

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

1–3 and 5 March 2022

Item 3 (s) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: Agriculture and Rural Statistics

Document E/CN.3/2022/23 – Report of the Secretary-Agriculture and Rural Statistics

Statement provided by:

Stats NZ

Overview:

The report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on recent developments in agricultural and rural statistics, which is submitted to the Statistical Commission for consideration. In the report, FAO provides an update on recent actions and efforts it has undertaken in that area since its previous report to the Commission at its fifty-first session, held in 2020. The report includes an update on the implementation of its statistics modernization strategy, in particular the proposed new integrated governance system for data and statistics inspired by the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere, and an update on the implementation of major capacity development programmes in the areas of food security, agriculture and rural statistics and Sustainable Development Goal indicators under FAO custodianship. In its report, FAO also provides a summary of the work of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics and a synthesis of the recommendations of the three biennial meetings of its regional commissions on agricultural statistics. Action to be taken by the Commission includes commending FAO on its new integrated governance structure for data and statistics; taking note of the progress made by the task teams of the Committee of Experts and commending FAO on its progress in strengthening the statistical capacity of countries in producing food and agriculture statistics, including related Goal indicators; and taking note of the recommendations recently formulated by the FAO regional commissions on agricultural statistics.

Action Taken by the Statistical Commission:

The Commission is invited to:

- (a) To commend FAO on its implementation of an integrated governance structure for data and statistics, inspired by the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere;
- (b) To encourage FAO to develop an integrated quality assurance framework for statistics, big data and geospatial data, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies;
- (c) To take note of the establishment by FAO of the Data Lab for Statistical Innovation and to encourage FAO to accelerate the development and testing of methods and tools using alternative data sources;
- (d) To take note of the progress made by the three task teams of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics;
- (e) To encourage its members to express their interest in participating in the work of the Committee of Experts for the review of the guidelines on processing food consumption data from household consumption and expenditure surveys;
- (f) To call on members to renew their commitments to use the internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goal indicators to monitor the targets related to food and agriculture;

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- (g) To commend FAO on the progress made by the organization in strengthening the statistical capacity of countries in producing food and agriculture statistics and in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goal indicators and for the role played by the organization in the implementation of the “50 x 2030” initiative and the second phase of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics;
- (h) To encourage FAO and its partners to continue to pursue the overall improvement of the quality of the data collected by member countries, by providing sectoral guidelines and hands-on technical assistance for the compilation of quality statistics and by promoting the modernization of the entire statistical production cycle at the national level;
- (i) To take note of the recommendations recently formulated by the FAO regional commissions on agricultural statistics.

Statement:

StatsNZ commends FAO on its implementation of an integrated governance structure for data and statistics, inspired by the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere; We also commend them on the progress made by the organization in strengthening the statistical capacity of countries in producing food and agriculture statistics and in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goal indicators and for the role played by the organization in the implementation of the “50 x 2030” initiative and the second phase of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics

StatsNZ has collaborated with the Ministry for Primary Industries on working towards the progress made by the three task teams of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics;’ We note that the 3 task teams look to be Latin America, Africa and Asian / Pacific. As they have slightly different needs, we will stay linked into the progress on initiatives suggested by the Asian / Pacific task team.

Recommendations of particular interest to both our team and the MPI team (in terms of the agricultural survey running this year in New Zealand) include:

- 1) Integration of survey data with other sources, such as census data, administrative registers and geospatial databases
- 2) Promote the use of georeferenced and Earth observation data and to address challenges that prevent the wider use of Earth observation data.

StatsNZ has been involved in and will continue to collaborate domestically and internationally on the review of the guidelines on processing food consumption data from household consumption and expenditure surveys; We also take note of the recommendations recently formulated by the FAO regional commissions on agricultural statistics.

Submitted on:

2/25/2021