



“Support for the implementation and development
of the CountrySTAT Framework
in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) countries”

WORKSHOP ON “STOCKTAKING AND LESSON LEARNT FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNTRYSTAT IN THE ECO COUNTRIES”

(Wrap-up Workshop on the achievements and project outcomes)

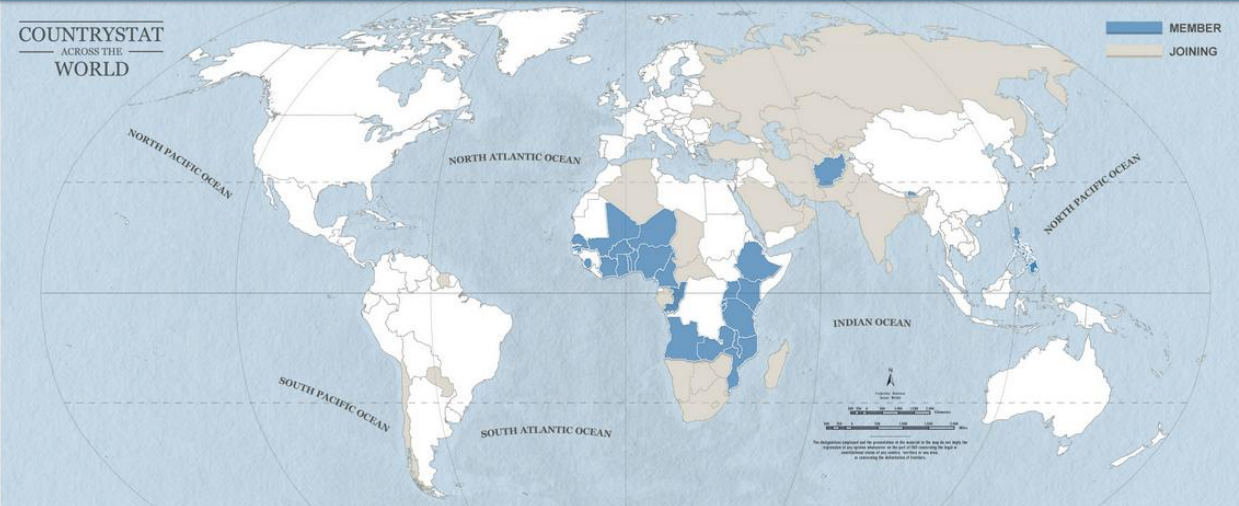
Rome, Italy, 25-26 June 2015
FAO Headquarters, GERMAN ROOM (C269)

Background information and Agenda

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COUNTRYSTAT
ACROSS THE
WORLD



MEMBER
JOINING

158 INDICATORS ON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS


57 MEMBER
COUNTRIES

20 INTERESTED
COUNTRIES

5 REGIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS


3 JOINING
REGIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS

35 EXPERTS IN
HEADQUARTER AND
IN THE COUNTRIES



Web-based and cross-platform
CountrySTAT is available on every device, in every place, applying latest web-based technology

**BILL & MELINDA
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Better statistics on food and agriculture
Explore recent data that complies to international standards. Get expert assistance in data collection, formatting and dissemination

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Established in 1985 with only three member states, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) is now a well-established organization including ten countries in the Central Asian Region.

In the past 12 years, with the strong and valuable support of the ECO Secretariat, the member states of the ECO region have been collaborating to accelerate the pace of regional development through their common endeavours. In relatively short time, they have developed a successful regional coordination infrastructure playing an important role to build the growing international profiles of its member states. The development dynamics of the ECO region has effectively exploited the existing infrastructural and business opportunities to embark on investments and initiatives aiming at strengthening priority sectors, including agriculture.

Despite the evident progress made so far, the region is still facing challenges to achieve its objectives and goals (e.g. sustainable economic development of Member States; progressive removal of trade barriers and promotion of intra- regional trade; gradual integration of the economies of the Member States with the world economy). In particular, the current information management systems of the ECO countries need to be strengthened in order to improve access to food security and agriculture data.

It is exactly to address the above need that the high level authorities of ECO Headquarters requested the FAO support for developing and establishing a system for the collection, harmonization, integration and dissemination of agricultural statistics for the ECO member countries. Accordingly, FAO has funded the project TCP/INT/3401: “Support for the implementation and development of the CountrySTAT Framework in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) countries”. The objective of this project was to initiate activities aiming at strengthening the technical capacities of the ECO member countries on information system management using CountrySTAT, a software and statistical platform based on FAO technologies and methodologies. In this framework the project has implemented CountrySTAT in Afghanistan and has provided training to the other ECO member countries through two regional workshops.

Recently, CountrySTAT has been significantly restructured. The New CountrySTAT platform is specifically designed to support an integrated network of national and international agencies for sharing knowledge and data, primarily on food security, nutrition and agriculture with a demand-driven approach. The New CountrySTAT represents an evolution in respect to the past strategic approach: the emphasis moves from pure compilation and dissemination of data to the delivery of information products and customized tools in support of decision-making in relation to well-identified topics and contexts.

This workshop will present the outcomes of the project and will introduce the new system and its potentials for supporting information management and sharing in the ECO region.

In particular, the workshop will:

- Demonstrate to national and international partners the outcomes of the project
- Present the New CountrySTAT and its capabilities with concrete use-cases
- Propose a course of action for strengthening the CountrySTAT activities in the ECO region and continuing to provide support to Afghanistan.

Below is the detailed agenda of the workshop.

AGENDA

DAY 1: 25 JUNE 2015

GERMAN ROOM (C269)

Moderator of the morning session: Irene Cukic, Communication Assistant

09:00 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 09:45 Workshop objectives: key messages and expected results (Fabio Grita)

09:45 – 10:45 Presentation of the results of the CountrySTAT system in Afghanistan (Stefania Bacci)

10:45 – 11:15 **Coffee Break**

11:15 - 12:00 Presentation of the CountrySTAT/FENIX Platform and linkages with other international systems such as FAOSTAT, the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), etc. (Fabio Grita)

12:00 – 12:30 Questions and answers

12:30 – 14:30 **Lunch Break**

Moderator of the afternoon session: Josef Schmidhuber, Deputy Director of the FAO Statistics Division

14:30 – 14:45 Welcome remarks by Mr Laurent Thomas, Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation, Mr Pietro Gennari, Director of the FAO Statistics Division, Economic and Social Department and Mr M.H. Amini, Directorate for Project and Economic Research and Statistics at the Economic Cooperation Organization.

14:45 – 15:00 Overview of the CountrySTAT objectives and implementation at national and regional levels (Fabio Grita)

15:00 – 15:10 Implementation of the CountrySTAT system in Afghanistan and presentation of the New CountrySTAT prototype (Stefania Bacci and Fabio Grita)

15:10 – 15:30 Examples of CountrySTAT thematic modules:

- Climate monitoring to estimate the impact on agriculture (Michela Marinelli)
- Regional and National trade flow dynamics (Stefania Bacci)

15:30 – 15:45 Proposed action plan for strengthening agriculture and food security information systems in the ECO Region using CountrySTAT (Fabio Grita)

15:45 – 16:30 Open discussion; feedback and recommendations

16:30 – 17:00 **Light refreshment**

Moderator of the morning session: Irene Cukic, Communication Assistant

09:00 – 10:00 Implementation of CountrySTAT for the ECO Countries: next steps (Fabio Grita)

10:00 – 10:15 Questions and answers

10:15 – 10:45 **Coffee Break**

10:45 – 12:00 Group session to gather feedback and suggestions on the proposed implementation of CountrySTAT for the ECO Countries

12:00 – 14:00 **Lunch Break**

14:00 – 15:00 Review of the conclusions of the group session

15:00 – 15:30 **Coffee Break**

15:30 – 16:30 Writing of the conclusions and recommendations

16:30 – 17:00 Closing ceremony and photo souvenir