

## Contributing to International Classification of Agricultural Products

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**Abstract:** A common classification is a powerful infrastructure and tool for coordinating and integrating official statistics as well as to ensure the comparability of statistical data over time and across sections and countries. For a long time, however, there had not been a common international classification for agricultural products in the world before the Central Product Classification (CPC) version 2.0 was approved by the 37<sup>th</sup> United Nations Statistical Committee in March 2006. The old CPC was not fully applicable, and, as a result, was not really used in agricultural statistics. The FAOSTAT Commodity List, which was used by FAO and its member countries for collecting and reporting agricultural statistics, was not fully compatible with other international classifications such as CPC and the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS). It was obsolete and needed to be updated.

The efforts of aligning agricultural classifications with the overall international classifications have been made in various fronts. The recent revision and update of several international classifications including CPC have provided a rare opportunity for such efforts to be productive and fruitful. The adoption of FAO Proposal for CPC has made the new version of CPC to reflect much better the reality and needs of agricultural statistics than even before. The FAO Proposal for CPC was built on the experience, expertise, and specialty accumulated in FAO through its involvement and contribution in the development of agricultural statistics at both global and national levels. Equipped with sound principles and structure, the new international classification of agricultural products in CPC has been applied to the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 (WCA 2010) and the new FAOSTAT data collection questionnaire.