

Notes
28th Meeting of Intersecretariat Working Group
on Forest Sector Statistics
(as of 26 March 2015)
ITTO Headquarters, Yokohama, 27th-29th January 2015

1) Adoption of agenda

- a) Present: Jean Claudon and Steve Johnson (ITTO), Arvydas Lebedys (FAO), Alex McCusker (ECE). Eurostat represented via skype by Marilise Wolf-Crowther.
- b) Chair Jean Claudon, meeting secretary Alex McCusker
- c) Added items on ECE/FAO ToS Forest Products Statistics, DG Enterprise CLT proposal and ITTO biennial work programme 2015-2016 relevant to IWG

2) Review of the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire activities in 2014

- a) Number and quality of replies
 - i) ITTO. Received 30 questionnaires of which 25 were JQ2013, 3 JQ2012 and 1 JQ2011 and JQ2010. ITTO has 41 countries. Quality is variable.
 - ii) ECE had a significant increase in replies with 11 from the CIS (due to workshop in Turkey) and 7 others. ECE is responsible for 21 countries. Quality seems about the same (as measured by number of cells completed).
 - iii) FAO. Received 32 questionnaires from 98 countries. 4 of these were for previous years. This compares to 16 last year and can be attributed to earlier mailing and better followup and workshops. Quality is variable.
 - iv) Eurostat. First round had 19 replies (missing Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Croatia, Luxembourg and Iceland; past the deadline: Spain, Ireland, Italy and Slovakia). Czech Rep., Italy, Sweden, Norway stated they would not submit anything for the second deadline. The second round had 26 replies from a possible total of 32.
- b) Successes/problems
 - i) ITTO: India provided a questionnaire. ITTO has been in contact with Paraguay. Brazil provided a very complete questionnaire with data revisions back to 2005. Liberia, DRC, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Columbia and Vietnam are expected to provide the questionnaire later.
 - ii) ECE: Helped countries improve internal communications. Generally problems with data from US and Russia persist. Canadian removals also. Timber forecast questionnaire showed good increase and were able to use some data for historical data.
 - iii) FAO: China historical series revised back to 2000 and mapped China national statistical reporting to JFSQ (roundwood supply is in balance with products). Botswana, Burkino Faso, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Haiti, Lesotho, Morocco, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Zimbabwe, Mongolia, Singapore, Uruguay all provided JFSQ for first time in number of years. Australia said it was not possible to reply this year. Algeria, Iran and Republic of Korea did not provide after doing so last year.
 - iv) Eurostat: Croatia's initial reply was poor quality. Greece, Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, and Iceland did not reply, as in past years. Some countries

seemed later than usual, including Ireland and Sweden. Confidential data in larger countries is worrying.

- c) Data dissemination
 - i) ITTO: For first time did not have to produce the Annual Review and Assessment of the World Situation (which has gone to biennial process). Database was updated in June 2014 which enabled better data than in the past since more time was devoted to data analysis and data consistency check in 2014.
 - ii) ECE: Published Forest Products Annual Market Review with limited access in August and public access in November for Committee meeting. Data annex was available in August. Forest products statistics provided to FAO were released in August and December. Still need to produce flat file and FPS on-line at ECE.
 - iii) FAO: updated FAOSTAT twice, provided corporate press release in December with overview, Facts and Figures in 4 languages. Launched series for other agglomerates (4.2). Produced Yearbook in May. For COFO made CD (Yearbooks back to 1947), posters and bookmark. Classic FAOSTAT is no longer updated, all dissemination through new FAOSTAT.
 - iv) Eurostat: Published in July and November on Eurostat database. Eurostat wiki "Statistics Explained" includes data on forest products and forest-based industry. Also published in Eurostat Pocketbooks "Agriculture, forestry and fisheries statistics" and "Transport, Energy, and Environmental Indicators".
- d) Data validation - discrepancies identified:
 - i) FAO identified a number of errors (hundreds) in data from partners and flagged these to them. ECE and ITTO had incorporated these. A continuing issue is making sure flagged problems are corrected in database with all partners and not resubmitted (see Iceland). Also see ITTO flagged changes from June 2014. FAO used ITTO on-line database to update its figures.
 - ii) FAO independently revised data for ECE-region countries (one hundred revisions) and provided these back to ECE which incorporated them. FAO also made a special effort on item 4.2 (other agglomerates) which had many errors.
 - iii) Eurostat: some issues with validation routines and supplementary units.
- e) Data exchanges among partner organizations
 - i) Data exchange deadlines were largely kept, an improvement over earlier years, which made all organizations' work easier.
 - ii) ECE found bad unit values with the result that a number of countries could not be processed (Greece etc.). There were also significant gaps in data received from Eurostat due to non-provided estimates. Data points that were replacing data points previously revised were also not incorporated.
 - iii) ITTO provided revised data set from 2006-2013 to FAO for all ITTO countries. FAO aligned for producers.
 - iv) Eurostat had many discussions with ECE on data issues.
- f) Ancillary statistical activities by individual organizations
 - i) FAO/ITTO funded survey of China plywood industry (300 mills) is under review and comments (including from ECE) are currently with China Academy of Forestry. FAO will follow up and publish report this year jointly with ITTO.
 - ii) ITTO work on incorporating MIS price statistics into database structure. UNECE continues to produce its series and suggested expanding use of unit price information (trade data) which it is publishing for 1964-2013 and seems popular. IMF is also working with ITTO on a few prices.
 - iii) ECE Market Statement and timber forecasts. Also trade flow tables by product based on COMTRADE values. Wood energy enquiry starting.

- iv) FAO released GDP study (data 1990-2011), trade flow 2012 and pulp and paper survey.
- v) Three workshops: Turkey for CIS [FAO/ECE 11 countries], China for Greater Mekong region [FAO/ITTO 6] and South Africa for southern Africa [FAO/ITTO 16]. Enabled organizations to get better responses for questionnaire.
- vi) EU Commission departments Environment and Agriculture are developing operational indicators for sustainable forest management. Eurostat proposing to have a scoring system to indicate quality of indicators. DG Environment, the European Environment Agency, the JRC and Eurostat are working on the mid-term review of the EU's Biodiversity Strategy, for which indicators will be used.
- vii) Plantation study from FAO determined that 33% of global industrial roundwood supplied from plantations in 2012.

3) The JFSQ cycle in 2015

- a) 2014 JFSQ revision/improvements. **To be completed by end of February by FAO.**
 - i) HS Crossref for JQ2/JQ3. **ITTO will follow up on these items.**
 - (1) Expansion of the HS numbers listed to explicitly list all codes. This issue has been discussed before and, in interest of simplicity, we had chosen to keep the number of codes to a minimum. Discussion during workshops proved that correspondents do not understand HS codes ending in "0" as representing all subcodes.
 - (a) We will expand JQ2/JQ3 crossreference to explicitly include all subcodes which are currently shown as ending in 0.
 - (b) Eurostat suggested adding a sheet with each HS code listed on a separate line for each JQ code for programmers. This would include aggregates. For HS2007 and 2012. FAO suggested this be optional. ITTO suggested the JQ code be repeated each time as well.
 - (2) To avoid "ex" as "part of". Use color/grey highlight. Use asterix. Could not agree, WCO uses "ex". IWG will leave as is and make note more prominent (in red?).
 - (3) "No change" was not clear for at least some correspondents. IWG agreed to list all codes rather than say no change.
 - (4) Dots in HS after 4 digit HS heading (eg 1234.56) were dropped in 2004 to reduce size of listings. Propose to restore them to improve legibility.
 - ii) JQ1 cross-reference to Central Product Classification (CPC V2). **FAO will prepare this.** The IWG agreed to introduce this to help statistical correspondents who may have national statistics linked to this. FAO has added more specific JFSQ items to next version (2.1) of CPC.
 - iii) Other minor improvements proposed by NCs in Ankara & Johannesburg Ws in 2014
 - (1) FAO to correct formula in apparent consumption in French and Spanish versions
 - (2) Add ECE explanation (manual) sheet to standard JQ (without showing changes from previous year). **ECE to revise with items 3 and 4.**
- b) Terminology / definitions
 - i) Item 3.1 – agreed that JFSQ is trying to capture all wood raw material under item 1 including roundwood being turned into chips. The volume of chips produced outside forest should be reported under 3.1 as supplied from item 1.1. or 1.2.2. The volume of chips produced directly in the forest go under 1.1 or 1.2.2 depending on end use. Eurostat suggested mt for this and 3.2 and FAO and

ECE preferred to keep current units. To review again for 2017. Mention at our meetings.

- ii) 3.2 Wood residues - where should post-consumer wood go? EU wood waste statistics are not useable for this purpose. ECE pointed out that these flows should not be combined and would necessitate a separate JQ item. ITTO said depended on end-use of residues and waste.
- iii) Item 1.2 specifically excludes telephone poles while 1.2.3 includes wood used for poles. HS description explicitly includes telephone and other poles. **We will revise definition of 1.2 to remove exclusion of poles.**
- c) Improve legibility
 - i) We thought about indenting JQ codes to reflect structure. Decided this was not a real improvement.
 - ii) IWG evaluated putting JQ crossref without bold and felt it looked better with the bold font.
- d) Deadlines and data exchanges
 - i) FAO to prepare all language versions (E, F, R, S, C).
 - ii) Calendar

Agency	Eurostat	UNECE	ITTO	FAO
Dispatch deadline	April 2	April 2	June 15	May 15
External deadline	May 15 / Oct 8	May 15	September 30	August 31
Internal deadline (last day for new data additions)	June 11 / Oct 8	June 22	None – no BR this year	Preliminary July / Final Nov 23
Basic validation	June 15 / Oct 21	June 25	March 1	To Sep 30 (as received)
Analytical validation (last day for data corrections)		July 6	March 1	July 15 / Nov 23
Dispatch to ECE	JQ as received, data file June 24 / Oct 23			
Dispatch to FAO (for checking and final)		July 1 and 15 / Oct 31 and Nov 20	weekly JQ, revised 1990-2013 and estimated 2014 dataset in July	
Dispatch to ITTO	JQ originals for ITTO countries as received, eliminating any confidential elements	JQs originals as received. July and Nov 16 (forecast). Advise them when final data in December are available (third week)		Send JQ originals as received
Database upload	July / November	July / December	July 1	July 31 / December 1

- iii) FAO and ITTO will continue to provide errors and comments to ECE for all ECE-region countries. ITTO will send a full revalidated set of data (1990-2014) to FAO for producer countries and for consumer countries to ECE and Eurostat.

Differences between ITTO and ECE data set should be highlighted for ECE to accept or explicitly reject. ECE will try to include COMTRADE and COMTRADE mirror in its routine validation process.

- iv) Eurostat's decision to use the EU's annual production statistics to report on EU aggregates
 - (1) Would provide EU-15 and EU-28 for aggregates as listed in table provided.
 - (2) Will do minimal validation for order of magnitude
 - (3) Complemented with Comext data
 - (4) Will publish just what the country provides
 - (5) Will send questionnaires directly to ECE/ITTO when received for them to process without confidential data

4) HS2017/18 & HS2022 rounds

- a) Short update on the current status with HS2017 (FAO)
 - i) Wooden housing is through along with tropical. WCO press release January 21 2015.
 - ii) Additional products (sleepers, plywood, poles, species and size in roundwood / fuelwood, sawnwood species, briquettes) are being submitted for approval at March HS Committee as correction to be included from January 2018.
 - iii) Tropical list is now accepted and published at WCO website
 - (1) It will be part of notes, not legal text. This is easier to adapt in future and will be applied immediately (HS 2012).
 - (2) ITTO pointed out more local names should be added in the future along with the pilot name.
 - (3) ATIBT working with FAO on tropical list revision for pilot names. Latin names need additional input also. FAO proposes producing this as a nomenclature document along with ITTO.
 - iv) IWG thanked FAO for its persistence and work in advancing this issue through the multiple levels of HS process. The importance of checking each step in the process at WCO was key.
 - v) The IWG will need to revise its correspondence list and perhaps JQ items for sawnwood (sleepers), for industrial roundwood (4403.10) and sawlog / other trade based on dimension for JQ2017.
- b) Procedure (2022)
 - i) FAO agreed to represent IWG in HS process. Agencies agreed to attend WCO sessions when needed.
 - ii) Work will likely start in 2016 and extend through 2019.
 - iii) Possible changes to request in HS
 - (1) Barrel staves (11.2) and shakes and shingles (11.5) are seen as secondary products in HS and JQ. However they appear to be produced directly from split roundwood - should they be classified under JQ1/2 instead? The IWG felt the fact they might be made directly still did not mean they were primary products. It is probably also of low significance globally.
 - (2) Pellets are showing a lot of activity. Do we need to improve HS codes to highlight briquettes, torrefied pellets, wood composite pellets, waste paper pellets. **FAO and UNECE will investigate where in current HS2012 these items appear and follow up with industry.**
 - (3) Separate codes for dry-process fibreboard (MDF) by density (i.e. HDF & MDF. Dry-process fibreboard is 90% of global production, to properly evaluate wood balance we would do better to have these split as HDF has a much higher wood input (we believe). HDF (> 0.8g/cm³) is larger than

insulating boards. We could split into HDF, followed by MDF (<0.8g/cm³), followed by other.

- (4) Glulam (CN 441890.10) or other EWP. DG Enterprise suggested including looking into cross-laminated timber CLT (sometimes called X-Lam). Currently in Eurostat JQ. **ECE will ask DG Enterprise/EWP FPAMR chapter authors for suggestions on where this should go. Eurostat will ask DG Taxud/CN Committee.**
- (5) FAO said Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest Industries had requested consultation with FAO on new paper products (secondary). FAO will prepare short note for ACSFI.
- (6) As information, FAO will propose some codes for NWFPs (forest mushrooms etc)
- (7) Post-consumer wood, where is it classified now, municipal or industry wood waste?
- (8) Plywood products that are not split in C/NC - 441294 and 441299 (\$3.0 billion exports 2013)

5) **The JFSQ Manual Development**

- a) Joint proposition made by FAO and ITTO. China workshop proposed a publication with pictures illustrating products. It would be aimed at countries with lower statistical capacity. This would essentially explain how correspondent could do his job. Perhaps hiring an academic to prepare this.
- b) Topics could include:
 - i) how to gather information
 - ii) how to estimate all production in a country from limited data set
 - iii) how to complete questionnaire
 - iv) reference sources, conversion factors and nomenclature.
 - v) Product application/how it is used
 - vi) It would also have case studies of how people have produced figures.
 - vii) ECE mentioned its forecasting manual and FAO requested a copy. IWG recommended explaining how to deal with HS "ex" codes. Inputs from correspondents and agencies would be gladly accepted.

6) **The FAO/UNECE global conversion factors study**

- a) Presentation of the methodology and of the scope
- b) Inputs from partner organizations
 - i) FAO and ITTO could contribute, cover non-ECE area. FAO believes figures could be found from Australia, New Zealand, Chile, South Africa and Brazil.
 - ii) ITTO said focus on biggest producers and most unreliable conversion factors with biggest impact (wood chips). Review FAOSTAT data by product and top producers (SE Asia, DRC).
 - iii) **IWG said study needed more specifics** how and who to approach and when (i.e. first try association, then MIS contact, then look for other expert). ECE to make proposal more specific.
 - iv) FAO is interested in
 - (1) wood charcoal conversion factor. FAO would like to get this (6.0 factor) revised. Tanzania said this was 4.5 m³ for 1 mt of wood charcoal. **(ECE will check with Kit Prins on source of 6)**
 - (2) Average pole size (telephone) for Africa. We need conversion of unit (i.e. one pole) into volume (i.e m³) and typical species used.

- v) FAO pointed out that standard trade data could provide useful mass to volume figures in panels and sawnwood.

7) Update of FAO's Classification and definitions of forest products (1982)

- a) Aim to publish in 2017 along with new HS release
- b) Scope/structure similar to current and should incorporate JFSQ definitions. Should be multi-lingual (6 languages).
- c) ITTO supports adding as annex the results of ongoing work on the joint ATIBT-FAO-ITTO Nomenclature of Tropical Wood.
- d) Possible classifications include JQ as base (replacing structure used in 1982 or complementing it) although some items in classification may not exist currently in JQ. Matching references would be HS2017, CPC 2.1, ISIC Rev. 4, BEC Rev 4, SITC Rev. 4.
- e) Request Working Party to recommend update (**ECE to follow up**). Should we focus on primary products or expand to secondary (profiles, furniture).

8) Other Business

- a) Organizational and staff changes
 - i) Eurostat forestry is in unit E2 - Environmental Statistics and Accounts: Sustainable Development. There is no longer a forestry team; it is now part of monetary and environmental accounts. National expert (Eduardo Pizzoli) is working on accounts.
 - ii) ECE has had a number of changes. Forestry and Timber section is in a new division with Housing, which improves the focus of the division. Paola Deda is Acting Division Director, Ivonne Higuero is Acting Section Chief. More work in other areas in forestry, less in statistics and markets.
 - iii) ITTO is the same as previous year.
 - iv) FAO has staff changes – Adrian Whiteman has gone to IRENA in Abu Dhabi. Statistics group is basically the same 4 people.
- b) Place and date of 29th IWG meeting (2016). **ECE offered to host the meeting** in Geneva in 3rd week of January.
- c) ECE indicated its use of non-JQ data – share of estimates / repeat / COMTRADE.
- d) ITTO biennial work programme 2015-2016 relevant to IWG
 - i) Trade advisory group activity to develop one-stop producer country profiles (certified forest, JQ info, company level) on ITTO website. IWG commented ITC also had company level commercial offers.
 - ii) Work with WCO and TRAFFIC/MTIB (Malaysian Timber Industry Board) on training customs officers on wood/forest products identification. Also ties to project on DNA analysis of wood samples with German government and CITES.
 - iii) Statistical assistance funds in regular budget and increased at ITTO
- e) ITTO will start providing trade flow from COMTRADE in 2015.
- f) ITTO to drop date on ITTO JFSQ request – not refer to JFSQ2015.
- g) **Eurostat will supply PRODCOM plywood data at national level and compare it to JQ.**
- h) FAO has been asked to improve non-wood forest products statistics. One suggestion is to carry out game meat survey (outside JFSQ). Would like to focus on Europe region to see if this is feasible. Will provide detailed proposal to Working Party. IWG suggested involving other parties and considering accidental sources of game meat (e.g. road kill).

9) Meetings of Interest to IWG

- a) Eurostat's annual WG on forestry statistics and forest accounts 26-27 February 2015, reporting on the outcome of the 3rd meeting of the TF reviewing the forest accounts of 11-12 December 2014. FAO commented there seems to be interest in FAO Statistics Division.
- b) FAO-ITTO Capacity development Workshop in 2015 is to be decided in the spring, perhaps in Caribbean or Central Africa. Funding availability uncertain.
- c) European Forest Week, ECE/FAO Silva2015 Engelberg, 2-6 Nov 2015
- d) FAO/ECE Joint Working Party March 18-20
- e) ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics, March 17. Presented agenda for information.
- f) ITTO Council in November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur. Vote on new Executive Director.
- g) WCO Council (adopts HS Committee suggestions), HS Committee (March 2015 and September 2015, approving final 2017 items), HS Review Sub-committee (May 2015, starting to prepare scope and timetable of 2022 round)

10) Participation of the partner organization in the EFI trade flows database

- a) This is part of ITTO Independent Market Monitoring work for EU FLEGT. Paul Rougieux of EFI and Rupert Oliver presented their algorithm for improving COMTRADE data. Currently working on 440799, plan to extend to all wood items.
- b) Algorithm accepts value figure and check quantity (m3) figure for reliability using volume to weight or unit price to calculate estimated m3. It also compares figures to partner trade and will use this if it seems more reliable.
- c) IWG commented on a number of issues, including the degree of variability in unit price to be accepted, the conversion factors used and the use of median regional unit value.

11) Press Release for ITTO to announce conclusion of IWG / HS2017 announcement of tropical

- a) The IWG worked together to prepare a press release from ITTO following the meeting. It encouraged its members to link to this and publicize the work of the IWG.
- b) http://www.itto.int/news_releases/id=4265

ANNEX 1: JQ distribution in 2015:

AFRICA (54):

FAO (40): Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

ITTO (14): Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Togo.

ASIA (47):

ECE (10): Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

Eurostat (1): Cyprus.

FAO(27): Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Rep.), Iraq, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

ITTO (9): Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam.

EUROPE (40):

ECE (9): Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, The FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Ukraine.

Eurostat (31): Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

NORTHERN AMERICA (2)

ECE (2): Canada, United States of America.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN (33)

FAO(18): Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Chile, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Uruguay.

ITTO (15): Bolivia (Plurinational state of), Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

OCEANIA (16)

FAO(13): Australia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federal States of), New Zealand, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu.

ITTO (3): Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu.

Total (192): ECE - 21, Eurostat - 32, FAO - 98, ITTO - 41.