference for Africa.



Comments and Questions

Thank you

