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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



## AFRICAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

28<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

4–8 December 2023 Johannesburg (South Africa) AFCAS 28 LEVERAGING DATA & STATISTICS FOR AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION IN AFRICA

### AGENDA ITEM 9:

### IMPROVING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE DATA DISSEMINATION



### New FAO Data dissemination platform - Beta Version: the FAODATA Explorer

Presenter: Valerie Bizier Office of the Chief Statistician FAO.



### Context

The <u>Strategy for the Modernization of FAO Statistics</u> stems from recommendations of:

- ✓ the Evaluation of FAO Statistics
- Internal SWOT analysis on FAO statistical work (IDWG-Statistics)
- ✓ the External Data User Consultations
- ✓ the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031
- ✓ the <u>Secretary General's UN Data Strategy</u>
- the <u>System-wide Road Map for Innovating UN Data and Statistics</u> by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

#### From a decentralized to an integrated statistical system

Vision: An integrated statistical quality management system, covering all statistical processes, and an infrastructure that consolidates all FAO main statistical data assets into one dissemination platform.

### **Objectives**

- Avoid data silos and increase users' experience in exploring/obtaining all FAO data assets
- Create more value out of FAO data
- Maximize business value and reduce maintenance costs of disparate dissemination systems based on various technologies
- Facilitate the governance of FAO data and statistics
- Improve comparability, interoperability, consistency and quality of FAO data through the adoption and implementation of harmonized codelists, definitions, classifications and statistical standards
- Avoid duplication of data points and resolve data inconsistencies across different databases
- Increase interoperability and facilitate data/metadata exchange with other UN agencies, National statistical systems and other regional/international organizations

**Collaboration with FAO data** producers (ownership remains with producers)

Consultation and feedback from Users

Seed vision since 2012 -Now Standard and technology are available Pilot phase - SDG data & beta version online

FAOSTAT and FISHSTAT data migration Migration of other dissemination platforms Integrated data warehouse and central dissemination platform



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The "FAODATA explorer" is FAO's new dissemination platform to access, filter, explore, download and share FAO statistics. The platform is currently a beta version as it is under development and will gradually be populated with existing FAO statistics on food, agriculture, nutrition, fisheries and aquaculture currently disseminated through FAOSTAT and FishSTAT. Note to users: As for now, FAODATA explorer (Beta version) includes SDG data of the 21 indicators under FAO custodianship, also disseminated in FAOSTAT and the UN Global SDG Database. Your feedback and suggested improvements on the new platform are welcome. Please contact: data-explorer@fao.org

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# SDMX and IT tools

#### .Stat Suite



The **.Stat Suite** is a standard-based, componentised, opensource platform for the efficient production and dissemination of high-quality statistical data. The product is based on the General Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) and the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) standards.

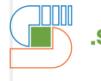
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#### The .Stat Suite has three **main modules**:



The **.Stat Suite Data Explorer**, a web-based application to easily find, access, and share data through a well-tuned navigation. Powered by the open-source platform .Stat Suite for the dissemination of official statistics. Read more...



**.Stat Core** The **.Stat Core**, a highly performing, secure SDMXnative Data Store based on standard protocols, to store and retrieve statistical data, structural and referential metadata, data process information and security settings. Read more...

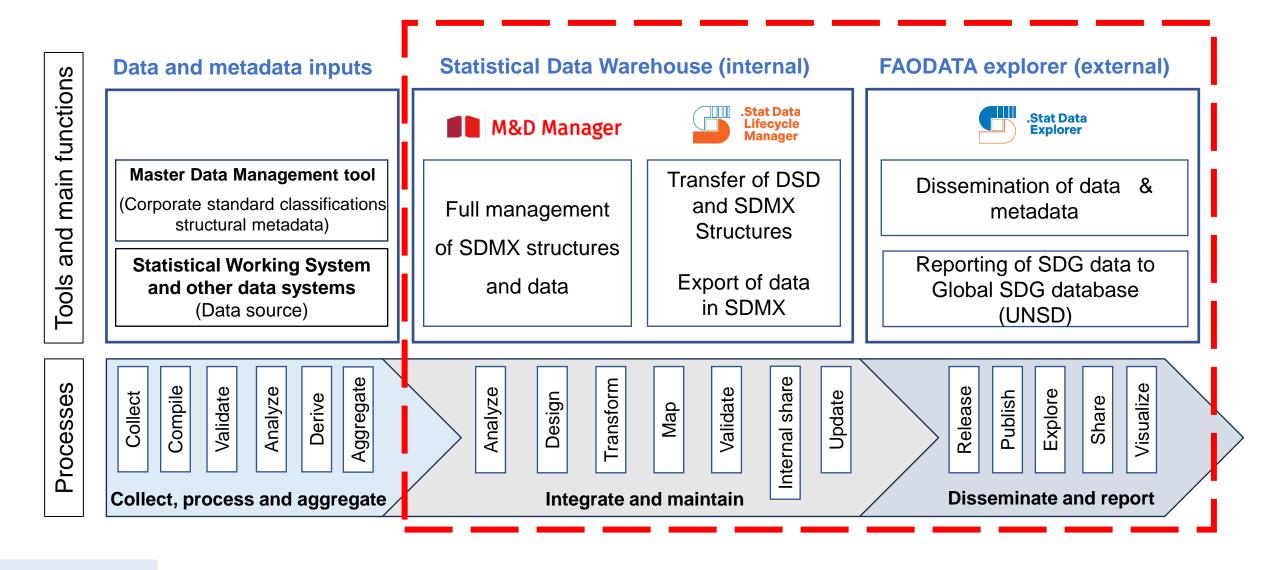


The **.Stat Data Lifecycle Manager**, a set of adaptive back-office modules to efficiently and timely produce and (re-)use high quality statistical data by defining, running, automating, controlling and evaluating the underlying data processes. Read M&D Manager

Statistical data and metadata exchange (SDMX)

more...

# Workflow, processes and IT tools based on SDMX



## Implementation and Support to SDQAF

- The deployment of SDW and FAODATA Explorer supports FAO's efforts to harmonize and standardize its data and metadata in compliance with the FAO Statistical Data Quality Assurance Framework (SDQAF).
- The project implements and support the development of corporate statistical standards, definitions and classifications, as well as methodological guidelines for the harmonization of the procedures implemented by the different statistical processes, all aimed at achieving a more integrated data and statistical system.
- The project harnessed the internationally agreed SDMX standard and related information model and tools to enable to bring efficiencies in FAO business processes and interoperability of FAO data with national and international data platforms.

# Implementation and Support to SDQAF

- It is expected that overall quality of FAO statistical outputs will be enhanced, for instance:
  - coherence, comparability: data, structural and reference metadata will be standardized, harmonized and made available in comparable format.
  - accessibility, clarity: FAO data and statistics will be available through one point of access/dissemination platform and accompanied by improved metadata.
  - timeliness and punctuality: FAO Data will be available as soon as it is produced using streamlined, more effective and effortless workflows.
  - These quality dimensions can be directly measured using ad-hoc methods or quality indicators.

## Dissemination and reporting of FAO SDG data

- Data on the 21 indicators under FAO custodianship are disseminated through around 60 different datasets.
- For the past year, and by leveraging the structured data and tools based on SDMX standard to perform processes of data quality assurance/validation, the quality and consistency has substantially improved.
- In compliance with the Global SDG DSD, FAO started data transmission to the SDG Global Database (UNSD) through API, leaving behind the earlier practice of sending Excel files as email attachments.
- FAO is in continuous discussion with UNSD and IAEG-SDG WG-SDMX to streamline and tailor data transmission in response to changing data methodologies.



#### Homepage



#### Search result page

#### Visualization page

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### VISIT: <u>HTTPS://DATAEXPLORER.FAO.ORG/</u> CONTACT US: <u>DATAEXPLORER@FAO.ORG</u>

## Next steps

- The activities under the first phase of the project (2022-2024) will continue the integration of the bulk of FAOSTAT and FishSTAT data to be released by the end of next year.
- FAO is currently seeking feedback from internal and external data users on the FAODATA Explorer Beta Version to ensure the platform has the best user-driven approach for its visualization and functionalities. Feedback can be provided by email at <a href="mailto:data-explorer@fao.org">data-explorer@fao.org</a>.
- The next phase will focus on the integration of other relevant FAO data assets currently disseminated through a dozen of statistical and data platforms, as well as the new databases that will be created in the future.
- The ongoing FAO project will dovetail with the ongoing efforts for greater data digitalization in Africa to catalyze innovative solutions for data production and improvements in the quality of disseminated statistics.
- Coordination of these interventions will be needed, before long, to maximize their cumulative impacts while decreasing data management and administrative costs through countries' response burden and related statistical work.

## AFCAS Members are invited to:

- Take note of the information reported in this paper;
- Express their views, as deemed appropriate, on the modernization project and its next steps;
- Provide comments on the Beta version of the FAODATA Explorer during the AFCAS session or by contacting the team through: <u>data-explorer@fao.org</u>;
- Make recommendations on the list of FAO data assets that should be prioritized for integration in FAODATA Explorer in the next phase of the project.

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¡Muchas Gracias!

For further information, kindly

Visit: https://dataexplorer.fao.org/

Contact us: data-explorer@fao.org AFCAS 28 LEVERAGING DATA & STATISTICS FOR AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION IN AFRICA