



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF REGIONAL TECHNICAL WORKING
GROUP (RTWG) ON REGIONSTAT,**

12th - 14th JUNE, 2013,

MOMBASA, KENYA

(Ref No: EAC/TFR/REGIONSTAT/02/2013)

**Secretariat
Arusha, Tanzania
June, 2013**

MEETING OF THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (RTWG) ON REGIONSTAT

1. OPENING

1.1 Introduction

Articles 105 -110, of the EAC Treaty, provides the basic elements for the Partner States to objectively cooperate for the achievement of rational agricultural production and food security. In this regards, the EAC is working towards a common agricultural policy, establishing food sufficiency mechanism within the community, increased agricultural production and promotion of export within and outside the EAC Region and minimize post harvest losses. In line with the Treaty, the EAC developed the EAC Food Action Plan that underscores the need for timely and reliable Agricultural information for monitoring and evaluation of the progress on achievement of the Food Security across the region.

The EAC in collaboration with FAO is supporting the development of CountrySTAT in all the Partner States to serve as an online one Stop data dissemination centre for existing national Agricultural Statistics. This will facilitate the exchange of information among the Partner States on agriculture statistics using common standards and classifications, and will ultimately provide the required indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of the EAC Food Security Action Plan.

The Mombasa meeting was a follow-up to the first workshop of the Regional Technical Working Group on RegionSTAT that was held in Lusaka, Zambia from 8th to 10th, October 2012. The meeting was attended by delegates from the National Statistics Offices, Ministries responsible for Agriculture in the Partner States, representatives of Ministry of EAC Kenya. In attendance were delegations from FAO and the EAC Secretariat. The list of participants is attached hereto as *Annex I*.

1.2 Constitution of the Bureau

In accordance with the EAC Rules and Procedures, Mr. Sunday Godfrey, Senior Statistician, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries, Republic of Uganda chaired the meeting, while Ms. Esperance Kamariza, Director of Agricultural Statistics and Information, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Republic of Burundi was the rapporteur.

1.3 Consideration of the Agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda with amendments hereto attached as *Annex II*.

1.4 Statement by the Chairperson

The chairperson welcomed the delegates to the meeting. He underscored the importance of Agriculture Statistics as the source information required by policy makers on food and Agriculture for informed decisions. He pointed out the need for further commitment by experts to ensure the timely update of CountrySTAT in order to strengthen RegionSTAT EAC.

1.5 Statement by FAO

In her opening remarks, Ms Julia Stone the Country Project Officer - CountrySTAT, FAO Headquarters commended the Partner States and EAC Secretariat for their commitment to the success of CountrySTAT and RegionSTAT system. She underscored the importance of holding meetings of the Technical Working Groups in order to improve the data availability. She pointed out the need for countries to regularly update their national CountrySTAT web sites regularly in order to contribute to the regional aggregation to be made available on the RegionSTAT EAC Website.

1.6 Statement by the Republic of Kenya

Mr Abner Ingosi, National Coordinator of CountrySTAT Kenya, welcomed the participants to Kenya and to Mombasa. He urged all participants to have a pleasant stay and enjoy the beautiful sceneries of the city. He underscored the importance of agriculture statistics in agricultural policy formulation and planning. He urged the member states to support the efforts in harmonization of agriculture statistics in the region.

1.7 Statement by EAC Secretariat

Mr. Marco Lubili Gambamala, the Statistician at the EAC Secretariat, welcomed the delegates to the meeting and thanked Partner States for their commitment to the EAC integration agenda. He reminded the meeting of the provisions in the Treaty Establishing the EAC and the Common Market Protocol which emphasizes creation of a framework for food security and improved agricultural production.

Mr. Gambamala Further emphasized the importance of a harmonized Agricultural Statistics data collection methodology that is expected to provide a basis for provision of comparable Agriculture Statistics which results into provision of Monitoring and Evaluation indicators for the EAC Food Security Action Plan. Mr. Gambamala thanked the FAO for its support in establishment of RegionSTAT at the EAC Secretariat and a CountrySTAT in all Partner States

2. REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING THAT WAS HELD IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA FROM 8TH TO 10TH, OCTOBER 2012

The Secretariat informed the meeting that a Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG) meeting on RegionSTAT was held in October 2012, Lusaka Zambia. The meeting among others recommended that the EAC Secretariat should prepare a priority list of Crops, Livestock and Fisheries to be used by countries in reporting agricultural statistics for the EAC RegionSTAT. The RTWG meeting reviewed and approved the draft list of crops, Livestock and Fisheries and is hereto attached as *Annex III*.

The meeting considered the draft list of indicators for the EAC RegionSTAT. This was a review of the list of indicators that had been presented during the last meeting of the RTWG that was held in Lusaka. The RTWG meeting reviewed and recommended the draft list of indicators hereto attached as *Annex IV* for adoption.

The meeting observed that:

- (i) There is need for annual review of the list of crops as this would give room for including the immerging crops
- (ii) There is need for undertaking a productivity study on crops and livestock as this eases the computation of production. FAO should be engaged to support the study. Ms Julia Stone will follow up with the FAO Statistics Division management to assist member countries to undertake the productivity study.
- (iii) When designing a food balance sheet, it is important to use the production figures for all crops, Livestock and Fisheries, failure to this one would be designing a commodity balance sheet and not a Food balance sheet
- (iv) Data on machinery is difficult to get through administrative records and therefore there is need to include a module on machinery in agricultural survey or censuses.
- (v) Uganda will have uploaded to the CountrySTAT data on wheat by end of July 2013
- (vi) Rwanda will upload data from 2006 – 2012 to the CountrySTAT Rwanda website by the end of June 2013.
- (vii) Tanzania has made progress in the implementation of CountrySTAT, however it is important that NBS in Tanzania makes the nomination of the new CountrySTAT National Coordinator.
- (viii) On the RegionSTAT EAC Website the aggregation for bananas is incorrect. The CountrySTAT IT Team in Rome will review the aggregation and resolve the issue. The IT Team will inform the EAC once the issue is resolved.
- (ix) The EAC in collaboration with FAO will organize a validation TWG meeting on the automatically aggregated tables by October 2013.
- (x) The CountrySTAT IT Team is requested to adjust the decimal point default for Live Animals to zero.
- (xi) All EAC member states require information on Methodology for Producer Prices. Ms Julia Stone has already forwarded a request to Carola Fabi, Statistician, on this request. Documents are required in English and French.
- (xii) The CountrySTAT Team will follow up with the FAOSTAT Team and Fisheries to discuss and address the need for countries to have the codes for species related

- to capture and production to upload data to CountrySTAT, as the current template has information related to the processing of fish which is not useful for the EAC.
- (xiii) Member states requested wizard functionality for uploading all tables for national and sub-national data as it would make it easier to upload into the CountrySTAT System.
 - (xiv) Uganda requested information on the status of FAO Technical Assistance to address issues with inconsistencies in the time series.
 - (xv) A request was made for the report related to producer prices in Kenya and Uganda from the Consultant, Dr Zakayo Msokwa, who is working with Carola Fabi in this area under project GTFS/RAF/465/ITA to be sent to the EAC Secretariat, as well as Kenya and Uganda.
 - (xvi) It is necessary to harmonize methodologies for compiling data on indicators in the RegionSTAT among the 5 member states. The EAC in collaboration with FAO should explore the possibility of developing a manual on harmonized methodologies.
 - (xvii) The automatic aggregation should be activated for all priority indicators (see Annex III) as this will enable visibility of the aggregated data and provide opportunities for correcting any mistakes and discrepancies available before launching the EAC RegionSTAT.
 - (xviii) The proposed date for the official launch of the EAC RegionSTAT is November 2013.

The Meeting of Regional Technical Working Group on RegionSTAT recommends to the Sectoral Committee on Statistics to recommend to the Sectoral Council on Finance and Economic Affairs to:

- a) **Take note of the progress made**
- b) **Consider and approve the priority list of crops, Livestock and Fisheries hereto attached as *Annex III*.**
- c) **Consider and approve the list of indicators for RegionSTAT EAC hereto attached as *Annex IV*.**
- d) **Direct the Secretariat to convene a meeting RTWG to review the automatically generated tables (aggregates).**

3. REVIEW THE CURRENT STATUS OF AGRICULTURE DATA IN PARTNER STATES AND CONSTRAINING FACTORS FOR TIMELINESS AND RELIABILITIES OF AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

3.1 Partner States compilation practices

All the Partner States presented the progress made in updating CountrySTAT dissemination tools. The presentations covered among others: Updates about the CountrySTAT system; Data Quality issues; Time Series covered; How the country is dealing with missing observations; Status of Completion of Correspondence tables; Factors affecting timeliness of data and if a country has an imputation method for missing observations. The detailed presentations highlighting the progress and status of the current compilation practices are hereto attached as *Annex V*.

The meeting observed that:

- (i) Uganda has developed a prototype to automatically send reminders to the authors responsible for update of tables in the different domains. This best practice could be replicated to other partner states.
- (ii) There is still a remarkable discrepancy between the data in the CountrySTAT and FAOSTAT
- (iii) A methodological document highlighting the source of information and how to collect such information for each indicator published in the CountrySTAT would be developed as this would lead to provision of harmonised data across the region.
- (iv) CountrySTAT Kenya is planning to hold the next TWG meeting by August 2013.

3.2 Status of compilation of fertilizer statistics

The status of compilation of fertilizer statistics in the region was presented by Ms. Bridget Okumu, Regional Market information Specialist. The presentation highlighted among many things the formulation of fertilizer statistics workgroups in the partner states. She pointed out that these groups are the subset of the CountrySTAT Technical Working Group and are actively involved in compilation and validation of fertilizer statistics for each partner state. She further pointed out the fertilizer statistics required for compilation includes data on Production, Consumption, Trade and Price. The detailed presentations highlighting the status of compilation of fertilizer statistics is hereto attached as *Annex VI*.

The meeting observed that:

- (i) Some countries such as Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda do not produce inorganic fertilizers therefore no production of fertilizer is recorded in these countries.
- (ii) It is difficult to compile statistics of fertilizer consumption through administrative sources. This information can be accurately obtained through household surveys or censuses which are also expensive to undertake. EAC in collaboration with AfricaFertilizer.org and FAO will explore possibilities of collecting data on fertilizer consumption.
- (iii) EAC FTWG requires appropriate training for the compilation of fertilizer statistics. FTWG technical meetings would be done regularly as this would increase information sharing and exchange, and provide 2012 Trade Statistics, and data on fertilizer consumption and prices till end of 2012.
- (iv) AfricaFertilizer.org is open to supporting these FTWG meetings and will honor requests for specific support to collect missing data.

3.3 Methodology on Imputation of missing data

The Imputation Methodology was presented by Mr. Michael C. J. Kao, of FAOSTAT, FAO Headquarter, Rome. He pointed out that imputation was important so as to ensure that data are non sparse and the possible data gaps have been filled. He further pointed out that the approach aims at capturing the variability of relevant commodity and/or geographic characteristics through the application of aggregated growth rates, a five-hierarchy that was designated to compute the grouped growth rates. The sets of data used to compute the growth rates are:

- Same country/commodity aggregate
- Sub-region aggregate/same commodity
- Sub-region aggregate/commodity aggregate
- Regional aggregate/same commodity
- Regional aggregate/commodity aggregate

The presentation further highlighted the shortfalls of the previous methodology and why the new proposed methodology was more suitable for imputation of data on Area harvested and Yield.

The detailed presentations highlighting the imputation methodology is hereto attached as **Annex VII**.

The meeting observed that:

- a) The approach is an improved version of the model used in FAOSTAT to impute missing figures.
- b) The methodology would reduce the discrepancy between FAOSTAT and national estimates. It will further improve the completeness of data series.
- c) There is need for member countries to further interact with the model in order to be applied in the imputation of missing data at country level.

The Meeting of Regional Technical Working Group for the collection and validation of National Food and Agricultural Data recommends to the Sectoral Committee on Statistics to recommend to the Sectoral Council on Finance and Economic Affairs to take note of the progress.

SIGNING OF THE REPORT

This report is hereby signed on behalf of the respective Partner States by the heads of delegation below on this 14th **day of June, 2013**.

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Ms Esperance Kamariza Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	Mr. Abner Ingosi Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries	Mr. Stephane Mugabe National Institute of Statistics, Rwanda	Mr. Onasimbo Ntikha Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Cooperatives	Mr. Ronald James Otyek Uganda Bureau of Statistics
The Republic of Burundi	The Republic of Kenya	The Republic of Rwanda	The United Republic of Tanzania	The Republic of Uganda