

Fertilizer Data Collection, Processing and Dissemination: Experiences from the New Fertilizer Domain in FAOSTAT

Robert Mayo

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Rome, Italy

Email: robert.mayo@fao.org

Abstract: During the modernization of FAOSTAT (the major FAO statistical database) the opportunity arose to review the underlying methodologies, streamline data collection devices/processes, and improve user access to statistical data related to fertilizer. This paper outlines the new data collection, processing and dissemination of fertilizer data in FAOSTAT and outlines the current developments. These datasets will provide users with comprehensive fertilizer data for agricultural fertilizer analysis and policy making.

For over five decades, FAO has assembled data on fertilizer production, trade, consumption and disseminated up-dated time series annually in the FAO Fertilizer Yearbook and more recently in FAOSTAT. Since the 1950's, FAO has devoted substantial resources to the development, maintenance and improvement of its fertilizer database. In recent years it became apparent that further improvements in data quality could be achieved by: adopting new methodologies; statistical frameworks; aligning fertilizer statistics definitions and classifications with international classifications; working closer with industry partners and including information from additional international sources. This paper describes these experiences and highlights the major changes that have occurred.

The fertilizer dataset is part of a new Agricultural Resources domain in FAOSTAT that provides not only fertilizers data but also data for such topics as land use, irrigation, labour, agricultural machinery and plant protection products. These topics are integrated with the other domains in FAOSTAT to enable users the opportunity for input/output analysis for agriculture and food, in physical and monetary terms. This paper also provides an overview of how the fertilizer domain is integrated into the overall FAOSTAT framework and the next steps that will be undertaken in the Fertilizer domain in FAOSTAT.