CONCEPT NOTE

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Members States:	Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates
Project Title:	Creating a Global Data Sharing Network for the Strengthening Agriculture and Food Security Statistics Systems in the GCC Region at National and Regional Levels through the implementation and development of RegionSTAT at Gulf Cooperation Council GCC Headquarters, and CountrySTAT in 6 GCC Members States (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates)
Starting date:	January 2015
Completion date:	December 2018
Regional Organization Responsible for project execution:	Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
United Nations Agency Responsible for project execution:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Budget covering Donor contribution:

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the project is to scale up the current data exchange framework and create a Global Data Sharing Network (in the spirit of the "Open Data" concept and approach). Network resources such as datasets, coding systems and classifications, GIS layers, satellite images and text (but also ready-made products such as charts, maps and reports) will be made accessible through their metadata. Applications and tools will be made available through the network for data aggregations, statistical and geospatial analyses, creation of reports and dissemination of large volumes of data.

The main objective is to improve the dissemination of statistical data of food and agriculture to respond to data needs of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretariat to monitor its Regional Strategic Development Plan and to help countries in decision-making based on facts by:

- *Implementing the CountrySTAT information system and institutional framework in the 6 GCC Countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates) to support national and regional dissemination and archiving of agriculture and food statistical data;*
- *Develop a regional information management system through the implementation and development of the CountrySTAT framework for the management and dissemination of statistical data on agriculture and food at the regional level through GCCSTAT.*
- *Strengthening the technical capacity of the 6 GCC Member States and the CountrySTAT Regional Coordination Team in the GCC Secretariat.*

The deliverables related to the project will be: Data exchange mechanism in place, Data collection and validation improved, Key baseline data available, Links with key international and national partners established, CountrySTAT platform established. Partnership will be strengthened. Communication activities will act transversely through all project components playing an important role in promoting the project and raising awareness of the potentials of the network.

I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

On 21st Rajab 1401 AH corresponding to 25th May 1981, Their Majesties and Highnesses, the leaders of the United Arab Emirates, State of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, State of Qatar and State of Kuwait met in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, where they reached a cooperative framework joining the six states to effect coordination, integration and inter-connection among the Member States in all fields in order to achieve unity, according to article 4 of the Gulf Cooperation Council GCC Charter. Article 4 also emphasized the deepening and strengthening of relations, links and areas of cooperation among their citizens. The underpinnings which are clearly provided for in the preamble of the GCC Charter, confirm the special relations, common qualities and similar systems founded on the creed of Islam, faith in a common destiny and sharing one goal, and that the cooperation among these states would serve the sublime objectives of the Arab nation.

Deep religious and cultural ties link the six states, and strong kin relations prevail among their citizens. All these factors, enhanced by one geographical entity extending from sea to desert, have facilitated contacts and interaction among them, and created homogeneous values and characteristics. Therefore, while, on one hand, the GCC is a continuation, evolution and institutionalization of old prevailing realities, it is, on the other, a practical answer to the challenges of security and economic development in the area. It is also a fulfilment of the aspirations of its citizens towards some sort of Arab regional unity.

The GCC Charter states that the basic objectives are :

   i.   To effect co-ordination, integration and inter-connection between member states in all fields in order to achieve unity between them.

   ii.   To deepen and strengthen relations, links and areas of cooperation now prevailing between their peoples in various fields.

   iii.   To formulate similar regulations in various fields including the following:
- Economic and financial affairs.
- Commerce, customs and communications.
- Education and culture.
- Social and health affairs.
- Information and tourism.
- Legislative and administrative affairs.

   iv.   To stimulate scientific and technological progress in the fields of industry , mining, agriculture , water and animal resources: to establish scientific research : to establish joint ventures and encourage cooperation by the private sector for the good of their peoples.

It is expected that the project will be able to:

- Support and provide guidance in the creation of a database at the regional level which will combine statistical data from all Member States;
- Facilitating collaboration, sharing and exchange of data;
- Ensuring the archiving and dissemination of statistical data;
- Responding to requests for complex data from different areas related to agriculture and food;
- Enabling data exchange among member states, between member states and the Secretariat of GCC, FAO and the Member States.

In the past years, CountrySTAT has mainly assisted member countries in data harmonization and dissemination by providing technical assistance in statistics and IT through highly qualified experts. The establishment of Technical Working Groups in each country has been one of the most effective tools to ensure the participation and involvement of key national stakeholders like Ministries of Agriculture,

National Statistical Offices, Ministries of Trade, and others to harmonize and validate key datasets available online through CountrySTAT.

The need to integrate CountrySTAT with existing systems and workflows has highlighted the importance of extending its role to areas currently not covered under project activities. To be able to address user-specific needs and requirements, the software architecture of CountrySTAT has been revolutionized and improved with a flexible and modern open-source platform (FENIX) used by other FAO applications such as FAOSTAT, AMIS (Agricultural Market Information System) and ADAM (Agricultural Development Assistance Mapping). The technological change has set the stage for moving CountrySTAT from a data gathering and dissemination system to a flexible, country-oriented capacity development system offering a comprehensive library of statistical and IT tools. As the country and regional coverage is rapidly expanding, CountrySTAT is now ready to deal with the incoming requests for implementing tools, methods and assistance packages that can be customized as needed.

II. STRUCTURE OF THE PROJECT AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The structure is flexible and allows to add/remove modules and/or to prioritize activities without losing consistency in the overall project framework. Activities will be driven by country and region-level work plans where activities will focus on most important modules. The proposed structure considers that there are following modules that contribute to build the global data sharing network:

1) Institutional capacity building at national and regional levels, which implies supporting existing national and regional institutional framework
2) Strengthening of statistical methodologies and data collection/processing support
3) Information technology support to countries and regions to facilitate data storage, harmonization, processing, exchange and dissemination; increase efficiency of the IT platform for data analysis and sharing
4) Implementation of a multi-disciplinary communication strategy to maintain CountrySTAT user's community, share knowledge and promote the system worldwide

Most of the success of the project depends on the level of integration between these four modules, as essential elements of the global data sharing network. It is nearly impossible to build a sustainable data management and sharing system without a strong support and commitment of the involved agencies. The network requires people contributing to the maintenance and evolution of the system by providing requirements, feedbacks, expertise and technical and promotional work. A sound and constructive interaction between decision-makers, technicians, analysts and IT developers will create the necessary environment to make the network useful and productive.

Existing tools already used by CountrySTAT such as Technical Working Group (TWG), regional and national training sessions, ad-hoc missions, active participation to international, regional and national events will be supported and strengthened to guarantee a good level of technical assistance, raise the profile and visibility of the project and expand the number of international and national agencies involved in the various activities. A High-Level Management Board will oversee implementations at country/regional level and will steer the work of the TWG.

At technical level, the primary effort would be to ensure adequate involvement of the CountrySTAT partner agencies in the data sharing network activities as information contributors and consumers. An effective collaboration and exchange between the CountrySTAT team in

FAO and the partner institutions in the countries and GCC HQ will encourage others to take an active role in the design, development and testing of the IT system. The CountrySTAT management will facilitate the creation of a community of developers and users by assisting the newcomers with training and with regular onsite and remote technical assistance.

Partnership will be established. Communication activities will act transversely through all project components playing an important role in promoting the project and raising awareness of the potentials of the network. Communication will also support technical activities through appropriate communication tools (forums, feedback systems, chat channels, manuals, brochures, etc.) in order to ensure availability of comprehensive reading and training material.

By integrating FAOSTAT, CountrySTAT, AMIS and ADAM data in one platform (FENIX) and by linking other databases such as International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), World Bank (WB), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and USDA-Production, Supply and & Demand (PS&D) to it, FAO Statistics Division (ESS) has extended its role and scope of work to cover different areas and uses of data ranging from food security analysis to emergencies, and from macro data (global/national indicators) to micro data (surveys and censuses) dissemination.

The implementation of the CountrySTAT system has been able to positively impact national statistical governance, improve institutional collaboration, build capacity in the use of FAO methodologies and international standards, and support nationally managed systems using modern technologies that provide tools to strengthen capacities in the dissemination official data and metadata.

In the new conceptual framework, CountrySTAT is an information system capable of managing official data originating from a variety of national sources. The data management system will allow the possibility to connect different databases and register them with unified metadata in an effort to convert, merge and harmonize the data at the regional level. Regardless of the origin and structure of the data, the CountrySTAT system will be able to display these official data through client applications that generate charts, tables and maps and will provide services to download data to multiple domains or to link information products with other applications or websites.

The strengthening of technical and operational capacity will support the know-how and local expertise to ensure the sustainability of long-term results. The technical support will be in the form of short FAO expert missions, and the mobilization of national expertise and sub-regional support for the development of CountrySTAT. In addition to in-country training by FAO experts and consultants, there will be training within the GCC Secretariat, study tours, and regional workshops.

The establishment of the CountrySTAT Agricultural Data Network will enable stakeholders in the long-term to adapt and maintain regional and international standards as a basis for making self-appraisals, comparisons, and choices regarding their needs and the use of information on food and agriculture. This will help policy-makers, research scientists and interested stakeholders at national, regional, and international levels to have quality data in an efficient and convenient way.

The CountrySTAT system will be owned and maintained by each country and will facilitate the statistical framework and associated data and metadata at national and sub-national levels. All project activities aim at enabling the country to have its nationally owned framework and system in an effort to provide quality data to the GCC Secretariat.

In order to achieve this the project aims to provide administrative/institutional collaboration (catalytic collaboration triggering synergies among national agencies), technical collaboration (basic and advanced training courses coupled with the necessary IT equipment), and a network of collaborative support (virtual forums and physical meetings at national and regional levels). To ensure the sustainability of the system CountrySTAT must be included in the regular statistical programme of work and budget for sustained functioning including regular operational and maintenance. The above institutional arrangements are expected to contribute to the sustainability of the CountrySTAT system in the 6 GCC

members states (United Arab Emirates, State of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, State of Qatar and State of Kuwait).

The statistical methodological approach of CountrySTAT will be sustained by the FAO Statistics Division as part of its mandate and will be shared with CountrySTAT. It is driven by international standards such as HS, ISIC, and CPC for commodities and activities. Data coverage will be at the national and sub-national levels.

The CountrySTAT system is based on decades of FAO experience in the field of agricultural statistics including the development and implementation of the global database on agriculture, FAOSTAT. The project relies on the willingness of authorities in each country to contribute toward regional objectives to achieve an integrated system for archiving and disseminating statistical data on food and agriculture, which will support rural development policies.

The FENIX platform supports sharing technologies and data between systems such as FAOSTAT, AMIS and CountrySTAT. Within FAO Statistics Division activities are ongoing to ensure the regular exchange of information between FAOSTAT and CountrySTAT that enables both systems to benefit from the availability of data from national sources. Combining key data from AMIS, such as international and national market prices for the four most important commodities in the world (rice, wheat, maize, soy beans), with existing information in CountrySTAT empowers users to be able to highlight potential for food crises as prices surge and to monitor ongoing volatility of market prices. In addition AMIS contributes to increased reliability and availability of commodity balance data for the four commodities.

The business model of the CountrySTAT Project is based on existing official data and metadata collection in the countries. In each CountrySTAT a core set of data and metadata is commonly shared, thus statistics can be compared across these countries directly. Each country will be in the position to maintain sets of detailed food and agriculture statistics and to add new thematic tables of interest for the society on national and/or disaggregated level.

CountrySTAT is primarily for national statistical work and is compatible with FAOSTAT, the world's largest food and agriculture database covering more than 200 countries and territories. CountrySTAT will be also compatible with the RegionSTAT platform, an intermediate version of the system typically owned by regional organizations, which are mandated to check quality and coordinate national statistics.

The basic features of CountrySTAT include country ownership, partnership among stakeholders (both users and suppliers), integration of different subject domains, integration of agricultural statistics to the rest of the statistical system in the countries and integration of the national statistics to the international statistical system. In summary a good information infrastructure is a prerequisite for effective and efficient policy decisions. Efficient subject related information systems are those which can be easily integrated with other information systems over space, domain and time.

III. OBJECTIVES, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of the project is to scale up the current data exchange framework and create a Global Data Sharing Network (in the spirit of the "Open Data" concept and approach). Network resources such as datasets, coding systems and classifications, GIS layers, satellite images and text (but also ready-made products such as charts, maps and reports) will be made accessible through their metadata. Applications and tools will be made available through the network for data aggregations, statistical and geospatial analyses, creation of reports and dissemination of large volumes of data.

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The objectives and main outputs to be achieved are:

- **Objective 1**: CountrySTAT Operational at National Level

  - Output 1.1: Institutional Framework implemented which involves key Government institutions of the 6 countries as recognized by GCC
  - Output 1.2: Operational capacities implemented and strengthened in 6 GCC countries

- **Objective 2**: CountrySTAT Operational at Regional Level (RegionSTAT/GCCSTAT)

  - Output 2.1: National CountrySTAT System implemented and rolled out in 6 GCC countries
  - Output 2.2: Technical capacity of national staff is strengthened

- **Objective 3**: GCC increasingly provides support to their member countries and technical support to countries is increasingly provided by the established regional expertise

  - Output 3.1: Institutional Framework and operational capacities implemented and strengthened in GCC Secretariat
  - Output 3.2: Data flow from national CountrySTATs to GCC RegionSTAT (and vice versa) is operational
  - Output 3.3: Data harmonization mechanisms in place and agreed among all the stakeholders
  - Output 3.4: Communication channels and promotional activities have raised awareness of the value and successes of the GCC Agricultural Data Network

The main activities to be implemented are as follows:

National Level

- Preparation, approval and signing of legal texts of the two Country-Level Entities of CountrySTAT (National CountrySTAT Secretariat, National CountrySTAT Technical Working Group)
- Purchase of laptops, computers and other equipments for the development of CountrySTAT/RegionSTAT system
- Installation and setup of the CountrySTAT System
- Preparation of panorama reports I and II (description of the agricultural statistical system, legal framework, identification and description of data sources, assessment of reliability and comparability of data in space and time, concepts and definitions used, canvas collection of data by a format compatible with the system CountrySTAT, etc.)
- Preparation and implementation of a communication strategy/plan
- Organization of 16 Technical Working Group Meetings for the collection, assessment, validation and harmonization of data and metadata to be uploaded to the national CountrySTAT System. (Meetings are 3 days per workshop for an average of 25 national staff). [Collection of data and metadata for all domains of the Core and Sub-National Modules, Global Strategy, Surveys and Censuses, Statistical Year Book, Food Balance Sheets, Thematic Modules, Update Key

Indicators, Analysis and resolution of discrepancies and inconsistencies in data, Data Analysis and Harmonization (Times Series, Outliers, FAOSTAT Questionnaires and CountrySTAT), Finalization of the Correspondence Table].

- Organizing the Official Launch of CountrySTAT with extensive media coverage

Regional Level

- Building a CountrySTAT Team of Regional Experts in GCC HQs (Statisticians, ITs and Administrative Support) under the coordination of the CountrySTAT Regional Coordinator and the supervision of the FAO CountrySTAT Team Leader
- Installation and setup of the RegionSTAT System
- Organization of 3 ECO CountrySTAT Regional Technical Working Group Meetings for 6 GCC countries and GCC Secretariat for exchange of experiences and joint resolution of technical problems. (4 CountrySTAT Administrators from each GCC country and 2 GCC Staff trained for 5 days). (Venue: GCC Secretariat in Oman and Capital of one GCC Country)
- Organization of Basic regional training for administrators of the CountrySTAT System for 6 GCC countries and GCC Secretariat (6 CountrySTAT Administrators from each GCC country and 4 GCC Staff trained for 5 days). (Venue: GCC Secretariat in Oman)
- Organization of Advanced Regional Workshop for administrators of the CountrySTAT System for all 6 GCC countries and GCC Secretariat (5 CountrySTAT Administrators from each GCC country and 4 GCC Secretariat Staff trained for 5 days). (Venue: FAO Headquarters in Rome)
- Aggregation of official data from the 6 CountrySTATs and dissemination of GCC regional indicators
- Organizing the Official Launch of GCC RegionSTAT with wide media coverage
- Translation of all CountrySTATs Website, Technical documents and Training materials in Arabic

The deliverables expected are as follows:

1) Data exchange mechanism in place: at 6 GCC countries and GCC Secretariat will have established *systems and capacity* to exchange semantically harmonized data in compatible and machine readable formats using standard data exchange protocols.

2) Data collection and validation improved: Appropriate methodological approaches for data collection and validation will be implemented at national and regional levels. At 6 GCC countries and GCC Secretariat will have these methodologies implemented and made operational. Technological tools to support this outputs will have been developed and used.

3) Key baseline data available: Although data and indicators to be collected and published through CountrySTAT will depend on the identified priority areas, some key indicators from both national and international sources will be made available to all participating countries and GCC Secretariat. Where appropriate, data will be geo-referenced and in GIS-compatible format.

4) Links with key international and national partners established: depending on the type of partnership, collaboration will be established for data exchange, sharing of methodologies and practices, technical assistance to countries, etc.

5) CountrySTAT platform improved: the platform will be made more flexible and efficient to better respond to the diverse requirements of the various users and partners. It will also link with other national and international databases and systems.

6) Improved communication: innovative tools (e.g. forums, chats, emails, twitter, facebook, etc.) will be used to increase dialogue opportunities with the focal points, partners and other CountrySTAT users.

However, some deliverables may be envisaged, since they are likely to be useful and needed. Some of them are mentioned below:

- Food market price data collection and monitoring
- Poverty analysis
- Crop and vegetation monitoring
- Food balance Sheet
- Policy impact monitoring
- Trade analysis
- Crop zone definition
- Sub-national level crop calendar for major commodities
- Micro data…..

It is envisaged that the new CountrySTAT (powered by the FENIX platform) will also be used to provide short-term surveillance and monitoring services as core elements of the new system. This would extend the traditional thematic areas of CountrySTAT from a pure statistical dissemination platform to early warning and food security. On this purpose, tools will be built using state-of-the-art technologies to handle geo-referenced data as resources for the compilation and monitoring of situation analyses at national and sub-national levels.

The above mentioned activities will benefit from current CountrySTAT activities which include:

- Prepare a comprehensive set of indicators reporting to agriculture and rural areas, economic and social to put at the disposal of policy makers and development actors
- Collecting market price information from mobile devices for real-time price data analyses;
- Collect and make available to users the digitized maps (specific to countries) in connection with agriculture and rural areas
- Provide service to regularly receive remotely sensed data (e.g. satellite images)
- Drought and desertification monitoring
- etc.

IV. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The counterpart institution of the project will be the Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The GCC Secretariat will nominate/designate a Project Regional Coordinator who will work closely with FAO team as well as other partners involved in the project on the overall coordination and the smooth implementation of the planned activities. GCC and FAO will establish a project steering committee for project implementation. The GCC Project Monitoring Group (GCCPMG), which consists of top management in the Organization, will closely follow the implementation of the project in order to achieve tangible results.

The main national stakeholders involved in the development of CountrySTAT are National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in the GCC countries. Structurally, NBSs answer directly to the Head of State in any GCC country. The central coordinating role of NBSs vests on collecting data from all government bodies, and processing, analyzing, disseminating official statistical data and information. Such a central coordinating role enables NBSs to help streamline all data and information flow through one window in order to effectively disseminate it across any given GCC country or the entire region. In this context, the NBSs may serve as effective tools to provide the required consolidated data and information for processes of decision making on agriculture, including on food security, livelihood and pricing on agricultural commodities, at both, national and regional levels.

In each of the 6 countries, to ensure the proper coordination and support throughout the life of the project and to enable the long-term sustainability of CountrySTAT, three national bodies for the management and monitoring of CountrySTAT must be implemented, namely:

- National CountrySTAT Secretariat: with at least 6 staff from at least the National Bureau of Statistics and Ministry of Agriculture. The Secretariat will oversee, guide and implement CountrySTAT activities at national and sub-national levels, and will benefit from the advice from FAO staff and specialized consultants to facilitate the implementation of the activities. It will also discuss, elaborate and agree upon the overall implementation strategy for the CountrySTAT system, and review / revisit the same as needed.

The National Secretariat of CountrySTAT is responsible for the following activities:

- ✓ Ensure the implementation of CountrySTAT;
- ✓ Provide administrative and financial management of CountrySTAT;
- ✓ Execute the recommendations and technical guidance of the Technical Working Group (TWG) of CountrySTAT;
- ✓ Prepare monthly, quarterly and annual reports on the progress of activities and other technical issues to be submitted to the TWG and the CountrySTAT Team FAO HQ;
- ✓ Prepare the meetings of the National CountrySTAT Coordination Board and the TWG, and ensure their Secretariat;
- ✓ Maintain the relationship, at technical level, with the national CountrySTAT at regional and international level;
- ✓ Organize the collection of information needed to monitor the food situation and update CountrySTAT;
- ✓ Prepare the report of each meeting of the Technical Working Group.

- National CountrySTAT Technical Working Group: The TWG will be composed of working level professionals from Partner Institutions who are producers of food and agriculture statistics. The Technical Working Group of CountrySTAT is responsible for the following activities:

- ✓ Decide on issues of statistical data and metadata quality control (data and metadata, completeness and correctness), CountrySTAT contents, the methodology and standards, cross-domain collaboration, as well as all technical questions;
- ✓ Provide the National Secretariat of CountrySTAT the data and metadata to upload on the CountrySTAT system;
- ✓ Ensure coherence and harmonization of data covering different CountrySTAT domains and proceed to necessary decisions;
- ✓ Provide the National Secretariat of CountrySTAT with feedback and recommendations on the exchange, sharing and harmonization of statistical data, as well as operational guidelines;
- ✓ Approve the progress reports of CountrySTAT activities to be submitted to the GCC High Level Expert Group on Statistics (Permanent Secretaries, Directors General, etc.), and for information to the CountrySTAT Team FAO HQ.

The Technical Working Group of CountrySTAT, technical official body which validates statistical data on food and agriculture, meets in regular technical workshops in accordance with the work plan and many times as necessary in extraordinary session requested by the CountrySTAT National Coordinator. It may involve all relevant departments to carry out the tasks entrusted to CountrySTAT.

The Technical Working Group of CountrySTAT will be composed of the staff members from the main national structures involved in the collection and production of statistical data on food and agriculture.
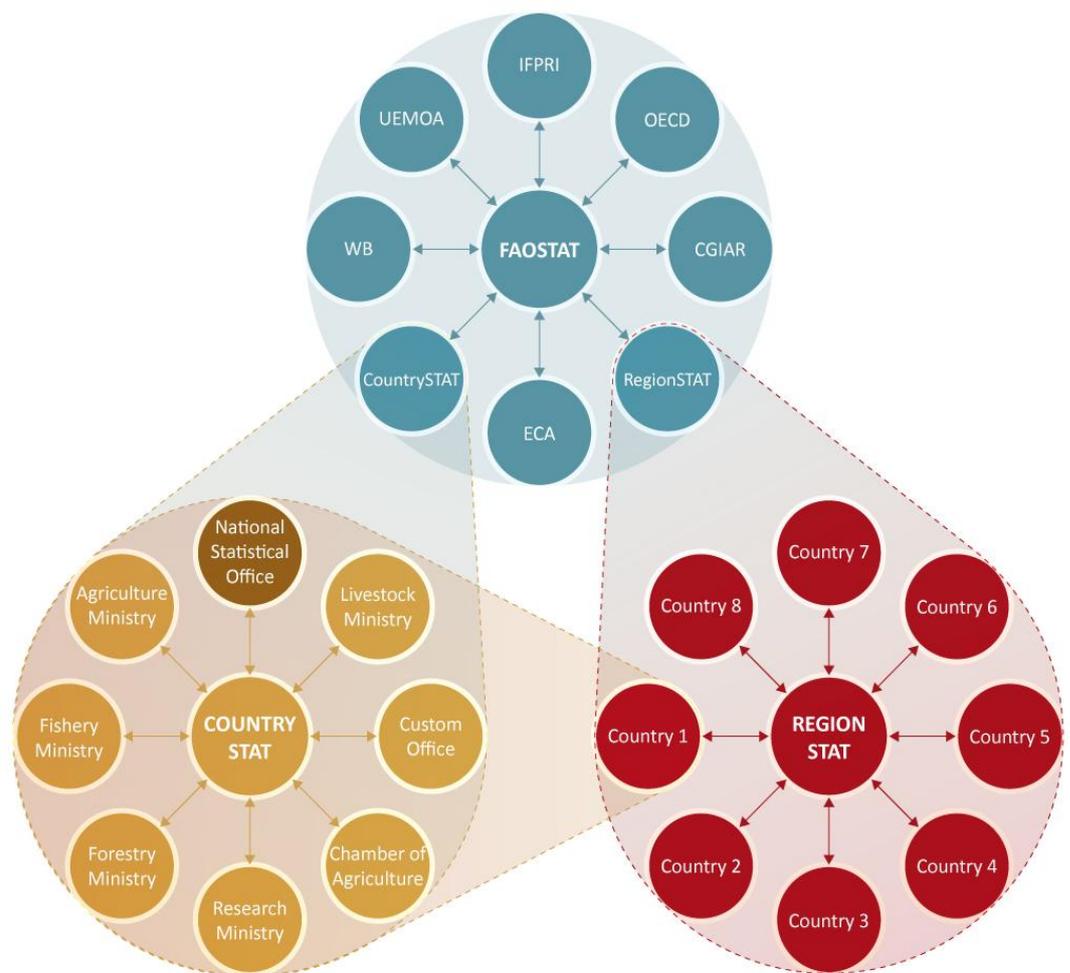
- National CountrySTAT Coordination Board (GCC High Level Expert Group on Statistics) may be composed of Senior Staff from key National Institutions for Food and Agricultural Statistics and other Stakeholders (Permanent Secretaries, Directors General, etc.), the Focal Institution Director, FAO Representation in the country, Representative staff from the Donor / project sponsor, the CountrySTAT Manager as observer. To ensure ownership and sustainability of the CountrySTAT system, a high level National CountrySTAT Coordination Board will be established. It is responsible for the following activities:

- ✓ Review and advise on key decisions and issues for the national CountrySTAT system, in particular for the sustainability of the system CountrySTAT
- ✓ Provide advice and guidance on key decisions and issues related to CountrySTAT;
- ✓ Approve the quarterly reports and evaluation of the Technical Working Group of CountrySTAT;
- ✓ Make recommendations to the Technical Working Group and the National Secretariat of CountrySTAT;
- ✓ Secure the necessary funding to ensure the sustainability of the CountrySTAT system.

In countries were statistical coordination bodies and mechanisms are in place the creation of new bodies may not be necessary. The functions of the recommended CountrySTAT entities may be done by the existing bodies with due amendment of their terms of reference.

The project will be operated by the FAO Statistics Division (ESS) who will also serve as the FAO Lead Technical Unit for the project. In each country the project will be implemented in close collaboration with the FAO Representative.

Relationship with CountrySTAT, RegionSTAT and FAOSTAT

V. BUDGET

The proposed budget for the period 2015 – 2018 will allow undertaking the above mentioned activities and will allow the project to build a constructive collaboration with international and regional partners. It will also allow flexibility in responding to countries' requests by selectively implementing thematic modules. Most importantly, the proposed financial inputs will enable the project to deal with all the issues for the establishment of the global data sharing network at technological, institutional and statistical levels that is the main target of this project.

The total project cost for the implementation and development of the CountrySTAT in the 6 GCC countries and RegionSTAT system in the GCC Secretariat is **5,100,000 USD.** The key components of the budget are as follows:

- Country and GCC HQ Activities and Training
- Equipment (Expendable and Non-expendable)
- Translation of all CountrySTATs Website, Technical documents and Training materials in Arabic
- Regional and International Personnel/Consultants
- Administrative Support
- Local Contracts, Internet/Communications
- General Operating Expenses and Supplies

Budget of the project for the period 2015-2018	
Countries	**Budget in USD**
United Arab Emirates	700,000
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	700,000
State of Qatar	700,000
State of Kuwait	700,000
State of Bahrain	700,000
Sultanate of Oman	700,000
GCC Secretariat	900,000
Grand Total Budget	**5,100,000**