The data and statistical coordination team of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Statistics Division is responsible for the governance of FAO’s data and statistical activities to ensure the relevance, quality, consistency and effectiveness of FAO data and statistical programming, activities and practices at the corporate level.

It supports the Secretariat of the Data Coordination Group (DCG), FAO’s highest internal body in charge of data and statistical matters and works closely with the Chief Statistician and technical units to ensure stronger governance of FAO’s data and statistical system.

The overarching goal is to foster the overall relevance, consistency, quality and effectiveness of FAO’s data and statistical programme of work; align data and statistical activities with relevant FAO and United Nations (UN) policies, principles and initiatives; coordinate FAO’s role for the 21 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators under FAO custodianship; and strengthen FAO’s presence in regional and global discussions on data and statistics impacting FAO’s mandate.

Area of work

FAO is committed to strengthening data and statistics governance both internally and externally and to ensuring that the coordination of its core function on data and statistics is undertaken in the best possible way. To this end, the activities of the data and statistical coordination team focus on the following:

- Internal and external data and statistical governance.
- Corporate policies, standards and procedures, and partnerships for food and agriculture data and statistics.
- Corporate planning, monitoring and reporting of FAO’s programme of work on data and statistics.
- SDG monitoring, reporting and capacity building.
- Intellectual property matters concerning FAO databases.
Core objectives

- Support the governance and coordination of FAO’s data and statistical activities, both within FAO and within the broader international data and statistical community.
- Oversee the planning, monitoring and reporting on FAO data and statistical programme of work.
- Support the establishment of corporate policies, standards and procedures related to the FAO data and statistics.
- Coordinate FAO’s role as custodian agency for 21 SDG indicators.

Key outputs

Governance and coordination

- Servicing of internal data coordination groups and development, implementation and monitoring of strategic orientations, policies, standards, procedures and best practices.
- Coordination of FAO reporting on data and statistics in FAO Governing bodies, the UN Statistical Commission and other relevant bodies.
- Planning, design and implementation of outreach activities aimed to foster greater collaboration and coordination inside and outside FAO.
- Establishment, review and management of corporate partnerships on data and statistics with other international organizations, the academia, the private sector and resource partners.
- Support the three FAO regional commissions on agriculture statistics.
- Coordination of FAO participation in committee of experts and working groups under the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) as well as other regional and global statistical coordination bodies relevant to FAO’s statistical mandate.
- Management of intellectual property rights for FAO databases.

SDG monitoring

- Development, refinement, endorsement and documentation for the compilation, disaggregation and progress assessment of the SDG indicators under FAO custodianship.
- FAO focal point in the Inter-agency expert group on SDG indicators.
- Contribution to the UN global SDG report and preparation of the FAO SDG progress report.
- Capacity development support to countries on SDG monitoring for the indicators under FAO custodianship.

Data and statistical coordination

FURTHER INFORMATION:  
www.fao.org/about/who-we-are/departments/statistics-division/en/  

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