



FAO–ECO Joint Refresher Training Workshop on CountrySTAT for ECO Member-States
(24-28 July 2016, ECO Secretariat, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran)

INFORMATION NOTE

1. Introduction

We welcome all participants to the FAO-ECO Joint Refresher Training Workshop on CountrySTAT for Focal Points of ECO Member-States to be held on 24-28 July 2016 at the ECO Secretariat in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

This Information Note is to provide participants to the Training with all the necessary information to guide them during their stay in Tehran, Iran.

This technical training will be provided for the ECO member states (National coordinators and Focal points on CountrySTAT from Agricultural Statistics Units of the Ministries of Agriculture and National Statistics Organizations), as well as for the team at ECO headquarters. Trainers will be from FAO CountrySTAT.

The main objectives of the Training are to consolidate the IT dissemination platform for Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and strengthen technical skills of the designated Focal Points. It will also provide an opportunity to further discuss follow up actions regarding the continuation of the assistance beyond August 2016. It is assumed that the Training will encourage and facilitate dialogue amongst participants at all levels.

At the end of the workshop, the participants will be able to exchange on international standards, methodologies, new tools and best practices to produce high quality food and agricultural statistics necessary for decision-making on food security and other national agriculture policy.

2. Venue and dates

The FAO-ECO Joint Refresher Training Workshop on CountrySTAT will be held on 24-28 July 2016 at the ECO Secretariat's premises in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

3. Organizers:

ECO Secretariat:

Address:

No. 1, Golobu Alley, Kamranieh,
P.O. Box 14155- 6176,
Tehran-Iran.
Telephone: (+98-21) 22831733-4 &
22292066
Fax: (98-21) 22831732
E-mail: registry@ecosecretariat.org

Contacts:

FAO Headquarters:

Address:

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
Tel:(+39) 06 57051
e-mail : FAO-HQ@fao.org

Contacts:

Mr. Fabio GRITA
System Support Officer
Tel: (+39-06) 57 05 42 62



Mr. Akim URMANTAYEV,
Director Projects, Economic Research and
Statistics (PERS)
Tel: (+98-21) 22831733-4
E-mail: Director.PERS@eco.int

Mr. Muhammad SAFDAR,
Research Officer (T&I/PERS)
Tel: (+98-21) 22831733-4
E-mail: RO.Trade@eco.int@eco.int

E-mail: Fabio.Grita@fao.org

Ms. Julia STONE
Country Project Officer
Tel: (+39-06) 57 05 60 53
E-mail: Julia.Stone@fao.org

Ms. Irene CUKIC
Statistical Assistant
Tel : (+39-06) 57 05 31 00
E-mail: Irene.Cukic@fao.org

Ms. Radha GUPTA
CountrySTAT Team Assistant
Tel: (+39-06) 57 05 55 54
E-mail: Radha.Gupta@fao.org

Ms. Stefania BACCI
CountrySTAT Statistician
Tel: (+39-06) 57 05 54 97
E-mail: Stefania.Bacci@fao.org

FAO Representation in Iran:

Address:

1st Floor, Agricultural Research, Education
and Extension Organization, Yemen Street,
Velenjak, Chamran Highway, Tehran, Iran

Contacts:

Mr. Soheil Saemian, Project Operations
Officer

E-mail: Soheil.Saemian@fao.org

Ms. Setareh Mirmotahari, Programme
Assistant

E-mail: Setareh.Mirmotahari@fao.org

Telephone:

(0098-21) 22413803/22429220/22429320

Fax: (0098-21) 22173836

E-mail: FAO-IR@fao.org

Website: www.fao.org/iran



4. Registration and identification badges

Registration of participants will begin at 9.00 am and take place at the main conference hall of the ECO Secretariat. The opening ceremony will begin at 9.30 am.

The identification badges should be worn by all participants, at all times, during the conference as well as during social functions.

5. Technical documents for the Regional Training

The technical documents related to this Training workshop will be provided by FAO CountrySTAT trainers and available at the following website: ...

6. Organization of the Training

The Economic Cooperation Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations through the FAO Representation in Iran are committed to provide the necessary logistics to ensure optimum conditions for this Training.

a. Hotel accommodation

FAO-Iran will be assisting with hotel booking for all participants of the Training and the FAO team.

b. Entry visa requirements

Respected delegates/participants should check with the Embassy or relevant diplomatic/ consular mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran in their countries for visa issuance at the earliest time.

Vaccinations: The World Health Organization recommends that all travellers, regardless of the region they are travelling in, should be covered for diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and polio, as well as hepatitis B. While making preparations to travel, take the opportunity to ensure that all of your routine vaccination cover is complete.

c. Arrangements upon arrival

All participants from ECO member-states who will manage to communicate their arrival details to the Organizers, upon request and/or by communication of their flight itinerary (flight number, arrival time and dates), will be welcomed at the Imam Khomeini International Airport by the representatives from the Hotel they will be staying in or the Organizers of the Training. Transport will be provided from the Airport to their Hotel. Please look for respective signs.

Unfortunately, participants who did not communicate their arrival details to the organizers, cannot be welcomed at the Airport and would have to find their own way to the designated Hotel.



GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT IRAN

Iran, also known as Persia, officially the Islamic Republic of Iran since 1980, is a country in Western Asia. It is bordered on the north Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, with Kazakhstan and Russia across the Caspian Sea; on the east by Afghanistan and Pakistan; on the south by the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman; on the west by Iraq; and on the northwest by Turkey. Comprising a land area of 1,648,195 km² (636,372 sq mi), it is the second-largest nation in the Middle East and the 18th-largest in the world; with over 77 million inhabitants, Iran is the world's 17th most populous nation. It is the only country that has both a Caspian Sea and Indian Ocean coastline. Iran has been of geostrategic importance because of its central location in Eurasia and Western Asia and the Strait of Hormuz.

The mountains cover almost one-fourth of Iran. The valleys among the mountains are the main area of agriculture production and industrial centers of the country.

Capital:	Tehran is the capital of Iran and Tehran Province. With a population of around 8.3 million and surpassing 14 million in the wider metropolitan area, Tehran is Iran's largest city and urban area, and the largest city in Western Asia.
Area:	1,648,195 km ² (636,372 square miles)
Major Cities:	Tehran, Mashhad, Isfahan, Shiraz, Tabriz
Population:	77,424,443 million
People:	Persain (65%), Azari (25%), Arab (4%), Lors (2%). Turkmen (2%), Kurds (2%).
Languages:	Persian (Farsi) as the official language. Azari, Arabic and Kurdish are also spoken.
Religion:	Shi'ite Muslim (94%), Sunni Muslim (4%), Zoroastrian, Jewish and Christian (2%).
Government:	Iran is an Islamic Republic established following the Islamic Revolution of February 1979.
Head of State:	Spiritual Leader (Rahbar) Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei
Local Time:	Local time in the Islamic Republic of Iran is G.M.T. + 03:30 hours.
Electric Current:	The electric current in Tehran is 220 Volt.

Climate and Weather: Iran's climate ranges from arid or semiarid, to subtropical along the Caspian coast and the northern forests. On the northern edge of the country (the Caspian coastal plain) temperatures rarely fall below freezing and the area remains humid for the rest of the year. Summer temperatures rarely exceed 29 °C (84.2 °F). Annual precipitation is 680 mm (26.8 in) in the eastern part of the plain and more than 1,700 mm (66.9 in) in the western part.

To the west, settlements in the Zagros basin experience lower temperatures, severe winters with below zero average daily temperatures and heavy snowfall.

The eastern and central basins are arid, with less than 200 mm (7.9 in) of rain, and have occasional deserts. Average summer temperatures exceed 38 °C (100.4 °F). The coastal plains of the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman in southern Iran have mild winters, and very humid and hot summers. The annual precipitation ranges from 135 to 355 mm (5.3 to 14.0 in).



Food and Drinks: The cuisine of Iran is diverse, with each province featuring dishes, as well as culinary traditions and styles, distinct to their regions. The main Persian cuisines are combinations of rice with meat, chicken or fish and some onion, vegetables, nuts, and herbs. Herbs are frequently used along with fruits such as plums, pomegranates, quince, prunes, apricots, and raisins. Iranians also usually eat plain yogurt (Persian: ماست, māst) with lunch and dinner; it is a staple of the diet in Iran. Foods are provided with halal meat.

Historical sites in Tehran:

- Azadi Tower- Azadi Square, Tehran
- Ershad Mosque- Shariati Street, Tehran
- National Garden- Emam Khomainsi Street, Tehran
- Golestan Palace- 15th Khordad Square, Tehran
- Green Palace- *Saadabad Palace, Tehran*
- Shams-ol Emareh- Naser Khosro Street, Tehran
- Toghrol Tower- Shahr-e-Ray, Tehran
- City Theater- Vali-e-Asr Junction, Enghelab Avenue, Tehran

Places for Shopping and Visiting:

Bazaars:

- Grand Bazaar: The Grand Bazaar is a historical market situated in southern Tehran. It is called “Bazaar-e-Bozorg” in Farsi language, in which all types of the goods such as handicrafts, paintings, carpets, rugs, etc. are available. Its many corridors are over 10 km in length and there are several entrances, some of which are locked and guarded at night. The Grand Bazaar is the main business artery of Tehran.
- Tajrish Bazaar: Tajrish neighbourhood is located along the northern edge of Tehran. This neighbourhood is one of the oldest parts of Tehran and during the last few decades have become popular with the upper-classes of the society as a result of the low levels of pollution, in turn created by the area's favourable location along Tehran's northern hills. Tajrish is situated in the Shemiranat County. It is hardly 15 Kilometers away from the FAO office.
- Safavieh Shopping Centre or Bazaar-e-Safavieh: It is located in Vali-e-Asr Ave., in front of the Mellat Park.
- Other Shopping Centers: Handicraft Shops are available in the hotels, as well as in bazaars, shopping centers and in other places in the centre of Tehran.

Museums:

- The Shah’s Palaces: Saadabad and Niavaran Palaces are located near Tajrish.
- Old Persian Museum or Muzeh Iran-e-Bastan: Is located in city center on Imam Khomeini Ave., Si-e-Tir St.
- Jewelries Museum or Muzeh Javaherat: Is located in the city centre on Ferdowsi Ave.
- Anthropology Museum or Muzeh Mardom Shenasi: Is located in city centre on Imam Khomeini Ave., Si-e-Tir St.
- Carpet Museum or Muzeh Farsh: Is located in Parke-e-Laleh, on Karegar Ave.



- Contemporary Museum or Muzeh Honarhaye Moaser: Is located in Laleh park.

Sightseeing:

- Darabad: It is beautiful mountain valley.
- Towchal Telecabin: Towchal Telecabin is probably the world's longest gondola lift lines with a length of 7500 m. This gondola lift is used for accessing ski resorts and other recreational centres on the mountain. Beautiful landscape, mountain fresh air and a multitude of fresh water springs adds to the freshness of the area. It has seven stations and it takes 35 minutes to get to the high peak of Towchal.

Dress Code: Islamic dress codes are strictly enforced. Women are required to wear coats or long-sleeved and loose-fitting clothing. Hair should be covered. Men are required to refrain from wearing shorts in public.

Prohibited Items for Import: Firearms, alcoholic drinks, illicit drugs and pornographic material, satellite receivers and some other communication equipment (i.e. VHF/HF radio, P2P and internet communication equipment).

Hospitals:

- Jamaran (heart) : +98-21-22290204/9
- Iran Mehr : +98-21-2200 9071, +98-21-2200 9720
- Baghiyatolah : +98-21-88050435
- Khatamolania : +98-21-88797751/9
- Day : +98-21-88785811/9
- Labafinejad : +98-21-22549010/18
- Arad : +98-21-77601095/7
- Mehrad : +98-21-88747401/9
- Madaen : +98-21-66405706/7
- Amir Aalam : +98-21-66708103/5
- Marvasti : +98-21-66702011/5
- Kasra : +98-21-88797611/19

Taxi/Transportation:

There are taxi/transport agencies in all neighborhoods of Tehran. The following numbers are cable taxis:

- 133
- 1828
- 1821 (Women cable Taxi)



Local currency and foreign exchange

The local currency is the Iranian rial (IRR). Money can be changed at the airport exchange facilities, in banks as well as at hotels with exchange facilities. The exchange rate (Iranian Central Bank rates as of 14 June 2016), for information only:

- 1 USD = about 30,509 IRR
- 1 EUR = about 34,461 IRR
- 1 IRR = about 0.00003 USD
- 1 IRR = about 0.00003 EUR

Useful Phone Numbers

Emergency Numbers:

Ambulance:

Phone: 112

Police:

Phone: 155

Fire:

Phone: 110
