



Conclusions and recommendations

The 28th Session of the FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Quito, Ecuador from the 24th to 26th October 2017. The number of participant including delegates and observers was 41, from 20 countries in the region.

FAO activities in food and agricultural statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Secretariat of the FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group reported on the activities carried out in follow-up to the recommendations made in the last session, mainly reporting on the support provided to countries to improve food security, agricultural and rural statistics, focused mainly on the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda. During this biennium, the following activities were carried out:

1. Technical assistance and individual training were provided to 17 countries in the region on agricultural and food security statistics methodology, which means that several countries now have the capacity to calculate some SDG's indicators under FAO custody, which they did not previously have.
2. In addition, it has worked on the implementation of the Regional Public Goods Project to improve agricultural and rural statistics in the Region. Under this project, financed by the Inter-American Development Bank, for which FAO is the Technical Secretariat, three reports were published, the website <http://www.estadisticasagroalc.org> was created, three workshops were done on the use of administrative registers for agricultural statistics, integrated systems of agricultural surveys and the use of electronic devices in censuses and agricultural surveys; and a semi-remote course on sampling with multiple frames was completed.
3. Likewise, during the 2016-17 biennium, two sub-regional round tables were held, one for Latin America and the other for the Caribbean on the World Census of Agriculture Program 2020 (WCA 2020), two workshops were also held, one on the implementation of the monitoring of the SDGs and another on the methodology for calculating SDG indicators 6.4.1 and 6.4.2., and a seminar on agricultural statistics and administrative registers with a gender perspective.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the challenge of generating more and better data

Statistics play a vital role in achieving development objectives, since robust and timely statistics allow identifying those most in need and pointing the interventions towards them, as well as allowing the evaluation and monitoring of the impact of policies, programs and projects. Therefore, this Commission:

4. Urges for the redirection of resources towards the effort to strengthen agricultural and food security statistical systems, based on cooperation, technical assistance and financial support to face the challenge of monitoring the SDGs.

5. Recommends the implementation of 8 working groups for technical assistance and country capacity building for the calculation and analysis of SDG indicators for which FAO is a custodian agency. These working groups will coordinate the training activities, identify countries and experts that are at the forefront in their respective topics and facilitate the exchange of good practices, and the compilation of guidelines and relevant literature. The countries will appoint focal points in each group of their interest and will volunteer to coordinate one of them. These groups would be outlined in the following order:
 1. Food Security Group: Indicators 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 12.3.1
 2. Biodiversity Group: Indicators 2.5.1 and 2.5.2
 3. Group of Policy Instruments: Indicators 2.a.1 and 2.c.1
 4. Sustainable Fisheries Group: Indicators 14.4.1, 14.6.1, 14.7.1 and 14.b.1
 5. Sustainable Forests and Mountains Group: Indicators 15.1.1, 15.2.1 and 15.4.2
 6. Sustainable Water Use Group: Indicators 6.4.1 and 6.4.2
 7. Indicators with integrated agricultural surveys as a data source Group: Indicators 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, 5.a.1 and 5.a.2
6. The countries request technical assistance and capacity building from FAO to collect the necessary data to calculate the ODS indicators under FAO custody and co-custody, as well as in the methodology for calculating those indicators. This assistance should be a combination of regional workshops and courses, and individual support to countries to allow adaptation to national contexts. These assistances must also be continuous to keep the national technicians updated in the latest methodologies and to minimize the loss of knowledge due to the high rotation of technicians in the national institutions.

Food Security and sustainable agriculture indicators and Challenges for National Statistics Offices

7. **Food Security Indicators 2.1.1 and 2.1.2:** Countries agree with the methodology to calculate these indicators and appreciate the technical assistance and training received so far and urge FAO to continue providing this assistance according to the mentioned above in paragraph 6.
8. **Indicators of income and productivity of small farmers 2.3.1 and 2.3.2:** Countries consider the general methodological approach proposed for these indicators reasonable and relevant. Likewise, they note that the size of agricultural establishments varies greatly, not only between countries, but also within countries; that is, an establishment could be consider large in one region of the country and small in another. The production of self-consumption agricultural goods should be included in the calculation of income. FAO notes that it is not necessary for countries to adopt the definition of smallholder proposed by FAO to compute the indicator at the national level. The countries request technical assistance to incorporate the necessary data collection instruments to calculate these indicators, especially Integrated Agricultural Surveys and Agricultural Censuses.
9. **Sustainable Agriculture Indicator 2.4.1:** For the calculation of this indicator, the integration of data sources is a great challenge, especially in the environmental sub-indicator. Furthermore, the required budget is a significant challenge, particularly in order to obtain the levels of disaggregation suggested. Not all proposed sub-indicators will be relevant for

all countries, so it will be necessary to think about how to perform the aggregation to build the indicator in these cases. In cases in which a sub-indicator is relevant but cannot be calculate due to a lack of data, a proxy could be sought.

10. **Indicator of Food Losses and Waste 12.3.1:** Countries need time to absorb the new methodology and guidelines for the calculation of this indicator. They request FAO to distribute among the countries of the Region the guidelines for the collection of data on food losses, as well as technical assistance and training that is highly necessary since there is almost no data and experience on this subject in the majority of the countries of the region.
11. **Governmental Investment Indicator 2.a.1:** There are difficulties in gathering data in national institutions, so they request FAO to develop guidelines for this purpose. Additionally, they recommend including the investment of sub-national governments in the indicator.
12. **Indicator of volatility in food prices 2.c.1:** This indicator was a bit controversial due to the high seasonal fluctuations in food prices that need to be clarify its inclusion in the methodology. The process of selecting the products to be included is not clear either, so the countries requested technical assistance from FAO for these purposes as well as for the calculation of the indicator.
13. **Indicators of crops and livestock 2.5.1 and 2.5.2:** Some countries in the Region still need to nominate to FAO focal points (institutions and people) with which to interact to report these indicators. It is necessary that the National Institutes of Statistics coordinate and validate the report of data from the focal points to FAO. For the collection of information for the calculation of these indicators, a partnership with the gene banks of the private sector is important. It is also necessary to collect data on populations of animal breeds more regularly, in order to determine their risk of extinction.
14. **Indicators of women's access to land 5.a.1 and 5.a.2:** The issue of access of women to land is a very relevant issue in the region and some countries have already implemented public policies to improve the situation. Therefore, there is a strong need to monitor indicator 5.a.1 to measure the dimension of the problem and to monitor public policies. It is necessary to adapt the methodology of data collection for indicator 5.a.1, to the most used instruments in the region, like agricultural surveys and their structure; and combine them with the cadastral records. It is also necessary to cover under this indicator and its methodology, the secure land tenure of indigenous people, since the forms of land tenure tend to be different. In several regional indigenous forums, indigenous people have emphasized that it is a top priority for them to disaggregate indicator 5.a.1 by ethnic groups / indigenous people. Likewise, given the complexity of indicator 5.a.2 on legal frameworks, countries request technical assistance from FAO.
15. **Indicators of fishing sustainability 14.4.1, 14.6.1, 14.7.1 and 14.b.1:** the calculation of indicator 14.4.1 represents a great challenge in many countries of the region, although

some are making great efforts. It was specified that this indicator refers mainly to oceanic fisheries and not to inland fisheries, since overfishing in inland fisheries is not a big issue worldwide, but the main issue is the state of aquatic ecosystems ; these are contemplated in the ODS indicator 15.2.1. Regarding the other indicators under this objective, some countries indicated progress made towards obtaining data for their measurement, although being all these indicators of Tier III, there is still no standard methodology defined and approved for them. Several countries reported that they were making efforts to implement fisheries censuses; for this purpose, they requested technical assistance from FAO.

16. **Indicators of sustainable water use 6.4.1 and 6.4.2:** Coordination between government institutions is critical to compile the data necessary for the calculation of these indicators. The countries request for FAO to incorporate countries from Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of pilots of the methodology for calculating the indicator and coordinating national institutions.
17. **Forest indicators and sustainability of mountains 15.1.1, 15.2.1 and 15.4.2:** there is already an established process for collecting national data for indicators 15.1.1 and 15.2.2, and countries request that FAO train the national counterparts in calculating them. Likewise, they recommend to involve the National Statistical Offices in this process to ensure good coordination at the national level. Regarding indicator 15.4.2, they request FAO to clarify the role of national institutions in the validation of data produced by FAO in a centralized manner.

Other issues

18. Since the CIE no longer exists, IICA has not been involved in the organization of the last three sessions of this working group, and in order to align this statutory body with similar bodies in other regions, it is recommend that the Regional Conference support the change the name of this Working Group to "Regional Commission on Agricultural and Food Security Statistics".
19. It is recommended to establish an organizing committee for each session of the Working Group composed of a representative of the host country, a representative of the host country of the previous session, a representative of FAO headquarters and the Regional Statisticians for LAC.
20. Three countries expressed their willingness to host the 29th session of FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean to will be held in 2019; these are Brazil, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The decision on the venue of the next session it will be taken at the beginning of 2018.