

CURRENT ISSUES IN TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOCUSING ON BILATERAL
AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

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The FAO Statistics Division is committed in over 100 field projects in developing countries. In about 45 of them the Division is the leader, whereas it plays a secondary or minor role in the others.

The projects for which the Division is technically responsible are mainly (i) agricultural censuses, and (ii) permanent systems of agricultural statistics; they are usually funded by UNDP.

The Division is also involved in a number of projects concerning Early Warning Systems; the leadership of these projects is in the hands of another division, but the statistical component is of great importance. Their funding usually comes from Trust Funds.

Most of the projects have an important training component. Training is ensured through fellowships or through study tours. In 1989-90, a special training course has been organized for French-speaking African staff in the statistical school of Abidjan. The Statistics Division intends to develop this kind of training courses in the future.

Several manuals or guidelines have been prepared and published in order to help developing countries deal with technical issues, thus benefiting from previous experiences in the world.

The main difficulty encountered in the projects is the recruitment of experts in a timely way, especially for short-term missions. It also proves difficult to find valuable and experienced experts for French-speaking countries.