TCP/INT/3401

"Support for the implementation and development of the CountrySTAT Framework in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) countries"

CountrySTAT REGIONAL BASIC ADMINISTRATOR TRAINING
Ankara, Turkey, 21 - 25 October 2013

Final Report

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, United Arab Emirates.

I.   Introduction

Under the project TCP/INT/3401, the CountrySTAT REGIONAL BASIC ADMINISTRATOR TRAINING for ECO MEMBER STATES was held in Ankara, Turkey from 21 – 25 October 2013. The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), in collaboration with the FAO CountrySTAT Team, organized a five-day training workshop for members of the national CountrySTAT teams from the ECO countries and the regional team from the ECO Secretariat.

Experts from FAO HQ provided training concerning the various aspects of CountrySTAT. The group of trainers were:

- Paul N'GOMA-KIMBATSA (FAO/Rome);
- Fabio GRITA (FAO/Rome);
- Julia STONE (FAO/Rome);
- Stefania BACCI (FAO/Rome);
- Yann Laurent (FAO Consultant)

The ECO was represented by:

- Bayan Adilbekova, Director of Projects, Economic Research and Statistics
- Mr Gokten Damar, Director, Agriculture, Industry and Tourism

Workshop Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were to provide the participants, who were from ECO Member States who have not yet implemented CountrySTAT, with an understanding of the objectives in the development of an ECO RegionSTAT, the importance of data exchange in the region, and provide a basic training on the use of the CountrySTAT System and the implementation of international standards (concepts and definitions, classifications) in making data available online. In particular, the workshop focused on:

- Coordination of activities within countries
- IT module and the new CountrySTAT system
- Statistics module of CountrySTAT
- Presentation of the communication strategy for CountrySTAT

The workshop provided a platform for the participants to learn and to make recommendations to further promote the use and visibility of CountrySTAT within the ECO region and member states.

II.   Key Activities

CountrySTAT Regional Basic Administrator Training

The authors of this report worked as a team to ensure smooth facilitation of the workshop activities such as plenary sessions, practical exercises and discussions on the four pillars of CountrySTAT (Country Coordination, Statistics, IT, and Communications).

The training's official opening took place with a brief introduction of all participants. This allowed the group to understand the countries and national institutions represented. The SESRIC was represented by Mr. Hakan Eryetli, acting Director Statistics and Information Department, who officially welcomed all participants and highlighted the importance of regional cooperation in an effort to improve official statistics. The FAO Turkey Representative, Mr Mustafa Sinaceur, made a speech on behalf of the FAO Director General, Jose Graziano da Silva. Dr Osman Yildiz, Head of Group for Agricultural Structure and Economic Accounts – Turkish Statistical Institute, also welcomed participants and stressed the importance of statistical capacity development and the potential benefits for all participants. Dr Hakan Erden, Dept Head of Geographical Information Systems, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, stressed the importance of strong information systems to support making good quality statistics available. Mr Gokten Damar, Director Agriculture Industry and Tourism ECO, welcomed all participants to Turkey and reminded them of the training objectives, and the importance of reliable agriculture statistics.

Presentations were made in plenary on the following:

- Training objectives
- Presentation on the CountrySTAT Framework
- Presentation on Strengthening the Management and Dissemination of ECO Regional Statistics on Food and Agriculture
- Presentation on the new FAOSTAT and RegionSTAT
- Presentation on the Institutional Framework, Key National Structures and CountrySTAT Capacity Development
- Presentation on E-Learning Module on Statistics
- Statistics Module: FAOSTAT Concepts and Definitions, basic concepts of table structure, data harmonization and metadata
- Statistics Module: Table Structure, Strategy Minimum Set of Core Data, Agricultural Censuses and Surveys, Statistical Yearbooks, Food Balance Sheets and Thematic Modules
- IT Module: Presentation on Introduction to CS – Publisher/CountrySTAT Administrative Tools
- Presentation on Communications and Raising the Visibility of your national CountrySTAT website
- Presentation on CountrySTAT Partnerships
- Presentation on the Draft Project Proposal for the FAO-ECO Partnership on Statistics – Regional Data Sharing and Harmonization, and Next Steps
- Presentation of the workshop report

One of the main objectives of the regional training was to present the new CountrySTAT system and provide participants with a good foundation on processes related to standardizing, harmonizing and uploading data to the CountrySTAT System.

The participants appreciated the new system and provided many positive suggestions for improvements and future developments, most of which are included in the recommendations.

The presentations were followed by extensive training sessions related to IT and Statistics which were held over two days. During this time the participants were able to familiarize themselves with the CountrySTAT System through practical exercises, the various features and functionalities, and ask questions and discuss any problems encountered. They had the support of the team to do practical exercises on analysis of outliers and data harmonization.

The team also facilitated the formulation of conclusions and recommendations of the workshop. Many participants expressed their appreciation for the training, and of their many recommendations it was strongly recommended that the project provide training materials in Russian, as well as the workshop report.

At the close of the workshop participants were presented with certificates for the completion of the Basic Administrator Training on CountrySTAT.

III.   Conclusions and Recommendations

See Annex III for detailed recommendations

Recommendations for ECO Member States

1) Countries recommended that 1 representative from each country should be selected in order to define a core dataset for each country.
2) As Tajikistan will finish the data collection for their agricultural census they would like support in data compilation and processing. They have been advised to submit a formal request to their local FAO representation, and this request will be sent to the FAO Statistics Division.
3) Iran has designed and implemented a website in which Ministry of Agriculture can collect core statistical data according to the Global Strategy through stakeholders and their holdings and this can be used as a model to be implemented in FAO member states
4) Upload data and metadata for a minimum of 40 tables following the standards in order to facilitate the official launch of CountrySTAT nationally.
5) Formal nomination from Afghanistan (pilot country) for the members of the CountrySTAT National Secretariat, CountrySTAT National Coordinator and Technical Working Group.
6) The Government of the Republic of Turkey should provide more support (technical) in the implementation of the CountrySTAT system in all ECO member states in order to realize common systems and standards for the centralization and dissemination of food and agriculture statistics within the ECO region
7) Continue to learn using the CountrySTAT System by practicing with the e-Learning CD.
8) For future trainings it is important to have complete official nominations before the training so that the information shared will benefit those who will be involved in the implementation, as some of the participants here may not get nominated to work on CountrySTAT

Recommendations for ECO, FAO and partners

GENERAL

1) Translate all documentation, training materials and software in Russian.
2) For future trainings ensure that documentation and presentations will be in Russian and ready to share with participants at the start of the proceedings.
3) Ensure appropriate budgeting for language support in future project.
4) Prepare a Russian version of the final report to be made available to participants from Russian speaking countries.
5) Mission to Afghanistan will take place in December 2013 in order to support a national Technical Working Group meeting
6) Start planning for a second CountrySTAT regional training workshop for ECO Member States to take place in possibly March or April 2014.
7) Prepare revised concept note in light of feedback received from participants in terms of their needs for technical assistance in their countries.
8) Preparation of an MOU in relation to the FAO-ECO Partnership on Statistics.
9) ECO should recommend a dataset for inclusion on all 10 ECO member countries' CountrySTAT sites that will be prioritized for collection from countries.
10) A GIS expert should be added to the regional team to be based in ECO headquarters.
11) Include a GIS expert in the TWG in order to identify and compile relevant geospatial information

12) In the future when nominees are made for training workshops an IT expert, or an individual with strong IT skills and a statistician/economist should be part of those who will take part in the training.

INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION

1) In discussion with the ECO Secretariat we need to align existing institutional committees and the CountrySTAT Technical Working Group.
2) Identify synergies with relevant partners, such as SESRIC, or external entities (international organizations, NGOs or private sector) who are working on statistics in the ECO region.
3) Create Regional Terms of Reference (TOR) for the ECO Regional Team and outline relationship with Technical Working Groups.
4) Share Terms of Reference (TOR) for the National Secretariat and the Technical working group with all new countries. The TOR will detail the profile of the individuals who will participate.
5) Make formal request for nominations of the CountrySTAT National Secretariat, CountrySTAT National Coordinator and Technical Working Group.
6) Sensitization of high level national authorities.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

1) Identify options and optimal solutions to link existing systems in the various countries for sharing data and metadata efficiently with CountrySTAT.
2) Evaluate the possibility to simplify the procedure to create and handle constructing a table.
3) Translate in Russian the CountrySTAT website of Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan
4) Start using GAUL codes for storing data at country level to support regional aggregation and mapping.
5) Study the possibility for online functionality to prepare the Correspondence Table between national and international classifications.

STATISTICS

1) Change the unit of measure for eggs on the template from tonnes to number.
2) Assist the ECO countries to ensure consistency of the data across countries (e.g. cross-border trade)
3) Create codes for the tables to be produced in the following domains: Global Strategy, Agriculture Censuses/Survey, Food Balance Sheets and Statistical Yearbook data sets.

COMMUNICATION

1) Raise the visibility of the FAO-ECO Partnership in Statistics through appropriate communication strategies.
2) Evaluate available funds to produce newsletters and brochures on the expansion of CountrySTAT within the ECO region and related activities.

Recommendations for FAO from the United Arab Emirates

1) The official responsible for statistics in the United Arab Emirates has requested ongoing coordination with FAO for the preparation and launch of a national CountrySTAT system.

2) Upon receiving an official request from the Government of the UAE the CountrySTAT team will organize a national training workshop in Abu Dhabi.

FAO	منظمـة الأغذيـة والزراعـة للأمـم المتحـدة	联 合 国 粮 食 及 农 业 组 织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación

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AGENDA

Monday, 21 October 2013

08h30 – 09h00	Registration
09h00 – 10h00	Opening Ceremony

- Introduction of Participants
- Welcome remarks from SESRIC
- Speech by Representative from the Government of Turkey
- Speech by FAO Representative - Turkey
- Speech by Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

10h00 – 10h30	*Coffee Break and Photo Souvenir*
10h30 – 11h00	Training objectives (Paul N'Goma-Kimbatsa)
11h00 – 11h30	Presentation: CountrySTAT Framework (Overview of CountrySTAT and RegionSTAT system components, software, international standards, Capacity Development, e-Learning, Links to Global Strategy, Agricultural Censuses/Surveys, Food Balance Sheets and Statistical Yearbook) (Julia Stone)
11h30 – 12h00	Presentation on FAOSTAT and RegionSTAT (Fabio Grita and Paul N'Goma-Kimbatsa)
12h00 – 12h30	Discussion
12h30 – 14h30	*Lunch Break*
14h30 – 15h00	Presentation: Strengthening the Management and Dissemination of ECO Regional Statistics on Food and Agriculture (ECO)

15h00 – 15h30	Presentation: Institutional Framework, Key National Structures and CountrySTAT Capacity Development (Julia Stone)
15h30 – 16h00	*Coffee Break*
16h00 – 16h30	Discussion
16h30 – 17h00	Presentation: Communications and Raising the Visibility of your national CountrySTAT website (CountrySTAT Communications Strategy, Importance of Communications, Activities, Methods of Communication) (Julia Stone)
17h00 – 17h30	Discussion

Tuesday, 22 October 2013

09h00 – 09h30	Presentation: CountrySTAT Partnerships - The Way Forward in the ECO-FAO Partnership on Statistics (Regional data sharing and harmonization) (Julia Stone)
09h30 – 10h00	Partner Presentation: TBD
10h00 – 10h30	*Coffee Break*
10h30 – 11h00	Presentation: CountrySTAT Statistics Component (FAOSTAT Concepts and Definitions, Commodity Classification, Data Harmonization) (Paul N'Goma-Kimbatsa)
11h00 – 12h00	Presentation: CountrySTAT Statistics Component (CountrySTAT process, Table Structure, Classification of commodities) (Stefania Bacci)
12h00 – 12h30	Discussion
12h30 – 14h00	*Lunch Break*
14h00 – 15h00	Practical Exercise: International Classification
15h00 – 15h30	Presentation: CountrySTAT Statistics Component (Process of creating tables) (Stefania Bacci)
15h30 – 16h00	*Coffee Break*
16h00 – 17h30	Practical Exercise: Preparation of tables (using CountrySTAT templates for National Core) to input and format data for:

- o National Core
- o Sub-national
- o Other modules

Wednesday, 23 October 2013

09h00 – 09h30	Presentation: CountrySTAT Statistics Component (Publishing data and metadata in CountrySTAT) (Stefania Bacci)

09h30 – 10h30	Practical Exercise: Preparation of 3-dimensions table and metadata, publishing data in CountrySTAT
10h30 – 11h00	*Coffee Break*
11h00 – 12h30	Practical Exercise: Uploading data and metadata for National Core and Sub-National Domains
12h30 – 14h30	*Lunch Break*
14h30 – 15h00	Presentation: CountrySTAT IT Component (CountrySTAT Mobile Data Collection and AMIS) (Fabio Grita)
15h00 – 15h30	Presentation: CountrySTAT IT Component (Introduction to CS – Publisher/CountrySTAT Administrative Tools) (Fabio Grita)
15h30 – 16h00	*Coffee Break*
16h00 – 17h30	Practical Exercise: Managing Pages of your CountrySTAT site (Home, About, Key Indicators, Metadata and Contacts)

Thursday 24 October 2013

09h00 – 09h30	Presentation: CountrySTAT E-Learning (Fabio Grita)
09h30 – 10h30	Practical Exercise: Find errors in the tables
10h30 – 11h00	*Coffee Break*
11h00 – 11h30	Presentation: Draft of Guidelines of the main Project Proposal and Next Steps (Paul N'Goma-Kimbatsa and Julia Stone)
11h30 – 12h30	Open Discussion
12h30 – 14h30	*Lunch Break*
14h30 – 17h00	City Tour

Friday 25 October 2013

09h00 – 10h30	Workshop Report: Recommendations on the way forward
10h30 – 11h00	*Coffee Break*
11h00 – 11h30	Any other business/Evaluation
11h30 – 12h00	Closing Ceremony
12h00 – 14h00	*Lunch Break*
14h00 – 17h00	Free Time

ANNEX II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NO	COUNTRY	NAME	ORGANISATION	DESIGNATION	EMAIL
1	**AFGHANISTAN**	Mr. Mohd Hashim HAIDARI	Central Statistics Organization	Manager Agriculture Statistics Section, Economic Statistics Department	afghan_cso@yahoo.com Hashim.haidari@yahoo.com
2	**AFGHANISTAN**	Mr. Mohd Ehsan OMARY	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (MAIL)	Head of Agricultural Statistics Agricultural Statistics & Information Management Directorate, Planning & Programs General Directorate	omary006@yahoo.com
3	**AZERBAIJAN**	Mr. Rashad BAYRAMOV	State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan	Head Agriculture and Environment Statistic Department	rashadb@azstat.org
4	**IRAN**	Ms. Parisa TEIMURI	Statistical Centre of Iran	Expert Office of Agriculture Statistics	parisa5826@yahoo.com int@sci.org.ir
5	**IRAN**	Mr. Ali RADMEHR	Ministry of Agriculture	Director General Bureau of Agricultural Information and Technology	aradmehr1191@gmail.com Sadeghsadeghi1361@gmail.com
6	**KAZAKHSTAN**	Mr. Symbat MARATOV	Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Statistics	Senior Expert Division of Statistics of Energy and Environment	kaz_vko87@mail.ru
7	**KAZAKHSTAN**	Mr. Marlen OSPANOV	Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan	Expert Division of the Crop Development Strategy	ospanov.m@minagri.gov.kz

8	KYRGYZSTAN	Mr. Nurlan ISHENOV	National Statistical Committee of Kyrgyz Republic	Manager ICT and Programming Department, Main Computer Centre	icd@stat.kg
9	KYRGYZSTAN	Ms. Gulnura ZHAPARBEKOVA	Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration of Kyrgyz Republic	Specialist Division of Agrarian Policy and Strategic Searches on Agriculture Production	gulnura7575@mail.ru
10	PAKISTAN	Mr. Khalid Mahmud MIRZA	Ministry of National Food Security and Research	Joint Secretary NFS&R, Islamabad	kmmirza@hotmail.com
11	TAJIKISTAN	Mr. Nuralisho SILEMUNSHOEV	Agency on Statistics under the President of Tajikistan	Chief of the Main Computer Centre	stat@tojikiston.com
12	TAJIKISTAN	Ms. Davlyatmo KAZAKOVA			
13	TURKEY	Dr. Gürsel KÜSEK	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock	Director General General Directorate of Agricultural Reform	
14	TURKEY	Dr. Hakan ERDEN	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock	Department Head of Geographical Information Systems, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock	
15	TURKEY	Ms. Cemre ÖZCANLI	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock	Mathematician	cemre.ozcanli@tarim.gov.tr
16	TURKEY	Mr. Caner ERDEM	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock	EU Expert General Directorate of EU and Foreign Relations	
17	TURKEY	Mr. Lütfi KORKUT	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock		

18	TURKEY	Mr. Mehmet Ali ÖZDEM	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock		
19	TURKEY	Dr. Osman YILDIZ	Turkish Statistical Institute	Head of Group, Agricultural Structure and Economic Accounts Group	osman.yildiz@tuik.gov.tr
20	TURKEY	Ms. Nihal ERTÜRK	Turkish Statistical Institute	Expert Agricultural Statistics Department	nihal.erturk@tuik.gov.tr
21	UAE	Mr. Naser Hasan Mohamad AL MAHSHI	National Bureau of Statistics Directorate of agricultural & environmental statistics	Expert Assistant Statistician	
22	ITALY	Mr. Paul N'GOMA-KIMBATSA	FAO	Lead Technical Officer - CountrySTAT	Paul.Ngomakimbatsa@fao.org
23	ITALY	Mr. Fabio GRITA	FAO	Coordinator "FENIX (Workstation)"	Fabio.Grita@fao.org
24	ITALY	Ms. Julia STONE	FAO	Country Project Officer - CountrySTAT	Julia.Stone@fao.org
25	ITALY	Ms. Stefania BACCI	FAO	Country Project Officer - Consultant	Stefania.Bacci@fao.org
26	ITALY	Mr. Yann LAURENT	FAO		
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29	IRAN	Ms. Bayan ADILBEKOVA	ECO	Director Project and Economic Research and Statistics	Director.PERS@ECOsecretariat.org
30	IRAN	Mr. Gokten DAMAR	ECO	Director Agriculture, Industry and Tourism (AIT)	Director-AIT@ECOsecretariat.org

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32	**TURKEY**	Ms. Zehra Zümrüt SELÇUK	SESRIC	Senior Researcher Statistics and Information Department	zkoc@sesric.org
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ANNEX III: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Information Technology

1. When using the system the validation of the file name should take place earlier in the data upload process: if the name is not compliant, the file should either be renamed by the system (i.e., data1.xls) or a message should be displayed just after the upload indicating there is an issue with the file name. It is not consistent to display the name of the table after the success upload of a file with a Russian name and then the user receives an error message when saving the matrix in the publication process.

2. There is an issue with being able to structure and upload tables with several hierarchical levels (region/province or product/local products) as they are not compliant with the CUBE structure. This must be addressed in the new upload workflow.

3. The dimension labels were not consistently validated (validated in the core – see example with 866-CATTLE, but not in sub-national see example 5).

4. The name of the matrix / domain should be automatically built for any existing domain; the domain in which the statistical table is published should be gathered from the user at a very early stage of the publication. For example a drop down menu to select the main domain (core, sub-national etc) and to select the sub domain (production etc…) and finally a drop down menu for core and sub-national with the indicator name.