

The SEEA as a Tool for Agricultural Statistics

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Abstract: The United Nations' handbook of environmental accounts, the *System of Environmental and Economic Accounts 2003* (SEEA), represents a set of internationally agreed guidelines for the development of environmental accounts. As such, it is an important document for those wishing to develop systematic statistics relating the environment and the economy, including statistics on agriculture. To ensure consistency with economic statistics, the SEEA adopts many of the standards and concepts of the *System of National Accounts*. The SEEA also extends the boundaries of the System of National Accounts in important ways; for example, by measuring assets and material inputs/outputs that are not bought and sold in markets.

As a framework for organizing statistics on agriculture, the SEEA has much to offer. It provides for accounts of agricultural land area and value. It also provides for accounts of agricultural inputs and outputs, including accounts of water use in agriculture.

An advantage of organizing agricultural statistics using the SEEA is that the system provides for consistent information across all sectors. Thus, agricultural statistics are made consistent with environmental statistics for the mining and manufacturing industries, for households and for governments.

This talk will briefly present the SEEA and discuss some of the ways it can be used to organize and present agricultural statistics.