



## ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

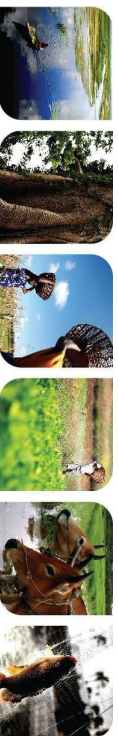
<b>TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION</b>
<b>Thimphu, Bhutan, 15-19 February 2016</b>
<b>Agenda Item: Any Other Business</b>
<b>Issues in the collection of FAO data – Results of the APCAS Questionnaire</b>

Contributed by:

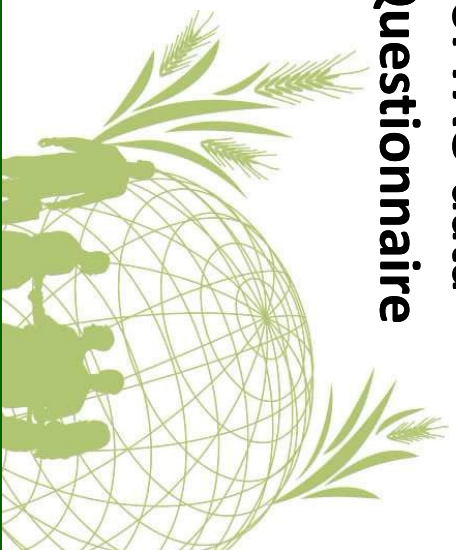
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Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



## Issues in the collection of FAO data – Results of the APCAS Questionnaire



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APCAS 26, Bhutan, 15-19 February 2016



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## Questionnaire evaluation – response rates and data quality

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- 100% Response Rate, 100% Completion Rate
- All 18 Asia & Pacific Countries attending APCAS26:  
Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, PR China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Samoa, Thailand, Vietnam
- Some countries had more than one respondent, in which case, results were aggregated aggregated for the country
- Six countries interested in piloting new data collection methods:  
Bhutan, Fiji, Nepal, Maldives, Philippines, Samoa
- Lessons Learned: The following to questionnaire completeness
  - Short, targeted questionnaires.
  - Strong field staff
  - Follow-up
  - Building relationship between survey team and respondent

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## Challenges in Completing FAO Questionnaires, %

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1. Challenges in completing FAO questionnaires? Check all that apply	Percent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Questionnaires are too long/burdensome	66.7
<input type="checkbox"/> Questionnaire(s) sent to wrong contact in my country	38.9
<input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient guidelines/support provided by FAO in completing questionnaires	44.4
<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of data availability in my country	44.4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of human resources/expertise in my country	50.0
<input type="checkbox"/> Confidentiality concerns (please indicate below in which domain)	11.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain below)	33.3

### Other - explanations:

- Coding mistakes - e.g. GEA-Agriculture Research
- Questionnaire units of measure differ from what country collects (e.g. hectares versus acres, kg versus bundles, piles, etc.)
- Data sharing prohibited by law till date

2. How could FAO and member countries could improve completion of FAO questionnaires? <i>Please check all that apply, and underline the most important.</i>	%
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*Coordination/consolidation mechanisms*

<input type="checkbox"/> Countries establish single focal point/contact for receipt of all FAO questionnaires	<b>61.1</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>FAO establish a single FAO focal point/contact for all FAO questionnaires</b>	<b>55.6</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Countries share calendar of data availability/dissemination, for FAO's use	44.4
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>FAO establish a calendar of questionnaire mail-outs/data requests for countries</b>	<b>55.6</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAO consolidate all its questionnaires into a single mega-questionnaire	16.7
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>FAO officials responsible for data collection have closer regular interaction with my officials completing questionnaires</b>	<b>61.1</b>

*Alternative data collection approaches*

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>FAO develop and pilot on-line/internet data collection</b>	<b>55.6</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAO develop and pilot APIs and electronic reporting by countries	22.2
<input type="checkbox"/> FAO work with countries to develop custom tables/reports based on country databases	38.9
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)	16.7

## Technical Assistance, Capacity Development Domains of Interest, %

3. Technical Assistance/Capacity Development: Domains of specific interest for Technical Assistance/Capacity Development in my country are ( <i>check all that apply</i> ):	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Data collection approaches	55.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Data analysis/validation ( <b>4 highlighted as most important</b> )	<b>88.9</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Data reporting/compilation	61.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Data dissemination	55.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Data processing/management (including software training) ( <b>1 highlighted</b> )	<b>61.1</b>
4. My country would be interested in training or workshops to facilitate data reporting in the following ( <i>Please check all that apply, highlight most important</i> ):	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Production ( <b>3 highlighted</b> )	<b>72.2</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Trade Flows ( <b>1 highlighted</b> )	<b>66.7</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Producer Prices ( <b>2 highlighted</b> )	<b>61.1</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Fertilizers	61.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticides Use ( <b>2 highlighted</b> )	<b>66.7</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use	66.7
<input type="checkbox"/> Government Expenditures in Agriculture ( <b>5 highlighted</b> )	<b>66.7</b>

## Other Comments/Suggestions

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- FAO should have a vision in world data management: "*One data in the world*"
- FAO provide on-the-job training; Train on Food Balance Sheets;
- FAO help to establish a national agricultural information portal
- FAO develop On-line application which countries can log in to fill data
- For Fertilizers, Pesticides Use and Government Expenditures, we (the statistical unit) don't have expertise to collect that data.
- Create single focal point to response to FAO data request; send questionnaire template as early as possible before deadline; provide specific deadline
- Improve coordination, connection and cooperation between FAO and Country Levels (especially statisticians in MoA and NSO).
- FAO take full account of the status of agricultural statistics in each country, and improve statistics index systems to increase consistency (e.g. level of detail) of statistics across member nations.
- Try to find available data to fill questionnaire and send it back by deadline.
- The present system is alright. Assess only if phrasing changes are required.



**For more information, please contact**

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**Thank you!**

