

Notes

24th Meeting of Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics FAO, FRA meeting Room, C-354, March 1-3, 2011

Starting at 16:00 hrs on Tuesday 1 March 2011

IWG members present: Felice Padovani, Arvydas Lebedys, Mauro Paolozzi, Roberto Bargigia – FAO; Alex McCusker – UNECE; Marilise Wolf-Crowther – Eurostat; Steve Johnson – ITTO. Also Illian Animon and Jeremie Mbairamadji from FEPPD of FAO.

1) Adoption of agenda

- a) Welcomes Wed a.m. by Michael Martin.
- b) Rapporteur AM, Chair FP
- c) Added items 6.c, 5.c and 2.e.i
- d) Confirmed May 2010 notes of 23rd meeting are final version

2) Review of the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire activities in 2010

- a) Number and quality of replies and successes and problems
 - i) **FAO** in JQ issue year had replies for production as follows: 2007 100, 2008 92, 2009 89, 2010 79 . This indicates need to invest in improving production data. See example of Russia and India contracts (letter of agreement with industry association) in pulp and paper which have improved contacts. Problem is only one-off result.
 - (1) Decline in Asia, stable in Oceania, Europe he leaves open, N&C America fine, S. America decline, Africa improved
 - (2) Main countries still replying, proportion of total production is around 75%. Trade is better.
 - (3) Concern with too-detailed pulp and paper items
 - (4) AL pointed out the availability of supplementary data [*will supply possible sources*] that is often freely available from same source that we get info from
 - (5) Workshop with ITTO in Mexico with mexican states to supply up to federal level (CONEFOR, SEMERNATA)
 - ii) **Eurostat** had more problems than usual, in particular timeliness of replies. Problem of matching EU questionnaires with main JQ1-3 data. Major problems with France and Germany. Data quality as measured by official replies is steadily declining, COMEXT use is increasing but this is not very accurate. Smoothing COMEXT figures using past 5 years with more acceptable results.
 - (1) Main issue continues to be June deadline
 - (2) COMEXT quality declined but return of net mass requirement may help to improve in future.
 - iii) **UNECE** reported generally the same data flow as in previous years. Major problems were Finnish paper and lack of replies from major European producers which resulted in preliminary data not correctly reflecting actual trends. Continuing problems of differing deadlines between organizations.
 - (1) Some discussion about reluctance to use COMTRADE for non-replying countries. *Agreed to try to improve in this area.*
 - (2) Poor quality of wood fuel, chips and residues.

- iv) **ITTO** has vacancy in Stats job. JQ2010 responses were poor from tropical producers despite numerous efforts to improve contacts. Lack of political will and turnover in correspondents hurts replies. 14 / 34 replies.
 - (1) Cameroon, CAR, DRC, Congo, Cote d Ivoire, Gabon, Nigeria, Togo did not reply. Fiji, India also did not reply, Myanmar, PNG. Thailand. Bolivia, Guatemala, Mexico, Trinidad, Venezuela. Also tend not to reply to other requests, e.g. ITTA.
 - (2) Those who are providing data are doing a better job
 - (3) ITTA has clause saying after 3 years of non-reporting the country should be put on a list to be reviewed by Council with consequences including possibility of not receiving project funding
 - (4) Proposed writing letter to Ministry of Environment Denmark complaining that information is not being supplied in contravention to ITTA and FAO article 11. Another possibility is a regional workshop (at least for tropical countries) which brings together past, present and future possibilities of cooperation on data. Also using FAO country reps to reach data suppliers.
- b) Successes/problems – see above
- c) Data dissemination
 - i) *Each organization to have brief discussion of partnerships on its data page and link to other org web page*
 - ii) **FAO** produced 2009 *Recovered Paper Data* (published every 3 years) along with *Yearbook* (incl CD) and *Pulp and Paper Capacity* along with preliminary for selected countries and products released in July 2010 on web. And direction of trade in August 2010. All planned outputs were done. Also video on forest statistics data (*make link from our websites*)
 - iii) **Eurostat** updated organizational website and the database is updated twice a year. Forest pocket book at start of 2010, environmental accounts with forest chapter and TEE (transport, environment, energy pocketbook) is now out with some forest indicators (incl. carbon).
 - iv) **UNECE** produced FPAMR, initial Forest Products Statistics, secondary products, species trade is in production as is final FPS. Continue with website.
 - v) **ITTO** has all data for primary products on website with an interactive page. Plans to include all data in future. *Annual Review* 2010 will be published in next couple of months. 2011 will be published and probably 2012 on current annual schedule. Future *Reviews* will be published every two years although data collection and validation will continue annually.
- d) Data validation: data discrepancies identified by FAO. Organizations are asked to carry out these basic checks.
 - i) Apparent Consumption
 - ii) Annual changes
 - iii) Unit price
 - iv) No changes
 - v) ECE discussed need to be sure all checks carried out. Example of US neg AC of residues because no production data supplied but not flagged as such
 - vi) ITTO raised differences with FAO data. In general ITTO version of data seemed better but example of Chinese logs that seem to be reporting only sawlogs (that ITTO used) rather than all kinds of ind. Roundwood (also poplar from plantations) that FAO used. Also FAO needed to flag status of data. FAO agreed to accept all ITTO data except for Chinese log production, for which it will send ITTO the basis for its figures and ITTO will then use the FAO figure.

- vii) Organizations to put a note regarding data discrepancies between orgs due to lack of simultaneous distribution and different deadlines
 - e) data exchanges among partner organizations
 - i) harmonize Species Trade codes – ECE only needs the species, not the log type. Can we agree on codes? *To discuss.*
 - ii) UNECE is sending more data than ITTO needs – kill products they don't need. *ECE to modify query to include only ITTO products 1.2.C/NC,5C/NC, 6.1 and 6.2.*
 - iii) *FAO will check to see if T (system repeat) can be accepted from UNECE*
 - f) Status of the Secondary Wood and Paper Products
 - i) System seems to be working. Data being collected, exchanged and published.
 - ii) We should explore what items of interest may not be included and what items may not be worth following. Some items seem to have only a tenuous connection to the industry.
 - g) Ancillary statistical activities by individual organizations
 - i) FAO – Pulp and Paper Capacity, Recovered Paper, Poplar Commission, Employment and GDP database
 - ii) Eurostat – Integrated Economic and Environmental Accounting for Forests (Logging VA)
 - iii) ECE – JWEE, SoEF, EFSOS, prices
 - iv) ITTO – MIS (every 2 weeks), Status of Tropical Forest Mgt Report, Success Stories in Tropical Forest Mgt, FAO Reg Office on potential implications on REDD/REDD+
 - h) Examinations of JFSQs sent by each individual organizations in 2010
 - i) Eurostat adds extensive additional sheets, country data and checks
 - ii) UNECE adds conversion factor sheet
- 3) **Discussion on cross-references to CPC rev. 2; SITC rev.4 and HS12**
- a) assigning CPC rev. 2 to JFSQ products classification
 - i) The CPC was seen by the organizations as not meeting user needs due to a lack of detail compared to the HS which is the current basis for JFSQ nomenclature
 - b) assigning SITC rev.4 to JFSQ products classification
 - i) SITC Rev 4 should be incorporated, replacing rev.3. Since we have not reviewed SITC before this would be a good opportunity to make a complete check of the items.
 - ii) ITTO wondered how many countries actually use SITC and how many users of data will need it.
 - iii) AL will provide a list of proposed SITC Rev 4 changes. AM will provide a list of countries using SITC. We will review question of a preparatory meeting before next regular meeting to go through SITC line by line.
 - c) assigning HS2012 to JFSQ products classification
 - i) FAO proposes a preparatory meeting on classification. However there appear to be no significant aside from pellets addition as compared with HS2007.
 - ii) Looking at the list of changes (<http://www.wcoomd.org/files/1.%20Public%20files/PDFandDocuments/HarmonizedSystem/HS%20Overview/NG0163B1.pdf>) we will incorporate a provisional HS2012 in JFSQ2011 for countries to review and this will be done at 25th meeting.
 - d) HS2017
 - i) *Eurostat will find out where we are in the cycle, particularly deadlines*
 - ii) *UNECE will send contact info to ITTO*
 - iii) *ITTO will contact WCO regarding tropical breakdown*

- iv) Other proposals
 - (1) Wooden prefab houses
 - (2) Remove bamboo charcoal?
 - (3) Revise pellets definition to include briquettes or make them a separate product
 - (4) Any other ideas?
- 4) **The JFSQ 2011 cycle**
- a) 2010 JFSQ changes (format, definition, validation)
 - i) **Wood fuel unit problem - add “u.b.” to unit, with explanation at bottom of page, “under bark” to unit**
 - ii) Unit for items 3 and 4 will be left as is
 - iii) Pellets as a separate item or as part of item 4 – hold off on a decision (technically it should fall under item 4 but politically situation would be better by having its own product code [e.g. “A”]). Discuss next year.
 - iv) Proposal to add 1.2.NC.T to JQ1. IWG agreed that a comparison of ITTO1 and JQ1 responses should be done first.
 - v) Proposal to add 6.2.NC.T to DOT. ITTO will investigate together with FAO a special study on countries exporting mixed NC plywoods. IWG will review the results before further consideration of adding NC.T to DOT as only a few countries are affected.
 - vi) Including short-rotation coppice in definition of removals The IWG agreed to revisit the issue next year - it was agreed that removals should include SRC, but no agreement on wording.
 - vii) **Change 1st sentence of definition of item 9 (recovered paper) to read “Waste and scraps of paper or paperboard that have been collected for re-use or trade.”**
 - viii) Eurostat presented a proposal to drop items 7.3.x and 10.1.x and 10.3.x. Totals would be used instead. Keeping pulp grades is essential for resource balance. Keeping paper grades seems to be feasible except for countries that are complaining about confidentiality and these are only a few (Finland, Sweden, Romania, Slovenia). ECE agreed with idea of dropping these items, although it would not fix confidentiality problem, FAO disagreed with need to drop. *Eurostat will evaluate number of replies received for each subitem and report for next year.*
 - b) JFSQ improvements (see above)
 - c) Data validation issues. Mostly satisfactory. However ITTO urged harmonization amongst published notes between the four organizations. FAO said this wasn't necessary and Eurostat said each org had its own higher-level requirements.
 - i) ECE asked WRM Balance. Procedure seemed OK but AL will take a look. Maybe need to account for chip consumption and share of pulp from wood.
 - d) Improvements in data queries and resolutions between partners' organizations
 - i) ECE pointed out need for tracking resolution of issues raised. Which have been looked at without changing, which have been looked at and changed, which have not been looked at. Any system however seems too complicated to manage.
 - e) Deadlines and data exchanges
 - i) Eurostat wants to have national correspondents focus on y-2 data and apply economic trends to estimate y-1 data when this is not otherwise available. Could use for example ind. production indexes by sector

- ii) FAO requested improved data exchange to finish by Oct 30. Eurostat and UNECE will try to find a solution to this despite other deadlines associated with meetings.

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)
Analytical validation (last day for data corrections)	June 15 / Oct 20	June 25	March 1	July 15 / Oct 30
Dispatch to ECE	June 21 / Sep 30			
Dispatch to FAO		June 30/Oct 7	weekly JQ, final 2009 dataset in May, prov 2010 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). Advise them when final data in December are available.		
Database upload	July / November	June 30 / December 30	March 15	July 31 / Nov 25

5) Other Business

a) Organizational changes

- i) **FAO** adds economics team to digest and analyze forest products by sector and region. Output available for late spring. Stats moved from FRA to Econ. Replacement for Carlos D'Ricco is Roberto Bargigia.
- ii) **ITTO** has Frances Maplesden acting as consultant on statistical matters (completing 2010 AR) and market study on downturn. Looking for a Statistician. Other positions are vacant or will be shortly. ITTA may shortly come into force. Funding would become more regular.
- iii) **UNECE** has possibility of statistical support but this is not certain at this time. Statistical demands however seem to be increasing (JWEE, EFSOS2, SoEF/FRA, FPS). Staff levels seem to be stable with a loan of a French APO. Changes in divisional structure.
- iv) **Eurostat** has received more inputs in IEEAF and interest increasing in non-JFSQ issues. Staffing is stable.
- v) **IWG** expressed concern that stability in staff dealing with data validation was important to maintain.

b) National correspondent

- i) *Information on national correspondents should be available, at least to each organization.*
- ii) Plenty of changes.

c) Plans for JQ2012 big bang

- i) Pellets
- ii) Tropical products
- iii) HS2012 / SITC Rev. 4
- iv) Removal of low-reported items

6) Meetings of Interest to IWG

- a) Report of Eurostat Working Group "Forestry Statistics", November 2010. Positive meeting, many ideas, FAO cooperation.
- b) Report on National Workshop on Forest Products Statistics in Mexico 19-23 May 2010 (ITTO/FAO). Went well, all states represented, Forestry and

Environmental Agencies. Top-level person is missing there to consolidate national state data.

- c) International Year of Forests
 - i) Publication on forestry in EU and world and support to Decade of Biodiversity.
 - ii) Statistical outputs will recognize international year of the forest.
 - iii) FAO will publish scans of all past Yearbooks (since 1947) and make them available on internet.
 - iv) Other meetings / Cancun – other REDD data
 - v) IPCC identified FAOSTAT as source of estimations for carbon balance.

- d) Future meetings
 - i) FAO/UNECE Working Party, Geneva, 23-24 March 2011 (part of European Forest Information Week)
 - ii) Joint FAO EFC and UNECE TC meeting in Turkey in Antalya.
 - iii) National Workshop on Forest Products Statistics in Thailand later in 2011 (ITTO/FAO)
 - iv) FAO Regional Workshop on Forest Products Statistics in Near East countries, June 2011. Let ECE know about status of meeting.
 - v) Eurostat Working Group "Forestry Statistics", 16-17 November 2011
 - vi)