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LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN COMMISSION FOR AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

32nd LACCAS

26–28 March 2025

Report

Background

The 32nd session of the Latin America and Caribbean Commission for Agricultural Statistics (LACCAS) was held from 26 to 28 March in Asunción, Paraguay, organized by Paraguay's National Institute of Statistics (INE).

The 32nd Session was the first to be held under the name of LACCAS and the official statutes adopted in accordance with the Report of the FAO Council during the 175th Session, which took place from 10 to 14 June 2024.

Twenty-one countries participated in person, and five countries joined virtually (see participant list document).

Day 1: 26 March 2025

ITEM 1: Opening Ceremony

The meeting was formally inaugurated by Mr. Iván Ojeda, Director of Paraguay's National Institute of Statistics (INE); Mr. José Rosero Moncayo, FAO Chief Statistician and Director of the Statistics Division; and Mr. Iván León, FAO Representative in Paraguay.

Mr. Iván Ojeda emphasized the importance of agricultural statistics in shaping policies for sustainable development and food security in Paraguay, highlighting the primary sector's key role in the economy and employment. He noted progress in measuring food insecurity, carrying out the Agricultural Census after 14 years, and implementing the National Agricultural Survey, alongside the publication of the Environmental Statistics Atlas, a 10-year National Statistical Development Strategy, and modernization of statistical infrastructure through the 2022 Population and Housing Census and Indigenous Communities Census. He thanked FAO and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for their support and underscored the meeting's importance for knowledge exchange and international cooperation.

Mr. José Rosero Moncayo highlighted the regional commission's mandate and thanked Paraguay's government for hosting. He stressed FAO's role in compiling and disseminating statistics, capacity-building, and transitioning the working group into a formal regional commission. Key challenges for LACCAS include conducting agricultural censuses/surveys, measuring Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, improving food balance sheets, and strengthening fisheries/aquaculture statistics. He emphasized integrating agricultural science and technology data and ensuring comprehensive agrifood system metrics. Finally, he emphasized the importance of delegation participation in aligning FAO's actions with national needs and reaffirmed the organization's commitment to maintaining this Commission as the primary regional forum on agricultural statistics.

Mr. Iván León closed the opening remarks, emphasizing that agrifood systems must evolve to become more efficient, sustainable, and responsive to population growth and environmental challenges. He emphasized that Latin America and the Caribbean, known as the “world’s pantry”, offers great potential to contribute to global food security. In this context, national statistical institutes play a key role in data-driven policymaking. He added that it is essential not only to produce statistics but also to improve their communication and use for decision-making. He acknowledged the efforts of the National Statistics Institute and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Paraguay in collecting and leveraging data, and reaffirmed FAO’s commitment to strengthening inter-institutional collaboration. Finally, he highlighted the importance of LACCAS events like this one in promoting evidence-based public policies, which are essential for sustainable development and the well-being of the population.

ITEM 2: Progress Update Since the 31st Session

- **Mr. Michael Rahija, FAO Regional Statistician for Latin America and the Caribbean**, presented the response rates to FAO’s corporate questionnaires, as well as progress on SDG indicators, agricultural statistics, and regional collaboration since the last session. Regarding response rates, areas with low levels of participation were identified, especially in the Caribbean and in certain questionnaires on agriculture and plant genetic resources. Regarding technical assistance, 13 countries received support in measuring SDG indicators, 7 in agricultural censuses, 6 in agricultural surveys, 2 in administrative registers, and 3 in the use of geospatial data. In addition, significant progress was made in regional collaboration, with the adoption of the official name and statutes of LACCAS, the establishment of a regional working group on agricultural statistics within the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (CEA), and the approval of a resolution formalizing LACCAS’s reporting to the CEA.
- **Mr. Maxime Luciéné, Subregional Statistician at the FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean**, presented the main achievements of technical cooperation projects in food and agricultural statistics in the Caribbean. He highlighted the support provided by FAO to implement agricultural censuses and surveys in countries such as Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, strengthening national capacities in agricultural data collection and analysis. He also highlighted the importance of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) for measuring food insecurity in the region. Finally, he emphasized the high cost of a healthy diet in the Caribbean, underscoring the need to monitor these costs to improve food security and support regional economic development.
- **Peru’s National Institute of Statistics and Information (INEI), Chile’s National Institute of Statistics (INE), and Belize’s Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Business (MoA)** participated in a roundtable to discuss the progress made in their national agricultural statistics systems over the past two years. Peru’s INEI highlighted the progress made with the implementation of its new National Agricultural Survey (ENA), including a multiple frame developed by the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation (MIDAGRI), as well as the incorporation of advanced technologies for field data collection and monitoring. Chile’s INE highlighted the development of a new multiple frame and announced the implementation of a new intercensal survey system starting in 2025. Finally, Belize’s MoA emphasized the improvement in data collection through the Belize Agriculture Information Management System (BAIMS) and the transition to digital data collection using computer-assisted surveys (CAPI).

The Commission highlighted:

- Progress made by FAO regional and subregional offices in technical assistance on SDG indicators, agricultural statistics, and regional cooperation.
- The need for countries to increase their capacity to report data to FAO through questionnaires.
- The bilateral support that FAO offers to any country to complete the questionnaires.

The Commission recommended:

- That FAO create spaces for the exchange of knowledge, strategies, and operational tools to strengthen the implementation of national agricultural surveys. Suggested topics include: mobile applications for capturing geospatial information integrated into surveys, strategies for maximizing response rates in web-based surveys,

digital platforms for monitoring fieldwork, and methods for managing polygon overlaps and multiple sampling frames, among others.

- That FAO, together with Member States, develop a strategy for developing statistics for the Caribbean that seeks to generate data that informs national, regional, and global development agendas.
- That FAO increase its capacity-building activities for the development, production, and dissemination of agricultural statistics and SDGs in Caribbean countries, through strategies such as South-South cooperation and other mechanisms.

ITEM 3: Updates on SDG Monitoring, Methodological Advances, and Disaggregated Data

- **Mr. Dorian Kalamvrezos Navarro, Statistician, FAO Statistics Division**, presented the SDG reporting rates for Latin America and the Caribbean. The presentation analysed progress in data availability for the 22 SDG indicators under FAO's custodianship in Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighting advances and challenges. On average, countries in the region have improved their reporting capacity, but significant gaps remain, especially in the Caribbean, where data availability is lower than the global and regional averages. For example, only 15 percent of Caribbean countries report data on indicator 2.2.4.b (MDD-W), compared to 65 percent in Latin America, while key indicators such as 2.3.1/2.3.2 (productivity and income of smallholders) and 5.a.1 (women's land rights) remain with limited coverage. FAO has provided technical assistance and training in several countries to improve data collection, processing, and analysis, which has contributed to a gradual increase in the availability of information. As a next step, FAO will strengthen its technical support, with a special focus on the Caribbean, to close data gaps and ensure more accurate monitoring of progress toward the SDGs.
- **Mr. Francesco Tubiello, Senior Statistician, FAO Statistics Division**, presented the "Proxy Methodology for SDG Indicator 2.4.1." The main objective was to report on provisional progress in measuring progress toward sustainable agriculture due to limited data availability to fully report the original indicator. FAO developed this proxy methodology to ensure an initial assessment of countries' progress, balancing socioeconomic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It was mentioned that the methodology consists of seven measures and temporarily excludes aspects such as agricultural profitability, land tenure, and soil health due to the lack of comparable national statistics. As next steps, FAO will continue to strengthen data collection at the national level to eventually fully implement the original SDG 2.4.1 indicator.
- **Mr. Dorian Kalamvrezos Navarro, Statistician, FAO Statistics Division**, presented on the inclusion of the indicator "Prevalence of the minimum dietary diversity threshold for women aged 15-49" in the SDGs. He highlighted that this new indicator fills a critical gap by directly measuring dietary diversity and reflecting micronutrient adequacy in vulnerable groups, especially women and children. He underscored the methodological simplicity of the indicator, based on easy-to-apply and low-cost modules, noting that data is already available in 47 percent of United Nations member countries, covering 86 percent of the world's population.
- **Mr. Gerardo Franco Parrillat, Director General of Economic and Agricultural Censuses at INEGI Mexico**, presented a recent exercise to measure food losses in the country. His presentation highlighted the preliminary results of the project on the SDG 12.3.1.a indicator (Food Loss Index - FLI), jointly developed by INEGI and FAO. The central objective was to establish robust mechanisms to integrate and validate existing food loss data and compile the index using national sources such as the National Agricultural Survey (ENA). One of the key aspects addressed was the strategy to identify and measure losses at specific critical points in agrifood chains, especially considering the relevance of each stage according to the volumes operated. As an initial result, Mexico estimated a national average of 9.31 percent of food losses, highlighting the importance of corn in this calculation.
- **Mr. Emmanuel David Gatón Peña, Head of the Macroeconomic and Sectoral Statistics Department, ONE Dominican Republic**, presented the Dominican Republic's experience in measuring SDG 2.1.2. In his presentation, he addressed the results of the FIES implementation project carried out through the 2021 National Multiple Purpose Household Survey (ENHOGAR). Its main purpose was to estimate the prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity in households and individuals, using an internationally standardized methodology. Among the notable results, 47.11 percent of Dominican households experienced moderate or severe food insecurity, and 19.39 percent suffered from severe food insecurity. Significant differences were

identified by geographic area, with a higher prevalence in rural areas. As next steps, it is recommended to maintain periodic monitoring through ENHOGAR and use the results to target interventions on the most vulnerable populations.

- **Ms. Xinia Andrade Ruiz, Coordinator of Agricultural Surveys, INEC Costa Rica**, presented the progress and challenges in incorporating SDG indicators into the National Agricultural Survey (ENA). The presentation highlighted the need to adjust the current sample design to ensure accurate estimates, especially for key SDG indicators such as agricultural labour productivity and agricultural income. The technical and logistical complexity observed during the pilot tests was also mentioned, due to the length of the questionnaires and the lack of financial records on the farms. Furthermore, the urgency of updating sampling frames and evaluating the use of alternative methods, such as square segments, to reduce operating costs was emphasized. Finally, it was noted that the next National Agricultural Census represents a key opportunity to advance these methodological adjustments and improve the capacity to generate disaggregated statistics at the subnational level.
- **Mr. Carlos Quiñones, Coordinator of the GIT for Economic or Agricultural Censuses and Counts, DANE Colombia**, presented the methodology for disaggregating the SDG 2.1.2 indicator on food insecurity at the municipal level. The presentation highlighted the importance of regularly having detailed data on food insecurity to facilitate local decision-making. Using the small area estimation (SAE) technique and combining census, administrative, and survey data, it was possible to generate reliable estimates for more than a thousand municipalities. This method provided a better understanding of the territorial distribution and factors associated with food insecurity, although technical challenges related to the quality of certain administrative records remain. As a next step, DANE plans to replicate and expand this methodology for other key indicators in 2023, also exploring machine learning approaches to further improve the accuracy of the estimates.
- **Mr. Michael Rahija, FAO Regional Statistician for Latin America and the Caribbean**, presented conclusions and recommendations on the use of the SAE technique to generate disaggregated SDG indicators in Latin America. The main purpose was to highlight the importance of SAE in producing reliable estimates at the local level with reduced costs, combining surveys with administrative and geospatial data. Successful examples were highlighted, such as the food insecurity estimation based on the FIES at the municipal level in Chile (covering 99 percent of municipalities) and Colombia (100 percent of municipalities), as well as the generation of productivity and income indicators for small producers in Ecuador at canton level. The recommendations emphasize the need to strengthen the technical capacity of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to implement SAE, with minimal technical support from FAO. As a next step, it is proposed to expand collaboration between FAO and NSOs to institutionalize the regular use of SAE in national statistical production.

The Commission highlighted:

- The development of the proxy indicator for SDG 2.4.1, which will allow monitoring agricultural sustainability as countries make progress with incorporating the sub-indicators into their statistical operations.
- The new indicator 2.2.4, “Prevalence of the minimum threshold for dietary diversity,” which captures previously unmeasured aspects of food security, placing special emphasis on two vulnerable groups: young children and women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years).

The Commission emphasized:

- The significant effort made by INEGI to measure SDG indicator 12.3.1, “Food Loss Index,” using various national statistical sources. The data availability analysis exercise, assisted by FAO in Mexico, has been key to mapping and evaluating the available information that will allow reporting on this indicator.
- The significant achievement of Colombia, Chile, and Ecuador in adopting SAE methods, which has allowed for the generation of SDG indicators at more disaggregated geographic levels, such as at the municipal and commune levels.

The Commission recommended:

- That FAO strengthen its support to countries in adopting cost-effective methodologies, such as SAE, to generate high-quality disaggregated statistical information.

- That FAO organize training and technical assistance to support countries in measuring the new SDG 2.2.4 indicator.

Day 2: 27 March 2025

ITEM 4: World Census of Agriculture (WCA) 2020-2030

- **Mr. Michael Rahija, FAO Regional Statistician for Latin America and the Caribbean**, presented the main results of the 2020 round of the World Census of Agriculture for the region and highlighted several specific challenges. In particular, the Americas had the third-highest participation rate in the 2020 round, reaching 72.5 percent. The most significant methodological change was the widespread adoption of the Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) across all Latin American countries, while in the 2010 round only Brazil and Mexico had implemented this approach. The main challenges identified included ensuring data quality, integrating mapping into CAPI applications, collecting data on plot boundaries, and incorporating information on fisheries and forestry, sectors traditionally outside the scope of agricultural censuses.
- **Mr. Anselmo Maciel, Head of Statistical Analysis at the Directorate of Agricultural Censuses and Statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Paraguay**, presented the lessons learned from the 2022 National Agricultural Census (CAN2022). First, he explained that the census was prepared during the COVID-19 pandemic, which prompted a shift toward the intensive use of digital technology. Second, he highlighted that technological innovation focused on implementing tools such as ArcGIS for real-time data monitoring and validation. Third, he shared key learnings from the pre-census, census, and post-census stages, emphasizing the importance of technology to streamline operational processes, improve data quality, and facilitate dissemination. Finally, he noted that the next steps should include a transition to open-source software and improving spatial analysis capabilities to fully leverage the collected data.
- **Ms. Deborah Daniel, Agricultural Planning Officer at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**, presented lessons learned from the current planning of the 2025 Census of Agriculture and Fisheries in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The main purpose was to highlight the importance of the census in updating information on the structure of the agricultural and fisheries sectors, which are vital to the national economy. She emphasized that agriculture represents 6 percent of GDP and 15 percent of national employment, and that updating this data through a new census planned for 2025 is a priority. She specifically emphasized technological adoption, including digital methods (CAPI), the use of GPS/GIS, and pilot testing. As next steps, she recommended starting awareness-raising and public outreach activities early to ensure the success of the census.
- **Mr. Pablo Couto Martins, Coordinator of Agricultural Statistics of Uruguay**, presented the experience of the 2020 General Agricultural Census and its methodological innovations. He highlighted the combination of administrative records and digital surveys through CAPI (in person), CAWI (web), and CATI (telephone), allowing for real-time monitoring, reducing costs, and improving data quality. He also highlighted the integration of the Integrated System of Agricultural Records and Surveys (SIREA) and official databases such as DICOSE, RNFH, SMA, and INAVI, which optimized data collection. Among the challenges mentioned were resistance to digital methods, the need for training, and adequate questionnaire design. As a next step, the preliminary results of the census will be presented, consolidating the digitalization and use of administrative records in agricultural statistical production.
- **Mr. Maxime Luci  n  , Subregional Statistician at the FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean**, presented on lessons learned from the 2020 World Census of Agriculture in the Caribbean region. The purpose was to share experiences and solutions implemented to overcome common challenges in Caribbean agricultural censuses. Among the main challenges mentioned, he highlighted the lack of updated census frames and complete agricultural registers, which was partially resolved through the inclusion of agricultural modules in population censuses and administrative records. He also highlighted the limited technological experience of Ministries of Agriculture and national statistical offices, which was addressed with FAO technical assistance to provide training in digital methods such as the use of CAPI (computer-assisted personal interviews)

- **Mr. Jairo Castaño, FAO Agricultural Census Team Leader**, presented the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2030 (WCA 2030), which aims to update the guidelines for the next census round (2026-2035). Highlights included the categorization of data into “core” and “additional,” the expanded use of geospatial technologies, and the exclusion of certain topics considered non-structural. Furthermore, a proposal is being made to modify the definition of “contract manager” to include unpaid managers and strengthen the use of digital tools at all stages of the census. FAO is currently conducting global consultations with member countries to gather feedback and improve the guidelines. The final version of the WCA 2030 Guidelines will be presented for adoption at the 57th session of the UNSC in March 2026.
- The **National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Honduras**, the **Central Bank of the Republic (BCR) of El Salvador**, and the **Ministry of Agriculture of Guyana** participated in a roundtable to discuss the progress made in the planning and execution of their agricultural censuses. The agricultural census in Honduras faces challenges in financial planning, technology adoption (GIS and digital methods), incorporation of emerging issues such as climate change and gender, and improved field training through virtual and interactive platforms. The census is currently underway and is scheduled for completion in 2025. Regarding the agricultural census in El Salvador, the BCR is currently conducting pilot tests with the goal of conducting the census in May 2025. Regarding Guyana, FAO supported the inclusion of questions to identify agricultural households on the 2022 population and housing census form. Since then, three agricultural surveys have been conducted.

The Commission highlighted:

- The significant progress made by the Americas in the 2020 agricultural census round, with a regional participation rate close to 73 percent.
- The challenges faced by Caribbean countries in planning and executing their agricultural censuses, given their lack of prior experience and limited participation in previous census rounds.
- The widespread use of digital methods (CAPI, CAWI, and CATI) in all countries that conducted agricultural censuses during the 2020 round, which facilitated data collection and strengthened the quality of the information.

The Commission emphasized:

- The challenge faced by countries regarding the length of census interviews.
- The difficulties observed during the 2020 census round related to quality assessment and geographic data collection.
- The difficulty in disseminating census microdata securely, ensuring the confidentiality of informants while preserving their analytical value.
- The progress made by FAO in developing guidelines for the new WCA 2030 census round, as well as acknowledging the global consultation process it has initiated.

The Commission recommended:

- That countries are urged to work on minimizing the questionnaire size and, consequently, the duration of census interviews, prioritizing those items considered essential.
- That countries are urged to participate in the global consultation on the guidelines for the new WCA 2030 census round, providing their comments and recommendations by 30 April 2025.
- That FAO create regional forums for exchanging experiences on methodological and operational aspects, with the aim of strengthening national capacity in planning, implementing, and evaluating agricultural censuses.
- That FAO develop workshops, training sessions, and experience-sharing events focused on the new guidelines for the WCA 2030 Programme, in order to adequately prepare countries for the implementation of the next census round in 2030.
- That FAO provide technical assistance, training sessions, and opportunities for the exchange of experiences on the anonymization and secure dissemination of microdata from agricultural surveys and censuses based on the guidelines and materials developed.
- That FAO seek to identify and promote successful experiences, such as Uruguay, in leveraging data from administrative records to strengthen and improve the quality of agricultural censuses and surveys.

- That FAO develop specific international guidelines for fisheries censuses, as well as additional guidance on the integration of fisheries censuses with agricultural censuses.

ITEM 5: Production of the Food Balance Sheet

- **Mr. Michael Rahija, FAO Regional Statistician for Latin America and the Caribbean**, presented key aspects of the new methodology, tools, and challenges of Food Balance Sheet (FBS) reporting in Central America and the Caribbean. The main objective was to summarize FBSs and their history and highlight innovations in data collection, validation, and analysis to improve food security measurement. Highlights included the adoption of the Central Product Classification (CPC) and the Harmonized System (HS6), new imputation methods, and the use of the Shiny tool for data systematization. Furthermore, the importance of forming inter-institutional groups to improve the quality and accuracy of information was emphasized. The next steps are recommended to strengthen technical training and promote regular meetings of national teams to ensure the FBS is updated and used effectively.
- The **National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) of Panama**, the **National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Guatemala**, the **National Statistics Office of the Dominican Republic**, and the **National Office of Statistics and Information (ONEI) of Cuba** participated in a roundtable to discuss progress in the development of their FBS. In Panama, work is being done to incorporate new technologies to expand product coverage, using advanced digital tools to improve international comparability. Guatemala made progress in implementing the FAO standard methodology, strengthening technical capacities through the use of digital tools and the CPC, with results expected for publication in 2025. The Dominican Republic is strengthening inter-institutional collaboration to improve the quality and accuracy of the FBS through the use of technological applications, resuming this initiative after more than 50 years without updating it. In Cuba, ONEI is systematizing and updating the national FBS methodology, planning to complete the 2021 data upload by May 2025, in addition to advancing the link with national accounts and strengthening inter-institutional coordination.

The Commission highlighted:

- The relevance of FBS as a fundamental tool to support public policies aimed at achieving the goal of zero hunger in countries.
- That the new methodology for generating FBSs incorporated important improvements, including the adoption of the CPC, improved imputation methods, and a more realistic balancing mechanism.
- The strategic importance of inter-institutional groups in this process.
- The effort and technical support provided by FAO to Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Panama in adapting the new methodology. In the case of Cuba and the Dominican Republic, the production of a national FBS will be achieved for the first time.

The Commission emphasized:

- The key role of inter-institutional groups in strengthening intersectoral relationships, facilitating information exchange, improving the quality of statistical sources, and streamlining data flow.
- Increasing national technical capacities to ensure the continuous and sustainable production of FBSs.

The Commission recommended:

- That FAO continue its technical support to countries in the region to produce national food balance sheets using the new methodology.

ITEM 6: Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI)

- **Mr. Hernán D. Muñoz, ASTI Project Leader at the FAO Statistics Division**, presented the progress of ASTI project implementation in Latin America and its next steps. ASTI compiles global indicators on investment in agricultural research and development and the capacities of National Agricultural Research Systems, with the aim of improving decision-making in science and technology policies. The transition of

ASTI to FAO, with a pilot project in nine countries, and the need to institutionalize these indicators in National Statistical Systems were highlighted. The importance of improving the collection and dissemination of data on agricultural innovation to boost productivity and reduce poverty was also emphasized. Next steps include national capacity building by 2025, the collection of harmonized data, and the publication of results to consolidate ASTI as a sustainable system within FAO.

- **Mr. Pablo Gallo Mendoza, from the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INDEC) of Argentina**, presented the country's experience in the 2024 pilot test to implement the ASTI. The main objective was to evaluate new methodological approaches to ensure the long-term sustainability of these indicators, which are key for agricultural research and investment policies. He highlighted the importance of establishing inter-institutional agreements between INDEC, the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) and FAO, as well as the practical application of the pilot questionnaire in 83 of the 106 identified institutions. Thirty-five completed forms were obtained, although challenges were faced related to data availability, internal institutional knowledge, and the socio-labour context. As next steps, he recommended adjusting the monitoring strategy to improve response rates and reviewing specific aspects of the questionnaire to facilitate its understanding.

The Commission highlighted:

- The importance of science and technology data in guiding policies aimed at increasing agricultural productivity and, consequently, reducing poverty and eradicating hunger.
- The scarcity of such data and the need to improve their collection and systematize the dissemination of quality, official, and country-specific indicators.
- The ongoing transition toward a more institutionalized and sustainable ASTI system.

The Commission recommended:

- That Member States promote national dialogues to establish the production of agricultural science and technology indicators, identifying the appropriate model for collecting, processing, and disseminating this data.
- That FAO guide and support ASTI activities in the region, particularly to explore the integration of ASTI into National Statistical Systems.

ITEM 7: Regional Challenges for Fisheries Statistics

- **Ms. Stefania Vannuccini, Senior Fisheries Officer, FAO Fisheries Division** presented on the topic "Improving Fisheries and Aquaculture Data to Support the Blue Transformation: Key Challenges and Potential Improvements." She summarized the current state of global fisheries data and emphasized the importance of developing management plans that recognize the fisheries and aquaculture sector as a vital contributor to food supply, local and national economies, and ecosystem sustainability. Despite data limitations, she underscored the projected need to increase the supply of aquatic animals by 2050. She introduced methodologies and tools such as OPEN ARTFISH and CALIPSEO (Open Approaches, Standards, and Techniques for Statistical Monitoring of Fisheries), which aim to enhance data quality and availability. Ms. Vannuccini encouraged LACCAS members to consider ongoing activities in fisheries and aquaculture statistics, including collaboration with other organizations, and to share their opinions and recommendations on priority areas requiring technical support. She also suggested the potential development of a global strategy and specific census guidelines for fisheries.
- **Ms. Anne-Elise Nieblas, from the Information and Knowledge team of FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Division**, presented progress on measuring SDG indicator 14.4.1, which assesses the sustainability of fish stocks at the global, regional, and national levels. Progress in reporting was highlighted, with a 14 percent increase in global participation between 2019 and 2022, although challenges persist in data quality and the technical capacity of some countries. The importance of tools such as the Stock Monitoring Tool (SMT) and technical training in fisheries data collection, management, and analysis was also emphasized.

FAO offers assistance through workshops, online courses, and a technical advisory service to improve the quality of reporting.

The Commission highlighted:

- FAO's efforts to support countries in producing and improving fishery statistics have resulted in a significant increase in the reporting rate of fishery indicators between 2019 and 2022.
- Significant gaps in fishery data and indicators persist due to limitations in national technical capacities.

The Commission recommended:

- That FAO develop a global strategy aimed at strengthening and improving fishery statistics and taking into account the specificities of the Latin American and Caribbean region.
- That FAO increase its efforts to provide technical assistance to countries in collecting the data necessary for fish stock assessments.
- That FAO develop specific international guidelines for conducting fishery censuses.

Day 3: 28 March 2025

ITEM 8: Agrifood Systems Statistics: A Holistic Approach

- **Mr. José Rosero Moncayo, FAO Chief Statistician and Director of the Statistics Division**, presented on "Statistics for Agrifood Systems: A Holistic Approach." The purpose of his presentation was to discuss the need to broaden the traditional view of agriculture toward a holistic perspective of agrifood systems. He emphasized that these systems represent nearly 15 percent of global GDP but face serious challenges in nutrition, sustainability, and social equity. He also highlighted the importance of initiatives such as the Food Systems Countdown to 2030 (FSCI), created to annually monitor agrifood systems through a global framework of indicators.
- **Mr. Francesco Tubiello, Senior Statistician at FAO's Statistics Division**, presented on the calculation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from agrifood systems. The main objective was to explain the recent expansion of the FAOSTAT database, which since 2021 includes not only emissions from agricultural activities but also those from the entire agrifood system. An important point highlighted was that agricultural activities and land-use change are the largest contributors to emissions from the agrifood sector, although the relevance of emissions generated in the supply chain, especially from energy use, was also emphasized. As next steps, he recommended that countries use methodologies developed by FAO to better estimate their national and regional emissions, adapting them to local realities. Finally, he suggested harmonizing these methods with regional specificities to improve the quality and accuracy of reported data.
- **Ms. Veronica Boero, Statistician at FAO's Statistics Division**, presented a methodology for estimating employment in agrifood systems (AFS). The main objective was to generate accurate statistics on the agrifood sector's share of global employment, using ILO data combined with advanced econometric methods. It was highlighted that, globally, agrifood systems account for approximately 39 percent of total employment, with 32 percent of this employment occurring in this non-agricultural sector. To overcome previous limitations, an econometric model (ordinary least squares with country fixed effects) was developed, providing more robust and consistent results.
- **Ms. Veronica Boero, Statistician at FAO's Statistics Division**, presented a methodology for calculating value added in agrifood systems. The objective was to adequately quantify the multisectoral economic contribution of agrifood systems at the global and national levels, using International Standard Industrial Classifications (ISIC) and detailed official statistics. One of the main points was the combined use of UNSD and UNIDO data to obtain accurate estimates of value added, considering sectors both fully and partially involved in agrifood systems. In addition, the Food Value Chain (FVC) analytical approach was presented, using input-output methods and Leontief matrices to analyse the distribution of food expenditure.
- **Mr. Carlo Cafiero, Senior Statistician at FAO's Statistics Division**, gave a virtual presentation on methods for calculating the cost and unaffordability of a healthy diet. The main objective was to explain how the minimum cost of a healthy diet is determined using national dietary guidelines adapted to specific cultural contexts. A key highlight was the calculation of the percentage of the population whose disposable income is

insufficient to cover the cost of a healthy diet after meeting basic non-food needs, using data from the International Comparison Programme (ICP) and the Poverty and Inequality Platform (PIP).

The Commission highlighted:

- The importance of generating data and indicators to monitor the performance of agrifood systems, in the context of the outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit. It also recognizes the efforts made to develop an integrated indicator framework through the FSCI initiative, supported by FAO, which serves as a reference framework for countries.

The Commission emphasized:

- FAO's efforts to develop global methodologies and indicators to fill existing information gaps in agrifood systems, such as those related to greenhouse gas emissions, employment, value added, and the costs and affordability of a healthy diet.
- The vast volume of information required and the challenge of collecting, harmonizing, consolidating, and visualizing this data on a single platform, considering that it comes from various institutions and national authorities.
- This more holistic approach represents an opportunity to engage a broader community of users and identify opportunities for new investments in data and statistics on agrifood systems.

The Commission recommended:

- That Member States strengthen their national capacities for data collection and production of indicators on agrifood systems, requesting technical support from FAO when necessary.
- That Member States consider including data production on agrifood systems in their national technical cooperation frameworks with FAO.

ITEM 9: Recommendations and Closing

- **Mr. Octavio Costa de Oliveira, Coordinator of Agricultural Statistics at IBGE in Brazil**, presented the final recommendations of the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (CEA). The document includes five key proposals: implementing free online courses (MOOCs) on agricultural sampling frames; establishing a regional consortium of universities to promote advanced methodological research; strengthening the Regional Working Group on Agricultural Statistics to address common challenges; conducting comparative studies to identify more efficient and cost-effective sample designs; and developing a regional technological platform that integrates advanced statistical solutions, continuous updating of area frames, and the use of satellite imagery in agricultural censuses and surveys.

The Commission highlighted:

- That the development and updating of sampling frames is one of the main challenges countries face in implementing their national agricultural surveys.
- That most of the challenges regarding multiple frames are common across countries, and a regional approach would be much more appropriate and cost-effective to take advantage of the heterogeneity of capacities and improve national agricultural statistical systems.

The Commission recommended:

- That FAO seek resources and strategies to finance the implementation of the five proposals from the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics within the framework of the CEA-ECLAC.
- That FAO seek a Caribbean country interested in hosting the LACCAS32 conference in 2027.