

Distr.
GENERAL

CES/AC.61/1999/21
8 June 1999

ENGLISH ONLY

STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT
(OECD)

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL
ORGANISATION (FAO)

Meeting on Food and Agricultural
Statistics in Europe

(Geneva, 23-25 June 1999)

STREAMLINING DATA COLLECTION AND DATA SHARING BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Contributed paper submitted by the Intersecretariat Working Group
on Agricultural Statistics (IWG.AGRI)*

Summary

The Conference of the European Statisticians is actively seeking to reduce response burden by members countries and promote joint data sharing by international organizations. The situation as concerns agriculture statistics is reviewed. Surveys of international data requests sent to three member countries and preliminary conclusions by IWG.AGRI are presented in this paper.

* Prepared by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

Background and structure of the note

1. At the 1997 session of the Conference of the European Statisticians (CES), the secretariats of UN/ECE, Eurostat and OECD presented a Note entitled "Joint data collection", summarizing how they were proceeding to streamline data collection from member countries, in the interests of reducing the response burden of their respective member states. An assessment of the status of joint data collection/data sharing of ECE, Eurostat, OECD and selected other international organizations was given as well as some proposals for improvements. The Conference asked the UN/ECE, Eurostat, OECD and other international organizations to continue this work and to report progress to CES plenary sessions.

3. In the Note, which is prepared annually by secretariats of the three organizations, data collection activities in various subject fields are classified into the following three groups:

- II. Areas that seem to be working well
- III. Areas where there are problems to be resolved
- IV. Future action

4. In sections III and IV there are, for each subject area, indications of suggested actions and a time schedule for making progress.

Conference of European Statisticians conclusions as concerns agriculture statistics

5. Economics Accounts for Agriculture is regarded an area which seems to work very well. In the Note to the 1999 Conference of European Statisticians (CES/1999/19) it is said: "The OECD receives data on Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA) for the EU countries from Eurostat. Eurostat will also collect EAA data for the Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) and make these data available to the OECD. In the meantime, Eurostat receives EAA data for the CEECs already available at the OECD. Eurostat receives EAA and agricultural key indicators for Commonwealth of Independent States from OECD. The IWG.AGRI is currently exploring ways to reduce response burden by NSOs and to eliminate duplication of requests (FAO, ECE, Eurostat, OECD). OECD will present an IWG.AGRI proposal at the Joint UN/ECE-Eurostat-OECD-FAO Meeting on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe (Geneva, 23-25 June 1999)."

6. It is further said: "OECD is currently reviewing with Member countries the methodological framework of the Economic Accounts for Agriculture and will organise a meeting on this subject in October 1999. This revision and extension work is done in close co-operation with Eurostat."

7. Agriculture statistics other than EAA. In the Note to the CES it is mentioned: "Concerning other subjects and because of OECD's growing interest in non-member countries, beyond the traditional transition countries, OECD will investigate with Eurostat and the FAO, whether more synergies in data collection are possible, and where differences remain, identify causes to see how valid the reasons for these are."

8. The Bureau of the Conference has asked IWG.AGRI to come up with suggested action and timetable of how to solve the remaining problems in joint data collection and data sharing as concerns agriculture statistics. The Bureau noted that a first report will be presented in June 1999, that is to the present meeting.

9. Based on the conclusions drawn from the present paper and paper CES/AC.61/199/19 prepared by Mr. Andreas Lindner (OECD), IWG.AGRI was asked to report suggested action and timetable for the autumn 1999 meeting of the Bureau of the CES.

Work undertaken by IWG.AGRI

10. In order to explicitly identify where duplications in international data collection actually exist and to what extent, the IWG.AGRI asked the national statistical offices of Italy, Slovenia and Sweden to make an inventory of the requests they and other agencies and ministries, in their respective countries, receive during a period of one year or more. An additional survey was also carried out for the Netherlands.

11. The reports from these four countries are shown in annexes 1-4.

Conclusions from country surveys

12. Judging from the results of the four country surveys the following preliminary conclusions can be drawn:

- (i) For EU member countries there seem to be rather limited duplications in international requests for agriculture statistics and it doesn't seem to be much of a burden to countries. Where duplication exists (mainly between Eurostat and FAO) this could be reduced either by the solution proposed by IWG.AGRI in the paper CES/AC.61/1999/19 or by the solution proposed by Italy, namely to post the data on Internet for organizations to down-load.

- (ii) For EU candidate countries the picture seems to be different. Here, there is a lot of duplication both between organizations and within organizations*.

Member countries are requested to comment on the conclusions

13. Naturally the organizations of IWG.AGRI will look at the problem of internal co-ordination of data collection, which mainly seems to concern EU candidate countries and non-member countries of OECD. However, to some extent such duplication might be inevitable, in particular in conjunction with the process of adhesion to the EU as well as to other international organizations.

14. Participants in the ECE/Eurostat/FAO/OECD Meeting on Food and Agriculture Statistics in Geneva in June 1999 are asked to comment upon the conclusions of the present report orally during the meeting or in writing before, during or after the meeting (up to 1 September 1999 at the latest).

15. In case the conclusions as concerns EU member countries are generally valid, then particular focus is sought on the comments by EU candidate countries as well as by those countries, which are not EU candidate countries and not members of OECD. As the later group of countries has not at all been surveyed their comments are essential for the conclusions to be drawn by IWG.AGRI and the report it will make to the Bureau of CES.

A proposal of how to technically reduce response burden of countries and promote joint data sharing by international organizations

16. The main objective of this exercise is to find ways of reducing the response burden of countries members of the organizations of IWG.AGRI. There is, however, another important objective and that is that data published by international organizations should be identical or at least comparable when it concerns identical variables, time periods and characteristics. Far too often users of statistics are faced with a multitude of different data for the same concept.

17. In the paper CES/AC.61/1999/19, an IWG.AGRI proposal is made of how to improve joint data collection and data sharing. Participants to the Meeting are asked to comment on the proposals in that and in the present paper.

* For instance, in a survey carried out by FAO on statistical questionnaires it was found that of a total of 78 questionnaires dispatched by FAO only 11 originated from the FAO Statistical Division.

Annex 1

ISTAT - NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF ITALY

DEMAND OF INFORMATION FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

Gualtiero Schirinzi

Introduction

Questionnaires sent to ISTAT from International Organisations concerning data in the agriculture sector, are not that many. Not counting Eurostat, most of the requests come from FAO. The number of data requests from other organisations (OECD, ILO, UN and others) is very limited and not particular time consuming. The requested statistics are mainly concerned with land use, area and production of different cultivations and agriculture prices.

For Eurostat the picture is somewhat different. At the community level data collection in the agriculture sector is specified by laws (Regulations, Directives) or gentlemen's agreement.

1. Information requested from international Organisations

Below the main content and coverage of the questionnaires sent by the organisations belonging to IWG.AGRI is described:

1.1 FAO

Annually Italy receives four questionnaires. One of them is dedicated to the agriculture production. The information requested concerns the area of the cultivation and their derived products. Similar data are requested for animal livestock and their derived products and on the number of some mechanical means utilised for the particular agrarian year. For each variable, forecasts are requested and then afterwards the final data. The list of the cultivation includes, in total, 77 items and for the livestock, 23 items. In total, there are 100 variables, besides those which refer to mechanical means. These include tractors, reaper-thrashers and milking machines and also data on the total and cultivated area.

A second questionnaire concerns information on agriculture prices of the products sold by the farmers and the prices of the products bought by the farmers. The prices of the products sold by the farmers include 87 items on cultivation of products and 26 items on livestock. For all variables long time series are requested.

Finally, other two questionnaires concern information on bananas and other tropical fruits imports. There is also a request on information about fishing catches and their relative prices.

1.2 OECD

One of the requests are the annual statistical questionnaires on the population and the labour forces: the number of the workers in the agriculture, forest, hunting and fishery sectors, by sex.

A series of data are requested for the drafting of the "compendium" and concern the evolution of the pesticides use, forest area and wood production. Some data requested in the questionnaires can be taken from FAO.

1.3 EUROSTAT

Eurostat has a particular role in the data requests. Among Member States, the information included in the agriculture statistical system have to be collected through concepts, definitions and classifications, defined in specific working groups, keeping in mind also FAO recommendations.

The number of variables included in the surveys, for which data are requested, is very large. The surveys, which are carried out on the bases of laws (regulations, directives) or, more simply, at gentlemen's agreement, are constituted mainly by:

- (a) surveys on farm structure; information on the social and economic situation of agriculture and its evolution in the time;
- (b) information on Agriculture Economic Accounts; evaluation of the role of the agriculture sector in the economy, estimates of the farmers' income and structure of the production costs in agriculture;
- (c) surveys on agrarian and zootechnic productions in which the agriculture statistics have a direct application in the management of common agriculture policy;
- (d) surveys on prices; the evolution of prices of the main agriculture products in the internal market;
- (e) supply balance sheet in particular sectors on the bases of available estimates and harvest and consumption forecasts;
- (f) surveys on the external trade; quantity imported and exported and relative prices.

The information is generally sent in electronic form according to a standard record layout and defined deadlines.

2. Superimposition of the information requested

Of the information requested from those international organisation which are members of IWG.AGRI there are no particular superimposition to underline. However, the possibility for other organizations to collect information from the Eurostat data bank would avoid additional work of data dissemination by individual countries. In Italy there is not a lot of work involved in completing the questionnaires because almost all the information requested are normally included in the plans of the ordinary statistical production.

On the other hand, there is a *partial* overlap between the data requested from FAO and EUROSTAT. This is the case for the agrarian area and the animal livestock, their derivative products and the fishing catches and relative prices. In fact, for the PAC cultivation, the livestock and the fishing statistics, information may be taken from the Eurostat data bank. For cultivations not included in the PAC, data have to be submitted separately from countries.

There are no particular problems concerning the definitions adopted by the international organisations because they are coherent and harmonised with those utilised in the EU.

3. ISTAT Data Bank

To facilitate the access at the information for the users, ISTAT will, in April 1999, introduce an Internet site with data on the agrarian area and monthly production of the cultivations. The data will be updated in real time as they arrive from the units covered by the surveys. This information belongs to a data bank which includes a large set of trend indicators (ConISTAT). The access to that data bank makes superfluous the sending of certain questionnaires to ISTAT (for example the FAO questionnaire on the cultivation). Similar information, in very detailed way, are available also for the Economic Accounts for Agriculture and for the external trade.

4. Conclusions

The data requests to ISTAT from international organisms do not involve particular problems for Italy. The news included in the different questionnaires are easily available in the actual ISTAT data bank. For the Economic Accounts for Agriculture, data are no needs for specific requests

because the information available with Eurostat covers the needs of the different organisations.

As concerns data for submission to FAO an operative solution can be found by making easier the access to the ISTAT data bank or through the sending, by E-mail, of a file organised according to the requested standards.

At a general level, besides the data requests of the organisations in IWG.AGRI can be added the information requested from the UN on various sectors of the economy in each country and, concerning the agriculture, the prices index of the agriculture products and the prices index for the food consumption. In this contest can be included also the requests from ILO concerning the general index of the prices for the consumption and of the food sector; statistics on unemployment, employment and wages. A part of the data which are requested concerns the agriculture sector. Particular relevant is the questionnaire related to the wages rate and the normal length of the work, where there are a considered amount of information in the agriculture sector.

The sending of data to international organisations do not at present cause any particular problems, at least not in Italy.

Table

Request of data on agricultural statistics sent to ISTAT
by international organizations except for Eurostat

| | | NATIONAL INSTITUTE | | | |
|------------------|---|---------------------------|------------|-----------|---|
| Variables | FAO | OECD | ILO | UN | |
| 1 | Producer price indices | | | | X |
| 2 | Consumer price indices | | | X | X |
| 3 | Agricultural land | | X | | |
| 4 | Land under forest and other | | X | | |
| 5 | Wooded land | | X | | |
| 6 | Vegetation cover | | X | | |
| 7 | Consumption of pesticides | | X | | |
| 8 | Wood | | X | | |
| 9 | Labour force | | X | X | |
| 10 | Wage | | X | X | |
| 11 | Area under cultivation and derived products | X | | | |
| 12 | Animal livestock and derived products | X | | | |
| 13 | Tractors | X | | | |
| 14 | Combine harvester | X | | | |
| 15 | Milking machine | X | | | |
| 16 | Irrigation | X | | | |
| 17 | Importations of bananas | X | | | |
| 18 | Bananas - Cost of distribution | X | | | |
| 19 | Selling prices of crop and animal products | X | | | |
| 20 | Purchase prices of the means of agricultural production | X | | | |
| 21 | Tea | X | | | |
| 22 | Tropical fruits | X | | | |

Annex 2

COMPARISON OF INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONNAIRES OBTAINED BY SLOVENE STATISTICAL OFFICE IN THE YEARS 1994 -1998

Irena Orešnik
Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

1. Introduction

In the last four years in Slovenia we have obtained several questions from international organizations. The questionnaires were sent by EU (both Eurostat and DG VI), OECD (from the Statistical Directorate and from the Division for Agriculture Policy-non member countries), FAO and CEFTA. Limited data on agriculture were asked also by the IMF and the World Bank. As a rule several data requested were the same and time series requested were very long.

2. Duplication within the international organisation

In case of OECD we obtain each year two questionnaires from two different sections: The questionnaires are overlapping to big extent (crop areas, production and yield, livestock number and production, prices of agricultural outputs and inputs, foreign trade data...). In case of EU we are obtaining questionnaires from two different bodies Eurostat and DG VI. Overlapings are similar to those of OECD.

3. Duplication between international organisation

Large share of the data are asked several times from the different organisation. The table below shows how frequent certain groups of data area were collected by Slovenia following requests by different organizations in 1996.

| | E U | | O E C D | | FAO | CEFTA |
|---|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----|-------|
| | EURO STAT | DG VI (1995) | STATIST. DIVISION | AGRICULT. POLICY | | |
| ACCOUNTS | X | X | | | | X |
| Final output, intermediate consumption, value added by sectors in current prices | | | X | | | |
| Final output, intermediate consumption, value added by sectors in constant prices | | | X | | | |
| Agricultural output by commodity in current prices | | | X | | | |
| Agricultural output by commodity in constant prices | | | X | | | |
| Value added in income at current prices | | | X | | | |
| Value added in income at constant prices | | | X | | | |
| Capital formation in current prices | | | X | | | |
| Capital formation in constant prices | | | X | | | |
| Agricultural inputs | | X | X | | X | |
| LABOUR FORCE | | | | | | |
| General social indicators | | X | X | X | | |
| Labour force structure in agricultural holdings by activity and type of holdings | | X | X | | | |
| Holdings by utilised agricultural area (UAA) and labour force character | | X | X | | | |
| Labour force structure in agricultural private holdings by activity and age | | | X | | | |
| STRUCTURE | | | | | | |
| Type of holding by size classes | | | X | X | X | X |
| Structural indicator by type of holdings | | | X | X | | X |
| Holdings by type of farming | | | X | | | X |
| Modes of tenure by UAA and holdings | | | X | | | |
| UAA, LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTION | | | | | | |
| Total and agricultural area by main category | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Utilised agricultural area by important crops | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Crop production | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Yield of important crops | X | X | X | | | |
| Livestock numbers and livestock products | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| PRICES AND PRICE INDICES | | | | | | |
| Purchase prices of the means of agricultural production | | | X | | X | |
| Food retail prices by commodity | | | X | | | |
| Producer prices of main agricultural products | | X | X | | X | X |
| TRADE | | | | | | |
| Agricultural and food industry by product group-imports | | X | X | X | X | |
| Agricultural and food industry by product group-exports | | X | X | X | X | |
| Agricultural and food industry by origin | | X | X | X | | |
| Agricultural and food industry by destination | | X | X | X | | |
| AGRO-FOOD-COMPLEX | | | | | | |
| Total food consumption per capita | | X | X | X | | X |
| Privatisation of state-owned food industry | | | X | X | | |

4. Time series

In the years 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1998 the time series requested were very long, back to 1970. It was a general rule by all the questionnaires, except for those from the FAO. Since in many cases definitions were also requested, this demanded a lot of work. Because we were in the middle of changes of the methodology it meant many times that two definitions had to be provided, including reasons for the changes.

5. Definitions and meta data

Some of the data requested were not defined. There were constantly problems with providing the data by state farms, cooperatives, individual farms and household plots. The categories were not defined. The definitions were asked from us. We assume that is approach cause problems to us as providers of the data as well as to the users of the data, which had problems with comparability of the data. In the case of households having agriculture activity it would be better solution to ask for the data according to the size of the farms. Data would be comparable and easier to provide.

6. Conclusions

The analysis shows that there are many reasons to establish joint data collection among international institution. Of course there will be always some specific data needs of different organisations but never- the-less most of the data requested from them are the same. Many times I heard explanation that data have to be collected separately due to shorter deadlines. In fact if there are data available they can be provided to everybody and the more questionnaires we obtain in the same period the longer is our response time. Joint data collection would cut our response time considerably, data would be better checked and documented, what is probably in the interest of the users of the data and also in our interest as a provider of the data.

LIST OF QUESTIONNAIRES OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

OECD 1996

Data for the period 1970 to 1995

Data requested:

- General macroeconomics data

ACCOUNTS

- Final output, intermediate consumption, value added by sectors in current prices
- Final output, intermediate consumption, value added by sectors in constant prices
- Agricultural output by commodity in current prices
- Agricultural output by commodity in constant prices
- Value added in income at current prices
- Value added in income at constant prices
- Capital formation in current prices
- Capital formation in constant prices
- Agricultural inputs

LABOUR FORCE

- General social indicators
- Labour force structure in agricultural holdings by activity and type of holdings
- Holdings by utilised agricultural area (UAA) and labour force character
- Labour force structure in agricultural private holdings by activity and age

STRUCTURE

- Type of agricultural area by main category
- Utilised agricultural area by important crops
- Crop production
- Yield of important crops
- Livestock numbers and livestock products

PRICES AND PRICE INDICES

- Purchase prices of the means of agricultural production
- Food retail prices by commodity
- Producer prices of main agricultural products

TRADE

- Agricultural and food industry by product group-imports
- Agricultural and food industry by product group-exports
- Agricultural and food industry by origin
- Agricultural and food industry by destination

AGRO-FOOD-COMPLEX

- Total food consumption per capita
- Privatisation of state-owned food industry

Questionnaires on definition in the field of agriculture

Description of definitions in the pre-transition and the post-transition period is requested.

List of definitions:

1. Share on national employment by sector: agriculture
2. Unemployment rate
3. 10 retail price index
4. Exports of agricultural and food products
5. Share of household expenditure spent on food
6. Miscellaneous
7. Final crop output
8. Final animal output
9. Animal products
10. Agricultural output
11. Net value added at factor cost
12. Intermediate consumption
13. Gross value added at market prices
14. Gross values added at factor cost
15. Net operating surplus
16. Gross fixed capital formation
17. Gross value added
18. Final output
19. Depreciation
20. Taxes linked to production
21. Subsidies
22. Total pesticides
23. Manufactured fertilizers
24. Total population
25. Agricultural population
26. Urban population
27. Unpaid family workers
28. Employers and persons working on own account in agriculture
29. Wage earners and salaried employees in agriculture
30. Armed forces, civilian labour forces, civilian employment, civilian employment (by sectors)

31. Total labour force
32. Permanent grassland
33. Arable land
34. Permanent crops
35. Utilized agricultural area
36. Flowers and ornamental plants
37. Cereals
38. Industrial crops
39. Fresh vegetables
40. Grapes
41. Fresh fruit
42. Nursery plants
43. Fodder plants
44. Olives
45. Root crops
46. Liveweight carcass weight
47. Purchase prices of the means
48. Food retail prices by commodity
49. Producer prices of agricultural products

OECD 1997

Questionnaire on data for EAA and Food balance sheets for years 1989 to 1996.

Requested groups of data:

- GDP, unemployment, population, exchange rate, budget balance and share of agriculture, forestry and fishery in aggregate GDP
- Export and import of agricultural and food
- Total gross agricultural output
- Production of cereal and meat
- Export and import of main agricultural crops

OECD 1998

Data requested for the period 1994 - 1997

- Macro-economic indicators
- Social indicators and labour force
- EEA
- Foreign trade
- Import and export of total trade in agriculture and food products by origin countries for import and destination for export
- Price indices
- Land use and agricultural production
- Consumption per capita

- Agricultural inputs
- Structure of agricultural holdings

OECD questionnaire (sent via Dr. Erjavec, University of Ljubljana) for the period 1988 to 1997

- Macroeconomic indicators
- Crops: sown area and production
- Livestock and livestock products: herd size and production
- Total and regional breakdown of agricultural and food exports
- Total and regional breakdown of agricultural and food imports
- Breakdown of agricultural and food exports and imports - by most important product group
- Agricultural exports and imports by volume
- Total food consumption per capita
- Structure of agricultural production for 1989, 1993, 1996 and 1997
- Privatisation in the upstream and downstream sector, 1994-1997

CEFTA 1996

Questionnaire for period 1991 - 1995

Requested data

- Structure of agricultural production
- Crops: Sown area and production
- Livestock number and production
- Agricultural production in national currency
- Total food consumption per household per household member
- Prices of agricultural products - crop production
- Prices of agricultural products - animal production

CEFTA 1998

Questionnaire for period 1991 - 1997

- Structure of agricultural businesses
- Area sown and plant production
- Livestock number and animal production
- Total food consumption per capita
- Prices of agricultural products - crop production
- Prices of agricultural products - vegetables and fruit
- Prices of agricultural products - animal production
- Agricultural trade with CEFTA countries and EU

- Structure of the trade with agricultural products - chapters of customs tariff - export and import
- Structure of the trade with agricultural products - chapters of customs tariff - balance and turn-over
- Agricultural trade with 20 the most frequented groups of items in 1997 - export (import) to (from) Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia
- Average exchange rate of national currency

EUROSTAT 1995

Data for years 1970, 1975, 1980 and 1985-1994

Requested data:

- Basic data (area, population, public health, education, employment, agriculture, forestry and fishery, industry, foreign trade, transport & communications, tourist travel, money and credit, public finances, prices, national accounts)
- Employment

AGRICULTURE:

- Land use
- Utilized agricultural area
- Wooded areas and afforestation
- Employment in agriculture
- Agricultural outputs
- Agricultural inputs
- Gross values added of agriculture
- Net value added at factor costs
- Main crops, area
- Main crops production
- Main crops share in agriculture
- Main crops yield
- Number of animals: cattle, pigs, sheep and goats, poultry
- Milk and milk production
- Fish and seafood
- Producer prices
- Market prices
- Index prices

EUROSTAT 1996

Questionnaire on livestock for the period 1991-1995

Requested data:

- Bovine livestock
- Pig population
- Sheep livestock
- Goats livestock

EUROSTAT 1997

Questionnaire on Balance sheet of agricultural production and consumption in Slovenia, 1992 - 1995

- gross indigenous production, import, export and supplies for processed and unprocessed goods
- average retail prices
- agricultural outputs
- land use
- Producer prices
- Average wholesale prices of manufactured foodstuffs

Questionnaire on crop production in 1996

EUROSTAT 1998

Data for the period 1987-1997.

Requested data:

- Land use
- Crop area
- Crop production
- Crop yields
- Livestock (cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, equidae, poultry)
- Meat production in 1000 heads and in carcass weight, also import and export from EU and non-EU countries
- Milk and eggs

FAO 1995

Annual questionnaire on production in agriculture (cereals, forage plants, oil plants, potato, fruit, vegetable, mushrooms, livestock and livestock products, land use and agricultural machinery).

Questionnaire on statistics of prices.

Annual questionnaire on meat production and foreign trade, 1993, 1994 - preliminary, 1995 and 1996 - forecast.

FAO 1996

Annual questionnaire on production in agriculture (cereals, forage plants, oil plants, potato, fruit, vegetable, mushrooms, livestock and livestock products, land use and agricultural machinery).

Questionnaire on publications and information products.

Questionnaire on raw hides, skins and leather for 1995.

Annual questionnaire on meat production and foreign trade, 1994, 1995 - preliminary, 1996 and 1997 - forecast.

FAO 1997

Questionnaire on fertilizers.

Annual questionnaire on production in agriculture (cereals, forage plants, oil plants, potato, fruit, vegetable, mushrooms, livestock and livestock products, land use and agricultural machinery).

Annual questionnaire on meat production and foreign trade, 1995, 1996 - preliminary, 1997 and 1998 - forecast.

Questionnaire on pesticides consumption 1994-1996.

Questionnaire on tea.

FAO 1998

Annual questionnaire on production in agriculture (cereals, forage plants, oil plants, potato, fruit, vegetable, mushrooms, livestock and livestock products, land use and agricultural machinery).

Questionnaire on fishing (aquaculture production, fishermen, inland waters)

Questionnaire on production, import and export of wood and wood products

Questionnaire on trade with rice (1994 - 1998; forecast).

Annex 3

QUESTIONNAIRES ON AGRICULTURE STATISTICS SENT TO SWEDEN
FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Prepared by Statistics Sweden

I. Data supplied by Statistics Sweden 1997-98

| Requesting organization | Date | Type of request | Main variables | Number of variables | Cover-age |
|-------------------------|----------|--|--|---------------------|-----------|
| Eurostat | 29/7-97 | Crops of cereals, 1997 Preliminary data | Wheat, rye, barley, oats | 4 | R |
| Eurostat | 8/10/97 | Area under cultivation 1997 Preliminary data | All areas of crops from the farm register | 29 | R, L |
| Eurostat | 16/10-97 | Oil-bearing crops, 1997. Preliminary data | Winter and spring rapes | 4 | R |
| Eurostat | 20/10-97 | Areas and crops 1994-97. Final (94-96), preliminary data (97) | Cereals | 10 | R |
| Eurostat | 15/11-97 | Potatoes crops 1997. Preliminary data | Potatoes, starch of potatoes | 2 | R |
| Eurostat | 30/10-98 | Cereals and oil-bearing crops. Preliminary data | Wheat, rye, barley, oats, oil of rapeseed etc. | 15 | R, L |
| Eurostat | 1/4/98 | Cereals and oil-bearing crops, potatoes and sugar beet. Final data | Wheat, rye, barley, oats, oil of rapeseed etc. | 15 | R, L |
| Eurostat | 30/5-98 | Early area estimates 1998. Cereals and vegetable oils | Wheat, rye, barley, oats, oil of rapeseed etc. | 10 | R |
| Eurostat | Nov. 97 | Income of Agriculture Household Sector | Income, subsidies, taxes etc per household | 10 | R |

R indicates data supplied according to regulations; L indicates data on regional level (län = canton).

Final data are also supplied on NUTS II-level.

Data supplied to Eurostat are also used in "Agromet forecasts". Additional information are sometimes also supplied to Agromet.

II. Data supplied by the Swedish National Agency for Agriculture 1997-98

| Requesting organization | Date | Type of request | Main variables | Number of variables | Cover-age |
|-------------------------|--------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Eurostat | once/month | Price indices and absolute prices | Producer prices and input prices | 35 | |
| Eurostat | once/month | Animal product statistics | Number of animals slaughtered, weight | 20 | |
| Eurostat | once/month | Animal product statistics | Production of milk and milk products | 10 | |
| Eurostat | June | Animal product statistics | Annual production of milk | 2 | NUTSI II |
| Eurostat | August | Prices | Leasehold and land prices | 3 | |
| Eurostat | 3 times/year | Production and Income for Agriculture | Production, income, costs | 85 | |
| Eurostat | once/year | Production and Income for Agriculture | Production, income, costs | 10 | NUTSI II |
| Eurostat | 6 times/year | Supply balances (one per product group) | Production, imports, exports, apparent consumption | 25 per product; about 40 products | |
| FAO | Aug-98 | Production | Quantities of animal and crop products | 25 | |
| FAO | Feb-98 | Production | Area under cultivation, number of animals, production, use | 10-4 per product; 50 products | |
| FAO | Mar-97 | Prices | Input prices | 6 years prices (50 products) | |
| FAO | Dec-97 | Prices | Producer prices | 1 price (25 products) | |
| OECD | April | Supply balances | Production, imports, exports, apparent consumption | 12 variables/product; 20 products | |

Only the main deliveries to FAO and OECD are included. To FAO is supplied another 4-6 completed questionnaires per year, mainly supply-balances.

III. Data supplied by the Swedish Ministry of Agriculture 1997-98

| Requesting organization | Date | Type of request | Main variables | Number of variables | Cover-age |
|-------------------------|-----------|--|----------------|---------------------|-----------|
| DG VI | once/year | Agriculture production sold through cooperatives | | | |
| DG VI | once/year | Agriculture production sold under contracts concluded in advance | | | |

IV. Data supplied by the Swedish Joint Council in the Food Sector 1997-98

| Requesting organization | Date | Type of request | Main variables | Number of variables | Cover-age |
|-------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Eurostat | April | Standard Gross Margin-classification | SGM-numbers | 30 | L |

Annex 4

**REQUESTS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH REGARD
TO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS**

Alfred J. Niphuis

1. Orientation

In fact the description of the orientation with regard to the above subject, limits itself to the requests received by Statistics Netherlands, from international organizations. However, statistics in The Netherlands, especially agricultural statistics, may be less concentrated in the central statistical office than one would expect. Therefore, apart from Statistics Netherlands, also other institutions have been asked for their experiences. These concern the Agricultural Economic Research Institute (AERI), the Directorate for Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture (DF) and the Institute for Forest and Forest Products (IFFP). Within Statistics Netherlands (CBS), four departments were contacted, the Department for Agricultural Statistics, the Department for Environmental Statistics, the Department for National Accounts and the Department Employees with an eye on possible questionnaires on wages. For international organizations it may be difficult to keep track on what requests exactly are sent out. For the organizations addressed it is far from easy to get a clear picture of data requests as well. Due to unforeseen circumstances, possible information from the IFFP, could not yet be included, but may be added later on.

1.1 Statistics Netherlands

1.1.1 Department for Agriculture

In the Department for Agriculture the staff is, apart from the data flow according to EU legislation and what is indicated as Agreement (with Capital), only aware of a request from Eurostat with regard to purchase prices en rental prices of agricultural land and of a request concerning production of fruit and vegetables. As Statistics Netherlands has data on the first subject available on a regular basis, the supply of the data concerned does not cause any problem. Proper data on production of fruit and vegetables may cause more problems, but are looked upon as important enough. The requests concerned are anyhow in full conformity with what has been agreed in the relevant working groups. For both subjects nowadays use is made of electronically transferred spreadsheets, minimizing the response burden.

1.1.2 Department for Environmental Statistics

Requests reported by this department, concern general land use and nutrient balances. With regard to land use no awareness of international

organizations asking for the same data exists. For nutrient balances however, the requests from Eurostat and OECD seem to reflect a hampering co-ordination. This, for the time being, leads to small differences in methodology and requests for information, that are not easy understood. Partly due to this, the response burden is clearly felt.

1.1.3 Department for National Accounts

In Statistics Netherlands, Agricultural Accounts are compiled by the Department for National Accounts. The data to be transferred to Eurostat are in full accordance with agreements reached in the ASA Working Group on Agricultural Accounts. No mention was made of requests from other international organizations.

1.2 Agricultural Economic Research Institute

The AERI also has a considerable task in the regular data stream towards Eurostat (balances, price data). But this is, as with Statistics Netherlands, all agreed in working groups of the Agricultural Statistics Committee. Apart from this, the AERI only receives questionnaires from FAO as far as the four institutions of IWG.AGRI are concerned. The following can be mentioned:

- I. *"Monthly questionnaire for importing countries* from the Intergovernmental Group on Tea of FAO.

Quantities and values are asked of imports per country of origin. Although it says "monthly" questionnaire, it seems as if for the time being, there is an agreement on supplying quarterly data.

- II. *"Exchange of Economic Information-new data or estimates"* from the Intergovernmental Group on Rice of FAO.

Questions on areas sown, areas harvested and production (which do not constitute a big response burden for The Netherlands), but also imports per country of origin of rice (milled Rice, broken and husked).

- III. *"Imports and exports of grains by source and destination"* from the Intergovernmental Group on Grains of FAO.

This concerns imports and exports of wheat, wheat flower, rye, barley, oats, maize, sorghum, millet and other grains during periods of half a year.

- IV. *"Questionnaire on Cacao"* from the ICO in London.

Although maybe not related to one of the four institutions of IWG.AGRI mentioned for completeness, a vast questionnaire on imports and exports

(volume and value) per country of origin and destination of cacao and several cacao products per quarter.

1.3 Directorate of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture

Apart from the regular flow of data to Eurostat, according to legislative acts (including the so called Statlant forms), the Directorate supplies data to FAO and OECD upon request. For FAO 6 forms can be mentioned:

| | | |
|----------|------|----------------------------------|
| FISHSTAT | NS 1 | (National summary) |
| ,, | AQ | (Aquaculture production) |
| ,, | FC 1 | (Fishery commodities) |
| ,, | DNC | (Disposition of nominal catches) |
| ,, | FM | (Fishermen) |
| ,, | IW | (Inland waters) |

To OECD data are supplied on Aquaculture, National landings in domestic ports, on Imports and Exports by products and on size of vessels, on behalf of the statistical annex of the Review of Fisheries. Data transfer takes place in an electronic way. Due to this, it was not possible to indicate a certain form.

2. **Comments**

In general the departments contacted did not show a clear excitement about a possible duplication of work. As long as data can be derived easily from data bases, it apparently does not give too much concern. The fact that, in general, one nowadays is convinced that the international organizations give serious attention to this aspect, may contribute to this somewhat mild attitude. As far as there is some amazement, it mainly concerns the data on foreign trade. The Agricultural Economic Research Institute and the Directorate for Fisheries fill in forms on this, on behalf of FAO and OECD, using data from Statistics Netherlands, that is in detail available to Eurostat. So especially, the flow of data concerning imports and exports might get specific attention.

Some concern was met regarding questions related to nutrient balances and classification of fishing vessels (according to tonnage). Reporting on phenomena with slightly different definitions for different organizations is felt as burdening, especially when the justification of different methodologies is not very clear. On a few occasions even some concern exists whether data requested can be really satisfying. An example of this is "National landings in domestic ports".

It has to be stressed that data transfer more and more takes place in an electronic way, spread-sheets by e-mail or on diskettes. A form on paper is after a while, not always available. And as a consequence, the request concerned is not always easy to indicate and define.

Annexes

Annexes

- I. Monthly questionnaire of the FAO Intergovernmental Group on Tea
- II. Questionnaire of the FAO Intergovernmental Group on Grains
- III. Questionnaire of the FAO Intergovernmental Group on Rice
- IV. ICO questionnaire on imports and exports of cacao and cacao products
(1 page out of 22)
- V. OECD questionnaire on External trade in fish and fish products
- VI. OECD questionnaire on Aquaculture
- VII. OECD questionnaire on National landings in domestic ports
- VIII. OECD questionnaire on Imports by products
- IX. OECD questionnaire on Exports by products
- X. List with six FAO FISHSTAT questionnaires.
