



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
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des
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Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

Issues in the collection of FAO data

*Agenda Item 3:
FAO's Activities in Food and Agricultural Statistics
relevant to Africa Region since the last 23rd Session of the Commission*

**AFRICAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
Twenty-Fourth Session
Kigali, Rwanda 01 – 04 December 2015**

Outline

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1. Introduction: challenges and issues
2. Patterns and trends in responses (2007-2013)
3. Possible Explanations
4. Recommendations made at AFCAS 23
5. Questions/Proposed Recommendations for AFCAS-24

1. Challenges and issues

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Data requirements: Increasing

- Worldwide: need for evidence-based decision making on food security, poverty reduction and resilience, agricultural growth and productivity, sustainable growth
- Africa: need for indicators to monitor progress in reducing extreme hunger and poverty, increasing government expenditures on agriculture, increasing productivity growth: Maputo Declaration, Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), indicators for Malabo goals, new SDGs

Data availability: Decreasing

- Challenge 1: falling data quality/response
- Challenge 2: increased imputation to compute regional/international indicators

2. Patterns and Trends in Responses (2007-2013)

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- FAO dispatches 6 annual questionnaires, while trade data is collected through electronic data files (UNSD)

Production	Pesticide Use	Trade Flows
Producer Prices	Fertilizers	Government Expenditures
Land Use		

- Average response rates of 70% for Production
- Much lower for the other domains: 35% for Producer Prices, less than 30% for all others
- Except for Production, response rate is consistently less than that of the rest of the world
- For the most part, Middle Africa has the lowest response rates, with less than 10% for Producer Prices and Land Use
- Overall the situation is not significantly different in 2013 compared to 2007

2. Data availability and quality in the region (2007-2013)

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Africa vs Global Response Rate Trends, 2007-2013 average

Region	Prod	Trade	PP	Land	Fert	Pest	GEA
Eastern Africa	63%	58%	32%	15%	28%	22%	35%
Middle Africa	67%	38%	6%	5%	13%	10%	11%
Northern Africa	71%	57%	67%	52%	43%	28%	33%
Southern Africa	57%	49%	31%	23%	14%	7%	50%
Western Africa	79%	63%	32%	15%	28%	26%	16%
Africa, Total	70%	62%	35%	20%	27%	21%	29%
WORLD	48%	77%	48%	43%	48%	37%	51%

2. Data availability and quality in the region (2007-2013)

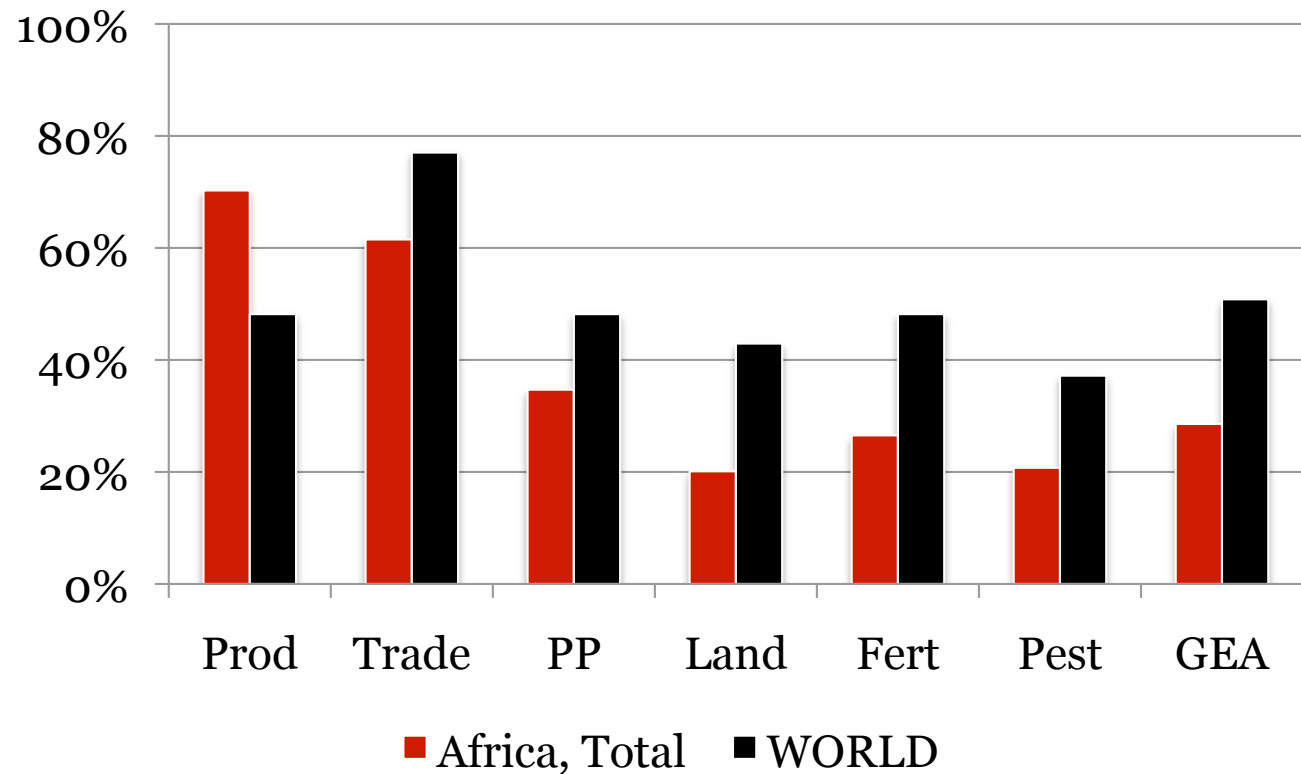
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Trends in the Africa Region Response Rates, 2007-2013

Domain	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Production	63%	78%	80%	76%	73%	67%	55%
Trade	65%	67%	61%	57%	51%	65%	63%
P.Prices	37%	33%	27%	33%	41%	37%	37%
Land	37%	33%	27%	33%	41%	37%	37%
Fertilizer	41%	27%	18%	27%	24%	24%	24%
Pesticides	10%		20%	24%	22%	29%	18%
GEA					31%		27%

2. Data availability and quality in the region (2007-2013)

AFCAS vs World response rates by questionnaire, 2007-2013 averages



2. Data availability and quality in the region (2007-2013)

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FREQUENTLY REPORTING:

reported 5+ times (excluding Gov. Ex.)

- Mauritius in 6 out of 7 periods
- Egypt and Morocco in 5 out of 7 periods
- Kenya, Madagascar, Botswana, South Africa in 4 out of 7 periods
- No country responded to all FAO questionnaires in 7 periods

NEVER REPORTING: never provided data to FAO

- Somalia, South Sudan, Equatorial Guinea

2. Data availability and data quality in the region (2007-2013)

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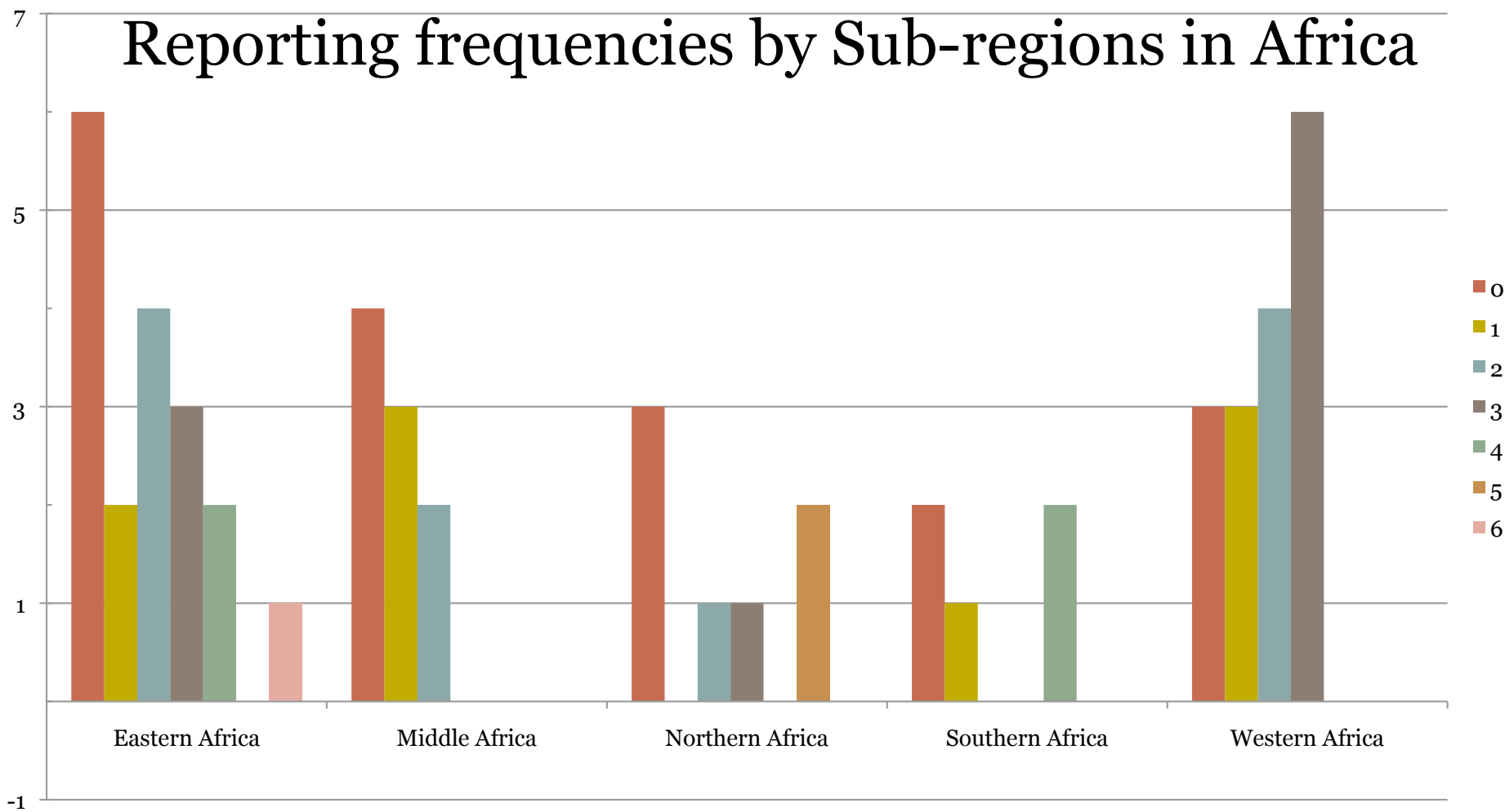
IRREGULAR REPORTING:

reported 1-4 times and 1 time for Gov. Expenditures

- The vast majority of AFCAS members irregularly report data.
- Irregular or incomplete reporting makes it difficult to build consistent time series for each data domain
- Largest challenges in this group faced by Djibouti, Gabon, Liberia, Libya, Swaziland who responded only once
- Use of these data is increasing, e.g. to populate the System of Economic and Environmental Accounts for Agriculture, Economic Accounts for Agriculture, and Capital Stock

2. Data availability and data quality in the region (2007-2013)

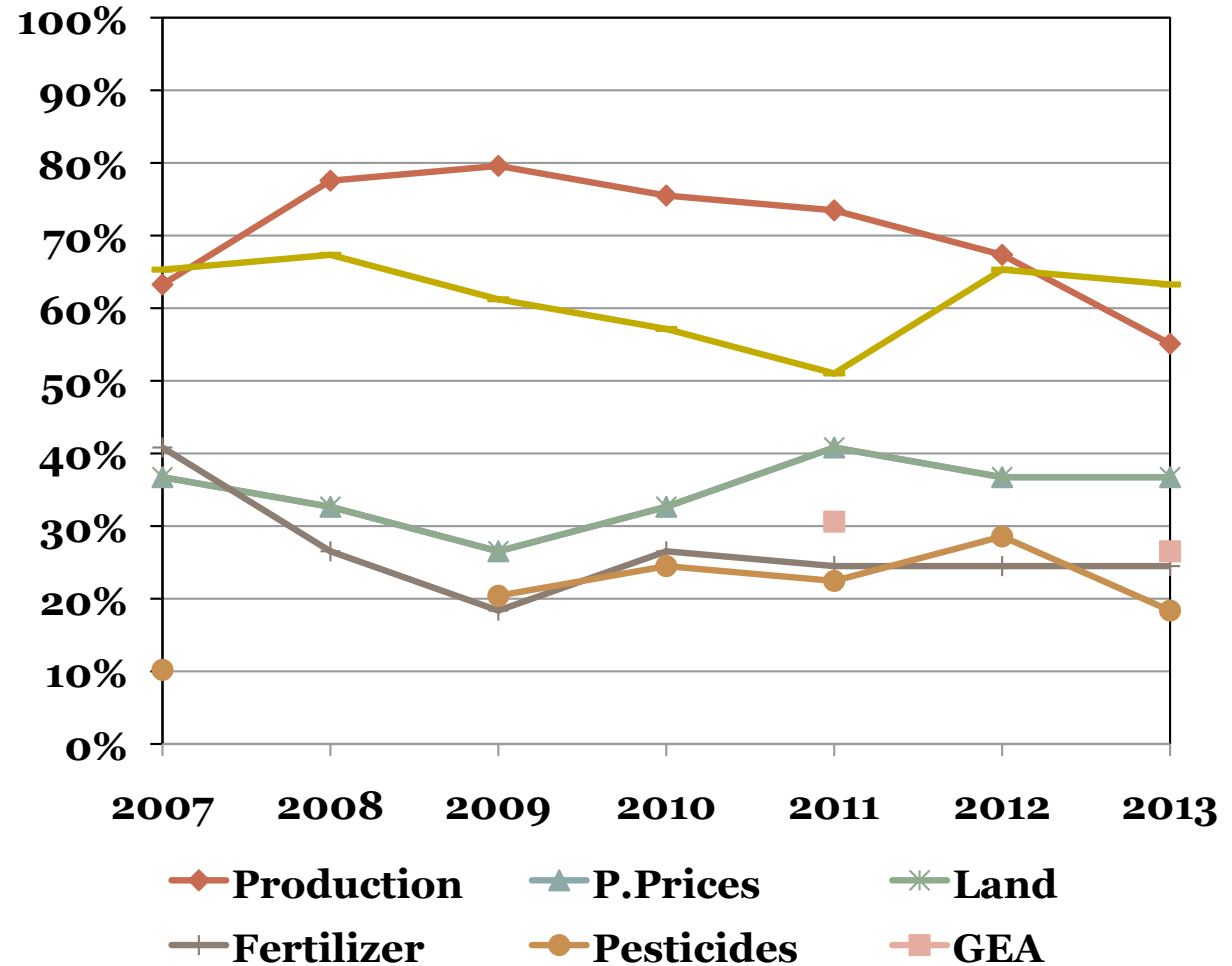
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3. Patterns and trends in response and quality

Response rate trends (2007-2013):
Production, Trade, Producer Prices, Land, Fertilizer, Pesticides, Government Expenditures

Response rates by questionnaire in the Africa Region, 2007-2013



4. Possible Explanations for the Results

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Possible explanations - for feed-back

- **Increased burden**
 - FAO questionnaires (length, complexity, number, etc.)
 - All sources (regional/international ORGs, NGOs, etc.)
- **Resource issues**
 - Budget/HR constraints at country level
 - Staff turnover/loss of experience
- **Lack of country-level data**
 - Less than annual frequency, or
 - No data collection, in some domains
- **Training needs**
- **Confidentiality issues**
- **Other ?**

4. Recommendations made at AFCAS-23

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Possible solutions – Presented at AFCAS-23

- Single focal point at country-level
- International classification systems at country-level in-lieu of national classification systems
- Improved metadata reporting at country-level (classifications, content, format, frequency, coverage, etc.)
- Training and workshops via internet
- Data reporting/collection with alternative means: on-line/internet, CountrySTAT, APIs
- Regional data peer-review process

4. Recommendations made at AFCAS-23

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Short-Term Recommendations - for discussion

1. Country-level:

- Single contact registry (up-to-date)
- Improved metadata reporting
- Higher priority to questionnaire completion

2. FAO-level:

- Strengthen statistical capacity via questionnaire workshops on rationale, measures, classifications, imputation method, other topics required

3. Country- and FAO-level:

- Address confidentiality through MoU's on data provision and dissemination
- Establish AFCAS-FAO group to peer-review country data

4. Recommendations made at AFCAS-23

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Medium to Long-Term Recommendations - for discussion

4. Country-level:

- Adoption of international classification systems
- Development of platforms to support APIs
- SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange)

5. FAO-level:

- on-line/mobile data collection
- Development of platforms to support APIs
CountrySTAT as Food Security Hub

6. Country- and FAO-level:

- Formal mechanism of country consultation
- Global Committee on Agricultural Statistics , to:

- (a) better coordinate, standardize recommendations, activities f. regional bodies
- (b) provide global forum for countries to review/endorse methodological and other normative work

4. Recommendations made at AFCAS-23

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Recommendations made by AFCAS-23

Low response rates by countries to FAO questionnaires could be improved through the following measures:

- Identifying and designating focal points at national level.
- Improving coordination mechanisms with the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS).
- Organizing specific training and workshops addressing data related issues.
- Developing and using new data sharing technologies, such as web based questionnaires, Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), and Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange formats (SDMX).

5. Questions/Proposed Recommendations for AFCAS-24

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Questions for AFCAS-24:

- Despite all of the efforts made to improve capacities there has not been much improvement during the period 2007 – 2013 and in fact in some cases a further deterioration of progress?
- What can be done in the short- and long-term to reverse this trend?

5. Questions/Proposed Recommendations for AFCAS-24

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Proposed Recommendations for AFCAS-24:

To improve response rates and questionnaire completion:

- a) the FAO regional statistician, FAO HQ, and countries improve coordination mechanisms, such as maintaining up-to-date national focal point(s), endorsing and implementing new methodological guidelines, and peer-reviewing data and methodologies to be published by FAO, particularly where estimations and imputations are undertaken.
- b) FAO pilot multiple-mode data collection, such as on-line questionnaires and APIs, and select member countries pilot with FAO new data sharing technologies; and
- c) countries submit questionnaires even when new data is not available, indicating the reason for lack of availability.

5. Questions/Proposed Recommendations for AFCAS-24

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Proposed Recommendations for AFCAS-24:

- To address the specific FAO questionnaire challenges in the region, countries collaborate with FAO through the regional statistician, to request and support targeted capacity development/training workshops, and FAO support to countries in conducting Censuses/surveys.
- To reduce the burden on countries and improve data quality, FAO coordinate across its questionnaires to reduce duplication and overlap, and exploit the new Statistical Working System to give countries opportunities to review their data before publication by FAO.



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Thank you

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