



Conclusions and Recommendations

The 31st Session of the FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group on Agricultural Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean was held from March 28 to 30, 2023, and hosted by the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile. The following 15 countries were represented in person: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Jamaica, Dominican Republic and Chile. In addition, the following 14 countries participated virtually: Argentina, Ecuador, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Panama, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, and Haiti.

In order to implement the recommendation under Session 7 regarding changing the name of this body to the Latin American and the Caribbean Commission for Agricultural Statistics (LACCAS), a special virtual session was held on December 12, 2023 to approve statutes for LACCAS. This report presents the results of this special session. For results of the 31st Session, please see <https://www.fao.org/food-agriculture-statistics/resources/resources-detail/en/c/1611346/>.

Special Session December 12th, 2023: Special Session in order to review and approve Statutes of LACCAS

In order to facilitate changing the name of the working group to LACCAS as recommended during Session 7 held March 30, 2023, FAO organized a special virtual session via zoom on December 12, 2023 to officially approve Statutes of LACCAS. The event was attended by 23 countries, and opened by Mr. José Rosero, Chief Statistician and Director of the Statistics Division, who emphasized the need to strengthen regional cooperation in agricultural statistics.

Following the official opening, the Regional Statistician presented a brief history of the working group, and the origin of its name. It was noted that the original working group (hereinafter “the Working Group”) was originally established in 1958 as a joint initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO or the Organization) and the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI). However, 1994, IASI withdrew from the Working Group and was replaced by the Organization of American States (OEA) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in the framework of the Interamerican Conference for Statistics (CIE), as indicated in the Final Report of the 11th CIE. Henceforth it officially became known as *FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean*.

After this summary, the Statutes attached hereto as Annex A were reviewed line by line with member countries. Discussions took place on the working languages, participation of international institutions and observers, and other specific issues. At the end of the review, a vote took place wherein there was unanimous approval for Statutes of LACCAS. These statutes are attached hereto as Annex 1.



Annex 1:

Statutes

Latin American and the Caribbean Commission for Agricultural Statistics (LACCAS)

THE COUNCIL

Considering:

That the working group (hereinafter “the Working Group”) was originally established in 1958 as a joint initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO or the Organization) and the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI)¹;

That in 1994, IASI withdrew from the Working Group and was replaced by the Organization of American States (OEA) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in the framework of the Interamerican Conference for Statistics (CIE), as indicated in the Final Report of the 11th CIE and was henceforth known as the FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean;

That the Working Group, during the 31st Session of held from 20 to 30 March 2023, recognized, inter alia, that “*the name of this current body does not reflect its character*” because “*the term “working group” does not correspond to the nature of a technical commission of FAO and implies a less formal and less important mechanism. In addition, it implies a defined operational timeline and specific technical products*”;

The recommendation of the Working Group at its 31st Session, that “[f]rom the next session in 2025, the group will be known as the Latin American and the Caribbean Commission for Agricultural Statistics (LACCAS). To achieve this objective, the group request that FAO begin the appropriate procedure to change the name”;

That in light of this request, on 21 November 2023, FAO consulted OEA/CIE and IICA to seek their non-objection to the change of the name of the Working Group and, considering that they provided their consent to such name change in writing on 30 November 2023 and 23 November 2023, respectively;

Hereby promulgates the following provisions of the Statutes of the Latin American and the Caribbean Commission for Agricultural Statistics (LACCAS).

MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership in the Latin American and the Caribbean Commission for Agricultural Statistics (hereinafter “the Commission”) shall be open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of FAO whose territories are situated wholly or partly in the region concerned as defined by the Organization or who are responsible for the international relations of any non-self-governing territories in that region. Membership shall comprise such eligible nations as have notified the Director-General of the Organization of their desire to be considered as Members.

¹ See: United Nations, Economic and Social Council, [*Informe de la Cuarta Reunión del Subcomité de Coordinación Estadística del Istmo Centroamericano*](#), 24 May 1958

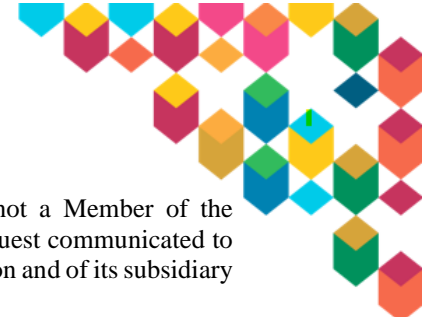
TERMS OF REFERENCE

2. The terms of reference of the Commission shall be to review the state of food and agricultural statistics in the region and advise Member Nations on the development and standardization of agricultural statistics within the general framework of FAO's work in statistics, and to convene study groups or other subsidiary bodies of national experts required for this purpose. The terms of reference shall include in particular:

- (a) the formulation of the program of work of the Commission in relation to the promotion and development of food and agricultural statistics including periodical agricultural censuses and food consumption surveys, and continuous surveys and controlled experiments for current information, trade in food and agricultural products and requisites;
- (b) the setting up of a scheme of priorities taking into consideration both the immediate requirements and the long-term development of agricultural statistics on a sound and permanent basis;
- (c) working out a minimum program for current agricultural statistics;
- (d) the formulation of recommendations regarding measures to be adopted by Member Nations for:
 - i. the standardization of concepts, definitions and methodology of food and agricultural statistics,
 - ii. the co-ordination of food and agricultural statistics as to their coverage, accuracy, timeliness and comparability,
 - iii. planning short- and long-term training programs in statistics at all levels,
 - iv. organizing research on statistical problems of common interest to countries in the region;
- (e) the formulation of recommendations regarding ways and means in which FAO could assist Member Nations in the development of food and agricultural statistics including such measures as the organization of training centers and seminars; the promotion of fellowships; the provision of technical assistance through experts and regional statistical advisers; the promotion of research in statistical problems under local conditions;
- (f) the consideration of problems referred to the Commission by the FAO Conference and Council and FAO regional conferences and the preparation of suitable reports including relevant recommendations;
- (g) the organization of technical discussions between national experts on specific statistical problems related to the program of work of the Commission by convening working groups whose detailed terms of reference are to be worked out by the Commission;
- (h) the compilation of data from Member Nations in relation to the program of work of the Commission and its working groups;
- (i) the preparation of a summary report to the Director-General of the Organization or presentation to the FAO Conference or Council incorporating the main recommendations of the Commission particularly those on policy, financial or programmatic matters which require FAO Conference or Council action.

OBSERVERS





3. Any Member Nation of the Organization and any Associate Member that is not a Member of the Commission but has a special interest in the work of the Commission, may, upon request communicated to the Director-General of the Organization, attend as observer, sessions of the Commission and of its subsidiary bodies and ad hoc meetings.

4. Nations which while not Member Nations or Associate Members of the Organization are Members of the United Nations, may, upon their request and with the approval of the FAO Council granted upon the recommendations of the Commission, be invited to attend in an observer capacity the sessions of the Commission, in accordance with the provisions relating to the granting of observer status to nations adopted by the FAO Conference.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

5. Participation of international organizations in the work of the Commission and the relations between the Commission and such organizations shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization as well as by the rules on relations with international organizations adopted by the FAO Conference or Council. All such relations shall be dealt with by the Director-General of the Organization.

SESSIONS

6. The Commission shall hold at least one session every two years. The sessions of the Commission shall be convened and the place where they are to be held shall be determined by the Director-General of the Organization after consultation with the competent authorities of the host country, taking into consideration the recommendation of the Commission on the subject. Sessions of the Commission may, as necessary and appropriate, be held in person, using electronic means such as videoconferencing, or in a hybrid format.

REPORTS

7. The Commission shall submit to the Director-General of the Organization reports on its activities and recommendations at such appropriate intervals as to enable the Director-General of the Organization to take them into consideration when preparing the draft Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization and other submissions to the Organization's Governing Bodies.

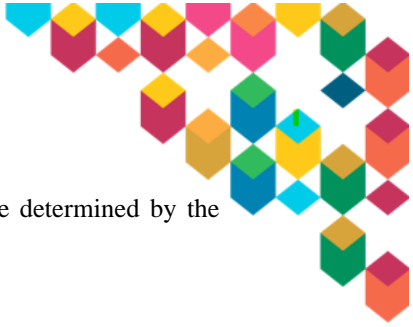
8. The Director-General of the Organization shall bring to the attention of the FAO Conference, through the FAO Council, any recommendations adopted by the Commission which have policy implications, or which affect the program or finances of the Organization.

9. Copies of each report of the Commission will be circulated to Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization and international organizations for their information as soon as they become available.

10. Subject to the provisions of the preceding paragraphs, the Director-General of the Organization may request members of the Commission to supply the Commission with information on action taken on the basis of recommendations made by the Commission.

SUBSIDIARY BODIES

11. The Commission may establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the accomplishment of its task, subject to the availability of the necessary funds in the relevant chapter of the approved budget of the Organization: the determination of such availability shall be made by the Director-General of the Organization. Before taking any decision involving expenditure in connection with the establishment of subsidiary bodies, the Commission must have before it a report from the Director-General of the Organization on the administrative and financial implications thereof.



12. The terms of reference and reporting procedure of the subsidiary bodies shall be determined by the Commission.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

13. The Secretary of the Commission shall be appointed by the Director-General of the Organization and shall be administratively responsible to him. The expenses of the Secretariat of the Commission shall be determined and paid by the Organization within the limits of the relevant appropriations in the approved budget of the Organization.

14. The financial operations of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall be governed by the appropriate provisions of the Financial Regulations of the Organization.

15. Expenses incurred by representatives of members of the Commission and of the observers while attending sessions of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies, as well as the expenses of observers at sessions, shall be borne by the respective governments or organizations.

16. Expenses of experts attending in their individual capacity sessions of the Commission are to be borne by the Commission's budget.

LANGUAGES

17. English and Spanish shall be the working languages of the Commission.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

18. The Commission may adopt and amend its own Rules of Procedure which shall be in conformity with the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization and with the statement of principles governing commissions and committees adopted by the FAO Conference. The Rules of Procedure and amendments hereto shall come into force upon approval by the Director-General of the Organization.