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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN  
STATISTICIANS

Study Group on Food and Agricultural  
Statistics in Europe  
(Geneva, 30 June - 3 July 1997)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION  
to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
starting on 30 June 1997 at 10 a.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Organization of workshops to assist transition countries in establishing new agricultural and food statistics
4. Revision of the Handbook of concepts and definitions used in international collections of food and agriculture statistics
5. FAO Programme for the World Census of Agriculture 2000 and countries' experiences
6. Results of reforming agricultural statistics under transition; new legislation on statistics;
7. New developments in agricultural statistics in the ECE member countries
8. New developments in remote sensing
9. Detailed procedures for collecting and processing agricultural statistics, including new data collection methods CAPI and CATI (computer assisted personal/telephone interview)
10. Statistical issues of agricultural economics (micro aspects - bookkeeping; macroaspects - results of work on the Handbook for EAA; problems of the hidden economy in agriculture)
11. National practices in classifying different socio-economic types of farming
12. Statistics connected with environment-related agriculture problems. Seminar organized by Eurostat
13. Future work
14. Other business
15. Adoption of the report

**Note:** The meeting, originally planned for 30 June-4 July 1997, has been rescheduled to take place from 30 June to 3 July 1997.

Notes on substantive items of the agenda

The twenty-third session of the Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe is convened jointly by FAO and ECE pursuant to the decision of the Conference of European Statisticians taken at its forty-fourth plenary session, in June 1996 (see report of the session ECE/CES/50 and CES/1996/R.30/Add.3)

It is suggested that priority be given to agenda items 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12 (indicated in bold below). Items 1-11 and 13-14 will be dealt with on 30 June and 1 July 1997, while item 12 will be treated in a Seminar to be organized on 2 July and 3 July until 4 p.m. Item 15, Adoption of the report, is scheduled for 3 July between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Item 3: Organization of workshops to assist transition countries in establishing new agricultural and food statistics

Information will be provided about two joint Eurostat/OECD/FAO/ECE Seminars on agricultural statistics for transition countries which will tentatively take place in Budapest, Hungary in November 1997 and in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation in May/June 1998.

Item 4: Revision of the Handbook of concepts and definitions used in international collections of food and agriculture statistics

The Handbook, which was prepared by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics (IWG.AGRI), describes the practices and recommendations of four international organizations (UN/ECE, Eurostat, FAO and OECD) in agricultural data collection. The Handbook was published in 1995. Based on comments and amendments suggested by countries, the ECE secretariat will present a paper giving recent updates to the Handbook (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)37; CES/AC.61/59).

Item 5: FAO Programme for the World Census of Agriculture 2000 and countries' experiences

FAO will present a paper summarizing the development of the Programme (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)38; CES/AC.61/60). The Study Group may wish to discuss problems related to the implementation of the Programme.

Item 6: Results of reforming agricultural statistics under transition; new legislation on statistics

Documents from the following countries will be submitted for consideration by the Study Group: Bulgaria (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)39; CES/AC.61/61), Ukraine (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)40; CES/AC.61/62), Russian Federation (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)41; CES/AC.61/63) and Romania (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)54; CES/AC.61/76).

Item 7: New developments in agricultural statistics in the ECE member countries

Developments in agricultural statistics in the ECE member countries were presented at the twenty-second session of the Study Group in document FAO/ECE:ESS(95)-21; CES/AC.61/43. In view of the changes in agricultural statistics which have taken place since the last session of the Study Group, updates and amendments to this document are given in secretariat paper FAO/ECE:ESS(97)43; CES/AC.61/65. The Study Group will also have before it a paper submitted by the Russian Federation (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)42; CES/AC.61/64).

OECD will present a paper entitled Statistics in transition: an overview of the current agricultural statistical systems in 11 transition economies and of developments in statistical laws and institutional organisation (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)53; CES/AC.61/75). The Study Group will also have before it two papers prepared by Eurostat entitled Methodology for statistics on the volume of agricultural labour input (FAO/ECE ESS:(97)59; CES/AC.61/81) and Statistics on the structure of agriculture holdings (FAO/ECE ESS:(97)60; CES/AC.61/82).

Item 8: New developments in remote sensing

Eurostat will present a paper on remote sensing (FAO/ECE ESS:(97)56; CES/AC.61/78). Countries and organizations are invited to submit papers and/or make oral statements on this topic for the consideration of the Study Group.

Item 9: Detailed procedures for collecting and processing agricultural statistics, including new data collection methods CAPI and CATI (computer assisted personal/telephone interview)

Under this item the ECE and FAO secretariats will present the results of a questionnaire survey for consideration by the twenty-third session of the Study Group (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)44; CES/AC.61/66).

Item 10: Statistical issues of agricultural economics (micro aspects - bookkeeping; macroaspects - results of work on the Handbook for EAA; problems of the hidden economy in agriculture)

The Study Group will have before it papers by Ukraine on statistics related to farm management practices (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)45; CES/AC.61/67), by Moldova on statistical issues of agricultural economies (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)46; CES/AC.61/68) and by Canada on Canadian farm management practices, based on the Canadian farm input management survey (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)47; CES/AC.61/69). Italy will present a paper entitled Incomes of agricultural households in Italy and new SEC - ten years' experiences (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)55; CES/AC.61/77).

FAO will present a paper on its work in the area of agricultural economics (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)48; CES/AC.61/70). A paper entitled Future development of economic accounts statistics: directions and issues (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)49; CES/AC.61/71) will be presented by OECD. The Study Group will also have before it the following three papers prepared by Eurostat: Revision of the Manual on the Economic Accounts of Agriculture and Forestry (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)50; CES/AC.61/72), Income statistics for the agricultural household sector (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)57; CES/AC.61/79), and Economic aspects of milk production in the EU (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)58; CES/AC.61/80).

Item 11: National practices in classifying different socio-economic types of farming

Under this item Turkey will present a paper entitled Classification of the Turkish agricultural holdings according to their type of farming and economic size (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)51; CES/AC.61/73). Another paper, entitled National practices in classifying different socio-economic types of farming (FAO/ECE:ESS(97)52; CES/AC.61/74), will be presented by Ukraine.

Item 12: Statistics connected with environment-related agriculture problems. Seminar organized by Eurostat

The Seminar, which will take place on 2 and 3 July 1997, should focus on defining and measuring agri-environmental indicators. The following have been identified by OECD as priority categories:

- I Nutrition balances (such as chemical fertilizers and manure);
- II Pesticide use and classification (the environmental risks of pesticide use on water, soil, wildlife and human health);
- III Land use and conservation (the effect of changes, such as the conversion of wetlands for use as farmland and the role of agriculture in reducing landslides, erosion and flooding);
- IV Landscape (for instance, measuring changes in agricultural landscapes through, for example, establishing an inventory of physical features);
- V Agricultural biodiversity (breeds of animals, cultivars);
- VI Wildlife biodiversity and habitats (as influenced by agriculture);
- VII Soil quality and erosion;
- VIII Water quality (the impact on surface and groundwater quality);
- IX Water use (water balances, assessment of the efficiency of water use);
- X Greenhouse gases (the contribution of agriculture, net balances of such gases expressed in CO<sub>2</sub>);
- XI Farm management practices (nutrient management, pest management, soil protection, irrigation, organic farming etc.);
- XII Farm financial resources (the environmental impact of varying and different sources of financial resources for farms, e.g. for facilitating purchase of new technologies); and
- XIII Socio-cultural issues (impacts on rural communities).

Countries and organizations are invited to submit papers on any of the above-mentioned topics, although they may wish to give priority to topics I-XI. Papers to be presented at the Seminar should be sent to Eurostat, Directorate F: Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment Statistics, Environment Statistics Unit, Bâtiment Jean Monnet, L-2920 Luxembourg, telephone +352 - 4301 37292, fax +352 - 4301 37316 and e-mail: rosemary.montgomery@eurostat.cec.be.

Item 13: Future work

Participants will be asked to make proposals for future joint FAO/ECE work in agricultural statistics. The secretariat will submit proposals on the basis of country suggestions and of the discussions as the meeting proceeds.

Item 14: Other business

The Study Group will be informed about the preparation of lists of documents presented in the past several years to ECE meetings on agricultural statistics, to be available on Internet.

The Study Group will also be informed by a representative of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forestry Statistics about the possibility of drafting a Handbook on forestry statistics similar to that on agricultural statistics.

Item 15: Adoption of the report

The Study Group will adopt the report of its twenty-third session between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. on 3 July 1997.