

December 2013



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

E

AFRICAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Twenty-third Session

Rabat, Morocco, 4 – 7 December 2013

OVERVIEW OF FAO'S ACTIVITIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS RELEVANT TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES SINCE THE 22nd SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

I. INTRODUCTION

The last session of the “African Commission on Agricultural Statistics” (AFCAS) was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 30th November to 3rd December 2011. Since then, FAO’s Statistics Division (ESS), other FAO Statistics Units and the FAO Regional Office for Africa have continued working closely with FAO member African countries with a view to developing their capacities in food, agriculture and rural sector statistical data collection, analysis, dissemination and utilisation.

As in the past, FAO’s support to African countries as far as statistics is concerned in the past two years was coordinated among ESS teams at FAO Head Quarter and those of the Regional Office for Africa (RAF) for Sub-Saharan African countries and the Regional Office for the Near East (RNE) for the Northern African countries members of AFCAS.

Activities carried out covered various aspects.

II. METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The Statistics Division carried out several methodological activities in collaboration with the regional offices since the last AFCAS session covering all the domains including food security statistics, agricultural census, economic statistics and Countrystat and the implementation of Global Strategy.

This has results in valuable technical publications relevant for the Africa Region among them:

- The Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics has been translated in French and published;
- Integrating food security information in the national statistical systems, *Experiences, Achievements, Challenges*;

- FAO and the UNFPA publication on “**Directives to link population census and agricultural census with selected countries’ experience**” in English and the French version is at editing level;

All these documents can be down loaded using the below link :
<http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-publications/en/>

Effort has made to continue releasing the FAO statistical yearbooks. During the last biennium, FAO Statistical Yearbook 2012 and 2013 have been published with the new format. Africa Region yearbook "FAO Statistical Yearbook 2012: Africa food and agriculture" has been produced and disseminated in 2013 and the 2013 edition is in the phase of finalization. The documents can be downloaded in the FAO website (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3107e/i3107e00.htm>).

III. FIELD PROGRAMME.

Agricultural census projects

The ESS, RAF and RNE provide technical support to countries through FAO field programmes and projects. The main areas of the support are agricultural censuses, notably support to put in place agricultural census and surveys programme including the modules of the World census of Census of agriculture 2010 and permanent systems for generating current agricultural statistics. All the projects lend great priority to technical, operational and institutional capacity building of national agricultural statistics systems and support to data collection, processing and dissemination including Countrystat platform setting up. The projects are often financed by FAO Technical Cooperation Programmes and Trust Fund.

The most recent field activities comprise:

- Formulation of FAO TCP projects to support the preparation agricultural censuses and Government agricultural census main project documents : Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Congo, Chad, Cameroun, Namibia, Mauritius, Mauritania and Algeria.
- FAO support Congo to prepare a Unilateral trust Fund (UTF) project funded by The Government to support the Congo's 2nd Agricultural census.
- FAO support Côte d'Ivoire to prepare a Government Cooperative Programme (GCP) project to be funded by European Union to support the 3rd agricultural census.
- Technical support for the implementation of agricultural and livestock censuses : Togo, Gambia, Chad, Namibia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone and Mauritius.
- Technical support and backstopping of CountrySTAT project financed by UEMOA for the UEMOA Head Office and 3 selected countries of this sub-regional organization.
- Technical support and backstopping of the agricultural statistics capacity building project of the countries of the East African Community;
- Support for the implementation of the “Statistics from Space – Support to Ethiopia to Improve Agricultural Statistics in Ethiopia” project financed by the BMGF;

In link with the implementation of World Programme for Census of Agricultural (WCA) 2010, FAO carried out capacity building activities. RAF and ESS have organized a Regional workshop on linking population and housing censuses with agricultural censuses. This workshop were organized in Côte d'Ivoire, in collaboration with ENSEA (Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée) in July 2012 for 7 French-speaking countries.

The BMGF project “Strengthen agricultural statistics in Anchor countries: Phase 1 : Assessment of Anchor countries agricultural statistic system”

After the adoption of the Global strategy and the Africa action plan for Africa in 2010 and waiting for the setting up of the Trust Funds and the global governance structures, FAO prepared and got funding from BMGF a project to support 9 countries (7 in Africa and 2 in Asia) to undertake country assessment and prepare country action plan proposal for the implementation of Global strategy at country level in 2011.

The project specifically aims at supporting the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the countries to implement the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics through the development of the country assessment framework and tools and conducting the assessment in selected countries (Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria, Bangladesh and India - with in-depth assessment in the states of Bihar and Orissa).

The project resources permitted to advance in the reflection and preparation of normative work (questionnaire preparation, questionnaire pilot testing, preparation of framework, guideline and tools for the country assessment) and to build capacity for the country through technical workshop for a better implementation of the assessment activities. The selected countries have really taken advantage of the financial support from the project without which the country assessment would not have been preformed. The project has constituted a catalytic means to put in place the governance structure of the project at national level and expedite the implementation of the assessment. In all the countries all the process for the preparation the country assessment have been launched and the first step have been concluded with country assessment questionnaires filed and validated by key national stakeholders. It is foreseen for six (6) countries in Africa and one (1) country in Asia to have the country short term action plan proposal validated and submitted to partners and government for funding.

The BMGF CountrySTAT project phase II- Consolidation, extension and development of Countrystat systems for Sub-Saharan African countries.

The second phase of this project financed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has been operational since June 2011 and covers the 17 countries of the first phase (*Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, and the Zambia*) and 7 other additional Sub-Saharan-African countries.

This phase of the project aims to enhance and institute (in the new countries of the project) the CountrySTAT system in order to organise, integrate, harmonise and disseminate national and sub-regional statistical data as well as metadata on food and agriculture from diverse sources for integration into a single dissemination platform.

During the last two years, the project has continued building the technical and institutional capacities of countries for the management of the CountrySTAT platform; promote cooperation among national structures for the exchange, gathering, validation and dissemination of national data. It would also involve the improvement of the quality and comparability of data through utilisation of international definitions, concepts and classifications.

The number of countries with Countrystat platform functional is increased. Gambia, Sierra Leone and Congo have joined the Countrystat countries in Africa using other projects fund (TCP for Gambia and Sierra Leone and UTF for Congo).

Food security statistics

The FAO Statistics Division has developed, in collaboration with the World Bank, the free stand-alone software '*ADePT-Food Security Module (FSM)*'. ADePT FSM aids in processing food consumption data collected in National Household Surveys (NHS) to derive a set of food security indicators at national and sub national level, necessary for food security policy making. ADePT FSM builds upon the previous Food Security Statistics Module (FSSM), but is more user-friendly than this one. A user Manual has also been developed and will be published by the end of the year.

Trainings on food security statistics from NHS and ADePT FSM were conducted in recent years and some countries used the results as input for their National Food Security Programmes. Some countries – such as Malawi, Mozambique, Sudan, Tanzania, and Kenya – have published their stand-alone Food Insecurity reports using the FAO methodology; other countries – like Uganda – are in the process of incorporating the results of food security analysis in the broader poverty reports. The FAO Statistics Division continues supporting African countries. In 2013, two national trainings were held in Uganda and Burundi; and further activities are planned for next year, such as a regional workshop in West Africa.

IV. OTHER ACTIVITIES

FAO and IFDC (International Fertilizer Development Centre) pledged to work together for a better collection and dissemination of data on fertiliser in Africa. This partnership is being done with support from IFDC to national CountrySTAT teams with a view to improving coverage, comprehensiveness of data collected and disseminated in the CountrySTAT system. Fertilizer working group have been created within the Countrystat technical working group to harmonized fertilizer statistics. This collaboration has contributed to build capacity and to improve fertilizer statistic in the selected countries (Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Mozambique).

LIST OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 22nd AFCAS SESSION AND THEIR STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

| <u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u> | <u>STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION</u> |
|---|---|
| 1. <u>recommended</u> that FAO provides the necessary training and training materials allowing for enhanced analysis of available gender related sex-disaggregated data, providing policymakers with the required gender information on the basis of which they can make relevant policy decisions | Gender equality and rural women empowerment are in the paramount of the FAO work. Gender issue is mainstreamed in all FAO strategic planning and work plan implementation process. One of the activities FAO will focus during the next biennium is "develop the gender competence and skills in countries and of FAO staff to prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate gender-sensitive policies, investments and programmes". In the area of statistics the work is focus at making available gender-disaggregated data through Agricultural censuses and surveys and dissemination of agri-gender toolkit. |
| 2. <u>recommended</u> that cost of production and post harvest losses be put as priority in the research topics for Africa. | Post harvest losses and cost of production have been put as priority research topics of the Global strategy research component. Research activities on these topics are included in Funded Projects under the Global strategy |
| 3. <u>recommended</u> that on-the-job training be emphasized during the implementation phase of the training component of the Africa Action Plan of the Global Strategy. | This recommendation is fully implemented through the training component managed by UNECA |
| 4. <u>encouraged</u> FAO and UNFPA to continue providing technical guidelines and standard questions for linking population and agricultural censuses to African countries, and to organize a series of training activities in the different regions with the participation of demographers and statisticians. | FAO and the UNFPA publication on " Directives to link population census and agricultural census with selected countries' experience " in English and in French. A Regional workshop on "linking population and housing censuses with agricultural censuses" has been organized in Côte d'Ivoire, in collaboration with ENSEA (École Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée) in July 2012 for 7 French-speaking countries and more than 17 participants. |
| 5. <u>requested</u> FAO to document and evaluate all best practices about the new tools (CAPI/GPS, PDA) and prepare guidelines and training materials on the use of these devices | HANDBOOK ON THE USE OF GPS/PDA IN THE MEASUREMENT OF CULTIVATED LAND AREAS : After survey conducted in certain pilot countries to test the use of GPS to measure cereal acreage and an Experts meeting in 2008 to discuss the findings, FAO, in collaboration with the EU Joint Research Centre, the World Food Programme and CIRAD have prepared a "Handbook on the use of geo-positioning instruments (GPS, PDA) for measuring crop areas in agricultural statistics". The publication is still expected. |
| 6. <u>recommended</u> that FAO, the AFCAS member countries, and regional organizations work together for the improvement of the coverage of food and agriculture in international classifications and their extension at country level. | FAO has continuing his work on classification in collaboration with other international organizations takes into account this recommendation. |
| 7. <u>requested</u> FAO to work in close collaboration with countries in the validation process of Supply Utilization Accounts/ Food Balance Sheets (SUA/FBS), (through CountrySTAT focal points) in order to ensure better compatibility of Food Balance Sheets available on the | FAO has successfully migrated the Countrystat system from PC-Axis platform to FENIX platform. The SUA/FBS module of Countrystat will help country to generate harmonized data to prepare regularly SUA/FBS and the institutional framework to validate and officialise the figures with support |

| | | |
|-----|---|--|
| | FAO website and those developed by the AFCAS member countries and regional organizations. | of FAO. |
| 8. | <u>requested</u> FAO to organize capacity building through training workshops on Supply Utilization Accounts/ Food Balance Sheets (SUA/FBS) in collaboration with CountrySTAT. | FAO has continued to organize workshop on SUA/FBS in the framework of projects |
| 9. | <u>asked</u> FAO to document, assess and harmonize the concepts and methods used by countries for collecting and compiling producer prices, and organize the expert consultative meeting in order to prepare guidelines. | Estimation of farm gate prices is one of the research topics of the Global strategy and source of funding has been identified to undertake the research. |
| 10. | <u>recommended</u> further research and clarifications on the methodologies for developing agriculture investment statistics. | FAO work on methodologies and data collection on agriculture investment statistics has been pursued within a specific team that handle this task. |
| 11. | <u>recommended</u> improved cooperation between FAO and other partner institutions that are conducting studies in agriculture investment statistics | On going |