

CountrySTAT CONSULTATIVE MEETING

(Back-to-back with the 23rd AFCAS)

Casablanca, Morocco 01 – 03 December 2013

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF CountrySTAT PROJECTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

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SUMMARY

I. INTRODUCTION

II. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CountrySTAT PROJECTS

III. LESSONS LEARNED

I. INTRODUCTION

The presentation provides the main achievements of the projects:

- **MTF/GLO/345/BMG "Consolidation of CountrySTAT system in the 17 countries of Sub-Saharan Africa – Phase II": June 2011 – December 2014.**
- **UTF/UEM/002/UEM "Support the implementation and development of CountrySTAT system in Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Togo and the headquarters of the UEMOA Commission": February 2011 – December 2013**

I. INTRODUCTION

- **GTFS/RAF/465/ITA** "Strengthening capacity of selected member countries of the East African Community in agricultural statistics for food security" (Implementation and development of system **CountrySTAT Burundi and East Africa Community HQ**): **October 2011 - September 2014.**
- Other Active CountrySTAT Projects in Africa: **Congo-Brazzaville** UTF/PRC/014/PRC, **Sierra Leone** TCP/SIL/3401, **Gambia, SADC FMM/GLO/008/MUL** (with 10 remaining countries and SADCSTAT).

Finally, the lessons learned will be presented.

II. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

STRENGTHENING TECHNICAL CAPACITY AND COORDINATION INSTITUTIONS, OWNERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

- **Signature of the Memorandum of Understandings (MOU)** between FAO and Government
- Regional CountrySTAT Basic and Advanced Administrator **Training Workshops** for members of the national CountrySTAT teams
- **Strengthening the institutional framework** of CountrySTAT (National Secretariat and Technical Working Group of CountrySTAT)
- Organization of **monthly teleconferences** on the progress of activities and technical support between countries, regional team (UEMOA, EAC) and FAO Headquarters

II. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

STRENGTHENING TECHNICAL CAPACITY AND COORDINATION INSTITUTIONS, OWNERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Organization of **National Sensitization and Users Seminars**
- Strengthening of **South-South Cooperation**
- Laptops, desktops, complete kits training, laser printers, copiers, scanners, UPS, USB keys and corresponding licenses will also be provided to countries
- **Formulation of New Projects**

II. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

STATISTICS

- To support countries on the **collection, harmonization and validation of national data and metadata** during Technical Working Group meetings (TWGs), in order to make the data coherent and consistent with FAOSTAT
- CountrySTAT **E-Learning** module available online and in CD format
- **Global Strategy Minimum Set of Core Data**, which corresponds to the first pillar of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural Statistics was added to CountrySTAT website and the upload of available data has been completed
- **Increase accessibility** (one-stop centre) by uploading on the national CountrySTAT website data coming from **Agricultural Censuses/Surveys, Statistical Yearbooks and Food Balance Sheets** (Good examples are Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania and Togo)

II. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

STATISTICS

- Completion and regularly updated **data tables** and **metadata** of core and sub national modules
- Publication of the **panorama reports**
- Provide **Data Assessment Reports** to support countries on **data quality**
- Support for the **harmonization**, minimization of divergences and inconsistencies of data between FAOSTAT and CountrySTAT
- **Regional Workshops (UEMOA, EAC)** to share experience on methods for the **imputation of missing data**
- **Correspondence table** between National and International Classifications

II. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- **Migration to the new CountrySTAT System using FENIX** platform based on cutting-edge open-source technology
- New Homepage for www.countrystat.org
- **Redesign of CountrySTAT Homepage** as well as country websites, including delivery of **GAUL 2013**
- **Design, adaptation, installation and implementation** of CountrySTAT for all countries and RegionSTAT (UEMOA, EAC, SADC) Website

II. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- New websites were created for **Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville, Sierra Leone, Algeria**, the **10 SADC** member states, as well as the **RegionSTAT** sites
- **Tools to store and handle metadata information** have been rebuilt using new concepts and approaches that would enhance data sharing and interoperability with other systems
- Geospatial data display has also been improved

II. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

COMMUNICATION

- **Official Launches of CountrySTAT** in all countries
- Ensure better communication for more visibility of the CountrySTAT system and synergies/collaboration with partners, including the preparation of a **package of documents CountrySTAT** (Reference Manual, New Brochures, Communications Strategy, Statistical Manual, CD E-Learning, E-Newsletters)
- **Update of CountrySTAT Training Materials**
- Organization of the **5 Consultative CountrySTAT Meetings**
- Organization regularly of the CountrySTAT **Steering Committee Meetings** FAO HQ

II. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

COMMUNICATION

- Participation in the **International Meetings** (PC-Axis, G8 Conference on Open Data for Agriculture, SADC Statistics Committee Meeting, Agricultural Investment Mapping Convening, Workshop on CountryData – Sharing Best Practice in the Dissemination of National Development Indicators, 5th Meeting of the COMESA Committee on Statistical Matters, AMIS Global Food Market Information Group, AFCAS, OCDE, ECOWAS, etc.)
- CountrySTAT has fully entered the age of **social media** with our own **Twitter** feed (www.twitter.com/FAOCountrySTAT)
- The **CountrySTAT Wiki** was also finalized and the next step will be to formally notify countries about this resource



II. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

PARTNERSHIPS

- Strengthening partnership with regional organizations (UEMOA, EAC) by **building a team of regional experts**
- **Regional Aggregation and Concatenation of 2 RegionSTAT (UEMOA and EAC)**
- **Regional Technical Working Group** meeting was organized (UEMOA and EAC)

II. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

PARTNERSHIPS

- **Positive Impact** made in countries through the **CountrySTAT Partnership with AfricaFertilizer.org** and MAFAP
- The FAO - UNECA partnership will lay the foundation for a wider and more **comprehensive data sharing network for all 54 countries in the African continent** in the spirit of the Open Data concept and initiative
- To date **World Food Programme (WFP) – Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA)** data has been uploaded to the national CountrySTAT sites of **Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania** and **Uganda**. Metadata is available online to support the reliability of each country's CFSVA data

III. LESSONS LEARNED

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- Promoting **high-level government commitment** (with the support of champions) is essential for ownership and sustainability of CountrySTAT
- Inclusion of **CountrySTAT in the national budget** in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding MoU
- The Central Statistics Office of each country, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, should ensure the **integration of CountrySTAT with other existing databases** within the framework of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)
- Identify synergies and establish an **open dialogue with the data/system owners** (AFDB, ECOWAS, World Bank, UNFPA, ...), with focus on data and metadata exchange; make efforts to avoid unnecessary data management and duplication
- **Non operability of a national high-level body** (eg: National Statistics Council) does not allow to find sustainable solutions to technical difficulties faced by the TWG

III. LESSONS LEARNED STATISTICS

- CountrySTAT should be at the forefront of **promoting the use by countries methodologies and international standards:**
 - Programme for the World Census of Agriculture
 - Population Censuses
 - Food Balance Sheets
 - Food security statistics
 - Voices of the Hungry
 - Estimation of crop areas and yields in agricultural statistics
 - Estimation of missing data
 - Global Strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics
 - Economic Accounts for food and agriculture
 - Manual on agricultural price index numbers
 - Manual on Fertilizer statistics
 - Socio-Economic Indicators relating to the agricultural sector and rural development
 - GHG emissions from agriculture
 - Definitions and international classifications, etc.)

III. LESSONS LEARNED

STATISTICS

- CountrySTAT should be a **window for access to databases from FAOSTAT family** (AMIS, AquaSTAT, FishSTAT, FAO Forestry statistics, FIVIMS, FertiSTAT, Production, Trade, etc.)
- CountrySTAT will include different type of data from global information on international market to localized rural development variables such as **satellite images, GIS, global data, geospatial info** (e.g. climate, agro-ecological zones, elevation, land use, Cartography and thematic maps, Soil and Geology, Rainfall, etc.)
- Close collaboration between Central Statistics Office and Ministry of Agriculture for **harmonization official data between FAOSTAT and CountrySTAT**

III. LESSONS LEARNED

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- **Slow internet connections** continue to be a problem for many African countries. Delays in the upload of available data are often caused by low connectivity
- The problem faced by Ethiopia **to manage its server** shows the difficult that countries will face at the end of the project if servers are installed locally with no support
- **Poor involvement of the country focal points** in the development of the system
- Supporting in the future the **Open Data standard models for data interchange**

III. LESSONS LEARNED

Communication and pipeline projects

- **Extension of CountrySTAT to the remaining African countries** should be a priority. SADC expressed interest in joining CountrySTAT (10 additional countries), and need support from FAO related to potential donors and funding. Requests have also been received from remaining CEMAC countries. The partnership that is being developed with UNECA could be key to consolidating our existing relationships and expanding throughout the African continent (54 countries).
- Support **strategy to mobilize resources** and help with the fundraising for the remaining countries that have expressed interest in joining CountrySTAT
- **Focal Institutions do not promote CountrySTAT** to a wide audience, and therefore high level officials and other interested parties do not know of the potential that exists within the data available

III. LESSONS LEARNED

Communication and pipeline projects

- Enhance the **advocacy of CountrySTAT with the existing and potential donors** (EU, World Bank, African Union, etc.)
- Need for promoting the **use of CountrySTAT data by users.**
- **A National Communications Strategy** does not exist
- Need for **greater visibility of CountrySTAT** through advocacy, sensitization and use of modern media/tools (newsletters, Youtube, Audiovideo, articles, interviews, reportages, etc.)

III. LESSONS LEARNED

PARTNERSHIPS

- **Strengthening the partnerships with relevant Regional Organizations** in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the systems by building capacity of a pool of regional experts (with an active regional coordination) and competent trainers able to provide better monitoring and technical support on continuous basis through regional institutions, and ensure sustainability of the CountrySTAT system at the regional and national levels
- **Broaden and strengthen partnership with regional and international organizations** (for example: UNECA, IMF, IFPRI; AFDB; World Bank; EUROSTAT, ECOWAS, CEMAC, COMESA, USDA, etc.); identify common goals leading to mutual benefits. Establish partnership with local level institutions/professional organizations involved in rural development

THANK YOU

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Statistics Division