

Draft Annotated Agenda for ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics

As of 24 August 2020

2 September 2020 – 14:00-18:00 (Geneva time) virtual meeting via Teams

Meeting page is <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53083>

See also pending issues list at end of document

Leader: Branko Glavonjic

Deputy Leader: Graça Louro

1) Welcome and agenda, introductions

2) Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ)

- a) Integration of 2017 changes into ECE database – implications and issues

The 2017 changes to the JFSQ have introduced some discontinuities with previous data, in particular in veneer sheets and in the pulp categories. The opinion of the Team will be sought on how to deal with these changes in the series. Also the results of adding the new item on recovered wood (where over half the responding countries are providing some data), the apparent quality of the data, and a comparison with Joint Wood Energy Enquiry data.

- b) Comments and items to improve

We will provide information prior to the meeting on the level of responses in 2019 (and prior years) to the JFSQ.

We should discuss the relationship between wood pulp and recovered pulp which is not always clear to respondents. Recovered pulp is significantly underreported.

The wood fiber balance in the JFSQ could also be reviewed and discussed.

ECE/EU questionnaire – should we drop ex-HS codes to simplify. This currently cover painted/stained wood and sleepers. We continue to request item 1.2.C.Other which does not provide any specific species information.

This is also an opportunity for Team members to discuss their experiences with the JFSQ and any issues they would like to raise.

3) Timber Forecast Questionnaire (TFQ)

We will provide information prior to the meeting on the level of responses in 2019 (and prior years) to the TFQ.

2020 appears to be a key year for forecasts and the Team is asked to provide their views on the availability of useful information for 2020 by early October. For the first time we would like to incorporate these forecasts into this year's *Forest Products Annual Market Review* which would be made available at the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry meeting in early November.

This is also an opportunity for Team members to discuss their experiences with the TFQ and any issues they would like to raise.

4) Engineered Wood Products questionnaire (EWP)

We currently (August 24) have 21 replies to the EWP (data 2017-2018). We will show the data received and discuss data quality issues, definitions, publishing the data and whether we should request this data again in 2020 for 2018-2019.

5) HS

a) Status of implementation HS2022

The HS2022 is now being implemented at the national level. It should take effect January 2022. The changes in the HS codes and any changes to the JFSQ will take place in the questionnaire sent out in 2023. A document prepared by FAO lists the changes in HS 2022 and is available on the meeting page. These include briquettes, sawdust, teak, LVL, engineered wood products, additional tropical items, seat and parts of wood.

b) Plans for HS2027

The HS2027 revision will take place from 2022-2024. ECE and FAO will prepare a plan in 2021 to gather input from national authorities and forest industry stakeholders and review this plan at next year's Team meeting. A submission would then be prepared for the World Customs Organization's Harmonised Review sub-committee in late 2022.

6) Statistical systems

a) Sharing and exchanging data at international level

The secretariat will update the meeting on results of data exchanges between the international organizations. Issues with data processing and use of sources such as COMTRADE will also be covered.

b) Updates from January 2020 meeting of Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics (IWG)

The 2020 meeting took place in Geneva in January. Meeting notes are available here (<http://www.unece.org/forests/areas-of-work/forestsfpn/iwg>). Team members are invited to raise any points they wish and suggest issues for discussion at the next IWG.

8) Updates on ECE/FAO projects (changed order to reflect priorities provided on Surveymonkey)

a) Conversion factor study

The study has now been published (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=54010>) with contributions from 37 countries. We will review the joint work on the study and the download rate. Comments on the study would be very welcome.

b) Correspondents workshop in Serbia

The FAO and ECE are working to organize this workshop with the kind cooperation of the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Belgrade. It is now scheduled for the second half of November 2020. We will update you on plans for the workshop which is targeted at countries of southeastern Europe and the CIS.

c) Improving access to existing data

The ECE is carrying out a project (supported by the Swiss government) to improve the visibility and access to the data we currently publish. One step in this are planned country profiles which are designed to highlight the data we have available (from FRA, JFSQ and JWEE). These would be aimed more at the general public than specialists. A list of possible items to include has been circulated for comments. We will update you on the status of this work.

7) Updates from countries (*please contribute any information you believe relevant before the meeting - last year's list is at end of document*)

- a) Activities that participants believe would be of interest to mention or present at meeting
- b) Publications and links to country forestry statistics information

9) Priorities for new developments in statistics and improving synergies

a) Doublecounting of production. The Team has encouraged investigation as to whether this is occurring. We will review results of the sawnwood doublecounting survey (sent with this agenda). Please bring up any knowledge you may have of the significance of this issue in your country.

b) Survey of removals – definitions and methodologies.

Countries have different methods for measuring removals. In 2018 the Team recommended carrying out a study on this. Perhaps one or more of the team members could collaborate with the Secretariat in preparing the survey and analysing the results.

c) Distinguishing chips used for energy versus chips used for industry.

We have been investigating how to differentiate these chips in trade statistics and proposed using the bark percentage (<1%, <3%, >3%). We have requested this be implemented at the EU Combined Nomenclature and the suggestion was rejected. Can we determine a different method for distinguishing the chips?

d) Nominal versus actual sizes in sawnwood.

A recurring issue is not being certain of the dimensions being reported versus the actual measurement of the sawnwood. This is accounted for in North American data. European data is assumed to have no difference. However our understanding is there are in fact cases (Norway, UK) where this difference exists. Is there interest in trying to clarify this?

e) Price Statistics – the ECE/FAO publishes approximately 80 price series, mostly collected from public sources. This is usually updated once per year and uses a small part of our work effort. It is the single most visited part of the website.

In past years the Team has suggested improved collaboration with the Baltic-Nordic group. Are there other suggestions for improving the scope of these statistics? Assistance in improving data or the file structure would be welcome.

f) MDF/HDF and hardboard data. We continue to have difficulty in correctly classifying data here. Following rejection of changes to this for the HS 2022 an immediate solution does not look feasible. In addition, there are concerns about how laminate flooring is classified. If this is of interest we can discuss possible solutions.

10) Next meeting, topics, timing and location

The Working Party 2021 is tentatively planned for 23-25 March 2021.

List of issues from 2019 meeting (ECE/FAO following up)

- Improve removals definition to indicate when removal is considered to occur (when it reaches roadside, even if not sold).
- Veneer definition to be reflected in dissemination and metadata
- Recovered wood comparison between JWEE and JFSQ
- MDF/hardboard data problems to be discussed with most affected countries
- Forecast estimation accuracy by country to correspondents
- Reissue EWP questionnaire
- Discuss chip grades at Bioenergy Europe and CEPI
- Provide expanded agenda for meeting
- Price stats link to Baltic-Nordic
- CN codes for birch logs
- Improve working methods of Team

Tentative Timetable (subject to members' view on priorities for discussion)

1st and 2nd hour – Welcome, JFSQ, TFQ, EWP, HS

3rd and 4th hour - Data exchange, updates on projects, country info, priorities for this year and 2021

Links and reports

Finland

- A brand new publication “Finnish forest statistics”, bilingual (Finnish, English), published in Dec 2018, online version free of charge: https://stat.luke.fi/en/finnish-forest-statistics-2018_en
- “Finnish bioeconomy in numbers”, updated to include the 2017 data
<https://www.luke.fi/en/natural-resources/finnish-bioeconomy-in-numbers/>

France

- Composition de la forêt française : surface, propriété, stock de bois, diversité...
 - o Institut National de l'Information Géographique et Forestière (IGN)
 - o Publications, études, recherche et services en ligne dont tableaux de résultats, données brutes et cartographie interactive
 - o <https://inventaire-forestier.ign.fr>
- Données statistiques sur la filière bois : études, publications et données statistiques en ligne
 - o études, publications et tableaux statiques :

<http://agreste.agriculture.gouv.fr/thematiques/bois-et-forets-884/#Récolte de bois, Productions de sciages>

- o tableaux dynamiques :

<https://stats.agriculture.gouv.fr/disar-web/disaron!/searchurl/searchUiid/search.disar>

JRC

Wood resources balance info

https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/publication/wood-resource-balances_en?page=1

https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/publication/forestry-sankey_en