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AFRICAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Twenty-Fifth Session

Entebbe, Uganda, 13 – 17 November 2017

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND OVERVIEW OF FAO ACTIVITIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE STATISTICS RELEVANT TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES SINCE THE 24th AFCAS SESSION

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SUMMARY

The Statistics Division of FAO, other statistics units and the FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF) have worked closely with member countries to build their capacities in food, agriculture and rural sector data collection, processing, analysis, publication and dissemination and how to use the above statistical data, including the world database on food and agriculture (FAOSTAT) and CountrySTAT. Activities equally covers statistical data capacity-building and support for member countries in generating agricultural statistics through the implementation of the FAO field program. Issues concerning setting of standards, norms and the methodology for data generation, analysis and dissemination as well as the general governance and coordination of statistical data activities within FAO are also covered.

In the framework of the Global Strategy, FAO has published and disseminated guidelines and methodological documents covering emerging areas in agricultural statistics and launched the AGRicultural Integrated Survey system (AGRIS), a farm-based modular ten-year survey programme. Ghana was chosen to field test the proposed methodology before finalization. Currently, Senegal is preparing for the full implementation of AGRIS beginning next year. FAO has prepared the Volume I of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020), centers on programme, the concepts and definitions. Its promotion was ensured by the organization of two round tables for the French and English speaking countries of Africa. FAO has prepared also the final draft of the Volume 2 "Operational Guidelines" of the WCA2020 based on countries experiences, and fruitful consultations with census stakeholders.

With respect to classification, the FAO formulated a detailed proposal for the review of Central Product Classification (CPC) Ver. 2.1 and a list of agricultural supplementary code. The 2017 Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) version, in force since January 1st 2017, outlines 233 sets of amendments with 85 concentrating on the agricultural sector.

Regarding the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), activities were carried out in Nigeria and South Africa. The platform CountrySTAT is operational in 30 African countries spread across three sub-regions groupings (UEMOA, EAC and SADC) and being developed in 8 countries. FAO has over the past few years been producing reports on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI), with the recent edition published in 2017.

The Chief Statistician is responsible for the overall governance and coordination of the FAO statistical system, including the IDWG on Statistics. Again, with FAO been the custodian of 21 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and contributes to 6 others, a great responsibility lies on the organization to monitor and oversee the progress of these indicators. The follow-up actions on the recommendations since the 24th AFCAS session were presented.

I. INTRODUCTION

Over the years, the Statistics Division of FAO (ESS) as well as other statistics units and the FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF) have worked closely with member countries to build their capacities in food, agriculture and rural sector data collection, processing, analysis, publication and dissemination and how to use the above statistical data.

Activities undertaken covers several areas: food and agricultural statistical data collection, processing, analysis, validation and dissemination; as published in reports and in other sources including the world database on food and agriculture (FAOSTAT) and CountrySTAT. Activities equally covers statistical data capacity-building and support for member countries in generating agricultural statistics through the implementation of the FAO field program.

Issues concerning setting of standards, norms and the methodology for data generation, analysis and dissemination as well as the general governance and coordination of statistical data activities within FAO are equally covered.

More information concerning FAOSTAT and CountrySTAT can be found respectively at <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#home> and <http://www.countrystat.org/>

II. FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

Data compilation is an essential activity of FAO and part of its core mandates. This is extended to various data areas (production, input, trade, emissions-agriculture, emissions-land use, population, food balance, food security, macro-statistics, agri-environmental indicators, prices, ASTI R&D indicators, investment, forestry and emergency response) which can all be found on FAOSTAT.

This enables FAO to regularly update its statistical data published on FAOSTAT. Activities are planned and executed with strict deadlines: the administration of questionnaires in the countries, collection, compilation and processing of data for onward update of the database. Dates for new

updates are indicated on the website informing users of when to expect new updates. Many of the Statistics Division teams and those of other divisions are fully engaged in this process.

A lot of effort goes into the publication of the FAO statistical yearbooks. Beginning in 2012, the statistical yearbooks were published in a new format. The last edition of the global statistical yearbook was released in 2013. In subsequent years the yearbook has been published on regional (Africa, Near East and North Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia) basis. The most recent edition of the Africa Regional yearbook is the 2014 edition. In 2015, a global statistical Pocketbook was published although not printed because ESS finds the need to update some figures, hence has still not given its authorization.

These documents as well as other FAO publications are available for download online at: <http://www.fao.org/documents/en/>

III. NORMATIVE ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

The Statistical Division of FAO undertakes several methodological and normative activities in collaboration with regional offices. These activities include agricultural censuses, the implementation of research activities in the framework of the global strategy for rural and agricultural statistics enhancement.

3.1. Global Strategy

Publications

The Research unit of the global strategy published and disseminated guidelines and methodological documents covering emerging areas in agricultural statistics. These areas include:

- Online training programs on "Linking population and housing census with agriculture censuses and 'Using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) for agricultural surveys.
- Technical reports on Reconciling Data from Agricultural Censuses and Surveys, Enhancing the use of GPS, Information on Land in the Context of Agricultural Statistics and Agricultural Cost of Production – Country Field Test and Desk-Study Reports.
- Working documents on " Improving Methods for Estimating Livestock Production and Productivity – Test Stage: Fieldwork Report and Summary Data Analysis" and Measuring Crop Area and Yield under Pure Stand, Mixed and Continuous Cropping: Findings from the Field Tests in three countries.
- Guides and guidelines on "the Enumeration of Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic (Transhumant) Livestock, "Guidelines to Enhance Small-Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics through a Household Approach and "International Classifications for Agricultural Statistics".
- Manuals for "Estimating Greenhouse Gas Effect in Agriculture" and" Agricultural Cost of Production Statistics".

- Work on the methodology for estimating vegetable crops area and production as well as reconciliation of survey and census results was done in 2016. The guidelines are still being finalized.
- Guidelines for collecting data for sex-disaggregated and gender-specific indicators in national agricultural surveys.
- Guidelines for the compilation of Food Balance Sheets.
- Building Agricultural Market Information Systems: A Literature Review (AMIS).

The GSARS resource centre provides online access to a range of Global Strategy publications, documents and reports: <http://gsars.org/en/resource-center/>

Agricultural Integrated Survey (AGRIS)

The AGRicultural Integrated Survey system (AGRIS). AGRIS is a farm-based modular ten-year survey programme, which relies on cost effective statistical methodologies and leverages the most recent IT innovations (including mobile phones and tablets for data collection, GPS for area measurement) and new data sources (including “big data” and remote sensing data).

AGRIS covers the technical, economic, environmental and social dimensions of agricultural holdings through its core module, that mainly focuses on annual production statistics, and its four rotating modules on the “Economy”, “Labour force”, “Machinery and equipment”, and “Production methods and environment”. Fully implemented, it allows countries to replace agricultural censuses and traditional farm surveys at no additional costs.

AGRIS represents the ideal survey tool to collect many of the indicators requested to monitor the new Sustainable Development Agenda (e.g. productivity of small-holders, sustainable farming practices, etc.) and many of the indicators from the new results framework of the CAADP (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme). AGRIS will be implemented in partnership with the WB (LSM-ISA project) and other key stakeholders (USDA-NASS and IFAD).

Recent activities of AGRIS include an expert meeting organized in February 2017 to share information on the state of the art of the methodological developments, including the sampling strategy, the question bank development, and the development of a CAPI questionnaire for each AGRIS module.

Ghana was chosen to field test the proposed methodology before finalization. Currently, Senegal is preparing for the full implementation of AGRIS beginning next year.

3.2 World Programme for the Census of Agriculture

FAO worked to finalize and publish the 2020 world agricultural census program guide for the period 2016 - 2025. This guide is to be used by countries in the implementation of their agricultural census for the period 2016-2025 and is made up of two volumes.

The first volume, centers on programme, the concepts and definitions. The second volume will deal with methodological and operational issues of the census implementation. The world program documents are available on the FAO website: www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-wca/wca-2020/en/

Two Regional Roundtable on the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020) has concluded: (i) 7-11 November 2016 in Dakar (Senegal) for Francophone African countries (ii) 18-22 September 2017 in Nairobi (Kenya) for Anglophone African countries.

The FAO Statistics Division (FAO ESS) has recently prepared the final draft of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020), Volume 2 "Operational Guidelines" based on countries experiences, and fruitful consultations with census stakeholders. FAO would like to invite countries to participate in a Global Consultation conducted by FAO on Volume 2 of the WCA 2020, available on line.

3.3 Classifications

With respect to classification, the FAO collaborated with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in the update process. In collaboration with the Departments of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Forestry, the Statistics Division of FAO formulated a detailed proposal for the review of Central Product Classification (CPC) Ver. 2.1 and a list of agricultural supplementary code. This version was published as an official annex entitled "CPC extending to agricultural statistics". It gives additional details on agricultural produce by adding 2 supplementary positions to the 5 proposed CPC Ver. 2.1.

The 2017 Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) version, in force since January 1st 2017, outlines 233 sets of amendments with 85 concentrating on the agricultural sector. FAO played a fundamental role in the review process to upgrade HS 2012 to HS 2017. The amendment proposed by FAO makes the HS version more adapted and more useful for the purposes of agriculture and fisheries statistics. It equally sets more accurate correspondence and harmonization with the CPC.

FAO is currently partaking in preparing an explanatory notes and it is equally engaged in the HS 2022 review. Finally, the nomenclature database is still operational and continues to be of help to many users consulting the database for various purposes.

More information about the CPC and HS classifications can be found respectively at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/cr/registry/regct.asp?Lg=1> and <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/nomenclature/overview/what-is-the-harmonized-system.aspx>.

IV. CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES AND FIELD PROGRAM

Capacity building and field program are the two core areas for which member countries fall on FAO.

4.1 Agricultural Census Project

The FAO Statistics Division (ESS), Regional Office for Africa (RAF) and Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (RNE) give technical support to member countries in Africa on the program and in the field project framework. The main areas benefiting from such supports are: agricultural census for which the support is mainly in the preparation, organization of agricultural census activities, processing, analysis and publication of data, the design and implementation of agricultural surveys and sustained systems for generating standard agricultural data.

Operational, institutional and technical capacity buildings are matters of priority for all projects on national agricultural statistics systems with specific emphasis on the governance aspect of statistical agencies, large scale operations, data collection, processing and dissemination procedures, including the implementation of CountrySTAT platform. Technical Cooperation Programs (TCP) and the FAO trust fund often funds the projects.

The most recent activities undertaken are:

- Operational projects (preparatory phase of the agricultural census) for the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Gabon, Guinea, Morocco and Tunisia.
- Operational projects (main phase of the agricultural census) for the following countries: Angola, Congo, Comoros, Côte-d'Ivoire and Ghana.
- Projects with preparatory stage of census completed and awaiting mobilization of funds: Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe and Senegal.
- New project requests and formulation of agricultural censuses projects for the following countries: Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Madagascar and Uganda,
- Support to the UEMOA Commission and CEMAC Commission for the conduct of a feasibility study for a harmonized and synchronized agricultural census in its member countries.

4.2 Activities undertaken by RAF for the implementation of the Global Strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics.

The FAO Regional office for Africa (RAF), under the research component of the Global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics conducted a survey on 'Measuring Area and Production for Vegetable Crops' in Ghana. The aim of the survey is to offer countries a proposed methodology for the production of data and statistics on vegetable crops.

Another research work was conducted in Burkina Faso. This was to investigate the most suitable methodology for reconciling data from agricultural censuses and surveys. A guideline on the topic has been published and can be downloaded at <http://gsars.org/en/literature-review-on-reconciling-data-from-agricultural-censuses-and-surveys/> .

4.3 The Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)

While the Global Strategy tries to provide innovative methods to improve the long-term viability of statistical data systems in developing countries, the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) addresses the information need to be prepared for and resilient to short-term swings in basic food markets. Just like for the Global Strategy, AMIS has helped pioneer a number of new data collection, analysis and dissemination methods.

AMIS assesses global food supplies, focusing on wheat, maize, rice and soybeans, and provides a platform to coordinate policy action in times of market uncertainty. About 23 countries are involved in this with 2 (Nigeria and South Africa) being from Africa.

Recent activities of AMIS includes the 6th Session of the Rapid Response Forum in February 2017 to review the first five years of AMIS and discuss future work priorities and the 10th Session of the Global Food Market Information Group in October 2016 which focused on identifying outstanding challenges that need to be tackled. A number of publications and working documents have been produced under AMIS, some of which are: Guidelines for Designing and Implementing Grain Stock

Surveys, Crop Yield Forecasting: Methodological and Institutional Aspects, and Assessing Volatility Patterns in Food Crops - A non-technical summary. The AMIS documents can be found at <http://www.amis-outlook.org/resources-list/en/> .

4.4 The Setting up of CountrySTAT System for Sub-Saharan African Countries

The various projects rolled out by the FAO with the support of donors (BMGF, UEMOA, SADC, EAC, Italian Cooperation) were crowned with appreciable results. CountrySTAT is a web-based information technology system for food and agriculture statistics at the national and subnational levels purposely for centralizing and integrating data coming from various sources and harmonizing it according to international standards while ensuring data quality and reliability. The platform was established in 58 countries including 38 African countries, and 7 Regional/International organizations (Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine UEMOA, East African Community EAC, Southern African Development Community SADC, Economic Cooperation Organization ECO, Gulf Cooperation Council GCC, Africa Fertilizer and World Food Programme).

The platform is operational in 30 African countries spread across three sub-regions groupings (UEMOA, EAC and SADC) and being developed in 8 countries. The agricultural census program constitutes a springboard for adopting and putting in place the system in the countries. CountrySTAT has recently been moved to a more efficient and user-friendly platform.

4.5 Food Security Statistics

The FAO Statistics Division supports countries to adopt norms, methodologies and instruments for analyzing food access and consumption data. The Division equally builds the capacities of national statistics institutions and other components of the statistics systems in adopting methodologies for generating data on food security. In this vein, FAO has developed, in collaboration with the World Bank, the free stand-alone software, 'ADePT-food security Module (FSM)' for processing data on food consumption collected during national households surveys in order to obtain a set of indicators for food security decision making at national and sub-national levels. A user manual was developed and it's available on FAO's website (<http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-fs/fs-methods/adept-fsn/en/>)

FAO has over the past few years been producing reports on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI), with the recent edition published in 2017.

With the collaboration of five UN agencies, with WHO and UNICEF joining IFAD, WFP and FAO, the SOFI Report is a first step towards a comprehensive global analysis of the links between food security and nutrition. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World warns that the greater number of conflicts, whose impacts are often exacerbated by climate-related shocks, is one of the main drivers behind this shift. This is threatening to derail the international commitment to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030. The report also examines the ways in which food insecurity can trigger conflicts, and provides valuable insights into how food security can help prevent the outbreak of unrest and violence. In-depth regional overviews are also available at <http://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition/en/>

V. ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATISTICAL GOVERNANCE MECHANISM WITHIN FAO

Since 2012, FAO undertook to put in place an internal governance mechanism for statistical activities to ensure the implementation of efficient and coordinated statistical activity within its apparatus. In another step to further ensure the achievement of this goal, the 155th session of the FAO Council held in December 2016 approved the creation of a new office of the Chief Statistician. In the FAO organizational structure, the Office of Chief Statistician is directly under the Deputy Director-General, Programmes.

The overall coordination of the FAO statistical system is carried out through the Office of the Chief Statistician (OCS) and the Inter- Departmental Working Group on Statistics (IDWG-Statistics). In the context of a decentralized statistical system, these governance mechanisms present a unique opportunity for ensuring a constructive and harmonized contribution to the FAO Strategic Framework and in ensuring the preservation of the technical integrity of the Organization with regard to statistics.

The Chief Statistician is responsible for the overall governance and coordination of the FAO statistical system, including the IDWG on Statistics, which represents an essential mechanism for ensuring the quality and integrity of the technical and normative work of the organization. The Chief Statistician also represent FAO in the global statistical system providing input into international statistical processes. FAO serve as Secretariat of regional intergovernmental bodies in the areas of agricultural, fishery and forestry statistics.

Again, with FAO been the custodian of 21 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and contributes to 6 others, a great responsibility lies on the organization to monitor and oversee the progress of these indicators.

VI. FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS SINCE THE 24TH AFCAS SESSION

LIST OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 24TH AFCAS SESSION AND THEIR STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

<u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u>	<u>STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION</u>
1. Recommends to further mainstream the collection and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data within various FAO initiatives, including the 2020 World Programme of Agricultural Census (WCA 2020), the Global Strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics, the FAO Gender and Land Rights Database, or the Voices of the Hungry project. Welcomes all efforts to elicit information on the role of gender in the management of agricultural resources, notably land, beyond formal ownership.	Within the framework of Global Strategy, FAO has published Guidelines for collecting data for sex-disaggregated and gender-specific indicators in national agricultural surveys.
2. Recommends to store resources in PDF format on memory sticks (USB) and to make these resources also available on the FAO web site. It also recommends FAO to strongly advocate to countries the use of the guidelines for the sake of international comparability and harmonization.	All normative work developed by FAO is available online at the FAO Statistics Division website (Guidelines, brochures/leaflets, publications, documents and reports) in order to allow international comparability and harmonization.
3. Recommends the Global Strategy implementing partners in Africa take into account capacity building activities undertaken by regional organizations to avoid duplication of efforts. Understands that the GS efforts are directed towards capacity development. Data collection need to be covered by the countries implementing the Agricultural Statistics Strategic Plan (ASSP).	FAO has organized several trainings and workshops, with the involvement of implementing regional organizations and partners of the Global Strategy in Africa, to promote capacity building activities and avoid duplication of efforts.
4. Recommends countries to champion the ASSPs and bring it to the attention of the highest government authority to secure support. Highlights the importance of resource mobilization for the implementation of the GS action plan at country level (data collection) and encourages FAO to help identify resource partners for the implementation.	FAO collaborates with regional organizations (AfDB, AFRISTAT, UNECA, UEMOA, sub regional statistical schools, etc.) for the implementation of the Global Strategy.
5. Recommends countries to organize workshops with the goal of harmonizing the SDG monitoring efforts with national statistical strategies.	FAO has organized two regional Workshops on Monitoring Food Security in the Context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Because AFCAS is focusing on the SDGs, this is to encourage countries to organize workshops with the goal of harmonizing the SDG monitoring efforts with national statistical strategies.
6. Recommends CountrySTAT as a dissemination platform for SDG indicators. Also recommends full coordination through regional institutions for data collection and dissemination as well as for capacity development efforts.	FAO should take into account the dissemination of SDG indicators in the ongoing development of the new CountrySTAT platform. Collaborative efforts should continue between FAO and regional institutions for data collection and dissemination, capacity building.
7. Reiterates the recommendation made at the 23rd Session of AFCAS in 2013 to establish an FAO Global Commission on Statistics.	The process of establishing establish an FAO Global Commission on Statistics is going. The final decision will be made by the Chief Statistician (OCS) and the Inter- Departmental Working Group on Statistics (IDWG-Statistics).
8. Requests to forward recommendation 34 and 35 to the FAO Regional Conference for Africa.	FAO will forward recommendations 34 and 35 (Creation of the Global Agricultural Statistics Commission) to the 30th African Regional Conference of the FAO in Khartoum, Sudan, 19-23 February 2018