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ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

AGENDA ITEM 6.1

Progress in WCA 2020 implementation and
proposed outline and strategy for the WCA 2030
guidelines

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Progress in WCA 2020
implementation and proposed
outline and strategy for the WCA
2030 guidelines

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Background

- FAO is the UN agency responsible for providing census methodological guidelines to countries through the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA) .
- The current round is the WCA 2020, which ends in 2025.
- FAO started the development of the new WCA 2030 guidelines, for the period 2026-2035.
- It involved a review of lessons, consultation with key experts, member countries (in regional meetings), and FAO technical divisions.
- The initial consultation guided on possible areas of revision and improvement for the preparation of the new WCA 2030.
- A Concept Note was prepared, followed by first drafts of the guidelines.

Findings on the implementation of WCA 2020 – 1/3

- **An online survey sent to all member countries in 2022 showed that:**
 1. The classical census (half of the countries, down from 65% in WCA 2010) and combined census with admin registers (32%, mainly in the EU) are the most popular methodologies. The modular approach (19%) is mainly used in Africa.
 2. Complete enumeration is the main type of enumeration (82% of the countries).
 3. The main source of census frame is the last population census (46% of the countries), followed by the last agricultural census (41%) and administrative registers (18%).
 4. CAPI (66%) and CAWI (34%), and Post (28%) overtook PAPI (26%) as the main data collection mode. Telephone interviewing (CATI, 22%) is gaining ground.
 5. A growing number of countries rely on the use of technologies such as GIS and interactive online databases to disseminate results.

Findings on WCA 2020 – 2/3

- **In terms of coverage of census items, the online survey showed that:**
 1. Some themes were infrequently covered:
 - Intra-household decisions (gender role)
 - Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)
 - GHG emissions
 - Fisheries.
 2. These themes are optional in the WCA 2020, meaning they are not compulsory.
 1. FIES and GHG emissions would be removed as they are now covered by other sources (e.g. SDG indicators).

Findings on WCA 2020 – 3/3

Some practices of concern:

- Census questionnaires continue to be overloaded in many countries.
- Items that are not structural (e.g. production) and belong to sample surveys are forced into the census.
- Some countries excluded juridical holdings (e.g. enterprises, cooperatives, government agencies) from their censuses.
- Geo-referencing is not widely used for the location of holdings.
- In some countries, censuses are sample-based (mainly in Africa), not fulfilling key census objectives: data for small admin units, benchmark data, complete frames, and measurement of rare events.
- In some countries, there are significant delays in publication of census results or not adequate dissemination.

Agricultural census completed/ongoing* in the region (WCA 2020 round)

Asia	Census year
Bangladesh	2019
Bhutan	2019 & 2022
Cambodia	2023
China	2016
India	2015/2016 & 2022
Indonesia	2023
Japan	2020
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2019/2020
Mongolia	2022
Nepal	2021/2022
Philippines	2023
Republic of Korea	2020
Timor-Leste	2019
Viet Nam	2016 & 2020 & 2025

Pacific	Census year
American Samoa	2018 & 2024*
Australia	2015/16 & 2021
Cook Islands	2021/22
Fiji	2020
French Polynesia	2023
Guam	2018 & 2024*
Kiribati	2020 (PHC with an AM)
Marshall Islands	2021 (PHC with an AM)
Micronesia (Federated States of)	2016/17
Nauru	2021 (PHC with an AM)
New Zealand	2017 & 2022
Niue	2021
Northern Mariana Islands	2018 & 2024*
Palau	2020 (PHC with an AM)
Samoa	2019 & 2025
Tuvalu	2017 & 2022/23
Vanuatu	2022/23

Agricultural census planned/unplanned in the region

Asia – Please update

Asia	Census year
Malaysia	2024 –enumeration Jul-Sep 2024
Maldives	Planned (TCP upcoming)
Myanmar	2023
Pakistan	2023
Sri Lanka	2022/23- plans delayed
Thailand	2023

Asia - Unplanned	Status
Afghanistan	No plans
Brunei Darussalam	No plans
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	No census
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	No plans
Singapore	No plans

Pacific – Please update

Pacific	Census year
Solomon Islands	2025
Tonga	2025 –enumeration postponed from 2024 to 2025

Pacific - Unplanned	Status
Papua New Guinea	No plans

Proposed outline and strategy for the WCA 2030 guidelines

Areas of work in the WCA 2030 – 1/2

The new guidelines will stress on:

- Key role of the census: providing structural data on agriculture and the foundation for the system of agriculture statistical surveys.
- Censuses provide what sample surveys cannot: data for small admin units, benchmark data, complete frames, and estimates of rare events (unusual crops or livestock).
- Census questionnaire should focus on structural items. Non-structural items could be collected by sample enumeration (e.g. a module or survey).
- If a 'census' is just sample-based, it would be deemed a farm structure survey.
- For subsistence farms, to recommend a smaller set of census items.
- Census excluding juridical holdings is an incomplete census.
- A new section about the (limited) contribution of the census to SDG indicators.
- Encourage dissemination of results and the use of geo-referencing to improve the presentation of results and enable integration with other datasets, GIS.

Areas of work in the WCA 2030 – 2/2

Based on lessons and feedback, new census items are proposed:

- Number of parcels;
- Area of crops planted (in addition to area harvested);
- Move gender as item in the management of crops (per parcel) and livestock;
- Presence of hydroponic/vertical cultivation (important in landless holdings);
- Number of animals by breed category (in addition to animal by species);
- Use of technology (e.g. automated steering, sprayers, drones, robotic milkers);
- Use of insurance;
- Whether forestry activities* are practised (in addition to presence of woodland).

*Forestry activities refer to silviculture (e.g. timber production) and other activities such as nurseries, production of charcoal, and gathering of non-wood forest products

Process and development of WCA 2030

1/2

Activity	Period
Methodological review	
Methodological review of ag-census in Asia-Pacific, Africa, Americas, Europe	Done
Prioritize recommendations and lessons learnt	Done
Consultations	
Internal consultations at FAO	Ongoing
External consultations: countries, experts, int'l organizations	Ongoing
International meetings	
Discussion in regional meetings (e.g. Latin America- <i>done</i> , Africa- <i>done</i> , Asia- <i>now</i>)	Ongoing
Writing	
Concept note and draft work plan (based on review and consultations)	April 2023
Annotated outline for WCA 2030 and technical roles assigned	May 2023
Preparation of 1st draft of the Guidelines (based on concept note)	Dec 2023
Preparation of 2 nd draft of the Guidelines (after consulting FAO divisions)	Apr 2024

Process and development of WCA 2030

1/2

Activity	Period
Validation	
Internal presentation and discussion at FAO (Draft 2)	June 2024
International Expert Review/UN-CEAG* at FAO HQ hybrid meeting (Draft 3)	Nov 2024
Global consultation (Draft 4)	Early 2025
Adoption by governing bodies: UNSC 57 th session, FAO (Final draft)	February 2026
Publication and dissemination	
Revision, editing, layout and publication	Q2 2026
Translation into other languages	2026 onwards
Dissemination seminars	2026 onwards

**UN-CEAG: UN Committee of experts on food security, agricultural and rural statistics*

Discussion: Questions & recommendations

- Views on the proposed areas of work in the WCA 2030:
 - On what concepts the new guidelines should stress on;
 - On what concepts should explain better.
- Process and areas for collaboration.

Thank you for your attention!

For more information, please visit: www.fao.org/world-census-agriculture/wcarounds/wca2020/en/

