

Notes of
23rd Meeting of Intersecretariat Working Group
on Forest Sector Statistics
(as of 04 May 2010)
FAO, FRA meeting Room, C-354, 28-29 January, 2010

Starting at 9:00 hrs on Thursday 28 January 2010

IWG members present: Felice Padovani, Arvydas Lebedys, Mauro Palozzi - FAO; Alex McCusker UNECE; Fran Maplesden – ITTO; Marilise Wolf-Crowther, Csaba Mozes - Eurostat

1) Adoption of agenda

Agenda was adopted without change

Mr. Padovani chaired the meeting and Mr. McCusker was rapporteur.

2) Review of the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire 2009 activities

a) Eurostat

Timeliness was poor

No reply: Luxembourg, Greece

Very partial: Belgium, Denmark, and Liechtenstein

No trade: Portugal

Improvement from previous years is Bulgaria

Best reply is France

The number and extent of replies has gotten worse

The quality of data supplied seems to have improved

Nearly 30% of Eurostat trade data by volume is estimated, mostly from COMEXT

One country supplied a large amount of confidential production data which raised many handling issues. Essentially Eurostat-estimated data were then suppressed to maintain confidentiality while retaining EU27 total.

Encouraging correspondents with COMEXT data problems to report these to Eurostat and national trade statistics

Internal FAME database working much better.

Restructured database (still continuing) so public database is not yet updated (2006). Releasing Pocketbook with 2008 delayed until end-February. Forest fire data added to public database.

b) ITTO

Replies received from 23 of 27 ITTO consumer and 15 of 33 ITTO producer countries. A total of 36 JQ1, 35 JQ2, 16 DOT1, 17 DOT2, 29 JQ3, 21 ITTO-1, 21 ITTO-2 and 14 ITTO-3 were received. This is more or less average. No Norway or Switzerland [*ECE to check its database to be sure that these countries are listed as ITTO members – Poland has joined*]. Major issue this year is missing Malaysia JQ (having been a reliable respondent in previous years) and continued Malaysia-Thailand trade discrepancies for sawn timber. Following assistance provided by a statistical training workshop in India, new data were significantly different (lower) than previous years. A workshop in Ghana on intra-regional timber trade generated some new data and improved understanding of the issues of African wood products statistics as well as highlighting the need to strengthen statistical data in the region. A new staff member from China (Systems Analyst) assisted in obtaining up-to-date data from the China Ministry of Commerce.

On-time 25, fully complete 9. ITTO consumer quality stable, ITTO producers variable. Uneven regional response. Data systems are improved.

Significant turnover of statistical correspondents. ITTO increasing contacts and outreach to forestry agencies to improve chances of communication.

Provide preliminary data to country representatives at November Council meeting for discussion. Data processed for the draft Annual Review in early November. Final data for February 2010 for the Annual Review 2009 publication which includes 2008 data (and 2009 forecast). Web dissemination was planned for 2009 but has been delayed for technical reasons and now estimated to be available in June 2010.

A new ITTO thematic programme on trade and market transparency (TMT) includes a specific objective to strengthen information systems on markets and the forest sector and will provide an opportunity for countries to seek funding assistance to improve statistical capacity.

c) UNECE

For UNECE/only we had 12 JQ1, 10 JQ2, 9 JQ3 and 9 ECE/EU out of 25 [AL says try Bosnia COMTRADE]. Number of replies is consistent, some variability in countries (e.g. Macedonia replied but not Ukraine or Belarus). JQ1 quality seems to have declined, trade quality is stable.

Success was integrating data for workshop in February 2009 into database. No significant data reply problems.

Made JQ1/JQ2 available in August in FPAMR, FPS, on-line static database. Major dissemination issue is final data which is still not up despite being finalized first week of January and JQ3 and ECE/EU failure to publish (although ECE-only countries have been processed).

d) FAO

JQ replies have returned – in 2007 had 100, 2008 had 92 and now 89. 50% of countries are replying at global level. Able to complement with web research (always unofficial status). Australia seems to be a recent dropout.

Improvement to COMTRADE and increased classification availability.

Work on other output (trade flow) is continuing despite staff reductions.

India workshop helped to raise issues that need addressing and improve connection to industry associations.

China research mostly done by internet – pulp and paper association does not cooperate.

Data dissemination released through FAOSTAT in January 2009 and January 2010. No provisional data in 2009. CD released in March 2009 and *Yearbook of FP*. Direction of Trade released in Aug 2009 (2007 data)

e) Data discrepancies

Reduced incidence of negative AC in Eurostat countries – improvement

FAO reviewed current problems in negative AC, changes over 30% with volume of at least 10, missing quantity or value

ITTO provided specific questions as well

f) Data exchanges

Data from ITTO (producer countries) to FAO are sent in JQ format. Changes made by both sides not getting reflected in common dataset. Final ITTO dataset is available in May for Y-2 data.

UNECE mistakes with JQ3 data from Eurostat – revise last two cycles

Issue of confidentiality. We encourage national correspondents to estimate. We are concerned at spread of confidential data in place of estimated data.

In data transfer from Eurostat to UNECE in the fall there were several problems – delays in transfer, file structure, confidentiality and vacation schedules. End result was multiple processing of same data by all three organizations.

All organizations will again endeavor to improve this in 2010.

g) Status of the Secondary Wood and Paper Products

ITTO collects, does not process, does not publish.

Eurostat collects and processes and publishes.

ECE collects and processes but does not publish.

FAO collects and processes and uses at workshops and in papers.

ECE did not send Eurostat data to FAO due to processing problems but should be able to. ITTO published trade information (from COMTRADE) in 2008AR [2009 published] for year 2007 for these items. Organizations should exchange these data (JQ3) just as they do JQ1&2 and disseminate them. CN category exists for 11.7.1 (prefabricated building of wood) but not in HS.

AL pointed out that FAO is still missing some countries for 2000 and 2001. ECE *has and will send*.

h) Ancillary statistical activities by individual organizations

Bamboo and rattan - no expressed political desire to include this

UNECE has TC forecasts and JWEE 2007
Contributing to FRA and MCPFE

IEEAF by Eurostat (13 tables but only one to provide gross value added and work units]. 17 replies most recent year. Used by DG Agri for economic development. JQ1 overbark data – collected separately by Eurostat. This proved useful for countries to understand better how to complete JQ1 figures.

ECE/EU questionnaire (species trade) functioning satisfactorily

MIS Newsletter of ITTO provides price info and ad-hoc products information. Project work, including specific consumer market information. Long-term outlook provides projections for 20 years and differentiates topical products for first time. Another study on competitiveness of tropical timber products.

Regular FAO publications *Pulp and Paper Capacity Survey 2009-2014* (annual) and *2009 Recovered Paper Data* (every three years)

3) **JFSQ 2009, HS2007 after two years**
a) **Examinations of results of changes**

Some apparent change between 2006 and 2007
US\$ trade-weighted exchange index in Economist
HS2007 adds more wood products
Increase noted in MDF compared to HS2002 – classification adapted closer to industry

b) **Items showing a significant change between 2006 and 2007**

i) Regions/Countries (FAO)

c) **Difficulties in completing particular data items**

Some JQ3 items which consist only of “ex” codes – 11.1.NC.T, 11.7.1, 12.6.1
As usual, tropical items don't get completed.

d) **Other problems in assigning HS07 codes to specific products**

No other problems. Not all countries available in HS2007 yet.

4) **The JFSQ 2010 cycle** (some items added during meeting)

a) **2009 JFSQ changes**

i) Pellets and briquettes statistics

Eurostat proposed adding an item on pellets

4.1 of which: pellets (ex 440310, CN 44013020). HS2012 definition is “by-products such as cutter shavings, sawdust or chips, of the mechanical wood processing industry, furniture/making industry or other wood transformation activities, which have been agglomerated either directly by compression or by the addition of a binder in a proportion not exceeding 3% by weight. Such pellets are cylindrical, with a diameter not exceeding 25mm and a length not exceeding 100 mm”. Unit in CN is weight.

Although support for adding pellets was expressed by all IWG members the desire to introduce changes in “big bang” format (and lack of HS code) predominated. For time being, pellets should be listed in a separate sheet from JQ1/2 with the intention of including this in JQ2012.

However the definition of item 4 in JFSQ does not refer to agglomerated products although HS does. **Add to item 4 after “carpentry” the following: “..., joinery production, and agglomerated products such as logs, briquettes, pellets or similar forms,...”**

ii) Add tropical 1.2.NC.T removals and in DOT.

Problem is that non-ITTO members are removing tropical wood and thus impacting market. Issue is those countries that are producing both tropical and non-tropical wood, including ITTO members. Tropical trade added after 1989.

- We need a list of countries that are not ITTO members but are tropical producers.

- ITTO-1 could be revised so that production data for same period for JQ1 and forecast are requested as well as trade forecast.

- ECE reminded that countries in its region reply to TC forecast and do not need to reply to ITTO-1.

- FAO will send ITTO-1 to listed non-ITTO members. This is a change from our current naming practice so we need a better name. FAO and ITTO will discuss.

After some discussion on DOT, in particular lack of countries being asked to reply (non-COMTRADE repliers by September) or replying (2 out of 11 requested for UNECE). Should evaluate last 5 years of DOT1/2 submissions and use made of these data. In principal if IWG decides to continue asking DOT for non-COMTRADE responders, tropical could be added to the current form. The DOT table is particularly important for ITTO as it is some ITTO producer countries who do not provide data to COMTRADE. Unfortunately as the DOT does not include tropical items, the DOT is of limited use to ITTO in its present form.

iii) Review hidden rows/columns

FAO said they would drop hidden rows/columns and their codings inside JFSQ.

iv) Other structural and formatting suggestions

In line with “big-bang” theory no changes to overall structure or format are envisaged until JFSQ2012.

v) Overbark for wood fuel (item 1.1)

Issue is countries are failing to report wood fuel as underbark despite appearing in all definitions. Should we make unit definition more evident? No, just make reference to this issue in cover letter and evaluate later.

vi) Are chips, particles and residues being requested in HS in tonnes or m3?

Apparently unit is weight. Should JQ be changed? Perhaps (what is impact of production – is this in m3?). When? With other “big bang”. IWG will ask their members for opinion.

vii) Use of organizational symbols on organization-specific questionnaires.

Keep all logos as is – IWG has at least seen and approved organization-specific questionnaires. Organization-specific questionnaires should always start with name of organization.

b) JFSQ improvements (JQ3: cross-references to HS2007/CN)

Poland pointed out again that 940190 includes wooden parts. In CN this is specifically identified. **JFSQ Cross-ref JQ3 item 11.6 should have this added under HS96 as “ex 940190”.**

c) Data validation issues Improvements in data queries and resolutions between partners’ Organization

Respect the deadlines

No unverified data is sent. All data subject to basic validation. If needed, repeat data. Data to be provided for every year.

d) Deadlines and data exchanges

Agency	Eurostat	UNECE	ITTO	FAO
Dispatch deadline	March 31	March 31	May 31	April 30
External deadline	May 15	May 15	August 31	August 31
Internal deadline (last day for new data additions)	June 11 / Oct 8	June 19	Draft AR Oct 31 (needs TCQ as well) Final AR Jan 30	Preliminary 30 June / Final Nov 20
Basic validation	June 15 / Oct 20	June 18 / Oct 30	February 1	To Sep 30 (as received)

Agency	Eurostat	UNECE	ITTO	FAO
Analytical validation (last day for data corrections)	June 15 / Oct 20	June 25	March 1	July 15 / Nov 25
Dispatch to ECE	June 21 / Oct 25			
Dispatch to FAO		June 30/Nov 15	weekly JQ, final 2008 dataset in May, prov 2009 dataset in early Nov	
Dispatch to ITTO	JQ originals for ITTO countries as received, eliminating any confidential elements	JQs originals as received. July and Oct 22 (forecast)		
Database upload	July / November	June 30 / December 30	March 15	July 31 / Dec 15

Deadlines agreed as above, ECE to confirm deadline for FPAMR analysis (currently shaded)

ITTO will send to FAO draft dataset in early November 2010 and final version in May 2011

ITTO will be moving to 2-year cycle of Annual Review but will be maintaining annual cycle of data.

e) Comparison of data status coding of Working/Dissemination

Issues:

- ITTO needing Comtrade status code when ECE puts into notes rather than status code
- having same status code in publications with different meanings
- making sure status codes are correctly kept when exchanging data

After some discussion it was agreed that Eurostat data exchanges with ECE would use Eurostat status codes and ECE would convert these to ECE status codes while retaining all the information from Eurostat

Data from ECE to ITTO will retain ECE status codes which will be converted by ITTO while retaining all information

However data from ECE to FAO will be supplied in FAO format. FAO suggested adding Eurostat status code directly to note.

f) Naming the JFSQ

JWPFES called for using reference year – name of this year's questionnaire (issued in 2010) will be JFSQ2009. If this name has already been used call it JFSQ2009a or JFSQ2009bis.

5) Other Business

a) Organizational changes

Eurostat – no changes, new director interested in Forestry, likes carbon balances. Database manager Rajmund Laczko visited ECE and FAO and returned with lots of ideas.

FAO – one staff member retired, still not replaced

ITTO – impending departure of ITTO Statistician. Still vacant Market Information Service Coordinator. Systems analyst filled by Mr. Lee.

UNECE – waiting for Section Chief replacement. Increase in loaned experts. Still looking for statistical help.

b) National correspondent

Too many changes to report.

6) Meetings of Interest to IWG

- a) Report of Eurostat Working Group "Forestry Statistics", November 2009
- b) IPCC meeting with FAO in Nov 2009 – agreed on how FAO data can be used for reporting on HWPs and wood removals (AL will send document when ready)
- c) Future meetings
 - i) FAO/UNECE Working Party, Geneva, 24-25 March 2010
 - ii) National Workshop on Forest Products Statistics in Mexico 19-23 May 2010 (ITTO/FAO)
 - iii) Regional Workshop on Forest Products Statistics in Near East countries, October 2010 with regional officer [or perhaps national workshop Thailand]
 - iv) Other meetings
 - (1) UNECE TC meeting October 2010
 - (2) ITTC meeting December 2010
 - (3) CoFO is taking place October 2010
 - (4) Eurostat planning forestry accounts workshop 20-21 April in Lux

Meeting was concluded at 18:00 on Friday.

Status Codes

Code	FAO		ITTO		UNECE		Eurostat	
	Database	Publish (only on website)	Database ¹	Publish	Database	Publish	Database	Publish (on website)
Official from questionnaire	blank		blank		2	blank	blank	blank
Official not from questionnaire	blank							
Unofficial (not from correspondent)	X or *	*	*	*	3 – analytical estimate	E	3	s (Eurostat estimate)
Secretariat Estimate	F		I (by ITTO)	I	3 or 8 (technical estimate)	E	3	s (Eurostat estimate)
Repeat	Ft	T	X	X	5	R	5	s (Eurostat estimate)
National estimate (from correspondent)	*	*			9	N	9	e (national or correspondent estimate)
Validated	blank	blank	blank	blank	1 (analyst has accepted)	blank	blank	blank
Calculate – regional and product aggregates	C	C	blank	N/A	4 – this means figure is an automatic sum of subitems (applies to regions as well)	blank	4 – when aggregate differs from that reported by country or missing aggregate	s (Eurostat estimate) -
Source Comext/Comtrade	W		C	C	In notes, not status	N/A	1	N/A
Source Comtrade mirror database			CB					
Source Global Trade Atlas			G					
Source FAO estimate			F	F				
Source ECE TC forecast			TCF					
Figure rounded to 0			R	R			Small figure in the data	0 (= less than half the unit used)
Figure adjusted from weight	F		W		8	E		
Data not available or impossible to calculate	no record		--		Data record does not exist	...	Blank in the data	:
Provisional					7 (automatic estimation or country)	p	7	p
Confidential					6	Data represented by +++	6	:c
Estimated from correct aggregate ²								
Share of figure estimated ³			E4					
"Not applicable" or "real zero" or "zero by default"							Real zero in the data	–

¹ Can be combined with each other, e.g. CBR = Comtrade mirror rounded to zero

² proposal for those of us who automatically calculate totals when we have used country-provided total to estimate subitems

³ ECE thinking of how to better weight the data quality