International Classifications of Agricultural Commodities

REPORT ON FAO ACTIVITIES

ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
Twenty-fourth Session
Da Lat, Viet Nam
8-12 October 2012
REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS

• Who?

FAO Statistics Division (coordination), Fisheries and Aquaculture, Natural Resources, and Forestry Departments in collaboration with Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department and Trade and Markets Division. 

Countries' inputs in formulating revision proposals and country support in the negotiation phase are essential to the process.

• What?

Since 2005 collaboration with the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) in the review of:

- Central Product Classification (CPC Ver.2.0 and CPC Ver.2.1)
- Harmonized System (HS 2012 and HS 2017)

• Why?

Need for major international schemes to be suitable for agriculture and food statistics, facilitating the harmonization and comparison of data across different countries and statistical domains.
CPC Ver.2.0 was endorsed in 2008 and became effective in 2009

- **Endorsed** by FAO Statistics Coordination Working Group in July 2011 for the agriculture production domain
  - Introduced in the production questionnaires in 2012
  - Will be introduced in the price questionnaires in 2013

- **Benefits**: decreased reporting burden, increased international comparability, enhanced harmonization of official statistics at the global level

CPC2.0 is insufficient for agriculture statistics data collection and analysis purposes

- **CPC expanded for food and agriculture**: CPC structure at 5 digits added with a 6th digit, for more detailed data on food and agriculture
  - Endorsed by the Expert Group on International Classification in May 2011
  - Will be included as an official annex to the CPC Ver2.1 to be presented at the UNSC 2013
• Sent to countries and available online

Aim of the Questionnaire

• To assess countries’ practices on international classifications (particularly CPC), understand how classifications are managed and identify country needs on technical assistance

• 45 questionnaires returned out of 71. 81% of reported classifications are CPC or CPC-compatible

• Contributions from APCAS members in completing the questionnaire is encouraged
HS 2012 and 2017

- **FAO proposal** for the HS 2012 revision was adopted at the HS Committee in Brussels in 2009
  - Further technical expertise to add explanatory notes was provided until the 47th session in March 2011
  - HS 2012 includes more than 300 new agriculture and fishery items and is therefore more suitable for agriculture and fisheries statistics needs

- The HS 2017 revision process is underway and covers new agriculture, forestry, fishery products and agricultural inputs (fertilizers and machinery)
  - Collective effort involving different departments in FAO, other international organizations and producers associations (machinery)

**HS 2012 will be used to disseminate FAO trade data**
To store and manage all information on FAOSTAT Commodity List (codes, titles, Latin names, definitions etc.)

To search by codes or by text specific information on commodities classified in the FCL and correspondences between the FCL, CPC and HS available on the FAO Statistics Division Website
Thank you for your attention!

Valentina Ramaschiello

valentina.ramaschiello@fao.org