

# CountrySTAT Regional Basic Administrator Training for GCC Member States

CountrySTAT Institutional Framework and  
Key National Structures

by

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# Overview

- Building an Agriculture Data Network in the GCC Region
- CountrySTAT Institutional Framework
- CountrySTAT Coordinating Bodies
  - CountrySTAT National Secretariat
  - CountrySTAT Technical Working Group

# Building an Agriculture Data Network in the GCC Region

In order to build an agriculture data network it is important to have:

1. Reliable information and,
2. The expertise necessary to address challenging problems.

# Building an Agriculture Data Network in the GCC Region

Without these elements it is difficult to accurately assess the agriculture and food security situation. Some concrete examples are the following:

- Agricultural Production – Ministry of Agriculture
- Exports of Primary Agricultural Commodities – Ministry of Trade or Customs/Revenue Board
- Number of Live Animals – Ministry of Livestock
- Rainfall per Year – Meteorological Service
- Total economically active population in Agriculture – National Bureau of Statistics or Ministry of Agriculture
- Production Quantity of Forestry products – Ministry of Forestry
- Production Quantity of Fish Capture – Ministry of Fisheries
- Fertilizer consumption – Ministry of Agriculture

# Building an Agriculture Data Network in the GCC Region

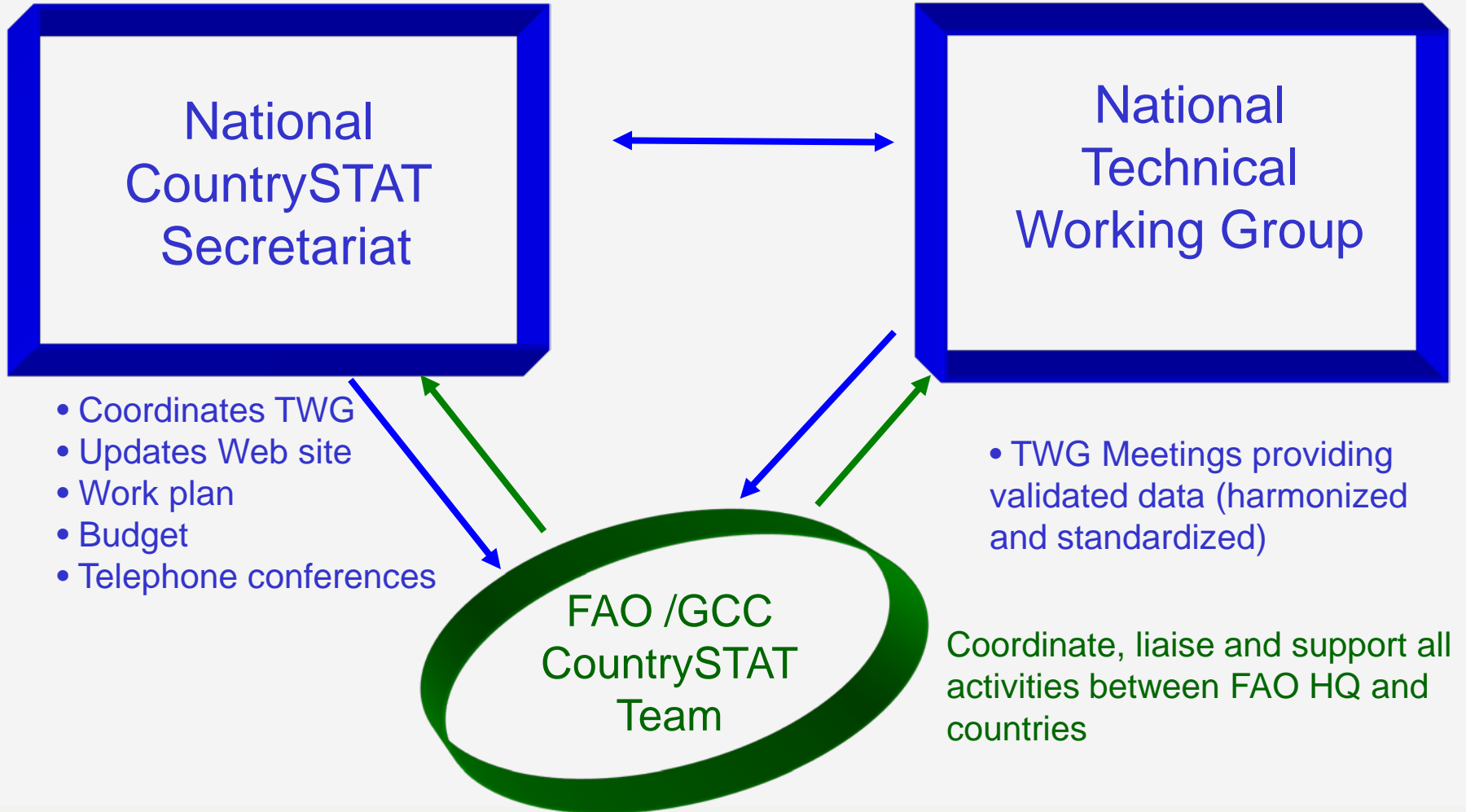
Therefore it is key to have the involvement of all national institutions who have the responsibility to produce statistics related to agriculture and food.

In order for GCC to effectively monitor and report on the agriculture and food security situation throughout the region, it is critical to organize this kind of collaboration at the national level.

The CountrySTAT Institutional Framework can help GCC achieve this.

## CountrySTAT Institutional Framework

### CountrySTAT's dynamic framework and process for strengthening institutional capacity in countries



# CountrySTAT Institutional Framework

- In countries where statistical coordination bodies and mechanisms are in place it may not be necessary to introduce the National Secretariat and Technical Working Group structures. It may be possible to incorporate the functions related to CountrySTAT into the Terms of Reference of existing bodies.
- To better ensure the long term sustainability of the system at national and regional levels it is important to have coordinating bodies and mechanisms in place with clear roles and responsibilities established.

# CountrySTAT Institutional Framework

- When a regional team exists it is important to note that they also take on many of the responsibilities that the FAO HQ based team would carry out.
  - A Regional Coordinator would oversee the management of the regional system and liaise with countries on regional data requirements;
  - A Statistician would be on hand to work with countries on any issues related to implementing the standards, working on the classification of commodities, the imputation of missing data, and to ensure that metadata is available to support the reliability of the data;
  - IT Experts would be on hand to ensure that the data exchange between the national and regional system is functional, that tools are developed and technical assistance is provided.
  - The three members above are often involved in technical backstopping missions to countries, and would lead on regional meetings related to data collection and/or training for all member states.

# CountrySTAT Institutional Framework

- In the implementation of CountrySTAT the first step is to identify the focal institution with support of the Government. This would be either the National Statistical Office or Ministry of Agriculture. These are the two main national bodies that work together in the implementation of the national CountrySTAT system.
- The main activities of CountrySTAT are managed by a coordinating body called the National Secretariat. The Secretariat is under the leadership of a National Coordinator which is nominated by Government and comes from the national focal institution.
- The technical activities are driven by the Technical Working Group which is led by the National Secretariat and composed of national experts from the main data producing institutions.

# CountrySTAT National Secretariat

- The CountrySTAT National Secretariat, under the leadership of a national coordinator, is responsible to oversee, guide and implement all CountrySTAT activities at national and sub-national levels.
- The National Secretariat is composed of 5 members coming from the National Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Agriculture. The composition of the team should have a balance between statisticians and IT specialists.
- The National Secretariat works closely with the FAO Headquarters based team in order to:
  - Coordinate all national activities
  - Organize the collection of information needed to monitor relevant national policy as well as the national food security situation, and update CountrySTAT accordingly
  - Prepare CountrySTAT National Technical Working Group meetings

# CountrySTAT National Technical Working Group (TWG)

- Catalysing institutional collaboration through National Technical Working Groups (TWG) is an important step toward making official data available. TWGs are the motor that drive data collection, validation, standardization and harmonization of official data uploaded to CountrySTAT. Representation should include all institutions producing data related to agriculture and food. Potential members include Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Livestock, Ministry of Fisheries, Meteorological Department, and Ministry of Forestry.
  - The TWG members provide:
  - Official data such as Agricultural Censuses/Surveys and Statistical Yearbooks
  - International Standards are applied to ensure global comparability of data
  - Metadata to support the reliability and official status of the data

# Thank you