



**Regional Roundtable on the
World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020)**
Nairobi, Kenya 18-22 September 2017

CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING

Purpose: The Roundtable aimed at disseminating among Anglophone African countries participating in the event the new guidelines for the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020), Volume 1, which cover the period 2016-2025. The meeting was specifically intended to help participants gain a deeper understanding of the new census modalities and main census activities, from data collection to data dissemination, as well as new census themes and items advocated by FAO through this new Programme.

Participants: 53 participants attended the meeting, including 44 representatives from 20 member countries from Anglophone Africa plus representatives from Statistics Canada (STATCAN), FAO Regional Office for Africa (FAORAF), FAO Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa (FAOSFE), FAO Representation in Kenya (FAOKE) and FAO Statistics Division (ESS), Rome. Member countries included Botswana, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The participants were directly involved in the organization of the Agricultural Census (AC) or related statistical operations in their respective countries.

Mr Gabriel H.R Rugalema, FAO Representative in Kenya, delivered his welcoming statement on behalf of Mr Jose Graziano da Silva, Director General of FAO. Mr Jairo Castano, Leader, Agricultural Censuses and Surveys, Statistics Division, FAO HQ, made an introduction to the Roundtable. Mr Paul N'Goma-Kimbatsa, Statistician at the FAO-RAF, reminded countries that they could count on RAF's statistical support. Mr James Gatungu, Director, Production Statistics, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), delivered the welcoming remarks on behalf of the Director General of the KNBS. Mr Jasper Nkanya, Engineering Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MALF), Kenya, opened the Roundtable on behalf of Mr Willy Bett, Cabinet Secretary, MALF.

The participants welcomed the new WCA 2020 guidelines and highly appreciated the content and timing of the Roundtable. The hard copy of the FAO publication on the WCA 2020 and other relevant materials were distributed to the participants for reference during the meeting. In addition, before the meeting, participants were encouraged to consult the publication also available on the FAO website at <http://www.fao.org/world-census-agriculture/wca2020/en/>. USB keys containing the publication and all presentations of the roundtable were distributed on the last day of the meeting.

1. The meeting included 19 technical sessions, each of which focusing on a specific technical aspect of the WCA 2020. Technical sessions comprised both FAO and country presentations, followed by discussions. A total of 56 presentations were delivered and discussed. The meeting programme is presented in the annex.

2. The following countries confirmed/informed plans for conducting ACs under the 2020 round: Botswana (no plans for AC), Ethiopia (2019/2020), The Gambia (2021/2022), Ghana (2018), Kenya (2019), Lesotho (2019/2020), Liberia (no plans for AC, plans to collect some agriculture related data in the next

Population & Housing Census, PHC), Malawi (2020), Mozambique (2019/2020), Namibia (2023/2024), Nigeria (2018), Rwanda (2024, tentatively), Seychelles (2021), South Africa (no plans), South Sudan (2020, tentatively), Swaziland (2022/2023), Tanzania (2018/2019), Uganda (2019/2020), Zambia (2017) and Zimbabwe (2023).

3. Some countries' materials related to the census conducted under the WCA 2010 (country metadata reports, reports on census results, other census products and material) were provided to FAO before and during the meeting, and more materials will be provided later to complete the existing gaps in the FAO web census repository. Countries expressed high interest in consulting census materials such as questionnaires and reports from other countries available from the FAO web repository.

4. The participants noted the importance of the agricultural census, that underpins the statistical system which monitors the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), providing the sampling frame for the agricultural survey programme and a benchmark for the national agricultural statistics system.

5. The participants acknowledged the importance of census data collection of: all 23 recommended essential items to enable national and international comparison; relevant frame items for building up the necessary frames for follow up regular agricultural and other surveys; and relevant additional items to meet the information and statistical needs of various national stakeholders. They noted that the census content should be decided by countries taking into account countries' information needs and priorities, based on consultation with data users and the relevant producers of official statistics, as well as the need to enable international comparisons.

6. The country participants acknowledged that an integrated agricultural statistical system prevented the unjustified duplication of data collection in the census, current sample surveys and relevant administrative data sources suitable for statistics purposes. Canada informed about their plans to extend the use of administrative registers as a source for census items in the next AC. The participants agreed on the necessity to focus the census on the collection of the essential census items recommended in the WCA 2020, as well as other items relevant for national needs, especially needed at the lowest administrative and geographical level to avoid overburdening census questionnaires. Other (especially non-structural items) can be adequately collected through sample surveys on a more frequent basis.

7. Most participants highlighted a range of existing difficulties related to timely and adequate financing of census operations. They agreed on the need to build partnerships and make a business case for the census to persuade decision makers to support and fund the census. Methodological considerations for the census design, taking into account the needs for improving the cost-efficiency of the census were discussed. The participants noted that the modular approach (introduced in the WCA 2010) and the integrated census and survey modality (introduced in the WCA 2020, where AGRIS is an example) were proposed as cost-efficient approaches and as important steps towards establishing integrated agricultural statistical systems for countries lacking such systems.

8. Participants wished to be briefed on the availability of new funding resources on planning and conducting agricultural censuses. They also wished to be informed about the modes of accessing partnerships for capacity building and implementation of ACs, and linking them to international and regional initiatives.

9. The participants highlighted the critical importance of good coordination between national institutions responsible for the agricultural sector (and, in a number of countries, for carrying out of agricultural censuses), such as the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the National Statistical Office (NSO), as well as other concerned government agencies and local public administrations.

10. The methodological challenges and ways to overcome the difficulties in the modular approach related to the implementation of the core and supplementary modules, widely used in African countries, were also largely discussed. In this respect, the requirements of census taking for this modality (along with other census modalities) were highlighted, such as:

- identification of all census modules at the early stage of census preparation and securing the funding for all census modules and operations;
- the census scope should include both crop and animal production units; the census should cover the agricultural holding in the household and non-household sectors, especially large farms which have an important contribution to total agricultural production;
- the collection of all relevant frame items in the core module (which is recommended to be conducted on a complete enumeration basis);
- implementation of supplementary modules in due time after the core module (or agricultural module in the Population and Housing Census, if relevant) to avoid the obsolescence of frame data, etc.

11. The benefits of synchronizing the PHCs and ACs were widely discussed, based on the FAO presentation on linking these two censuses and country presentations from Canada and Seychelles. The inclusion of agricultural items in the PHC to establish a frame for follow-up AC was in particular discussed and it was noted that FAO and UNFPA published guidelines on linking these censuses in 2012 (available on the FAO website and on USB keys distributed to participants). However, when these two operations are attempted to be combined some operational difficulties were highlighted, especially those related to:

- the specificity of some agriculture census items, which are more sensitive and/or more challenging to collect;
- the coordination between different government agencies involved in the two operations;
- the need for adequate training of enumerators to collect agricultural-related data in the PHC;
- the risks of overburdening respondents and reducing data quality,
- the limited number of items possible to include in the PHC because of short period of PHC data collection (usually ½ -1 month).

12. Extensive discussions took place on other specific issues, such as:

- the scope of the agricultural census and the issues related to the inclusion of aquaculture, fisheries and/or forestry activities in the agricultural census;
- main steps in developing and implementing the census of agriculture, particularly: tabulation, frame construction and mapping for the agricultural census; the conduct of the post-enumeration survey to assess census data quality;
- collecting data on land and crops: number and area of parcels and total area of holding; areas of crops when successive crops are grown;
- importance and challenges related to collection of data on intra-household distribution of managerial decisions and ownership on the holding which replaced the sub-holder and sub-holding concepts;
- the new approach for household food security and analytical aspects of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) indicator which is now a SDG indicator, etc.

13. It was highlighted, that if aquaculture, fisheries and/or forestry activities are included in the agricultural census, these activities would be partially covered since the agricultural holding is the statistical unit. Thus, in order to have a complete picture of aquaculture, fisheries and/or forestry activities in a country, all holdings engaged in respective activities should be included and therefore the conduct of separate/specific censuses would be more appropriate.

14. The community survey that involves community-level data collection and implies marginal costs, attracted a lot of interest of participants as these data complement holding-level data from the agricultural

census. The participants also noted the benefits of the complete enumeration in community surveys and their usefulness for census analysis purposes.

15. The use of new technologies for field data capture and compilation drew great interest and participants noted the advantages and disadvantages. In the region, Mozambique (in AC 2009/2010) and Namibia (2013/2014) used CAPI in their agricultural censuses. Countries agreed that CAPI method was here to stay because of important advantages it offers, particularly the significant reduction of the time gap between census data collection and the release of census results. However, it was emphasised that before adopting this technology for AC countries should first master the system through pilot test in a small survey. The participants noted that satellite images have a good application for planning census field work but limited application for estimating crop areas in small holdings. STATCAN shared their rich experience and vision to extend the use of remote sensing for agricultural data collections.

16. The importance of a good communication and publicity campaign, as well as of a wide and timely dissemination of census results were emphasized. It was pointed out that a good and timely planning and budgeting of all census operations, including publicity campaign and dissemination, should be made in order to secure appropriate funding also for these activities. During the meeting other aspects of production and dissemination of census results were also discussed, such as ensuring data confidentiality when presenting census data. The growing use of new media to disseminate census results was noted.

17. The participants highlighted the importance of the development of new FAO guidelines on operational aspects of census taking (WCA 2020, Volume 2) and welcomed FAO efforts. The participants showed interest in having access to the current draft of the WCA 2020, Volume 2 and are looking forward to the release of the final version of the publication.

18. Participants highlighted the importance of organizing such meetings on census taking, in particular on operational issues, which will be discussed in WCA 2020, Volume 2.

FINAL REMARKS

19. The participants agreed that the Roundtable met its main objective to help the participants gain a deeper understanding of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020) for the implementation of their agricultural censuses in the 2020 round.

20. Countries acknowledged the continuous FAO assistance on agricultural censuses in the region and looked forward to receiving further guidance for the preparation and implementation of the ACs within the overall framework of the system of integrated agricultural censuses and surveys. Some countries expressed interest in receiving further technical assistance to ensure the sustainability of the CountrySTAT systems, as well as for archiving and providing safe access to census microdata. Countries were recommended to collaborate closely with national stakeholders, FAO country office and development partners in order to include the agricultural censuses as a priority area of country assistance by FAO and the donor community.

21. Countries agreed to provide within a week missing census materials and reports on the WCA 2010 to FAO in order to facilitate the documentation of censuses and the dissemination of good country practices.

22. The participants expressed gratitude to STATCAN and to each other for sharing their experiences, as well as to FAORAF, FAOSFE, FAOKE and FAO ESS for the good organization of the Roundtable.

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MEETING PROGRAMME

Monday, 18 September 2017

| | |
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| 08.30-09.00 | Registration |
| 09.00-09.30 | Opening Session |
| | Welcoming remarks by Mr Gabriel H.R Rugalema, FAO Representative in Kenya Welcoming remarks by Mr James Gatungu, Director, Production Statistics, National Bureau of Statistics, Kenya Introduction to the Roundtable, Mr Jairo Castano, Leader, Agricultural Censuses and Surveys, ESS, FAO Welcoming remarks by Mr Paul N’Goma-Kimbatsa, Statistician-Economist, FAO Regional Office for Africa Opening remarks by Mr Jasper Nkanya, Engineering Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Forestry, Kenya |
| 09.30-10.00 | Group photo session and coffee break |
| 10.00-10.40 | Technical Session 1: Overview of the new features of the WCA 2020. Importance of the WCA in the light of Sustainable Development Agenda and other initiatives |
| | Presenter: Jairo Castano, FAO |
| 10.40-12.00 | Technical Session 2: Roundtable on countries census plans, approaches and methodologies |
| | Presenter: Jairo Castano, FAO Presentation: Key Highlights from the 2016 Canadian Census and Vision for 2021 Roundtable discussion. Countries’ brief information about census plans |
| 12.00-13.00 | Lunch |
| 13.00-14.00 | Continuation of Technical Session 2: Census plans, approaches and methodologies |
| | Continuation of roundtable discussions |
| 14.00-14.40 | Technical Session 3: Main steps in developing and implementing the census of agriculture |
| | Presenter: Jairo Castano, FAO |
| 14.40-15.00 | Coffee Break |
| 15.00-17.30 | Technical Session 4: Methodological considerations |
| | Census modalities Presenter: Jairo Castano, FAO Presentation: The Census of Agriculture 2016 in Canada: Key Methodological Considerations Country presentation: Mozambique |
| | Linking Population and Housing Censuses with Agricultural Censuses Presenter: Paul N’Goma-Kimbatsa, FAORAF Country presentation: Seychelles |
| | Agricultural Integrated Survey (AGRIS): Rationale and Methodology Presenter: Paul N’Goma-Kimbatsa, FAORAF |
| 19.00 | Welcome Reception |
| Tuesday, 19 September 2017 | |
| 08.30-9.45 | Technical Session 5: Census Theme 1 – Identification and general characteristics |
| | Presenter: Oleg Cara, FAO Presentation: Identification and General Characteristics – Canada’s Experience Country presentation: Botswana |
| 9.45-10.15 | Coffee Break |
| 10.15-11.30 | Technical Session 6: Census Theme 2 - Land |
| | Presenter: Oleg Cara, FAO Presentation: Land in the Canadian Census of Agriculture Country presentation: South Africa, Botswana |
| 11.30-12.00 | Technical Session 7: Census Theme 3 - Irrigation |
| | Presenter: Eloi Ouedraogo, FAO |
| 12.00-13.00 | Lunch |
| 13.00-13.45 | Continuation of Technical Session 7: Census Theme 3 - Irrigation |
| | Country presentation: Uganda |
| 13.45-15.15 | Technical Session 8: Census Theme 4 - Crops |
| | Presenter: Eloi Ouedraogo, FAO Country presentations: South Africa, Tanzania |
| 15.15-15.45 | Coffee Break |
| 15.45-17.15 | Technical Session 9: Census Theme 5 - Livestock |
| | Presenter: Eloi Ouedraogo, FAO |

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| | Country presentations: Uganda, Namibia |
| Wednesday, 20 September 2017 | |
| 08.30-09.45 | Technical Session 10: Census Themes 6 and 7 - Agricultural Practices and Services |
| | Presenter: Oleg Cara, FAO Country presentation: Tanzania |
| 09.45-10.15 | Coffee Break |
| 10.15-11.45 | Technical Session 11: Census Themes 8 and 10 – Demographic and Social Characteristics and Intra-household distribution of managerial decisions and ownership on the holding |
| | Presenter: Kafkas Caprazli, FAOSFE Country presentations: The Gambia, Seychelles |
| 11.45-12.15 | Technical Session 12: Census Theme 9 – Work on the holding |
| | Presenter: Oleg Cara, FAO |
| 12.15-13.15 | Lunch |
| 13.15-14.00 | Continuation of Technical Session 12: Census Theme 9 – Work on the holding |
| | Country presentation: The Gambia |
| 14.00-15.15 | Technical Session 13: Census Themes 11 – Household Food Security |
| | Presenter: Jairo Castano, FAO Country presentation: Malawi |
| 15.15-15.45 | Coffee Break |
| 15.45-17.00 | Technical Session 14: Census Themes 12 and 14 – Aquaculture and Fisheries |
| | Presenter: Eloi Ouedraogo, FAO Country presentation: Namibia |
| Thursday, 21 September 2017 | |
| 08.30-09.45 | Technical Session 15: Census Themes 13 and 15 – Forestry and Environment/greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions |
| | Presenter: Oleg Cara, FAO Country presentation: Rwanda |
| 09.45-10.15 | Coffee Break |
| 10.15-11.30 | Technical Session 16: Community level data |
| | Presenter: Jairo Castano, FAO Country presentation: Lesotho |
| 11.30-12.00 | Technical Session 17: Tabulation, Archiving and Dissemination |
| | Presenter: Oleg Cara, FAO |
| 12.00-13.00 | Lunch |
| 13.00-14.15 | Continuation of Technical Session 17: Tabulation, Archiving and Dissemination |
| | Country presentations: Malawi, Ethiopia, Kenya |
| 14.15-15.30 | Technical Session 18: Operational issues |
| | Legal and institutional framework Presenter: Oleg Cara, FAO Country presentation: Lesotho, Nigeria |
| 15.30-16.00 | Coffee Break |
| 16.00-17.15 | Continuation of Technical Session 18: Operational issues |
| | Census communication and publicity Presenter: Eloi Ouedraogo, FAO Presentation: The Census of Agriculture in Canada- Communications Outreach Country presentation: Ghana |
| Friday, 22 September 2017 | |
| 08.30-9.45 | Continuation of Technical Session 18: Operational issues |
| | Use of Technology for field data capture and compilation, and the implications Presenter: Jairo Castano, FAO Country presentation: Mozambique |
| 09.45-10.45 | Technical session 19: National practices on data collection methods for statistics on structural aspects of agriculture |
| | Country presentations: Liberia, Swaziland |
| 10.45-11.15 | Coffee Break |
| 11.15-12.00 | Continuation of Technical session 19: National practices on data collection methods for statistics on structural aspects of agriculture |
| | Country presentations: Zambia, Zimbabwe |
| 12.00-13.00 | Technical session 20: Way forward |
| 13.00-14.00 | Lunch |
| 14.00-15.00 | Closing Session |