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Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on recent developments in agricultural and rural statistics

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2023/325 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on recent developments in agricultural and rural statistics, which is submitted to the Commission for discussion and decision.

* [E/CN.3/2024/1](#).



Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on recent developments in agricultural and rural statistics

I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an update on recent developments in agricultural and rural statistics, as well as actions and efforts undertaken by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in that area since its previous report to the Statistical Commission, at its fifty-third session in 2022.

2. The report is divided into five main sections. In section II, FAO presents an update on the implementation of its strategy for the modernization of statistics, in particular with regard to the development of an integrated governance and quality assurance framework for statistics, big data and geospatial information and the establishment of a centralized statistical data warehouse and data dissemination platform for FAO statistics. Section III contains an update on the implementation of the key capacity development programmes in the areas of agricultural and rural statistics and the Sustainable Development Goal indicators under FAO custodianship. In section IV, FAO provides a summary of the Committee on World Food Security policy recommendations on strengthening collection and use of food security and nutrition data and related analysis tools and reflects on their implications for the Commission. Section V contains a description of the main achievements and the proposed new areas of work of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics and, in section VI, FAO synthesizes the recommendations of its biennial regional commissions on agricultural statistics.

II. Progress on the implementation of the Food and Agriculture Organization strategy for the modernization of statistics

3. At the fifty-first session of the Commission, FAO informed Commission members about its strategy for the modernization of FAO statistics. The strategy is based on inputs from FAO technical divisions and an independent evaluation of its work in statistics. The essential content of the strategy is fully aligned with the System-wide Road Map for Innovating United Nations Data and Statistics, the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere and the FAO strategic framework for the period 2022–2031.¹ It is articulated across four cross-cutting priority action areas, two of which are: (a) to integrate and improve the governance of FAO data and statistics; and (b) to improve the quality of the information technology infrastructure supporting data and statistics work. An update on the implementation of those two priority areas is provided below.

A. Development of an integrated governance and quality assurance framework for statistics, big data and geospatial data

4. At its fifty-third session, the Commission expressed its appreciation for the efforts made by FAO to implement an integrated governance structure for data and statistics and encouraged it to develop an integrated quality assurance framework for statistics, big data and geospatial data, in close collaboration with other United

¹ See www.fao.org/strategic-framework/en.

Nations agencies and in line with already established recommended international methods and standards (E/2022/24-E/CN.3/2022/41, decision 53/122, paras. (b) and (c)).

5. Since its previous report to the Commission, FAO adopted and disseminated a new statistics and data quality assurance framework. The new framework builds on the first statistics quality assurance framework promulgated in 2014, in which FAO outlined 14 principles and related best practices to guide and manage quality at the level of its statistical outputs, processes and institutional environment.

6. The new framework reflects the fact that several of the recommended best practices from the 2014 framework and new quality assurance mechanisms have already been integrated into the FAO corporate quality assurance culture and consolidated into statistical standards, policies and governance mechanisms.

7. The scope of the new framework was also extended to the use of non-traditional data sources in the production of FAO statistics, as well as to data-related concerns related to the right to privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights. Among other references taken into consideration are the suggested framework for the quality of big data of the Economic Commission for Europe big data quality task team; the recommended practices on the use of non-official sources in international statistics of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities and FAO policies on data protection and intellectual property rights. As a result, the new framework includes a new principle on suitable and trustworthy data sources and new key implementation modalities (previously referred to as best practices) in principles related to cooperation with data providers, data protection and statistical confidentiality, accessibility and clarity, and accuracy and reliability.

8. The endorsement of the new framework by the Data Coordination Group of FAO, its highest governance and coordination body for data and statistics, in the third quarter of 2023 was followed by the development of a new FAO standard, on the acquisition and use of non-statistical data sources, including big data, for statistical purposes, to be released in 2024. The standard is aimed at better managing the quality of statistics produced by FAO using non-traditional data sources and their associated risks. FAO also reviewed its Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX)-based reference metadata standards for statistical databases,² to ensure that the use of non-traditional data in FAO statistics are adequately communicated to users. Lastly, the corporate tool used to measure and report on the quality of FAO data and statistics was updated to reflect the recommendations and implementation modalities promoted in those key quality assurance documents. In the fourth quarter of 2023, nearly 100 FAO statistical processes, databases and information systems were assessed using the tool. The results of the exercise will serve as a basis for reporting on the quality of FAO data and statistics, identifying areas for improvements and continuing to strengthen overall integrated governance for FAO data and statistics.

B. Development of a statistical data warehouse and a central dissemination platform

9. In the context of its strategy for the modernization of statistics, in 2022, FAO launched a project on the modernization and integration of the FAO statistical system, supported by a dedicated FAO capital expenditure fund. The project consists of: (a) improving its internal data production system (referred to as the statistical working system); and (b) setting up an integrated statistical data warehouse with a central

² See www.fao.org/3/cb9292en/cb9292en.pdf.

dissemination platform as a front-end visible to end users, which has been called FAO Data Explorer.³

10. The overall objectives of the statistical data warehouse and FAO Data Explorer are to: (a) respond to end users' and evaluators' requests to make FAO statistical data more accessible, interoperable, comparable and coherent; (b) integrate data from disparate sources into a cost-effective central source and eventually reduce the maintenance costs of multiple information technology platforms and technologies; and (c) expand FAO outreach with regard to statistical data, thereby serving an increasing number of data users and providing more services and channels to respond to the demands of a larger audience.

11. The first and current phase of the project (2022–2024) covers the migration of FAO data currently disseminated through its Sustainable Development Goal data portal, its Corporate Database for Substantive Statistical Data (FAOSTAT) and its software for fishery and aquaculture statistical time series (FishStat). As a first milestone, FAO Data Explorer was made public on 15 September 2023, with the data series pertaining to the 21 Sustainable Development Goal indicators under FAO custodianship, also disseminated in FAOSTAT and the global Sustainable Development Goal database.

12. The FAO Data Explorer is currently a beta version, as it is still under development. During the current phase, data will be added incrementally, by incorporating existing FAO statistics on food, agriculture, nutrition, fisheries and aquaculture disseminated through FAOSTAT and, FishStat. The subsequent phases of the project are aimed at integrating other relevant FAO data assets disseminated through other statistical and data dissemination platforms, such as the Global Information System on Water and Agriculture (AQUASTAT), the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) and World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WIEWS). The various platforms will continue to operate in parallel until the completion of the project. That will allow users to provide feedback and get accustomed to the new FAO Data Explorer before some of the existing FAO platforms are permanently discontinued.

13. The deployment of the statistical data warehouse and FAO Data Explorer supports efforts by FAO to harmonize and standardize its data and metadata in compliance with its statistical data quality assurance framework. The new tools serve to implement and support the development of corporate statistical standards, definitions and classifications, as well as methodological guidelines for the harmonization of the procedures implemented by different statistical processes, all with a view to achieving a more integrated data and statistical system.

14. The project served to harness internationally agreed SDMX standards and related information models and tools to introduce additional efficiencies into FAO business processes. SDMX was used to standardize the exchange and dissemination of data and metadata, with the aim of increasing the quality of statistics disseminated by FAO, in compliance with its new statistics and data quality assurance framework.

15. As for information technology infrastructure, FAO selected an open-source scalable platform, dotStatSuite. It is an SDMX native platform, and its development strategy is guided by the Statistical Information System Collaboration Community,⁴ according to plans set by community priorities. FAO also uses the SDMX native tool Meta and Data Manager to create and manage structural metadata and to prepare

³ See <https://dataexplorer.fao.org/>.

⁴ See <https://siscc.org/who-we-are/>.

SDMX-compliant data. This is a free open-source tool released by the Italian National Statistical Institute (ISTAT).

16. The statistical data warehouse will provide an internal centralized location of FAO statistics that caters to the diversity of FAO statistical data products and services. As a data source, it will be able to feed modern interfaces and the SDMX registry and will incorporate data visualization functionalities in order to improve the end user's experience. For instance, the Sustainable Development Goal data currently disseminated on FAO Data Explorer feeds a set of interactive visualizations, generated using Tableau software, which are available on the FAO Sustainable Development Goal data portal.

17. The statistical data warehouse and FAO Data Explorer will also open new channels and services of data exchange with national and international statistical organizations and offer the dissemination of interoperable structured data, concepts and classifications that can be harvested through application programming interfaces, according to the principles of findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability ("FAIR" principles), to global users, United Nations agencies, the United Nations global data portal and the global Sustainable Development Goal database.

III. Update on the implementation of capacity-development interventions

18. The world is still reeling from the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and recovery has been slow, hampered by the emergence of new armed conflicts and the escalating climate crisis. With 2023 marking the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the year has seen a flurry of both reports sounding the alarm bell on the current predicament surrounding the Agenda and initiatives trying to "rescue" the Sustainable Development Goals. Within that landscape, in its high-impact initiative on food systems transformation presented on 17 September 2023, FAO emphasized the importance of data as a catalyst for agrifood systems transformation. Another high-impact initiative, on the power of data, served to highlight the multiplier effects of investing in data, with recent analysis by the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data cited, showing that every \$1 invested in data systems created an average of \$32 in benefits. Similarly, at the high-level political forum on sustainable development held on 18 and 19 September 2023, States recommitted themselves to increasing the availability of Goal-related data and closing relevant data gaps at all levels, increasing financing for data and statistics and enhancing capacity-building support to developing countries.

19. Consequently, over the past two years, FAO has led a number of initiatives aimed at building statistical capacity at the national and regional levels. These activities contribute to improving the information base upon which policy decisions are made. They are also reflected in the higher quality of the data supplied by member countries to FAO and made available through the harmonized data sets published by the organization. Capacity development in food and agriculture statistics is conducted in four main areas, notably through the "50 x 2030" initiative; the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics; the support offered to countries on monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals; and the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture. These are described in the subsections that follow.

A. The "50 x 2030" initiative

20. Launched in September 2018 during the "Data to end hunger" side event held on the margins of the high-level segment of the seventy-third session of the General

Assembly, the “50 x 2030” initiative⁵ began operating in July 2019. The aim of the initiative is to empower and support 50 low- and lower-middle-income countries by 2030 in establishing robust national agricultural data systems that will generate high-quality and timely agricultural survey data to inform policies, enhancing countries’ capacity to produce, analyse and utilize data for decision-making in the agricultural sector. The initiative holds strategic importance in augmenting the quantity and quality of data available to stakeholders for reporting on agricultural statistics, as well as in addressing current data gaps related to national policies and Sustainable Development Goal indicators 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1 and 5.a.1.

21. The main foundation of the “50 by 2030” initiative rests on the implementation of a system of farm-based integrated agricultural surveys that use the methodology developed by FAO through the Agricultural Integrated Survey (AGRISurvey) programme. Countries can implement the modular programme over a 10-year cycle, with the option of including a rural household component based on the World Bank household-based rural socioeconomic survey programme. FAO oversees the implementation of that data production component and ensures linkages with other capacity-building initiatives, such as the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (see sects. III.B and D).

22. Complementary efforts are focused on building decision makers’ capacity and motivation to enhance the use of survey data collected through the initiative, with the overall goals of increasing sustainable agricultural productivity, improving food security and nutrition and, ultimately, achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2. This component, which is focused on data use, is led by the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

23. Alongside survey programmes, the initiative prioritizes critical methodological research for agricultural and rural surveys. The World Bank spearheads this component, developing methodological solutions for the efficient implementation of modular survey systems.

24. The estimated total cost of the initiative, shared by partner countries, donors, multilateral implementing partners and the private sector, ranges between \$500 million and \$700 million. A 70/30 financing strategy allocates 70 per cent of the financing to partner countries through World Bank International Development Association (IDA) resources for data production, with the remaining 30 per cent financed by donors and philanthropic organizations to enable the provision of much-needed technical assistance for data production and use and the promotion of evidence-informed agriculture. Recently, \$200 million in IDA funding was mobilized to co-finance relevant data collection activities at the country level.

25. Important partnerships for covering the technical assistance part were also forged from the beginning of implementation. In 2023, the programme management team had three initial donors renew their commitments for an additional three to five years. Over the past two years, implementing partners have achieved the following significant outputs in collaboration with partner countries:

(a) In terms of data production and collection, the initiative has been active in 10 countries (Armenia, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania), with 25 survey rounds completed. Several countries are now able to compute key Sustainable Development Goal indicators and release microdata sets. Preparation work has also commenced in 18 new countries in 2023 (Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d’Ivoire,

⁵ See www.50x2030.org/.

Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Sierra Leone and Togo);

(b) Regarding data use, four countries (Cambodia, Ethiopia, Georgia and Uganda) received support through specific training on statistical concepts and data analysis and on policy brief writing and through workshops on data awareness. Several data use assessments were completed in 2023, and 66 local researchers were supported through research grant competitions.

26. Under the initiative, the development of global public goods has continued, contributing to improved survey tools and instruments through its three pillars: survey instruments and tools (recall bias in fisheries, mixed-mode surveys and a survey management system); survey methodology (integration of a module for a women's empowerment metric for national statistical systems); and new tools for land area measurement, post-harvest crop losses and data integration (training data for satellite-based estimations and georeferencing protocols).

27. In 2023, initiative partnerships were expanded to reach a total of 29 countries. In 2024, the aim is to expand the programme to more countries, with a view to providing steadfast support in developing national agricultural statistical systems. There are also plans to strengthen partnerships with existing donors and to intensify efforts to reach out to new donors for enhanced resource mobilization.

B. Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics

28. The Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics⁶ was developed in 2009 as a blueprint for a coordinated and long-term initiative to address the decline in the agricultural statistical systems of many developing countries during that period. The Strategy was endorsed by the Statistical Commission during its forty-first session in 2010. It was designed as a long-term process to be implemented in three phases over 15 years to provide a framework for national and international statistical systems that would enable developing countries to produce the necessary data for the twenty-first century.

29. The implementation of the first phase of the Strategy (2012–2018) significantly affected the agricultural statistical systems of many developing countries and demonstrated its ability to meet the needs of evolving international and regional agendas.

30. The second global action plan, covering the period from 2020 to 2025, endorsed by the Global Strategy Steering Committee in December 2018, builds upon the successful achievements of and lessons learned from the first phase. The goal is to enhance investment in new methodologies, while, at the same time, initiating the provision of technical assistance and nurturing a new generation of agricultural statisticians. This will translate into enhanced capacity and the increased ability to produce and disseminate data at the national level.

31. The second phase of the Strategy, the Action Plan for Africa for 2021–2024, is being implemented by three partners: FAO, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century. This phase is being coordinated by a global office hosted by the FAO Statistics Division in Rome. The focus of the second phase is on training and technical assistance at the national level. The aim is to enhance the practical use of data for both accountability reporting needs and national policy needs. To meet that objective, the following lessons learned from the first phase have been taken into account:

⁶ More information is available at www.fao.org/in-action/global-strategy-agricultural-statistics/en.

(a) Simplifying governance and entrusting FAO with a more prominent role for providing direct technical assistance at the country level to increase efficiency;

(b) Adopting a modular approach that breaks Strategy activities into modules to make donor engagement more feasible and to better tailor partner responsibilities to their comparative advantages;

(c) Scaling back in terms of geographical focus to prioritize the use of outputs at the national level and enhance the sustainability of the capacity developed;

(d) Attaching data use support to particular use cases (for example, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme biennial reviews and Sustainable Development Goal 2) and collaboration with key partners on those use cases;

(e) Enhancing ownership of work at the regional and national levels through capacity development activities.

32. To maximize efficiency in data collection, five main issues are targeted under the Action Plan for Africa for 2021–2024, in 25 African countries. Those countries are eligible to participate in the “50 x 2030” initiative (see sect. III.A), and the Strategy contributes to building the required capacity on the following five issues:

(a) Strategic plans for agricultural and rural statistics are designed at the country level and endorsed by national authorities;

(b) Agricultural statistical units are equipped with both human resource policies that enable them to hire, develop and retain the skilled workforces they need to deliver on their missions and leadership and communication skills;

(c) Young agricultural statisticians are offered scholarships at the master’s level and serve in their country’s national statistical system once their training is completed. Theoretical knowledge and skills in agricultural statistics should be offered to staff of national agencies, with a view to potentially increasing the critical mass of agricultural statisticians, which is lacking;

(d) Countries are prepared to engage rapidly in the administration of agricultural surveys through the provision of targeted technical assistance on relevant topics;

(e) Countries eligible to join “50 x 2030” initiative are prepared to acquire the pivotal technical capacities to process, analyse and disseminate data according to the best standards and to understand the information by producing performance indicators (national, Sustainable Development Goal and Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme indicators).

33. Since the beginning of the project, implementing partners have achieved significant outputs in collaboration with partner countries. ECA has granted 50 scholarships to young statisticians and organized two training for trainers sessions on agricultural statistics methodologies. The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century organized successful training sessions for top and mid-level managers on human resources policies and on strengthening leadership and communication skills in statistical agencies, as well as training sessions on identifying data gaps and facilitating data planning in the process to design strategic plans for agricultural and rural statistics using the Advanced Data Planning Tool (ADAPT) tool.

34. FAO provided training and technical assistance for the preparation of strategic plans for agricultural and rural statistics in seven countries. In-country technical assistance on the use of cost-effective methods, master sampling frames, data processing and analysis, data dissemination, the compilation of national, Sustainable

Development Goal and Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme indicators and food balance sheets has been provided by FAO to all 25 African beneficiary countries, according to their priority needs.

35. In 2024, the second phase of the Strategy will be aimed at expanding training and information-sharing to the regional level, with the African regional economic communities and the continental level, with the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC), respectively. There are also plans to strengthen partnerships with existing donors and to reach out to new donors for enhanced resource mobilization aimed at the continuation of the programme and its potential expansion to other geographical areas.

C. Provision of support to countries on Sustainable Development Goal reporting

36. Over the past two years, FAO has continued to provide support to countries with regard to reporting on the 21 Sustainable Development Goal indicators under its custodianship. Although the two major statistical capacity development programmes described in sections III.A and B are focused on a small subset of those 21 indicators, FAO has, at the same time, been implementing a comprehensive initiative on improving country data for monitoring Goal-related achievements and informing policy decisions. Active since 2019, and with an expected closing date of 31 December 2023, the main objectives of the programme have been to provide additional methods, guidance and tools to assist countries in producing underlying data on indicators under FAO custodianship; to develop the capacities of the national institutions responsible for collecting and computing data on those indicators; and to develop the capacities of national institutions for improved dissemination, communication and use of Goal-related data in policy analysis and formulation.

37. Over the past two years, FAO continued to provide support to countries in their efforts related to monitoring and reporting on Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on those indicators with relatively low country coverage. To that end, FAO provides comprehensive training and technical assistance, with a view to enabling country experts to adeptly collect, compile and report on indicators. Most recently, for example, capacity development support was provided to three African and two Central Asian countries in producing data on indicators 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 (productivity and incomes of small-scale producers) and 5.a.1 (women's access to land), and four countries in different regions received technical assistance in the compilation of data on indicator 2.4.1 (sustainable agriculture). A total of 12 Pacific small island developing States countries participated in a training workshop covering all four "farm-survey-based" indicators (2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1 and 5.a.1). Targeted technical assistance on indicator 5.a.1 (agricultural land rights) was also provided to seven countries in Africa, Asia and Oceania. FAO further provided training to 14 Arab countries on indicator 2.a.1 (government expenditures in agriculture), while training was provided on indicators 6.4.1 and 6.4.2 (water use efficiency and water stress) to 6 African, 15 Arab and 13 Latin American and Caribbean countries. On indicator 5.a.2 (protection of women's land rights), FAO provided technical support to 9 countries and organized training sessions for 7 countries in Central Asia and 21 in the Middle East and North Africa. On indicator 12.3.1 (a) (food losses) – an especially complex indicator requiring food losses to be measured along the key stages of the value chain – FAO has enlisted the support of national consultants in four countries in Latin America, one in Africa and two in Asia, to spearhead technical assistance efforts.

38. As part of its overall statistical capacity development efforts, FAO continues to pioneer innovative learning methodologies and delivery solutions. In November

2023, the cumulative number of registered learners for the 16 e-learning courses on the Sustainable Development Goal indicators under FAO custodianship (available in 47 languages) stood at 36,475. Of those, 3,536 learners have earned digital badges, confirming that they had successfully completed the training. In addition to the FAO E-learning Academy, the suite of FAO e-learning courses on those indicators also features prominently in a number of external platforms, such as UN SDG: Learn, hosted by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the United Nations System Staff College; the Goal monitoring and reporting toolkit for United Nations county teams, hosted by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat; and SDG Academy hosted by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

39. Supported by these wide arrays of complementary statistical capacity development initiatives, the average reporting rate on the Sustainable Development Goal indicators under FAO custodianship has continued to rise since the previous report of FAO to the Commission, increasing from 42 per cent in 2019 to 53.7 per cent in 2021, and again to 62.5 per cent in 2023. In 2023, for the first time, countries were able to report, on average, on over three fifths of the 21 indicators under FAO custodianship.

40. In the past two years, FAO has invested in two additional major areas of methodological support for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring: the development of guidelines for data disaggregation and the development of a statistical progress assessment method for Goals and targets. With regard to the first area, FAO has supported the implementation of guidelines on data disaggregation for indicators under its custodianship, which it had developed in 2021 and first reported on in its previous report to the Commission. As a result, in 2022, data disaggregation activities on indicator 2.1.2 (food insecurity) were initiated in two countries, and a set of training materials on data disaggregation and small area estimation for indicators based on survey data was developed, including a module on indicator 2.1.2. The training materials have been used to deliver two virtual training sessions to national staff of six countries in Asia and Africa on direct and indirect estimation methods for indicators based on survey data.

41. In the area of statistical progress assessment, FAO played an active role in the United Nations task team on the Sustainable Development Goals progress chart. However, to date, such efforts have been focused on the development of methods for statistically assessing progress at the individual indicator level, rather than at the Goal and target levels. Although different approaches have been proposed by various organizations, such as the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Eurostat, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, these may be limited in scope with respect to geographical areas or to the coverage of the universally adopted indicators and targets.

42. To fill that gap, in 2023, FAO developed a new method for producing a Sustainable Development Goal- and target-level assessment.⁷ With 2023 having marked the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, and considering the growing need to more accurately assess progress made towards achieving the Goals as the finish line approaches, FAO invites the international statistical community to consider incorporating that method into the progress chart and, by extension, into global and national progress reports.

⁷ See www.fao.org/3/cc7088en/online/cc7088en.html#/annex.

D. World Programme for the Census of Agriculture

43. The World Programme for the Census of Agriculture continues to be one of the key statistical capacity development programmes of FAO. The Programme is aimed at providing guidelines, training and country-level assistance to strengthen the knowledge and technical skills of national staff in charge of planning and conducting agricultural censuses and consequently, support the production, dissemination and use of internationally comparable data on variables that define the structure of agriculture.

44. Since its previous report to the Commission, FAO has been proactively monitoring, reviewing and documenting agricultural censuses conducted under the current 2020 census round (2016–2025). That work involves the preparation of metadata reviews and tables with main results and the collection of census reports and materials. Those documents are posted regularly on the FAO website for countries to consult.⁸

45. FAO has also continued to provide technical assistance at the national level for the implementation of agricultural censuses, through projects and ad hoc requests. FAO provided online and in situ technical assistance to an average of 78 countries per year in both 2022 and 2023. Interventions were conducted in various countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Pacific. It is expected that some 150 countries and territories will conduct an agricultural census for the 2020 census round, compared with the record 127 observed in the 2010 round.

46. In 2022, FAO launched a new domain in FAOSTAT, through which it disseminates structural agricultural data gathered from the past three completed census rounds (1990, 2000 and 2010). Some of the data, such as the number and size of agricultural holdings, were available over longer time series, starting as early as from the 1930 census round. Apart from the number and size of holdings, the new domain contains data on, inter alia, the gender of the holder, land tenure, the legal status of holders and farm labour. The domain is intended to provide a one-stop shop for structural agricultural data.

47. Lastly, every 10 years, FAO reviews countries' experiences and lessons learned on agricultural censuses. The outcome of that exercise is published and disseminated as revised guidelines on agricultural censuses and include improved census methodologies. FAO is currently preparing guidelines for the eleventh census round, the 2030 census, which will cover the period 2026–2035.

48. The preparation of the 2030 census guidelines is based on a review of countries' experiences under the 2020 round, as well as on extensive consultations of FAO technical divisions and member countries. Those reviews and consultations allow for the recognition of new and emerging trends and requirements, which, in turn, guide preparations for the 2030 census round. While the preparation of the guidelines is still under way, the approach that will be followed entails due consideration of emerging themes affecting global agriculture, such as climate change and the use of new technologies and innovations.

49. At the same time, the Programme will continue to play a key role in the collection of structural agricultural statistics and to provide a baseline and frame for other agricultural surveys. Censuses provide frames for variables collected with high frequency, such as agricultural production or prices; for variables collected with an intermediate frequency, such as farm labour or production methods; and for intercensal surveys on structural variables. In undertaking its review of the 2030

⁸ See www.fao.org/world-census-agriculture/wcarounds/wca2020/countries2020/en/.

census round, FAO will pay special attention to identifying and establishing the relevance and coherence of the objectives of data collection.

50. A concept note, table of contents and workplan have already been completed, and an internal consultation, a consultation with countries and experts and the preparation of the first draft are ongoing and will be completed by early to mid-2024. A second draft will be prepared between July and September 2024, on the basis of comments received. In November 2024, an international expert review meeting, involving the United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics (see para. 81), will be held to discuss the second draft. Following that meeting, a third draft will be prepared, to be ready for endorsement by the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, to be held in early 2025. The English version of the document will then be finalized, with appropriate editing and layout, and published by late 2025. Translation into the other official United Nations languages and workshops on the regional dissemination of the new guidelines will follow, starting in 2026.

IV. Committee on World Food Security policy recommendations on strengthening collection and use of food security and nutrition data and related analysis tools and their implications for the Statistical Commission

51. The Committee on World Food Security is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all. The Committee ultimately reports to the General Assembly through the Commission and the Economic and Social Council. At its forty-sixth session, the Committee adopted its multi-year programme of work for the period 2020–2023.⁹ The programme included a workstream on data collection and analysis tools in recognition of the central role that relevant, timely and granular data play in strengthening a virtuous process of evidence-based policy-making to eradicate hunger and all forms of malnutrition. It was the first time in its 50-year history that the Committee included data in its programme of work.

52. The primary objective of the workstream on data collection and analysis tools was to develop actionable recommendations that would strengthen the capacity of countries to collect, analyse and use quality data, in order to improve critical decision-making on food security and nutrition policies and to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

53. As an outcome of the fifty-first plenary session of the Committee on World Food Security, held in October 2023, member countries endorsed its policy recommendations on strengthening collection and use of food security and nutrition data and related analysis tools to improve decision-making in support of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.¹⁰ The recommendations were the result of a multi-year and inclusive process, informed by the report of the Committee’s High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition entitled, “Data collection and analysis tools for food security and nutrition: towards enhancing effective, inclusive, evidence-informed decision-making”. The resulting policy recommendations document represents a call for action targeting different ranges of stakeholders, with the objective of

⁹ Committee on World Food Security, document CFS 2019/46/7.

¹⁰ See www.fao.org/cfs/workingspace/workstreams/data-workstream/en/.

strengthening food security and nutrition data systems for improved decision-making, for which the Commission and its members can play a crucial role.

54. First, a key challenge recognized by the Committee on World Food Security in its policy recommendations relates to the need for a more systemic view of data on food security and nutrition, which are often not standardized, but are fragmented across different international agencies, government sectors and public and private institutions. In its recommendations, the Committee therefore promotes collaboration among parties on the harmonization and sharing of data on food security and nutrition, to improve their quality and utility. In particular, Governments, international organizations and their regional bodies are encouraged to consider the need to address statistics on food security and nutrition as a potential new domain within the Statistical Commission (recommendation 4 (b)). International organizations are also encouraged to provide guidance to countries, outlining a minimum set of core data on food security and nutrition, with respective recommended methodologies and indicators, to help countries to identify priorities when collecting such data (recommendation 2 (d)).

55. In its recommendations, the Committee also calls for countries and international organizations to work together to find solutions to the constraints that hamper the production and use of data on food security and nutrition, by building capacities and raising awareness, as well as by closing data gaps so as to effectively guide responsible action and inform policymaking, especially with regard to timely and sufficiently granular data on peoples' ability to produce and access food, on food and nutrient consumption and on nutritional status, while recognizing the importance of safeguarding privacy. In that sense, different types of gaps affect statistics on food security and nutrition: (a) domain-specific, such as gaps with regard to data about diets and the quality of diets; (b) geographically, as there are entire regions of the world where data availability and access are severely limited; and (c) group-specific, such as data disaggregated by sex and age or data for small-scale food producers. The Commission and its members, under work carried out on the new proposed data domain on food security and nutrition, could work together to identify solutions to fill those gaps.

56. The Committee on World Food Security also emphasizes the need to alleviate the financial constraints that low- and lower-middle-income countries face, which prevent them from investing in data. In its recommendation 2, the Committee calls for increasing and sustaining investment in data on food security and nutrition, while optimizing and/or repurposing current resources, in order to improve decision-making. Governments should therefore strive to elaborate national plans to define priorities for the collection and analysis of data on food security and nutrition, to be integrated in their national strategies for the development of statistics, if available, and to improve and optimize existing national food security and nutrition data systems (recommendation 2 (b)). Together with the international donor community and international organizations, Governments are called upon to coordinate and scale up investments aimed at overcoming the data gaps.

57. Lastly, the recommendations address the objective of defining, in a productive manner, governance frameworks for the different types of data, with a view to strengthening coherent and reliable food security and nutrition data systems at the country and global levels. In that sense, Governments are encouraged to include data on food security and nutrition within national statistical and other relevant data systems to promote broader national data governance in a way that is consistent with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and is informed by emerging international multilateral discussion on data governance frameworks. In addition, the private sector, civil society, academia and philanthropic foundations are encouraged to share data on food security and nutrition and related analytics for the public good

with Governments and public institutions, as well as among each other, for policy and research purposes, while respecting confidentiality and data privacy and exploring mechanisms to make their data on food security and nutrition more promptly and widely available, also while working to ensure proper protection of the data.

58. The endorsement of those recommendations marks a significant milestone in promoting discussion on food security and nutrition data at the international level, to raise awareness and foster greater use of such data in policies to end hunger, and in enabling statisticians to improve collaboration and to develop a systemic view of data production, thereby overcoming fragmentation in favour of more harmonized data systems. FAO supports the recommendations and, as the United Nations agency mandated to achieve food security and promote healthy diets for all, is fully committed to their implementation. Following the call by the Committee on World Food Security, FAO calls upon the Commission and its members to do the same and to take collective actions to support their implementation.

59. To that end, and in line with member countries' endorsement of Committee on World Food Security policy recommendation 4 (b), FAO and other relevant international organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), propose the immediate creation of a statistical domain on food security and nutrition under the aegis of the Commission, with the dual aim of catalysing higher and more focused attention on the issue and of better coordinating efforts and proposed actions for addressing the challenges, as outlined in the policy recommendations. For the new domain, FAO, WHO and UNICEF could jointly report to the Commission every two years or as deemed appropriate. It is also proposed that a particular role be given to the United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics in the implementation of Committee recommendation 2 (d) (see para. 80).

V. Report on the work of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics

60. At its fifty-first session, the Commission endorsed the terms of reference and the 2020–2023 programme of work of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics ([E/2020/24-E/CN.3/2020/37](#), decision 51/111, para. (e)). At the Commission's fifty-third session, the Committee of Experts, chaired by Mexico, reported for the first time on progress made in the implementation of the programme of work, which was focused on the following three topics: (a) improvement of methods for food security and food consumption measurement; (b) national quality assurance frameworks for agricultural statistics; and (c) the use of Earth observation data for agricultural statistics. As the 2020–2023 programme of work has come to an end, in its 2024 report, the Committee of Experts focuses on the main deliverables and achievement of the group since the Commission's fifty-third session and on the proposed areas of work for the period 2024–2027.

A. Improvement of methods for food security and food consumption measurement

61. The final deliverable of the 2020–2023 programme of work of the Committee of Experts, developed under the aegis of a dedicated Committee task team on food security and food consumption measurement, chaired by Statistics Norway, was the issuance of guidelines on processing food consumption data from household consumption and expenditure surveys for countries collecting data in line with the

guidelines on food data collection using household consumption and expenditure surveys endorsed by the Statistical Commission, provided as a background document to the present report.¹¹ The guidelines were prepared by a team of experts on food security and consumption statistics from Statistics Norway, the World Bank, FAO and the Pacific Community, with several rounds of consultation with a large group of experts from national statistical offices, international organizations and academia.

62. The guidelines contain a description of how to process data collected through the food consumption modules of household consumption and expenditure surveys. They build on those set out in the FAO publication entitled, *Food Data Collection in Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys: Guidelines for Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, which had been endorsed by the Commission at its forty-ninth session (E/2018/24-E/CN.3/2018/37, decision 49/112, para. (e)).

63. Different users of household consumption and expenditure survey data have different priorities in processing those data. When users process data independently of each other, it may lead to inconsistent results, despite the data being generated from the same survey. Doing so is also inefficient and costly. The guidelines are therefore intended to provide countries with standard methods to follow when preparing their food-related data that so that it is readily available as input for national accounts, the consumer price index and poverty and food security analysis. In producing the guidelines, the task team drew upon published and unpublished material, presenting the main steps of the process, from the raw data as collected, to the distribution of quantities (such as grams), kilocalories and the monetary value of all food consumed.

64. A first version of the guidelines was discussed at a workshop held in Rome in October 2022 with members of the task team and countries of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. Following the workshop, a new version of the guidelines was drafted and circulated for comments to the Committee of Experts in July 2023. A revised version of the guidelines, including comments received from Committee experts, was then circulated to statistical offices in 206 low- to high-income countries and territories. National statistical offices were requested to provide their comments and fill in an online questionnaire, with a view to collecting additional input on the information collected in the survey and on the potential usefulness of the guidelines.

65. Of the 70 national statistical offices that filled out the questionnaire, 24 sent in comments to the secretariat of the Committee of Experts. Of those that responded, 16 acknowledged having taken note of the Guidelines but provided no substantive comments. The comments received during the global consultation were incorporated into the document when relevant. A summary of the responses received during the consultation and the way comments on the guidelines were addressed in the final document is provided as a background document to the present report. The Committee of Experts seeks the Commission's endorsement of the guidelines and invites States Members of the United Nations to encourage their implementation in order to improve the quality and comparability of statistics produced using food consumption data from household consumption and expenditure surveys.

B. Use of Earth observation data for agricultural statistics

66. The joint task team on Earth observation data for agricultural statistics, created under the umbrella of both the United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics and the Committee of Experts on Big Data

¹¹ Background documents will be made available at <https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/55>.

and Data Science for Official Statistics supports countries through the provision of methods, tools and training on the use of Earth observation data for estimating crop acreage and crop yield and producing thematic crop maps. The joint task team shares experience and technical advice on the key components of Earth observation analysis protocols, such as: (a) the optimization of in situ field survey design; (b) the efficient preprocessing of satellite imagery; (c) the extraction of phenospectral features; (d) the use of different classification algorithms; and (e) the validation of results. The joint task team also develops solutions for the efficient sharing of Earth observation data and tools and develops Earth observation training curricula and training apps using free and open data sources.

67. In 2022 and 2023, the joint task team has continued its work on a series of key use cases, through collaborations with countries to optimize the design of field surveys and data georeferencing protocols, with a view to increasing the accuracy of crop type maps developed using in situ data. For instance, in Mali and Senegal, experimental protocols were or are being tested, so as to provide recommendations on how to optimize in situ data collection, improve the quality of crop type maps and extract data on crop acreage and crop yield.

68. In Rwanda, a pilot project was implemented, in collaboration with teams from Digital Earth Africa and Planet, to produce a wall-to-wall map of crop field boundaries at the national level. In Cameroon and Ecuador, the integration of Earth observation data with process-based crop growth modelling was piloted for the forecasting of crop yield. The crop model adopted, the Systems Approach to Land Use Sustainability (SALUS), developed by Michigan State University, simulates the daily response of crop growth to soil, climate and management factors. The model was trained using crop yield time series data provided by countries at the national and district levels, as well as geospatial data, including soil, topography, the normalized difference vegetation index, daily soil temperature, solar radiance and precipitation. Results consisted of national crop-specific yield maps (for example, rice and maize for Ecuador) at 10 m resolution. In both cases, the predicted crop yields were very accurate compared with official reports and evaluations by national counterparts.

69. In Mexico, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) is using its internal data cube, which contains analysis-ready data from Landsat and Sentinel sensors, with machine-learning algorithms, to map cropland across the entire country (known as the agricultural frontier), using different training data sets. The most recent exercise was performed in 2022, in concomitance with the implementation of its 2022 agricultural census. The outputs of the new census will be used to validate and further improve the results of the agricultural frontier estimates produced using Earth observation data.

70. In terms of outreach and capacity development efforts, the joint task team participated in a seminar on Earth observation for agricultural statistics with the National Bureau of Statistics of China, as well as in the ninth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics, sharing main achievements in training, data-sharing and applications of Earth observation in different countries.

71. In support of regional hubs under the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics, the joint task team participated in the advisory meetings of the Brazilian regional hub to strengthen the organization and functionality of the hub. It also participated in the kick-off meeting with the regional hub in China and contributed to a webinar on Earth observation applications for agricultural statistics. Members of the joint task team will also participate as members of the international expert committee on remote sensing for agriculture statistics, created to advise the global big data hub of China and build synergies on relevant activities.

C. Development of national quality assurance frameworks for agricultural statistics

72. Since the most recent report of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics to the Commission, experts of the Committee of Experts task team on the development of national quality assurance frameworks for agriculture statistics finalized the development, pilot testing and supporting documents of frameworks meant to help in assessing the quality of three agriculture statistics subdomains: (a) crops and livestock production statistics; (b) statistics on producers' prices of agriculture commodities; and (c) statistics on land used for agriculture purposes.

73. The frameworks were developed on the basis of the notion that the quality assessment of food and agriculture statistics requires tailored tools that, compared with general data quality standards, are more effective and better capable of identifying strengths and weaknesses. They consist of domain-specific self-assessment quality checklists, with corresponding supporting material to facilitate the self-assessment and quality reporting exercise.

74. Work was inspired by the International Monetary Fund data quality assurance framework and the 2019 edition of the United Nations National Quality Assurance Framework. In particular, the proposed self-assessment checklists share the same structure as that of the Framework, with the exception of levels related to the management of the whole national statistical system (level A of the Framework) and the management of institutional environment within each national statistical agency (level B). The section of the checklist concerning the statistics production process (level C) is focused on the key phases needed for obtaining the statistics in the subdomain being considered, using the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (version 5.1) as a general reference. Compliance with sound methodologies is assessed in terms of the implementation of recognized international standards and manuals, developed or promoted by FAO.

75. The self-assessment checklists are designed to be compiled by the officer or officers in charge of the division producing the targeted statistics. They include both informative and assessment questions. Responses to assessment questions can then be scored¹² and combined to obtain quality measures by National Quality Assurance Framework levels, the main phases of the statistics production process and quality dimensions.

76. Quality reports can then be produced, with results summarized according to a four-point rating scale¹³ and strengths, weaknesses and proposed improvement actions identified to address the major weaknesses.

¹² For example, when applicable, practices that are fully implemented receive a score of 1; those partially implemented receive a score of 0.5; and those not implemented receive a score of 0.

¹³ The four-point rating scale is assigned as follows: average scores greater than 0.80 receive a score of "O – practice observed", indicating that current practices generally meet internationally accepted best practices and/or guidelines without any significant deficiency; average scores greater than 0.50 but less than or equal to 0.80 receive a score of "LO – practice largely observed", indicating some minor departures from internationally accepted best practices and/or guidelines; average scores greater than or equal to 0.20 but less than or equal to 0.50 receive a score of "LNO – practice largely not observed", indicating significant departures from internationally accepted best practices and/or guidelines, which will require the urgent implementation of improvement actions; and average scores less than 0.20 receive a score of "NO – practice not observed", indicating that the internationally accepted best practices and/or guidelines are not met.

77. All the tools and procedures were developed under the guidance of FAO experts, with the active contribution of task team members. A series of pilot studies were carried out to test the various checklists and implementation procedures.

78. The proposed self-assessment checklists represent a good compromise for evaluating compliance with both general quality principles and standards and guidelines for domain-specific statistics. They are an excellent starting point for improving key elements of the national statistical production process in a given subdomain or as a general reference in designing *ex novo* the statistical process itself. They also provide a valid reference for future work aimed at developing checklists in other subdomains of agriculture statistics that have not yet been covered.

D. Development of programme of work of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics for 2024–2027

79. At the time of writing the present report, the Committee of Experts was developing its programme of work for the period 2024–2027. Committee members are exploring the possibility of focusing on three areas of work: (a) food security and nutrition statistics; (b) the 2030 round of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture; and (c) Earth observation data for agricultural statistics and disaster impact monitoring and reduction, together with the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics.

80. The focus of the first area of work, on food security and nutrition statistics, would be the implementation of some of the Committee on World Food Security recommendations presented in section IV. The key outputs of the task team would be to: (a) propose a multilaterally agreed definition of food security and nutrition data; (b) establish a minimum set of core data on food security and nutrition, with references to their respective recommended methodologies and indicators; and (c) develop guidance to help countries to prioritize the collection of relevant data on food security and nutrition.

81. The second proposed area of work could be focused on the 2030 round of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture. A dedicated Committee of Experts task team could support the development of FAO guidelines on the 2030 census round, to be endorsed by the Commission at its fifty-sixth session (see sect. III.D).

82. Lastly, the Committee of Experts proposes to continue its work on the use of Earth observation data for agricultural statistics, in collaboration with the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics. The joint task team is discussing the possibility of investigating methods and tools for: (a) the integrated use of radar and optical satellite images to produce crop type and crop yield maps and monitor and reduce disaster impacts; (b) the use of drones to collect in situ data; (c) the enhancement of time series analysis of satellite images for the development of country-level and global-level satellite image data cubes; and (d) the use of the data protection and sharing framework for in situ data. The joint task team also aims to make data, tools and information generated in its previous programme of work more accessible to national statistical offices and statistical systems. Lastly, the Committee suggests contributing to the improvement of Earth observation training curricula.

VI. Report on Food and Agriculture Organization regional commissions on agricultural statistics

A. Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean

83. The thirty-first session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/Organization of American States-Inter-American Committee on Education/Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (FAO/OEA-CIE/IICA) Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean was convened from 28 to 30 March 2023, in a hybrid format, hosted by the National Institute of Statistics of Chile. The event brought together approximately 40 participants, including delegates and observers, representing 29 countries across the region. The gathering was not just a routine meeting, but a platform where strategic recommendations were put forward, aimed at revitalizing the working group and fostering collaboration with other regional initiatives.

84. One of the most significant recommendations made was to change the current name of the working group to the Latin American and the Caribbean Commission of Agricultural Statistics. The proposed change is aimed at aligning the group with similar bodies in Africa (African Commission on Agricultural Statistics) and Asia (Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics). With the name change, the group also sought to better convey the strategic significance of its recommendations and update its list of participating institutions, acknowledging that the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE) no longer exists and Organization of American States (OEA) is no longer involved in the initiative.

85. Another crucial recommendation is focused on the establishment of a working group on agricultural statistics within the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The proposed new working group would have a specific mission: to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the utilization of multiple frame sampling designs for agricultural surveys. The results of the assessment would then serve as a foundation for developing projects, tools and South-South cooperation initiatives, all geared towards enhancing the region's capacity to create, implement and maintain area frames for national agricultural surveys.

86. To bolster collaboration and the exchange of information between the working group and the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the group also called for the creation of a permanent mechanism to facilitate systematic reporting on the group's activities to the Conference. That would help to unlock opportunities for synergies, allow for the endorsement of recommendations by heads of national statistical offices and elevate the prominence of agricultural statistics within the broader context of the Conference.

87. Recognizing the pressing need for technical support and training in the region, the working group put forward recommendations for FAO involvement. Its recommendations encompassed several vital areas, including the enhancement of administrative registers for agricultural statistics, improved methods for measuring food losses and the comprehensive compilation of food balance sheets. By addressing these areas, FAO would contribute to more accurate and informed agricultural policymaking in the region.

88. The group also urged FAO to initiate a series of webinars in order to foster regular information exchanges among countries. The webinars would be focused on critical topics, such as geospatial data collection in agricultural surveys, the

implementation of AGRISurvey methodology, the integration of Sustainable Development Goal 2 indicators into national agricultural surveys and resource mobilization strategies. The aim is to create a vibrant platform for knowledge-sharing among countries, thus promoting best practices and innovative approaches in the field of agricultural statistics.

B. African Commission on Agricultural Statistics

89. The twenty-eighth session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics was to be convened in person in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 4 to 8 December 2023. The main conclusions and recommendations, which were not available at the time of writing the present report, have been provided to the Commission as a background document.

VII. Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission

90. **The Commission is invited:**

(a) **To express its views on the progress made with regard to the implementation of FAO strategy for the modernization of statistics;**

(b) **To express its views on the Committee on World Food Security policy recommendations on strengthening collection and use of food security and nutrition data and related analysis tools;**

(c) **To approve the creation of a new data domain on food security and nutrition statistics under the aegis of the Commission;**

(d) **To endorse the guidelines on processing food data from household consumption and expenditure surveys;**

(e) **To express its views on the programme of work of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics;**

(f) **To take note of the recommendations recently formulated by the regional commissions on agricultural statistics.**
