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OVERVIEW OF FAO ACTIVITIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE STATISTICS AND DEVELOPMENT ON SDG INDICATORS RELEVANT TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES SINCE THE 25th AFCAS SESSION.

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I. Introduction

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.

FAO has a decentralized statistical system, with several technical units operating under the broad oversight of OCS to collect, process, analyse and disseminate data and statistics related to food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and natural resources. The Office of Chief Statistician (OCS) is responsible for the overall coordination and governance of the FAO's statistical work, both at headquarters and in FAO's Regional and Country Offices. OCS provides guidance to the technical units in charge of data acquisition, compilation and dissemination, with the aim of ensuring quality and consistency of statistical practices at corporate level. The Chief Statistician is supported by the Interdepartmental Working Group on Statistics (IDWG), which provides an internal consultation and coordination platform to take decisions of corporate relevance and to develop a strategic vision for FAO statistics.

Under the governance of the Office of the Chief Statistician (OCS), the FAO Statistical Division (ESS) and the FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF), as well as other FAO statistical units, have collaborated closely to strengthen the capacity of Member States in the collection, processing, analysis, publication and dissemination of food, agricultural and rural statistical data. Aspects relating to the establishment of standards, norms and methodologies have also been covered in order to ensure international comparability, harmonization and the use of modern technological tools for better statistical collection and production.

This paper presents an overview of FAO's activities in food and agricultural statistics relevant to Africa region since the last 25th session of the commission on: (i) World Programme of the Census Agriculture WCA 2020; (ii) Monitoring and Development of the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (SDG Indicators); (iii) Support to Member States on statistical development projects; (iv) Other activities.

II. World Programme of the Census Agriculture WCA 2020

The FAO World Programme for the Census of Agriculture provides support and guidance to countries to carry out national agricultural censuses. Data collected provides a snapshot of the state of a country's agricultural sector - from size of holdings, land tenure, land use, area harvested, irrigation, livestock, labour and other agricultural inputs. This information is vital in agricultural planning and policy-making, research and development and monitoring the impact of agriculture on the environment.

For this 10-year round (2016 - 2025), FAO has developed a new set of guidelines that involve a number of developments taking into account the changing nature of data use and collection. New data collection technologies have been included to drastically reduce the time lag between data collection and data analysis. Additional data domains have been included/proposed, such as fisheries and GHG emissions to aid monitoring the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Among the new methodologies proposed, there is also a renewed approach for assessing food security by reviewing the severity of food insecurity as experienced by individuals in the population.

FAO has worked towards the finalization and publication of the Guide to the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 for the period 2016 - 2025. This guide is divided into two volumes, and should be used by countries for the implementation of their censuses for the period 2016-2025. The first volume deals with concepts and definitions. The second volume will deal with methodological and operational issues related to the implementation of the census. The documents of World Programme are available on the FAO website:

<http://www.fao.org/world-census-agriculture/en/>

In December 2017, the FAO Statistics Division organized a Global Consultation on the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020), Volume 2 Operational Guidelines.

A Regional Workshop on the Volume II "Operational Guidelines" of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020) was organized from 17 to 21 June 2019 in Bujumbura, Burundi, for French-speaking African countries. Another Regional Workshop for English-speaking African countries is planned for the year 2020.

III. Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (SDG Indicators)

The success of the Sustainable Development Goals rests to a large extent on an effective monitoring, review and follow-up process. SDG indicators are the foundation of this new global framework for mutual accountability.

Under the coordination and governance of the Office of the Chief Statistician (OCS), FAO is proposed as 'custodian' UN agency for 21 indicators, for SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 5 (Gender Equality), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 14 (Life below Water) and 15 (Life on Land), and is a contributing agency for a further six 1 (No Poverty), 14 (Life below Water) and 15 (Life on Land). In this capacity, FAO is supporting countries' efforts in monitoring the 2030 Agenda.

The highlights of the Indicators of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG Indicators) since the 25th Session of AFCAS are:

- Workshop on Open Agriculture (Statistics) Data, 26 February - 01 March 2018, Nairobi, Kenya.
- Training session on Indicators 2.3.1 "Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size" and 2.3.2 "Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status", 20-21 March 2018, Turin, Italy.
- Training-of-trainers workshop on sustainable development goal (SDG) Indicator 2.a.1 "Agriculture Orientation Index (AOI) for Government Expenditures", 27-28 March 2018, Turin, Italy.
- Training session on Indicator 12.3.1 "Global food loss index", 26-27 April 2018, Turin, Italy.
- Technical Consultation -cum- Capacity Building Workshop on SDG Indicator 2.a.1: Agriculture Orientation Index (AOI) for Government Expenditures, 5 - 8 November 2018, Rome, Italy.

- National training workshops on monitoring undernourishment (2.1.1) and food insecurity (2.1.2) in Angola, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Morocco, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia (2018-2019).
- Sub-regional training workshops on monitoring undernourishment (2.1.1) and food insecurity (2.1.2) in Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
- National training workshops on indicators 5.a.1 (women's access to land), 6.4.1/6.4.2 (water use efficiency and sustainability) and 12.3.1.a (Food Loss Index).
- Regional Capacity Building Workshop on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator 2.a.1 - Agriculture Orientation Index for Government Expenditures, Cairo, Egypt, 15-17 April 2019.
- Sub-regional technical workshop on monitoring SDG target 6.4 on sustainable water use, Gaborone, Botswana, 2-4 April 2019.
- FAO ILRI Regional Capacity Building Workshop on Monitoring SDG Indicators in Eastern Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 10 - 14 June 2019.
- Training workshops on indicators 5.a.1 (women's access to land) and 6.4.1/6.4.2 (water use efficiency and sustainability), 19-23 November 2018, and 12.3.1.a (Food Loss Index), 11-13 June 2019, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- Regional Capacity Development Workshop RNE/RAF on Farm Survey Based SDG Indicators (2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, 5.a.1, 12.3.1): Cairo, Egypt from 7 to 10 October 2019.
- Workshop on SDG indicators 6.4.1 "Change in water use efficiency over time" and 6.4.2 "Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources" for Eastern Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 15-18 October 2019.
- Four sub-regional Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) Remote Sensing Survey workshops in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (18-20 September 2018 and 29 July – 03 August 2019), Libreville, Gabon (3-6 September 2018) and Maputo, Mozambique (8-13 July 2019).
- E-learning courses on SDG indicators for digital learning to meet the needs of professionals in agriculture and food security.
- SDG DATA Portal : <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/en/> : One-stop shop with official statistics, methodological documents, capacity development initiatives and other key resources for monitoring Sustainable Development Goals.
- Availability of the Report on the Sustainable Development Goals 2019.

IV. Support to Member States on statistical development projects

Assistance in statistical development projects and capacity building are the two main areas for which FAO is requested by Member States.

Under the coordination and governance of the Office of the Chief Statistician (OCS), 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 field program. The main areas benefiting from such support are agricultural censuses and the establishment of integrated national systems for the collection and production of agricultural statistics, including the strengthening of technical, operational and institutional capacities.

Since the 25th Session of AFCAS, the most recently undertaken activities are:

- Operational projects (preparatory phase of the census of agriculture and the permanent system of agricultural statistics) for the following countries: Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique and Chad.
- Operational projects (main phase of implementation of the agricultural census and the permanent system of agricultural statistics) for the following countries: Angola, Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville, Gabon and Ghana.
- Projects with preparatory phases completed and awaiting the mobilization of funds: Benin, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Guinea, Mali, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Chad.

- Completed projects (main phase of implementation of the agricultural census) for the following countries: Congo-Brazzaville, Equatorial Guinea, Morocco and Tunisia.
- Requests for new projects and formulation of agricultural census projects for the following countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Gambia, Equatorial Guinea, South Africa, Lesotho, Niger, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia.

V. Other activities

Since the 25th Session of AFCAS, other FAO activities in food and agricultural statistics cover the following points:

- Progress in implementing the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Africa (see AfDB paper RAF-AFCAS-19-32).
- Continued implementation of the Integrated Agricultural Survey System (AGRIS) in two pilot countries: Ghana and Senegal.
- National Workshop on Compilation and Application of Input-Output Tables Extended to the Environment (IOT-EE) on forestry in Dakar, Senegal, from 19 to 22 August 2019. (ECA-UN/FAO/ANSD).
- Sending FAO questionnaires to Member States: Crops and Livestock Production; Pesticides Use; Land use, irrigation and agricultural practices; Fertilizers ; Prices received by farmers for primary crops and livestock products; Government Expenditure on Agriculture and Related Categories; Food losses from production to retail stages; Agro-environmental statistics.
- Project GCP/INT/161/JPN “Strengthening Agricultural Statistics and Food Security Information in CARD Countries through South-South Cooperation” 2013/2018.
- Project FMM/GLO/129/MUL “Improving country data for monitoring SDG achievements and informing policy decisions” 2019/2022.
- Project GCP/GLO/943/JPN “Supporting Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2.1 Monitoring by Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition Information in Africa” 2019/2022.