

Notes
29th Meeting of Intersecretariat Working Group
on Forest Sector Statistics
Palais des Nations, Room S1 (ground floor), 9-10 February 2016

Starting at 09:30 hrs on Tuesday 9 February 2016

1) Adoption of agenda

- a) Present: Jean Claudon (ITTO), Arvydas Lebedys (FAO), Yanshu Li (FAO-via skype), Alex McCusker (ECE), Matt Fonseca (ECE), Florian Steierer (ECE-via skype), Kit Prins (consultant). Eurostat could not participate, neither in person nor via skype.
- b) Chair Arvydas Lebedys, meeting secretary Alex McCusker
- c) Under other business added FAO-ITTO-ATIBT tropical nomenclature

2) Review of issues from last year's meeting

- a) Add ECE explanation (manual) sheet to standard JQ (without showing changes from previous year). ECE to revise with items 3 and 4. **Done.**
- b) 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. **IRENA provided a list of agricultural pellets and suggested torrefied pellets should go with charcoal. We should continue to investigate with AEBIOM.**
- c) Glulam (CN 441890.10) or other EWPs. 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. **CLT falls into construction materials as this is often sold as part of larger architecture project making it hard to single out. According to Finnish panel expert LVL is CN code 44129985, making it part of plywood in JFSQ.**
- d) Tanzania said this was 4.5 m3 for 1 mt of wood charcoal. (ECE will check with Kit Prins on source of 6). **Discussed during meeting, we were not able to get a source for this.**
- e) IWG said conversion factor 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. **This was done and discussed during meeting** (see below).
- f) Request Working Party to recommend update of forest products classification (ECE to follow up). **FAO is carrying out study and will provide to ToS.**
- g) Eurostat will supply PRODCOM plywood data at national level and compare it to JQ. **This comparison was provided to correspondents.**

3) Review of the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire activities in 2015

- a) Number/quality of replies
 - i) ECE: This was a record year for replies to the JFSQ. 45 countries (of 56) provided some information. Figures include EU/EFTA countries. This can be attributed to improved contact with countries. Quality was somewhat worse overall than last year due to countries not providing data correctly and for latest year.
 - ii) FAO: 18 JFSQ were received (of 98). Quality was variable.
 - iii) ITTO: 29 replies (of 41 producer countries), 3 from JQ2013 and 26 from JQ2014. This is same as previous years but with different countries replying.
- b) Success and problems
 - i) ECE: Initial replies came quite quickly this year (41 by July 2). Greece and Montenegro provided data for first time in several years. Wood residues data

- (trade) is showing variations due to JQ changes in 2012. Belarus, a significant target, despite many attempts, did not respond. Ukraine provided information which, unlike earlier years, was not as usable.
- ii) FAO: Ethiopia and Maldives, Dominican Republic, Morocco, Haiti and El Salvador provided data after a gap of several years. Good reply from South Africa. No reply for China, Australia (not responding to any FAO questionnaire for 3 years), New Zealand, also Chile and Iran.
 - iii) ITTO: Vietnam supplied data, Liberia with good data, Côte d'Ivoire, CAR, Indonesia, Costa Rica, Venezuela also replied. Missing countries include India, Gabon, Ghana, Thailand, Ecuador, Bolivia.
- c) Data dissemination
- i) ECE: Produced *Forest Products Annual Market Review* on time in August with hard-copy in October. Data annex also produced and data sent to FAO for distribution in July and November. Other statistics (FPS, Secondary Trade, Species Trade), flat file will be updated. As requested by the Working Party, questionnaires, with the permission of the country, are made available on our website.
 - ii) FAO: Updated FAOSTAT in July and December, published *Yearbook* late in August, Facts and Figures 2014 released in mid-December with record number of page views.
 - iii) ITTO: On-line database updated in October. Biennial *Review* published in June.
- d) Data validation: data discrepancies identified
- i) ECE tried again to use a roundwood balance approach to review country data. For a variety of reasons this has been difficult to implement (conversion factors, incomplete data, explaining to countries).
 - ii) FAO independently revised, like last year, about 200 data points and will provide these in an Excel sheet (mostly in item 3.2, 4.2).
 - iii) ECE used more data from FAO Global Trade Atlas and Pulp and Paper capacity survey.
 - iv) Aligning the JFSQ results with the official PRODCOM results when the definitions are comparable. **This Eurostat item can be discussed at next meeting.**
- e) Data exchanges among partner organizations
- i) Information from ITTO. ECE received the tropical data for last 5 years from ITTO and compared it to data in TIMBER. Exchanged questionnaires with FAO
 - ii) ECE reported on its data exchanges with Eurostat. For the first time since 2006 ECE processed JQ replies from EU/EFTA countries rather than reviewing the Eurostat data set. Communication went through Eurostat. This appeared to work for both countries and secretariat.
 - iii) ECE provided data to FAO on time in July and one month late in November.
 - iv) ITTO pointed out that they had not received some questionnaires from Eurostat – missing were Czech, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland. **ECE said they would provide the version of the questionnaire that Eurostat had sent to ECE** along with the processed questionnaires or data.
- f) Ancillary wood forest products statistical activities by individual organizations
- i) ECE did Market Statement and Forecasts. Trade flow tables were done. Finished wood energy enquiry (which also helped with removals) and we are about to publish. Price statistics continue to be published and are leading download (1000) after Market Review and data.
 - ii) Published "*GDP study*" in Spanish, trade flow 2013, pulp and paper survey. Also running two projects on wood fuel and guidelines – see section 7
 - iii) ITTO works with World Bank on MIS prices for *Commodity Markets Outlook*. Also work on Independent Market Monitoring continues.

- iv) Forest accounts progress report by Eurostat – of interest for removals. **This Eurostat item can be discussed at next meeting.**

4) The JFSQ in 2016 cycle

- a) 2015 JFSQ changes. **To be completed by FAO by end February.**
- i) Add HDF to questionnaire item name for MDF as this is already part of definitions but not always clear to correspondents and users of data. Also change in definitions and publications. New name is “Medium/High Density Fibreboard (MDF/HDF)”
 - ii) Exclude bamboo in definitions (already excluded in HS)
 - (1) Changed definitions items 2 (charcoal, added shell/nuts), 6.2 (plywood), 11.1.NC.T (further processed sawnwood).
 - (2) Agreed 11.6 (wooden furniture) did not need this note as bamboo was outside scope of HS 9401.60.
 - iii) Where to put veneered particle board and MDF (should it be a secondary product?). Currently we classify this as “composite plywood” under item 6.2. **IWG should keep this under review and perhaps consider splitting off in HS 2022.**
 - iv) Item 3.2 post-consumer wood vs JWEE. We agreed in 2013 to exclude post-consumer wood from item 3.2 on the basis of following the wood flow. We could see about adding this as a separate product.
 - v) Will delete rows 103-109 in JQ1, 102-108 on JQ2.
 - vi) Dropped chemi-mechanical from item 7.1
 - vii) Item 4 and 4.1 in French definitions should refer to “granules” and not “boulettes” for pellets
 - viii) Added “shitake mushroom logs” to 1.2.3.
 - ix) Add JQ1 cross-ref to 2.1 CPC
 - x) Change definition and label of 11.7.1 (prefabricated wood houses) to match forthcoming HS 2017
 - xi) Changed 3 and 3.1 definitions to reflect chips produced directly outside forest.
 - xii) Item 1.1 definition added “split” (exists in 1 and 1.2)
 - xiii) Moved “wood in the rough” from 1.2 to item 1 (so it applies to both wood fuel and industrial roundwood)
 - xiv) Changed definition of wood pulp (7) to clearly exclude recovered pulp (8.2)
 - xv) Change “waste paper” to “recovered paper” in item 8.2.
 - xvi) Removed reference to cellular panels – this sits in HS under 4418 (see explanatory notes) while JFSQ refers to it in 6.2. We removed from 6.2 and modified slightly definition under 11.5
- b) Eurostat proposal to have only one round of data collection in October/November 2016 (and thereafter) when trade and PRODCOM data are final. Given absence of Eurostat at meeting it was not possible to discuss this topic. **IWG will discuss with Eurostat prior to deadline for sending questionnaires.**
- c) Deadlines and data exchanges

Agency	Eurostat	UNECE	ITTO	FAO
Dispatch deadline	April 4	April 4	June 15	May 16
External deadline	May 16 / Oct 8	May 16	September 30	August 31
Internal deadline (last day for new data additions)	June 11 / Oct 8	June 15	None – no BR this year	Final Nov 16
Basic validation	June 15 / Oct 21	June 23	June 30	To Oct 31 (as received)
Analytical validation (last day for data corrections)		July 1	June 30	July 15 / Nov 23
Dispatch to ECE	JQ as received, data			

Agency	Eurostat	UNECE	ITTO	FAO
	file June 24 / Oct 23			
Dispatch to FAO (for checking and final)		July 4 and Jul 15 / Oct 31 and Nov 23	weekly JQ, estimated 2015 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

d) Validation improvements

- i) UNECE discussed using the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry to validate JFSQ items. The 2013 JWEE round was useful in bringing up wood use from outside the forest and improved wood waste statistics. When trying to incorporate this into JFSQ correspondents were sometimes reluctant. Efforts should continue to improve information.
 - ii) Recovered pulp (8.2) should match (80%) of recovered paper and should not appear as part of item 7. FAO uses “fibre furnish” which is items 7 – 7.4 + 8.1 + (item 9 * 80%). ECE and FAO will try to make more efforts to have realistic figures for 8.2, estimating based on recovered paper. **ECE will check with CEPI if 80% level is correct..**
- e) ITTA signatory countries not providing data twice in a row could be contacted by ITTO reminding them of their obligations to supply information under ITTA 2006.
- f) Future JQ reviews – **keep for future meetings**
- i) 2018 IWG needs to have longer (or 2) meetings to manage transition to HS 2017
 - ii) Move OSB out from under particleboard.
 - iii) Exclude shakes and shingles (441850) and posts and beams (441860) from 11.5. Add to JQ2 trade in 2017? Add staves? Add poles? **Discuss with ToS.**
 - iv) Create item in JFSQ for post-consumer recovered wood

5) **HS2022 round**

- a) FAO briefed on the procedure
 - i) FAO will submit corporate request by September to World Customs Organization
 - ii) This will then go through a series of reviews from WCO for final adoption in 2020.
- b) **List of proposed codes will be developed by IWG and circulated to countries** through UNECE/FAO Working Party and ITTO Council and FAO Advisory Board. ECE, FAO and ITTO will send by May for comments and additions from countries by July.
- c) Subsequently will ask for support for proposal from countries to national WCO contact points.
- d) Items requested
 - i) 441294 (blockboard and laminboard and battenboard) and 441299 (other plywood) to be separated by coniferous or non-coniferous species to complete plywood C/NC split. See IWG proposal in annex 2.

- ii) MDF and fibreboard. **ECE and FAO will draw up proposal for consultation at 2016 ToS. FAO to check past history in the documentation of WCO sessions. See discussion at 2015 ToS on Forest Products Statistics.**
 - (1) Dry vs wet
 - (2) Density
 - (3) thickness
- iii) EWP codes in HS
 - (1) Current structure
 - (a) Glulam is code 44189010 per CN/Eurostat
 - (b) Xlam/CLT is in 4421 per Eurostat
 - (c) LVL is CN 44129985 per industry contact.
 - (d) I-Beams is in 4418 per FAO consultant.
 - (2) ECE will pursue getting info on code used in trade classifications despite lack of success in getting response from contacts.**
- iv) Wooden furniture (clarify ex-codes in JQ 11.6)
 - (1) 9401.30 – create 9401.31 *swivel seats, of wood*
 - (2) 9401.40 (not currently in JQ) - **FAO to see if justified to create 9401.41 seats that turn into beds, of wood**
 - (3) 9401.90 – create 9401.91 *parts of wood* – CN code exists
 - (4) 9403.90 – create 9403.91 *parts of wood* – CN and US code exists
- v) **ITTO will check in CN for other manufactured wood products of tropical origin (HS 4418, 11.4) and ECE will check CN for coniferous and non-coniferous breakdown** that could be used to justify changes in HS.
- vi) Briquettes separate from other agglomerates. **FAO to check on whether it is possible to adapt HS codes that were changed in previous round.**
- vii) Torrefied pellets – **FAO/ECE to check with IRENA and AEBIOM**
- viii) Exclude shell/nut charcoal from charcoal. Create 4402.20 for shell / nut charcoal. **FAO to check GTA to see if this exists in national nomenclature to justify single product.**
- ix) Non-wood forest products. FAO will pursue this – mushrooms by species etc.
- x) Post-consumer wood. **FAO to check on ongoing WCO conversations about waste in Basel Convention/HS.**
- xi) Wood in the rough should be applied to HS fuelwood nomenclature
- xii) Pull sawdust out of 4401.40 to identify this separately, as it is already done in CN (not to separate in JQ but to improve analysis). Subheading 4401.40 was created for HS2017, check to see if WCO rules allow to revise it already for HS 2022.

6) Other Business

- a) FAO projects funded by Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural Statistics (\$220,000) focused on developing countries.
 - i) *Guidelines for data collection of national forest products statistics.* This is being developed by two consultants and includes revision of FAO classification of forest products. Idea is to produce a document showing countries how to collect forest products data.
 - ii) *Methodology on incorporating a woodfuel module into national household surveys in developing countries.* Produce a module for adding to national household surveys that could be used if country wishes to gain more information in this area. Will be tested in countries by end-2016 in collaboration with IRENA.
- b) Conversion Factors Questionnaire and work (item discussed with Matt Fonseca). The IWG discussed their plans for circulating the questionnaire following acceptance of the draft. Initial deadline will be set for September 2016.
 - i) When did current version of conversion factors get started? 1967 start. **ECE to go through WP reports from 1960s to see when this issue was covered.**

- c) FAO work on classifications (item discussed with Kit Prins).
 - i) Question on charcoal (why 6:1 ratio?). Does not remember when started and was not discussed. **FAO to ask Wardle, check manufacturers.**
 - ii) Question on why “wood in the rough” for 1.2 and not for 1. Probably an oversight.
 - iii) FAO draft will be presented at ToS meeting for further guidance on development. **ECE to make sure this is in agenda.**
 - iv) CPC version 2.1 is active, incorporates pellets in code 39281
 - v) FAO contracted ATIBT to produce nomenclature of tropical wood. This is reviewed and published in 2016.
- d) Organizational changes
 - i) ECE: Many staff movements during last year resulted in lower capacity. Absence of loaned staff is hampering programme. Acting Section Chief is Roman Michalak, Acting Director (Forests, Land and Housing) is Marco Keiner.
 - ii) ITTO: Steve Johnson is still O-i-C. New Executive Director to be named at next Council meeting. Statistical staff remain limited. ITTO is considering expanding coverage of non-ITTO countries for tropical wood statistics.
 - iii) FAO: Many changes, one division (Forestry Policy and Resources) for all Forestry Department, Director is Eva Muller; new ADG René Castro starts February; former Economics Team is renamed to Forest Economics and Statistics Team (one of 12 Teams) under Thais Linhares-Juvenal. Statistics group has expanded with consultants (4 regular staff, 2 long-term consultants). Centralization of statistical work has increased in FAO. Many vacant posts in Forestry Department.
- e) Place and date of next meeting. Rome in January 2017.
- f) Sharing institutional memory – all FAO production questionnaires from 1940s on have been scanned and provided to ECE and ITTO.

7) Meetings of Interest to IWG

- a) Future meetings
 - i) Task Force on reviewing forest accounts, 16-17 March 2016, Luxembourg
 - ii) UNECE/FAO Working Party, Geneva, 23-24 March 2016 and Team of Specialists Forest Products Statistics 22 March
 - iii) FAO/ITTO Caribbean Workshop, 12-14 April 2016, Trinidad and Tobago
 - iv) COFO, Rome, 18-22 July 2016
 - v) Eurostat Working Group “Forestry Statistics”, Luxembourg, 28-29 September 2016
 - vi) JWEE capacity building – November/December
 - vii) Kick-off meeting for next UNDA tranche at UNECE is planned for end 2016. This could involve also workshop on forest products statistics.

ANNEX 1: JQ distribution in 2016:

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.

Annex 2 on ideas for HS 2022 proposals

HS 2022 initial proposals		
Plywood full C/NC split	4412.8x	Blockboard, Battenboard, laminboard, with at least one outer ply of tropical
	4412.8y	With one outer ply of non- coniferous non-tropical
	4412.8z	Other (both plies coniferous)
	4412.9x	Other plywood with at least one outer ply of tropical
	4412.9y	With one outer ply of non- coniferous non-tropical
	4412.9z	Other (both plies coniferous)
	4412.99	Other
Fibreboard	First density, then thickness	
		Low density (less than 0.5 gm /cm ²)
		- Thickness less than 5 mm
		- Thickness between 5 and 9 mm
		- Thickness more than 9 mm
		Medium density (between 0.5 and 0.8 gm/cm ²)
		- Thickness less than 5 mm
		- Thickness between 5 and 9 mm
		- Thickness more than 9 mm
		High density (over 0.8 gm / cm ²) – <i>what is physical difference with hardboard</i>
		- Thickness less than 5 mm
		- Thickness between 5 and 9 mm
		- Thickness more than 9 mm