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**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
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**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN
STATISTICIANS**

**Joint ECE/EUROSTAT/FAO/OECD/ISI
World Conference on Agricultural Statistics
(Rome, 5-7 June 2001)**

**COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL
ORGANISATION (FAO)**

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT
(OECD)**

**INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL
INSTITUTE (ISI)**

REPORT OF THE 2ND WORLD CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURE STATISTICS*

INTRODUCTION

1. The 2nd World Conference on Agriculture Statistics (Conference on Agricultural and Environmental Applications in Rome, CAESAR) was held in Rome, Italy, from 5-7 June 2001. It was hosted by Istituto Nazionale di Statistica (ISTAT), Italy. The National Agricultural Statistics Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (NASS/USDA) and the International Statistical Institute (ISI) also participated in the organization of the Conference. The Seminar was attended by Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Representatives of the Statistical Office of the European Community (Eurostat) attended. Burkina-Faso, China, Oman, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe attended under Article 11 of the terms of reference of the UN/ECE.

* CES/AC.61/2001/1 and the present report, as well as the documents for the meeting, are available on the Internet site www.istat.it/caesar

2. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) also attended.
3. Mr. A. Zuliani, president of ISTAT chaired the Seminar.
4. Mr. F. Fischler, Commissioner of the European Union, Mr. K. Collins, Chief Economist, Office of the Secretary for Agriculture, United States, Mr. H De Haen, Assistant Director General FAO and Mr. A. Pecoraro Scanio, Minister of Agriculture, Italy, addressed the Conference in the opening session.

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

5. The purpose of the Conference was to provide a fora for an international exchange of views on key issues in focussed subject areas of agriculture and environmental statistics.
6. The Seminar addressed the following substantive topics, each of which in a separate session:
 - (a) The agricultural situation in the new millennium;
 - (b) Evolution of the role of agriculture in developed economies;
 - (c) Evolution of the role of agriculture in developing country economies;
 - (d) Changes in social aspects of agriculture;
 - (e) The agriculture environment relationship: Trend and feedback;
 - (f) Fishery statistics: current and future challenges;
 - (g) Quality standards for agricultural statistics;
 - (h) Agricultural census and survey issues;
 - (i) Timeless/accuracy/completeness of agricultural statistics;
 - (j) Agricultural statistics systems;
 - (k) Classification issues for agriculture statistics system;
 - (l) Agricultural survey methods in transition and developing countries;
 - (m) Data sources and design issues for an agriculture statistics system;
 - (n) Data integration issues;
 - (o) Technological impact on data management;
 - (p) Advanced survey design and estimation issues;
 - (q) New technologies and strategies for agricultural data collection;
 - (r) Statistical data editing: methods and software;
 - (s) Agricultural modelling.
7. On 4 June 2001 a Satellite meeting, focussing on issues for candidate and transition countries, was organized by IWG.AGRI (ECE, Eurostat, FAO and OECD). This meeting reviewed past and present activities provided by IWG.AGRI and discussed future orientation of assistance to these countries.

RECOMMENDED FUTURE WORK

8. The Conference recommended the third World Conference on Agriculture Statistics to take place in Buenos Aires in 2004.

9. A more detailed summary report of the discussion that took place at the Conference on the substantive agenda items will be prepared in the autumn of 2001.
