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**THE NEW FAO GLOBAL STATISTICAL YEARBOOK:
WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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Introduction

In 2011, FAO will release a new corporate publication. The new FAO Global Statistical Yearbook will continue in its previous tradition of serving as the foremost collection and reference point of statistical data related to food and agriculture. But the new version, which is sub-titled “World Food and Agriculture,” goes much further. It is now be a thematic-driven, statistical overview of major trends and issues related to food and agriculture. Trends and key messages of the data – which include over 350 indicators from a variety of sources, from within and outside FAO – drive the accompanying text and graphical aids (charts, tables, and maps). The printed version – together with complementary multimedia products – will be a part of a suite of products that are part of this new statistical yearbook. One other major output of this initiative aims at collaboration with the FAO Regional Offices to produce Regional Statistical Yearbooks. The first edition of the new FAO Global Statistical Yearbook will be released in December 2011, and the Regional Yearbooks will follow during the course of 2012.

Concept

The concept is developed around the idea of adding additional value to FAO statistical data by improving readability and access through an entirely new structure.

The book provides an **introductory section** that gives a broad macroeconomic and social overview of the world.

- Introduction
- People and demography
- Land and water availability
- Labour
- Capital and investment
- Inputs
- Infrastructure
- Macroeconomy

The second section includes key indicators and discussion specifically linked to the theme of hunger, and therefore undernourishment, malnutrition, food prices, poverty and governance.

- Hunger dimensions
- Risks, hazards and shocks
- Undernourishment
- Diets
- The spectrum of malnutrition
- Trade, food stability and food security
- Food prices and food price volatility
- Poverty and inequality
- Good governance
- Education, health and sanitation
- Food aid

The third section, entitled “Feeding the World,” addresses issues related to food production, including crops, livestock, fisheries, and trade.

- Feeding the world
- Aggregate agriculture
- Sources of growth in crop production
- Trends in the crop sector
- Trends in the livestock sector
- Trends in the fisheries sector
- Trends in agricultural trade
- Urban and peri-urban agriculture
- Food losses

The fourth section, “Sustainability dimensions,” covers broader topics on sustainable development, including – but not limited to – land, water, climate change, and biodiversity.

- Environment and sustainability
- Land
- Water
- Pollution from agriculture
- Climate change
- Biodiversity and conservation
- Organic farming
- Genetically modified crops
- Agriculture and the bio-based economy

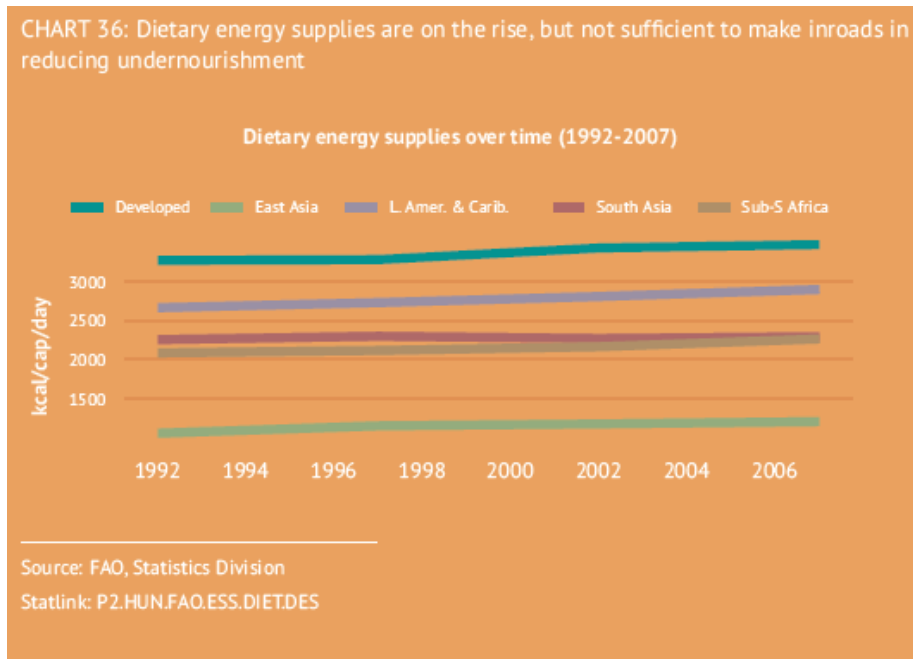
The metadata section concludes the publication. This section lists in detail definitions, sources, relevant notes, and aggregation techniques.

The new FAO Statistical Yearbook’s user-friendly format will greatly increase readability and accessibility of the publication to potential users. Therefore the audience will be broad. It will include, but not be limited to, policy decision makers, researchers and academic institutions, journalists, international organizations, and civic society.

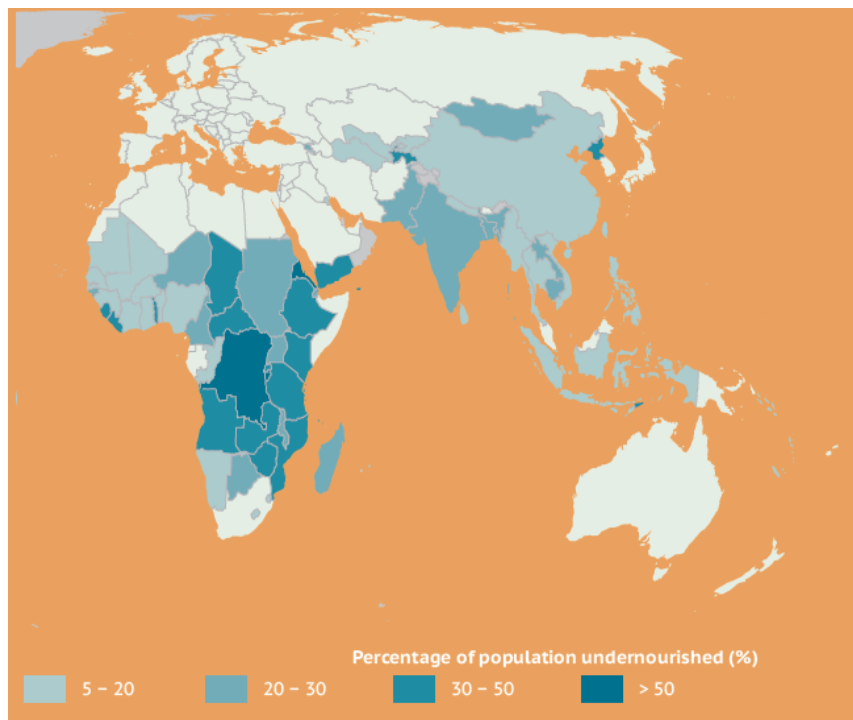
The new Statistical Yearbook draws from a variety of sources, which helps contribute to its richness and range of topics and data provided. First and foremost, new FAO Statistical Yearbook showcases information from various FAO departments and flagships, including *State of Food Insecurity*, *State of Food and Agriculture*, *State of Agricultural Commodity Markets*, *State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture*, *State of the World's Forests*, and *State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture*. Background and supplementary information also comes from sister organizations, which are able to provide greater expertise in specific non-FAO areas. Through its open data initiative, also the World Bank is a major source of key information.

The core of the publication consists of a combination of text and visual renderings, which communicate key themes and bring the data closer to the broad audience. Each section begins with a brief narrative that provides an overview. Then each topic generally contains a map, charts, graphs, and a brief description of the situation and trends.

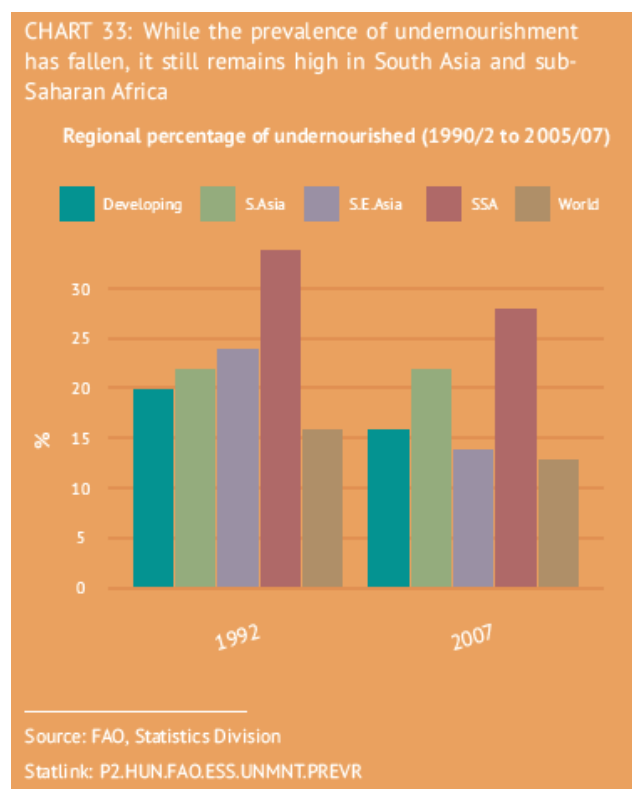
Chart 36 is an example showing dietary energy supply over time



And following map visually represents the percentage of the population that is undernourished:



And one more example, is a bar chart that highlights undernourishment by region.



And each section concludes with detailed tables with country-level and regional data, like with the following example of undernourished figures for selected Sub-Saharan African countries:

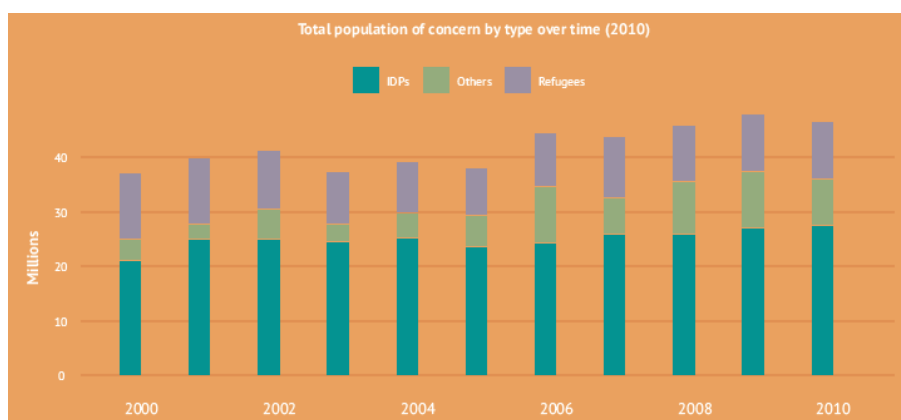
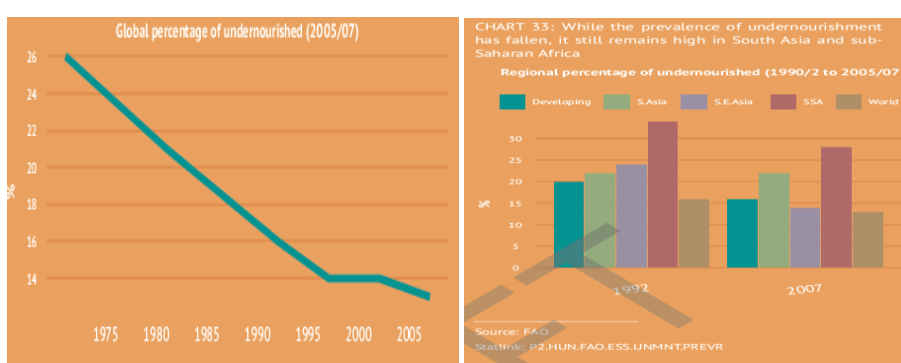
	Percentage of population undernourished			Incidence of undernourishment			Depth of hunger		
	%	%	%	millions	millions	%	kcal/cap/day	kcal/cap/day	%
	1995/97	2005/07	growth: 1995-97 to 2005-07	1995/97	2005/07	growth: 1995-97 to 2005-07	1995/97	2005/07	growth: 1995-97 to 2005-07
Angola	61	41	-3.2	7.8	7.1	-0.3	390	320	-1.8
Benin	18	12	-3.3	1.0	1.0	0.0	230	210	-0.9
Botswana	23	25	1.8	0.4	0.5	3.5	230	240	0.9
Burkina Faso	12	9	-2.9	1.2	1.2	0.0	210	200	-0.6
Burundi	56	62	2.3	3.5	4.7	4.3	350	380	1.4
Cameroon	34	21	-3.0	5.0	3.9	-0.5	260	230	-0.8
Cape Verde	14	10	-1.2	0.1	0.0		190	190	0.0
Central African Republic	47	40	-0.6	1.6	1.7	1.8	320	300	-0.2
Chad	53	37	-3.2	3.9	3.8	0.0	370	310	-1.5
Comoros	47	46	1.3	0.3	0.4	4.7	300	300	0.7
Congo	41	15	-6.6	1.2	0.5	-4.5	310	230	-2.0
Côte d'Ivoire	17	14	-0.5	2.6	2.8	2.6	240	230	0.0
Congo, Dem. Rep.	55	69	6.7	25.5	41.9	10.0	350	410	3.1
Djibouti	50	28	-5.0	0.3	0.2	-2.7	350	290	-2.0
Equatorial Guinea	0	0		0.0	0.0		0	0	
Eritrea	64	64	-0.3	2.1	3.0	2.4	340	350	-0.2
Ethiopia	62	41	-3.4	36.3	31.6	-0.6	390	320	-1.8
Gabon							140	140	-0.5
Gambia	23	19	2.1	0.3	0.3	7.6	250	240	0.6

The publication architecture/infrastructure

One of the contributions of the new Statistical Yearbook publication is the method that was implemented in order to produce it. The techniques that were in international organizations had different teams working on various aspects. And then the pieces were assembled, often in different formats (i.e. Excel, Word, pdf, FO) at the end of the process.

In this year's statistical yearbook, only two programs were utilized: R – a free and open source program, was used for the statistical work – and LaTeX, which was used for typesetting and graphics.

The program R connects to internal and external databases, either through SQL or API, in order to retrieve data. Data is easily processed, and therefore cleaned, aggregated, or processed in other ways. It has the ability of producing six types of charts with a range of colors.



Changes in the commodity composition of food consumption

	Cereals	Starchy roots	Meat and fish	Dairy and eggs
Developed	-0.06	-0.31	-0.25	-0.30
East Asia	-1.17	-1.87	3.24	4.59
L.Amer. & Caribb.	-0.22	0.07	2.05	0.42
South Asia	-0.49	5.71	2.74	0.41
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.06	-0.33	-0.35	0.36



The new Statistical Yearbook offers a map function, which allows for a choice of class intervals. And the automated system in R can then create tables in LaTeX. Therefore using script instead of traditional methods has made re-generation and output with new/updated data quick.

With the open codes the process is highly transparent and therefore has complete reproducibility and traceability. And finally, the entire process can be managed in-house, and traditional costs of production can be reduced. Together, these two programs led to much greater efficiency and a streamlined, seamless production as well as a low-cost, low resource-intensive and sustainable solution for subsequent editions of the publication.

Using script instead of traditional methods has made also the reconfiguration and generation and output with new/updated filters for regions and themes very convenient: many spinoffs, which will utilize this flexible, existing infrastructure, can be produced. One planned publication will be the statistical pocket book, which will complement but not duplicate the statistical yearbook. The main part of the statistical pocket book will contain country- and regional-level tables with selected indicators. Included will also be short coverage of selected themes. Other future products will include a website, CD-ROM, and smart phone applications.

Regional Statistical Yearbooks

The FAO Statistical Yearbooks suite may be enriched to a series of FAO Regional Statistical Yearbooks. Each FAO Regional Office – in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Near East, and Latin America – is considering producing a regionally specific publication. Each year they will highlight a theme that is particularly relevant to the area of the world and will include statistical tables for the countries within the region. Regional Office for Africa is taking the lead on this initiative.

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