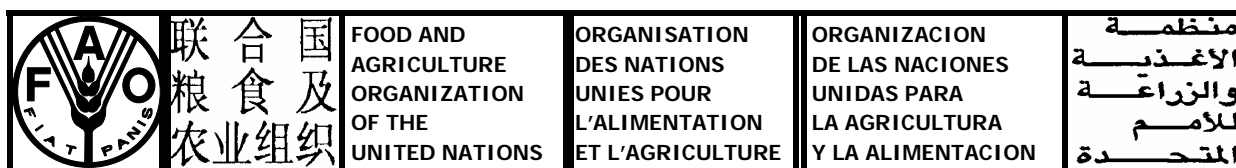


September 2005



Agenda Item 4

AFRICAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
Nineteenth Session
MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE, 24 - 27 OCTOBER 2005
FAO's ACTIVITIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS RELEVANT TO AFRICA REGION SINCE THE LAST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

The last session of the “African Commission on Agricultural Statistics” (AFCAS) was held in October 2003 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Since then, the Statistics Division (ESS) has been working closely with FAO member states in Africa to strengthen their capacity to collect, analyse, disseminate and use statistical data on food, agriculture and rural sector. The support of ESS has been channelled through three headquarter services (Surveys and Statistical Development Service-ESSS; Basic Food and Agriculture Statistics Service-ESSB and Socio-Economic Statistics and Analysis Service-ESSA) and the decentralised units (Regional Office-RO and Sub-Regional Office-SRO for Africa). Activities have been also conducted in pilot countries by ESS FAOSTAT2/CountrySTAT project. The Division has undertaken many other normative activities with direct relevance to African countries and many of which take into account AFCAS recommendations as indicated in Annex.

The **Surveys and Statistical Development Service (ESSS)** promotes the development and improvement of national systems of food and agricultural statistics in support of rural and agricultural policies and programmes. It assists member countries in their statistical capacity building and promotes the evaluation, application and dissemination of appropriate methodologies, especially for agricultural censuses and surveys, including training, seminars and other technical meetings. It promotes the collection and dissemination of data in areas of special social and economic interest. The Service provides technical support in statistical development required by the decentralized structure, particularly to project formulation and implementation

Within its overall mandate the support from the **Service**, has been working jointly with the Regional and Sub-regional Statisticians to respond to needs expressed by the countries, through direct requests from Governments and through the recommendations adopted by the last Commission in Yaoundé and subsequent regional or expert meetings. The most relevant features of this work are summarized below.

Field Programme

ESSS and RO/SRO provide technical support to countries through FAO's field programmes and projects. The main areas of support are agricultural censuses, on-going systems of agricultural statistics and institutional strengthening, agricultural statistics for food security and early warning information systems, statistical data processing. All projects give high priority to strengthening technical and operational capacity of national agricultural statistics systems. The projects are usually funded by FAO Technical Cooperation Programme Funds and Trust Funds.

4. The most recent activities related to field programme include:

- Formulation of agricultural statistics and census projects: Eritrea, Liberia, Angola, Malawi, Zambia;
- Preparation or implementation of agricultural censuses: Chad, Comoros Island, Madagascar, Niger, United Republic of Tanzania;
- On-going systems of agricultural statistics and institutional strengthening: Central African Republic, Mozambique, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritius, Tunisia (technical supervisory services of statistics component of WB funded agricultural sector support project);
- Agricultural statistics for food security and early warning information systems: Angola.

The list of FAO projects in Statistics may be consulted at: <http://www.fao.org/es/ess/tap/default.asp>

The Initiative for Strengthening Food and Agricultural Statistics in Africa

As a follow-up to the recommendation from the 17th AFCAS and Workshop, FAO in close collaboration with Partner Agencies and in the framework of PARIS21 (**PAR**tnership **I**n **S**tatistics for the **21**st Century) has developed two complementary regional projects funded respectively by the World Bank and France. These two Interim projects are designed as the first stage in a longer-term process that should help to mobilize substantial resources to improve food and agricultural statistics throughout Africa. The overall goal of these two projects is to reduce rural poverty and food insecurity in Africa through the promotion of more effective policies, programme and other investments. The projects will contribute to this goal by increasing the availability and use of data to support rural poverty reduction and food security strategies. Several capacity building and pilot country activities have been implemented under this interim phase. A detailed report will be presented on the activities implemented under this Initiative during this Session of the Commission.

Expert Consultation on Horticulture Statistics, Harare, Zimbabwe, 19-22 July 2004.

The consultation brought together 9 experts from different regions of the world all of whom were either Horticultural Agronomists or Statisticians in order to benefit from their experience and ultimately come up with harmonized methodologies of collecting horticultural statistics.

The main aim of this consultation was to learn from experiences of other countries and find ways of harmonizing methodologies of collecting horticultural statistics on area under cultivation and production

The meeting was a joint effort of the FAO Statistics Division/ESS, Headquarters, Rome and the FAO Sub-Regional Office for Southern and Eastern Africa/SAFR, Harare, Zimbabwe in close cooperation with the FAO Regional Office for Africa in Accra, Ghana. A total of 10 papers were presented and discussed extensively. A report on the proceedings of the Expert Consultation is available.

Capacity Building (Workshops, Seminars, Training Sessions)

“Workshop on rural and agricultural statistics for policy support: best practices and emerging methods” October 2003, Yaoundé, Cameroon

This workshop was organized back to back with the last session of AFCAS. The workshop focused on 4 main themes: (i) agricultural statistics components of national statistical systems, (ii) Analysis and use of rural and agricultural statistics for policy support and poverty alleviation and food security, (iii) Best practices and new tools for statistical data collection, dissemination processing and management, (iv) future developments related to the international initiative for strengthening food and agricultural statistics. The Workshop recommendations were endorsed by the 18th Session.

Workshop on Surveys Data Analysis Package (SDAP) applied to Agricultural Censuses and Surveys: Eastern Africa Statistical Training Center, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, 21 June – 2 July 2004.

This was a regional training workshop for 18 participants from English and Portuguese Speaking African Countries on Surveys Data Analysis Package (SDAP) applied to Agricultural Censuses and Surveys. The overall purpose is a better dissemination and use of survey data and metadata, and safeguarding of institutional memory. This workshop was funded the International Initiative for “Strengthening Agricultural Statistics for Poverty Reduction and Food Security in Rural Africa” (project GCP/INT/874/WB).

Joint FAO/AfDB Training Session on the use of statistics in support of policies: African Development Bank, Tunis, Tunisia: 22 August- 02 September 2005

The Surveys and Statistical Development Service (ESSS), in collaboration with the Agricultural Policy Support Service (TCAS), organized this workshop jointly with the African Development Bank. The purpose was to train agricultural 19 statisticians and policy analyst from selected French speaking countries on the use of the statistics in support to the policies: Analysis of Policy Impact on Poverty and Food Security and Commodity Chain Analysis as well as Data requirement for performing these analyses. This workshop was funded the International Initiative for “Strengthening Agricultural Statistics for Poverty Reduction and Food Security in Rural Africa” (project GCP/INT/874/WBK)

High Level Regional Seminar on the Development of Integrated Agricultural Statistics Systems in Support of Food Security Policies and Programmes: Accra: 19-22 September 2005

The Seminar was organized for ECOWAS countries as part of the Interim phase of the International Initiative for Strengthening Food and Agriculture Statistics. The meeting was funded mainly through the French funded component of the Initiative (project GCP/INT/903/FRA). More details on the meeting will be provided under Agenda Item 4.2

The **Basic Food and Agriculture Statistics Service (ESSB)** compiles, critically evaluates, maintains and disseminates statistics on production, agricultural trade and its flow by origin and destination. It prepares domestic supply and utilization accounts for crops and livestock products, as well as for food balances and other derived statistics. A principal aim of the Service is to strive for comparability in its world food and agriculture data base as the information is obtained from a broad array of national statistics agencies following diverse data collection methodologies

The Service has implemented several activities in support of national statistics systems in Africa Region since the last AFCAS:

Advisory Technical Services (ATS) input to country projects, in Rwanda, Central African Republic, Cameroon and Kenya.

The technical support provided was to assist relevant national services in identification of data gaps and weakness and preparation of Supply Utilization Accounts/Food Balance Sheets (SUA/FBS) and train staff in their compilation. The following activities were implemented:

- Review of data sets relevant to the construction of SUAs and FBS available in countries;
- Three-day group training session for national staff in the concepts and methodology used in the construction of SUAs and FBS;
- Identification of weaknesses and gaps in the current data set as well as recommendations for improvements;
- Proposal and recommendations for the establishment of a national framework for the regular compilation of SUA and FBS

The **Socio-Economic Statistics Analysis Service (ESSA)** compiles and analyzes socio-economic and agricultural statistics, food consumption and demographic data and derives indicators pertaining to the food and nutrition situation; prepares global studies and also compiles, evaluates and disseminates statistics on food consumption. It also derives agricultural output and productivity indicators, is responsible for environmental statistical issues, and for developing statistics on agricultural inputs, land use data, agricultural prices, production costs, investment and development assistance to agriculture. The information in these areas is disseminated through the maintenance of specific FAOSTAT databases, ESS web site, yearbooks and other publications, CD-ROM and floppy-disks

A new domain on Food Security Statistics has been recently loaded on the ESS web site which is a consolidated set of statistics related to food security. Main themes covered are food deprivation, food needs, food consumption, production and trade, diet composition, access to food, food aid and child nutritional status. It also includes statistical reports by country on the progress in reaching the hunger reduction targets established in the World Food Summit (FAO, Rome, 1996) and the Millennium Declaration (UN, New York, 2000).

The main activities of the Service in the Africa Region are included in the continuing programme and form part of FAO's core statistical work.

ESSA provided technical assistance in training staff of the Statistics Department of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and Agricultural Planning and Statistics Division of the Ministry of Agriculture in Kigali in the preparation and analysis of data for food security and consumption analysis from the Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey (2000 – 2001) under the Interim World Bank Project – GCP/INT/874/wbk.

There is also an on going project with the Zambian Central Statistical Office in support of the data entry and statistical analysis and report writing of food consumption data from the Living Conditions Monitoring Survey 2002-03.

ESSA and the Regional Office (FAORNE) conducted a *National Demonstration Centre (NDC) on Food Security and Consumption Statistics from Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) at Cairo, Egypt 16-26 April 2005*. The objective was to strengthen country capability in deriving and analyzing food security statistics. The NDC provided training to twenty one experts from national statistical organizations and national food security units of ten Countries of Near East and North Africa in the derivation and analysis of statistics relevant for policy-making and monitoring progress in hunger reduction goals. A major component of the training was the application of computerized statistical procedures focused on food security analysis.

FAOSTAT/CountrySTAT

FAOSTAT, the FAO statistical database, is an on-line multilingual database currently containing over 3 million time-series records from over 210 countries and territories covering agriculture, nutrition, fisheries, forestry, food aid, land use and population.

Policy formulators and decision-makers, FAO staff, researchers, private enterprise and the public at large use FAOSTAT as a data source and analytical tool. They look to it to provide comparative, comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date statistical information.

Work is currently underway to make FAOSTAT even more reliable and useful. The FAOSTAT renewed initiative will result in a system that will allow FAO to continue to meet its Strategic Framework Objective of providing *"an integrated information resource base with current, relevant and reliable statistics, information and knowledge made accessible to all FAO clients"*.

The development of CountrySTAT, a scaled down version of FAOSTAT, will inspire national statistical systems. CountrySTAT is being pilot tested in selected countries in the world including two African countries, Kenya and Ghana. Also, work is underway to develop a regional agricultural information system for UEMOA using FAOSTAT/CountrySTAT concepts and framework. A more detailed presentation and discussion on FAOSTAT and CountrySTAT will be done under Agenda Item.. of this Session.

New Publications

Statistics Division's Publications (see on FAO Statistics Division's Website: <http://www.fao.org/es/ess/>)

FAO Statistical Yearbook 2004

With a view to achieve efficiency and streamlining, as well as improve the presentation of the statistical information provided to Member Nations, the Statistics Division has undertaken a major re-organization of the main yearbooks of statistics. This step will update and modernize the print dissemination at a time when the FAO statistics database (FAOSTAT) itself is being modernized in this technological age.

With effect from 2005, the FAO Production, Trade and Fertilizer Yearbooks and the FAO Bulletin of Statistics will be replaced by an annual multilingual publication entitled FAO Statistical Yearbook, in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish. Issue 2 is now out on mini CD-Rom.

Compendium of food and agriculture indicators, 2004

This compendium is the fourth edition of a document aimed at providing a set of indicators pertaining to the food and agricultural sector for the various countries in the world as a handy reference for analysts working on food and agricultural issues.

The indicators, which are presented in the form country tables, refer to two historical periods, i.e. 1979-1981 and 1989-1991, and the latest four years for which data are available i.e. 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002. In this connection it should be noted that for the countries forming the independent republics of the former USSR and former Yugoslavia data are available only since 1992; while the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Eritrea and Ethiopia data are available only since 1993. Therefore for all these countries the indicators are given for the latest four years only.

Summary of World Food and Agricultural Statistics 2003

This report shows a broad range of statistics pertaining to world food and agriculture. It presents, where appropriate, the differences between developed and developing countries, continents and regions. It is hoped that managers and policy-makers dealing with international issues relating to food and agriculture will find the tables useful. The tables are organized in sections covering agriculture macroeconomic indicators, population and labour force, land use and agricultural inputs, water resources and irrigation, agricultural production and trade, forestry production and trade, fishery production and trade, food nutrition and food security. The figures given refer to the most recent period for which data are available and, where relevant, for selected benchmark periods to allow analysis of trends over time.

The FAO Food Balance Sheets (FBS)

Present three-year averaged data on both food supply and utilization. These data are primarily in physical weight; however, supply data are shown as kilograms per caput, per year, and are converted to calories, protein and fat, per day. This nutritional breakdown makes the information extremely useful for further analysis and elaboration. The publication also contains time series for food supply, expressed in kilograms per year, and in calories, protein and fat, per day.

Compendium of Agricultural - Environmental Indicators (1989-91 to 2000)

World Programme of Census of Agriculture 2010

FAO's Statistics Division is currently finalising the Programme for the 2010 round of agricultural censuses, covering the period from 2005 to 2014. The programme is expected to be finalized in 2005. A leaflet on key features has been also prepared.

Regional Office Publications

AFRICA: Statistical yearbook and Selected Indicators of Food and Agriculture 1993-2003

For the first time, a new statistical publication has been launched by the Regional Office for Africa in collaboration with FAO Headquarters. The first edition 1993-2003 has been released with a companion CD-ROM to the publication. The publication is to be put on RAF web page. It includes thematic maps, country profiles and selected statistical tables and graphs.

Agricultural Census and Gender: Lessons learned

This joint technical publication has been prepared under technical supervision of Senior Officer, Gender and Development and Senior Statistician, of the Regional Office for Africa. Case studies from Namibia, Mozambique and Senegal are being used in the publication which includes also inputs from national consultants in these countries. A leaflet on key findings has been also prepared.

ANNEX
LIST OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 18th SESSION OF AFCAS AND THEIR STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

RECOMMENDATIONS	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
recommended that FAO should organise more training activities to strengthen national capacity in particular (i) in-depth analysis and use of data on rural and agricultural sector for policy support; (ii) construction and rebasing of indexes and data series; (iii) reconciling census data with current statistics; (iv) survey design and management (paragraph 17c);	Under the International Initiative for Strengthening Food and Agriculture Statistics in Africa, a training Session was organised by FAO and the AfDB for selected French speaking countries on the use of agricultural statistics in support of policy, Tunis, 22 August-02 September .
recommended that FAO provide technical assistance and support to countries in the analysis and utilization of existing food consumption and other food security relevant data from already conducted HIES for food security policy support and updating MDG country reports (paragraph 18b);	See NDC organised in Cairo
recommended that FAO should evaluate, validate and disseminate the methodologies used and results obtained in country experiences in Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping as undertaken by Cape Verde, Senegal and other countries (paragraph 21a);	The FIVIMS Unit has undertaken work also in Madagascar
recommended that the countries that have not completed the questionnaires on the status of national agricultural statistics systems should do so in order that a full analysis of survey results could be carried out by the FAO (paragraph 22b);	Countries
recommended that the key results from the current preliminary analysis of the status of agricultural statistics systems be disseminated through the media and directly to the authorities of the Ministries in charge of Agriculture in each country of the Region (paragraph 23c);	Replies from 43 countries received. Provisional report available.
recommended a comprehensive revision of the questionnaire on the status of national agricultural statistics systems so that it can cover the issues addressed much more clearly and to make it easy to be responded to; more time should also be given for conducting the survey (paragraph 23e);	Revision done and on-line version prepared
recommended that FAO and other development Agencies should conduct studies and develop adequate measurement techniques for minor crops such as vegetables and fruits in subsistence farming (paragraph 23f);	To be done
recommended to countries and to FAO to identify and reinforce communication channels between National Offices in charge of collecting prices of agricultural produce and FAO in order to enhance exchange of price information (paragraph 24b);	FAO Statistics Division continued its efforts to reinforce communication with Member Countries. See activities of ESSA.
recommended that National Statistics Offices undertake analysis of existing data from Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) to document progress towards hunger reduction. The analysis and dissemination of food consumption statistics for food security should follow FAO methodology and be conducted as part of their normal statistical activities. Countries are urged to report progress made to AFCAS Sessions (paragraph 28a);	Countries responsibility
13. recommended that FAO should extend the introduction of its methodologies on the estimation of food consumption statistics to the member countries through workshops and other capacity building activities and specifically	Not yet done because of budget limitations

recommended that FAO organize a training course for French speaking countries similar to the National Demonstration Center implemented in 2003 in Accra, Ghana for English speaking countries (paragraph 28b);	
recommended that Countries planning a Population Census and an Agricultural Census should consider the possibility, where appropriate, to include an agricultural module in the Population Census, as this allows for the establishment of appropriate sampling frame for future agricultural surveys/censuses (paragraph 30a);	WCA2010
recommended that when feasible, countries should consider conducting agricultural censuses through complete enumeration (paragraph 32 a);	WCA2010
recommended that items related to agricultural services, inputs for crop and livestock production and agricultural credit as well as detailed items on employment be included in the design of agricultural census and its scope (paragraph 33a);	WCA2010
recommended to Member Countries that, where relevant, all agricultural data collection exercises covering field/plot level information and especially national agricultural census undertaken in the framework of the 2010 Programme for WCA include the concept of plot manager disaggregated by sex (paragraph 34d);	WCA2010
recommended to FAO that guidelines on the integration of gender concerns be reinforced in the FAO Statistical Development Series supporting the Programme for the World Census of Agriculture of 2010 (paragraph 34f);	New publication on Agricultural Census and Gender
urged FAO for increased efforts to be made in the training of data producers, especially data users on the production and use of gender disaggregated data and in this connection, requested that an Expert Consultation be organised to synthesis the lessons learned about the integration of gender concerns into the 2000 World Census of Agriculture and to “translate” these into relevant training materials (paragraph 34g).	To be done