| منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة | 联 合 国
粮 食 及
农 业 组 织 | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | FAO | Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture | Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций | Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación |

AFRICAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
Twenty-eighth Session
Johannesburg, South Africa, 4 – 8 December 2023
Concept note

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

During its 11th Session (1961), the FAO Conference approved the creation of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS). The Commission was subsequently established by the Director General in October 1962. The AFCAS is a statutory body of FAO and meets every two years.

The 27th session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS) was hosted virtually by Senegal, in November 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and South Africa was elected as Host Country for the 28th Session of AFCAS planned in December 2023.

The 28th Session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS) is planned with the theme "Leveraging data & statistics for agrifood systems transformation in Africa". It will be held at Johannesburg, South Africa, from 4-8 December 2023.

The conference will bring together senior statistics officials of National Statistics Offices and Ministries of Agriculture (MoA) from FAO member countries in Africa, who are responsible for

agricultural statistics in their respective countries, as well as representatives of regional and international organizations. They will review and exchange ideas on the state of food and agricultural statistics in the continent and advise member countries on the development of their agricultural statistical systems.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE AFCAS

The overall goals of AFCAS are:

- Review and discussion of FAO statistical activities in Africa region since the last session;
- Study the status of food and agricultural statistical systems in the region;
- Advise Member countries on recent developments, innovation and harmonization of agricultural statistics in the general context of FAO's statistical activities;
- Organize meetings for study groups or other subsidiary bodies made up of national experts to achieve these goals.

The forthcoming 28th Session of the Commission will discuss key thematic areas that are of direct relevance to statistical capacity development programs in Africa, the monitoring and compilation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators, food security and nutrition statistics, food and agriculture data dissemination, the implementation of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture, the use of alternative data sources for agricultural statistics as well as forestry, water use, fisheries and aquaculture statistics. Main expected outcomes include fruitful discussions and interactions among participants and relevant recommendations for the promotion of best practices and innovative methods for collection, processing and dissemination of agricultural data.

3. POLICY INFLUENCE OF THE AFCAS

The African Commission on Agricultural Statistics is a platform for the sharing of ideas on the state of food and agriculture statistics in Africa. AFCAS also advises Member States on the development of their agricultural statistical systems as part of the FAO's work programme for Africa.

The AFCAS is one of the main fora for measuring the progress made by FAO and African countries in the production and dissemination of agricultural statistics and the development of national agricultural statistics systems. Recommendations from the AFCAS are carefully considered by the FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC) to decide on the priority areas which should be taken into account in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget, as well as in relation to longer term programme objectives of the Organization to the needs of the Africa Region.

Through the Commission, the FAO in recent years has been able to intensify its efforts to develop Food and Agriculture Statistics in countries of the region, particularly in the conduct of national censuses of agriculture within a common framework of definitions, concepts, standards and guidelines to help countries generate databases that are internationally comparable and the provision of basic statistics on food security in a manner readily adaptable to understanding the food security situation. Important FAO statistical capacity development programs like the 50x2030 initiative and the Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics, have been promoted through various AFCAS sessions contributing to the improvement of agricultural statistics systems in the Africa region.

4. INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN AFCAS

The meeting will bring together all AFCAS member countries as well as specialised UN agencies, regional/international organizations, Universities/Statistical schools, Regional Economic Communities and international agencies/partners.