

Country: EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC) and its
Member Countries: Burundi, Kenya,
Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda

Project Title:

**Strengthening capacity of selected member countries of East African
Community in agricultural statistics for food security; Kenya, Burundi
Uganda**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This project will contribute to regional integration and effective implementation of the Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy of the East African Community and Food Security policies in member countries (with focus on Burundi, Kenya and Uganda) through availability and access to relevant, harmonized and reliable data on food and agriculture within a sustainable agricultural statistics system. This will be achieved through:

- *Contribution to CountrySTAT phase 2 by developing CountrySTAT in Burundi, a RegionSTAT at EAC Secretariat, consolidating CountrySTAT in other countries and harmonizing data across all EAC countries*
- *Development of food security indicators and monitoring system in Kenya and Uganda (Supply Utilization Accounts and Food Balance Sheet, deriving food security indicators from Household surveys) and producers price monitoring system*
- *Strengthening of technical capacity of national staff in five EAC countries and at EAC Secretariat through training on concepts, definition and advanced methodologies for data collection.*
- *Ensuring better integration of Agriculture into National Statistical Systems in Burundi and Kenya through development of Agricultural Sector Strategic Plans for Statistics and their integration into National Strategy for development of Statistics.*

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

1. BACKGROUND

The East African Community (EAC) is the regional intergovernmental organisation of the *Republics of Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Rwanda and Republic of Burundi* with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. The EAC has achieved a Customs Union, a Common Market and faster steps to a Monetary Union and subsequently to Political federation.

Nationally owned, reliable and timely statistical data and derived indicators on social, economic and natural resources are indispensable basis for efficient and effective decision-making and policy monitoring processes in the field of food and agriculture.

Since the mid-1980s many national and international agencies have invested in establishing statistical information systems on food and agriculture in developing countries, including countries, members of East African Community. However, the supports provided in general were not designed as elements of an integrated system for food and agriculture information. Most of them had narrow scopes over a broad range of domains and projects, without seeking synergies with other activities, domains or projects and without proper consideration given to long-term sustainability.

The demand for easily accessible consolidated and internationally comparable quality statistical information has been growing with globalization which brings together its constraints as well as opportunities. The need for statistical information on food and agriculture by producers, traders, policy makers and researchers is also growing for countries of the Sub-Saharan Africa Region (SSA), including in the EAC countries. As the local production is largely dependent on favorable natural conditions, the competition in subsidized export markets becomes difficult and national incomes are too low to ensure national food security via imports. Therefore, timely and reliable information is a critical element for monitoring food security situation and developing effective food and agricultural development policies and programmes.

However, in EAC countries, and particularly in Burundi, Kenya and Uganda, the availability and access to relevant and quality food security information do not fully meet expectations of users.

The EAC Secretary General has therefore requested FAO to provide assistance to strengthen the agricultural statistics systems of its member countries and the EAC Secretariat. In the request, it is specified that the EAC Development Strategy emphasizes the need for robust and regionally comparable statistical data as one of the cornerstones for the integration process since it serves as a basis for measuring current and proposed future progress. Given the importance of agriculture in the economies of the EAC countries and the renewed attention

on agricultural performance and measurement of results, one of the priority areas under statistics is the development of Agricultural statistics with an overall aim of having timely and regionally comparable statistical data anchored on the National Statistics systems.

2. RATIONALE

2.1 Problems/Issues to be Addressed

The assessment of EAC countries current capacity reveals that they are at different levels of development but most of them are not able to meet the minimum basic data requirements (quantity and quality) in support of food security and agricultural development policies and programmes.

With the support of a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) funded project GCP/GLO/208/BMG, FAO has developed CountrySTAT system in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda as an on-line One Stop Center and data dissemination system for easy access to existing national agricultural statistics. Through the CountrySTAT system, food and agricultural data is harmonized, reviewed and validated by national experts and widely disseminated. However, the system has not been established in Burundi which was not part of the BMGF project . Also data from all EAC countries are not yet fully harmonized and integrated in a regional system at EAC Secretariat (RegionSTAT) easily accessible in support of regional integration policies.

Furthermore, the systems in place in the four EAC countries, mainly include basic data and lack some important food security related indicators such as supply-utilization accounts, food balance sheets, food prices etc. Also, the institutional framework for the systems established in the countries need to be consolidated in the perspective of long-term sustainability.

These activities are consistent with BMGF funded CountrySTAT phase 2 for the 17 Sub Saharan Countries (SSA) being developed and its expansion to 8 additional SSA countries. The expansion of CountrySTAT will also include 3 additional countries and a RegionSTAT in West Africa funded by UEMOA and another country to be funded through another source. With this EAC project, CountrySTAT phase 2 will cover 13 additional SSA countries and 2 RegionSTAT. This will bring the total number of SSA countries running CountrySTAT to 30 countries (more than 60% of SSA countries) and 2 RegionSTAT (UEMOA and EAC).

The sustainability of the agricultural statistics systems requires better integration of agriculture into national statistical systems through the process of developing the National Strategies for Development of Statistics (NSDS) and articulation of CountrySTAT institutions within the overall governance structure of the national statistical system. This is particularly relevant for Burundi and Kenya.

CountrySTAT system is mainly a data dissemination system which facilitates the access to existing data and improves its coherence and consistency. In order to significantly improve the quality of data, produced, sound and advanced

methodologies are needed for data collection. This requires updating and upgrading the technical capacity of national staff in advanced methods for data collection.

Therefore, the national and regional agricultural statistics systems and capacity in place in EAC countries are not sufficiently developed to adequately meet the requirements for a robust and regionally comparable statistical data needed to effectively support the integration process and serves as a basis for measuring progress.

2.2 Stakeholders and Target Beneficiaries

The main stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project include:

Staff from Ministries of Agriculture and Statistics of Kenya, Burundi and Uganda – will be beneficiaries through strengthening of technical and operational capacities in agricultural Statistics staff from other EAC countries (Rwanda and Tanzania) will also benefit through regional trainings.

East African Community Secretariat- The East African Community Secretariat will be enhanced to technically provide support to the Partner states. The programme will be articulated with the comprehensive *East African Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy 2005-2030 and the EAC Food Security Action Plan 2010 - 2015*, in particular for monitoring and evaluation of the strategy and input to the early warning and food security system. The Programme will contribute to *Capacity Building in the EAC Secretariat including* the development of EAC web based Agricultural Statistics Database. This will emphasise on indicators necessary for regional and national agriculture and food policy making. The East African Community Secretariat will also benefit through strengthening of technical capacities in agricultural statistics.

2.3 Project Justification

Given the importance of agriculture in the economies of the EAC countries and the renewed attention on agricultural performance and measurement of results, the development of Agricultural statistics with an overall aim of having timely and regionally comparable statistical data anchored on the National Statistics systems is considered as one of the priority areas under statistics.

However, as indicated above, the agricultural statistics systems and capacity in place in EAC countries and at the Secretariat cannot adequately provide the data needed for adequate planning and implementing national and regional food and agricultural policies.

Kenya: Kenya has successfully implemented CountrySTAT and has made significant progress in data harmonization and dissemination as well as institutional collaboration. However, there is a need to include more food security relevant indicators and to consolidate the institutional framework, better integrate agriculture into national statistical system and strengthen capacity for advanced methods of data collection, particularly in view of up-coming agricultural census.

Uganda: Uganda has also implemented CountrySTAT and has made some progress in data harmonization and dissemination. However, more support is needed to significantly improve data harmonization and dissemination and to consolidate the institutional framework, better integrate agriculture into national system and broaden data coverage to include data from recently conducted censuses of agriculture and livestock as well as food security indicators.

Burundi: Burundi is the only EAC country which does not have a CountrySTAT system. Substantial support is needed to bring the country at the level of others. Data harmonization, integration of agriculture into national system and strengthening national capacity for applying advanced methods for data collection are needed. This support will provide complementarity to the upcoming agricultural survey funded by Belgian Cooperation.

Other EAC countries (Rwanda and Tanzania): These countries have an operational CountrySTAT system but as for Kenya and Uganda, the systems need to be consolidated and expanded to include food security indicators. Also, the agricultural systems need to be better integrated into national systems and national capacity to collect data need to be strengthened using advanced methods.

EAC Secretariat: In order to support national efforts to improve and harmonise data in member countries, the statistical unit of EAC need to be strengthened. Also, there is a need of a regional system to integrate the national harmonized agricultural data through a RegionSTAT system.

The situation in EAC countries is similar to most African and developing countries in the world and the need to improve agricultural statistics was recognised by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) which recommended at its 40th Session in February 2009, the development of a Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics. The Global Strategy was developed and unanimously endorsed by the UNSC at its 41st Session in February 2011.

The purpose of the Global Strategy is to provide a framework for national and international statistical systems to produce the basic data and information on agriculture to guide the decision making required in the 21st century. The Global Strategy is based on three pillars:

- (i) the development of a minimum set of core data that countries will provide to meet the current and emerging demands;
- (ii) the integration of agriculture into the national statistical systems in order to meet policy makers and other data users' expectations that the data will be comparable across countries and over time;
- (iii) the sustainability of the agricultural statistics system through strong governance and strong statistical capacity.

The implementation of the Global Strategy will ensure that all countries have the capacity to produce a minimum core set of data which include data requirement for monitoring food security and developing effective agricultural development programmes. An Implementation Plan for Africa of the Global Strategy is being

finalized and included a methodological research component, a training component and a technical assistance component.

In order to address the issues and weaknesses of agriculture statistics in EAC countries and EAC Secretariat, an appropriate capacity building programme is needed both at Regional level and within countries in line with the recommendations of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and the Implementation Plan for Africa. This why the Secretariat of EAC has requested FAO to provide technical assistance for improving the statistical capacity of the national agricultural statistical systems of member countries and EAC Secretariat for improved regional agricultural statistics system.

This request is fully in line with FAO's mandate to strengthen the national capacity to produce, analyze and disseminate food and agricultural statistics as well as to assist national statistical institutions in adopting international standards and good practices in agricultural and food statistics. It is in line with the Technical Assistance component of the Implementation Plan for Africa of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

The request also is to be considered under the framework of the phase 2 of CountrySTAT project being developed. Additional funding for CountrySTAT phase 2 include BMGF (17 countries for phase 1 and 8 countries for phase 2), UEMOA (3 countries and 1 RegionSTAT) and 1 country from another source. This project will add 1 new country and 1 RegionSTAT. In total, CountrySTAT phase 2 will allow coverage of about 30 countries and 2 RegionSTAT for the next 5 years. The strengthening of the regional institution is a critical element for sustainability and exit strategy at the end of the external assistance.