

COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

IMTS Workshop 1 - 5 November 2010 Chaminuka, Lusaka, Zambia

COMESA's Priorities and Objectives

The history of COMESA began in December 1994 when it was formed to replace the former Preferential Trade Area (PTA) which had existed from the earlier days of 1981. COMESA (as defined by its Treaty) was established as an organisation of free independent sovereign states which have agreed to co-operate in developing their natural and human resources for the good of all their people and as such it has a wide-ranging series of objectives which necessarily include in its priorities the promotion of peace and security in the region.

 However, due to COMESA's economic history and background its main focus is on the formation of a large economic and trading unit that is capable of overcoming some of the barriers that are faced by individual states.

The COMESA Vision State

• COMESA seeks to become a fully integrated internationally competitive regional economic community within which there is economic prosperity demonstrated by high living standards of its people with political and social stability within which goods, services, capital and labour, move freely across national geographical borders.

Institutional Set-up

COMESA organization which stands for Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa has 19 member states, namely:

Burundi

Comoros

Congo DR

Djibouti

Egypt

Eritrea

Ethiopia

Kenya

Libya

Madagascar

Malawi

Mauritius

Rwanda

Seychelles

Swaziland

Sudan

Uganda

Zambia and

Zimbabwe.

COMSTAT Database

The COMSTAT database is a dissemination tool for statistics in various areas that are critical for monitoring the performance of the COMESA's regional integration program.

The statistical domains currently covered in COMSTAT are;

- Merchandise Trade Statistics
- Trade Integration Indicators
- Trade Flow Analysis
- The COMESA Trade Statistics system was designed for the purposes of allowing Internet users to access foreign trade statistics and other indicators for the COMESA region.
- The COMESA Merchandise Trade Online Database (COMSTAT) has been re-developed using MySQL and PhP as a front-end.

The system was first launched in 2006 and was later
 re- designed and re-launched in December 2009.

Location of the Database

 COMESA trade Statistics System is hosted at the COMESA Secretariat in Lusaka, Zambia.

Data collection

- Customs offices in the member states capture the trade data using ASYCUDA (2.7 / + +) and other systems from their ports, the data is passed over to the National Statistical Offices.
- At National Statistical Office data is imported into Eurotrace, a statistical software for processing trade statistics and used by almost all member states for cleaning/checking the data
- After the data is cleaned/checked National Statistical Offices then send the data to COMESA either via email or on CD.
- For MS where data is not readily available, intra-regional trade is mirrored from other supplying countries while extra-regional trade is
 - mirrored from the COMTRADE database of the United Nations.

Service level agreements

- Service level agreements have been signed between 14 Customs Authorities and National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and COMESA has an agreement with 15 NSOs.
- The COMESA treaty clearly highlights the role of statistics in the integration monitoring process. In the treaty's vision for a "Common Market Information System", it states inter alia that;

"The Member States undertake to co-operate in the field of statistics in order to create an enabling environment for the regular flow of up to date, reliable, harmonized and comparable statistical data on various sectors of economic activity, required for an efficient implementation of the objectives of the Common Market."

Harmonisation of the data

 Data compilation based on the General Trade System, recommended by the UN, provides a more comprehensive recording

of external trade flows than the Special Trade System. Also provides

a better approximation of the change of ownership criterion used in

• the regard detecting of the rent LCUs. To produce regional trade statistics, data from MS have to be harmonized into standard

and recommended nomenclatures and codes, as stipulated in the

COMESA Common Statistical Rules (CSR):

Harmonisation of the data (cont'd)

- Data recorded in Hs1996/Hs2002 are converted to HS2007
- Country codes not recorded using ISO 3166:93 nomenclature are also

converted

- Values are converted from LCUs to US dollars using average monthly
- The designate are and countries where data have not yet been obtained by the Secretariat, estimates are made from partner country data. This is for the purposes of providing provisional indicators of trade flows.

International Standard Classifications

- Trade data from member states in the COMSTAT are harmonised to Hs2007, HS2002 or HS1996, also ISO 3166 for country codes.
- Reporting and analysis is also done using Standard International
- Trade Classification (SITC). HS is more detailed and is suitable

Quality assessment

- simplified.
 The statistics team at the Secretariat verifies the authenticity of the data received from Member States before harmonization
 - and aggregation into the regional database.
- Consistency checks are also made by comparing with data from the previous years and other sources.

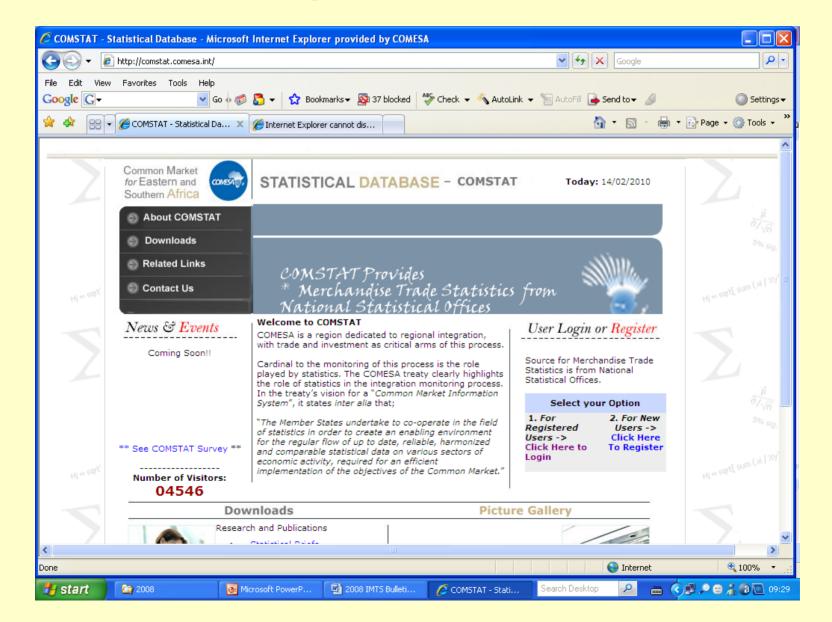
Dissemination

- Means of data dissemination:
- Annual Bulletins
- Statistical Briefs
- The Web
- CD-ROM, other electronic media)
- Mostly the data will be disseminated through the web and email. For those government organs with no Internet access, CD-ROM is used.

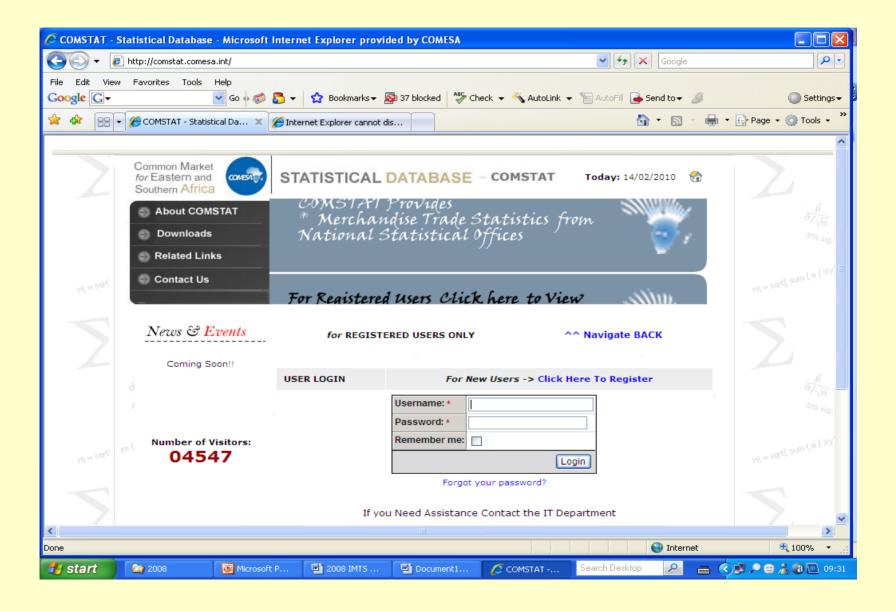
Access to COMSTAT

The COMSTAT can be accessed at http://comstat.comesa.int/

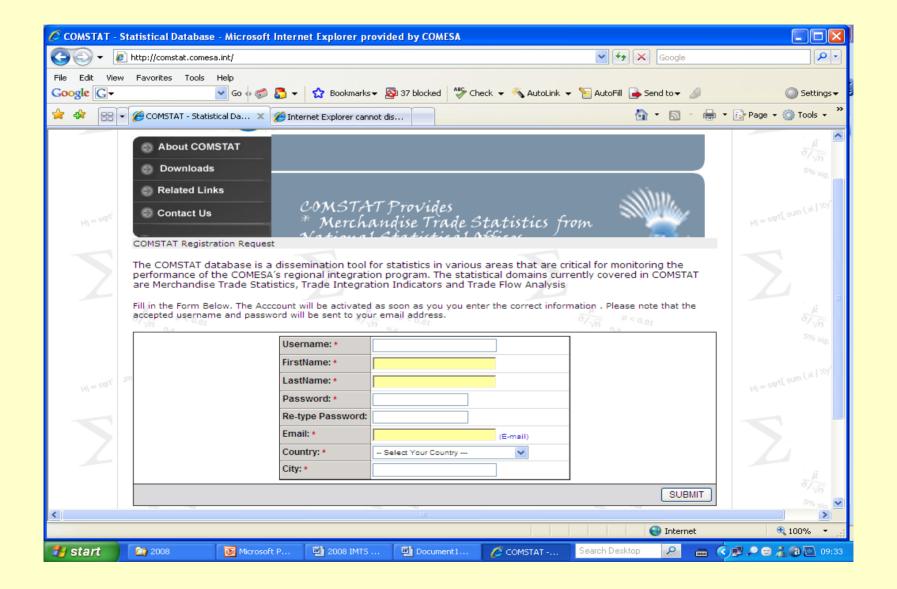
The Home page



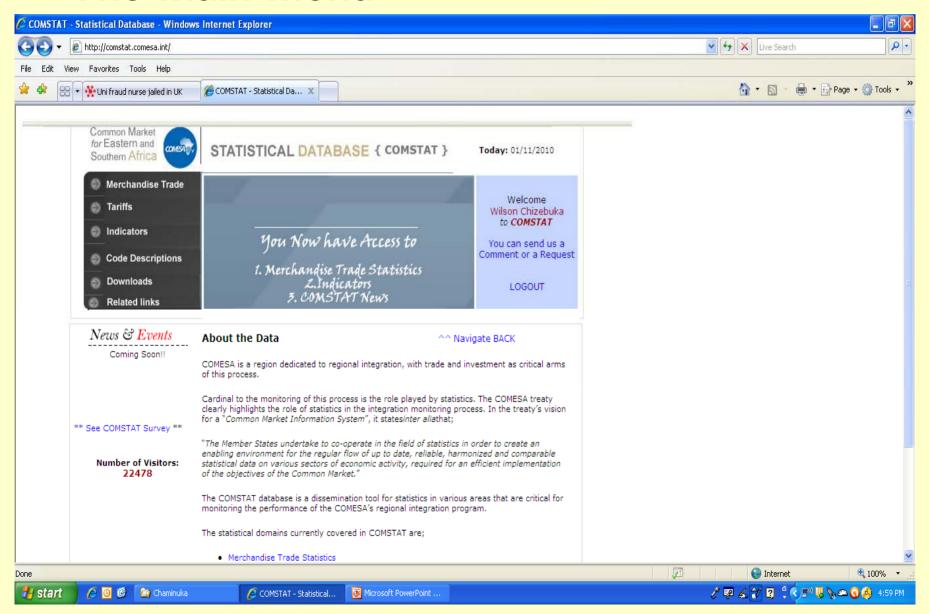
The login screen



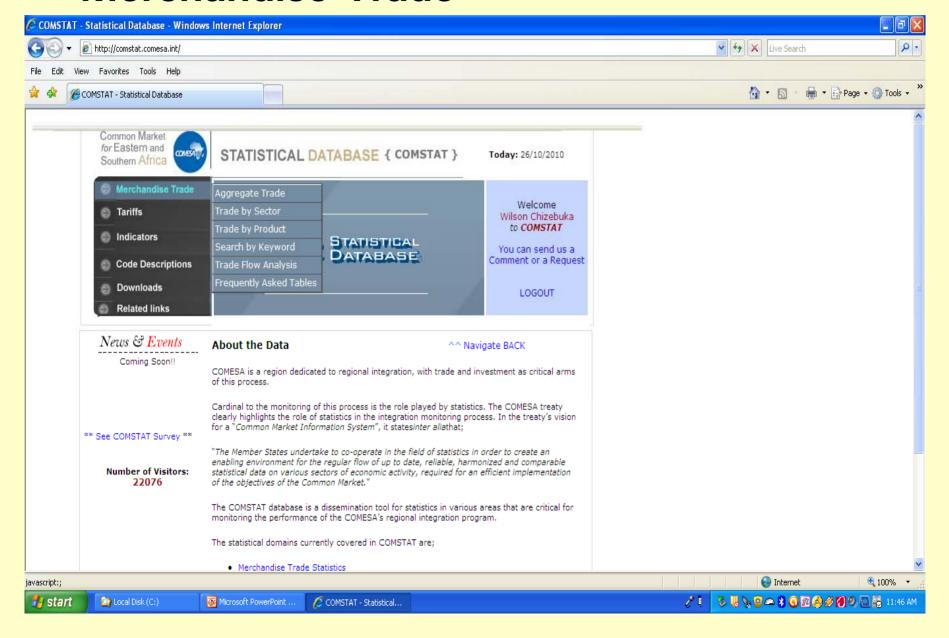
The registration form



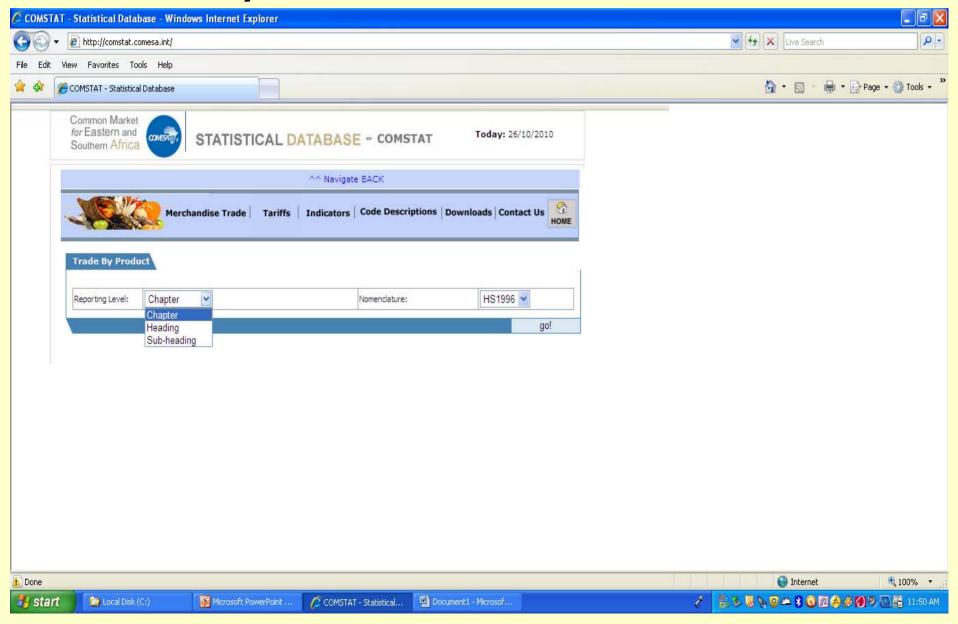
The main menu

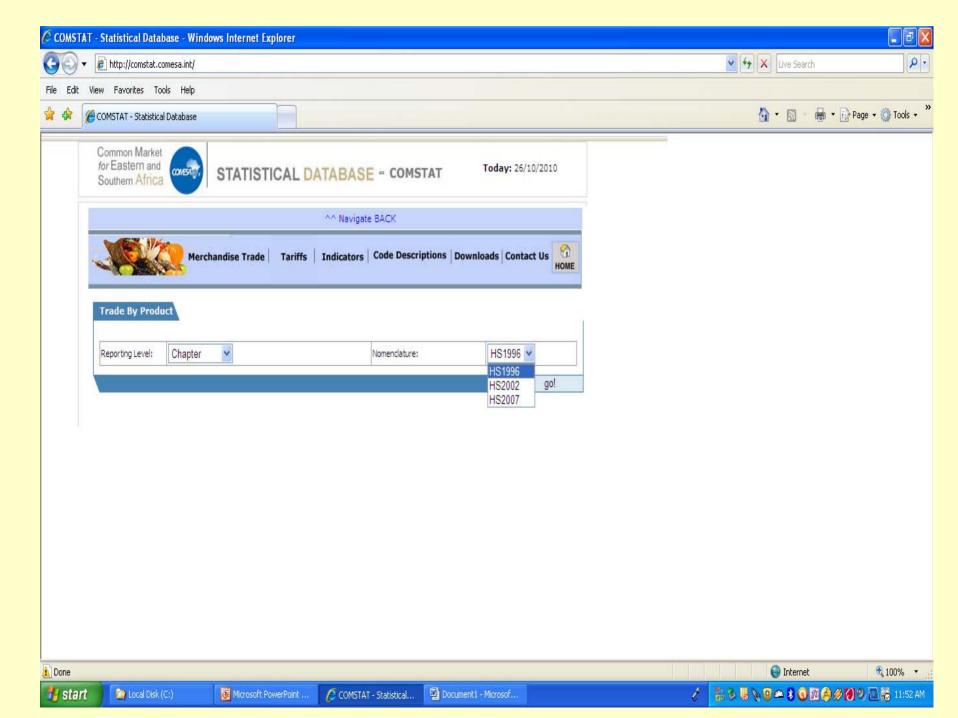


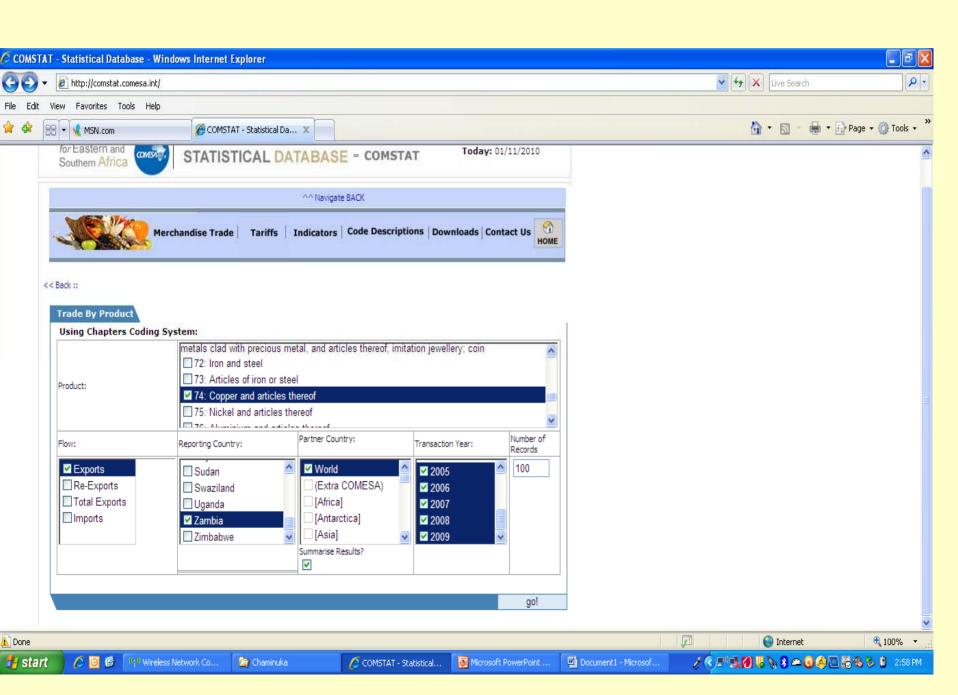
Merchandise Trade

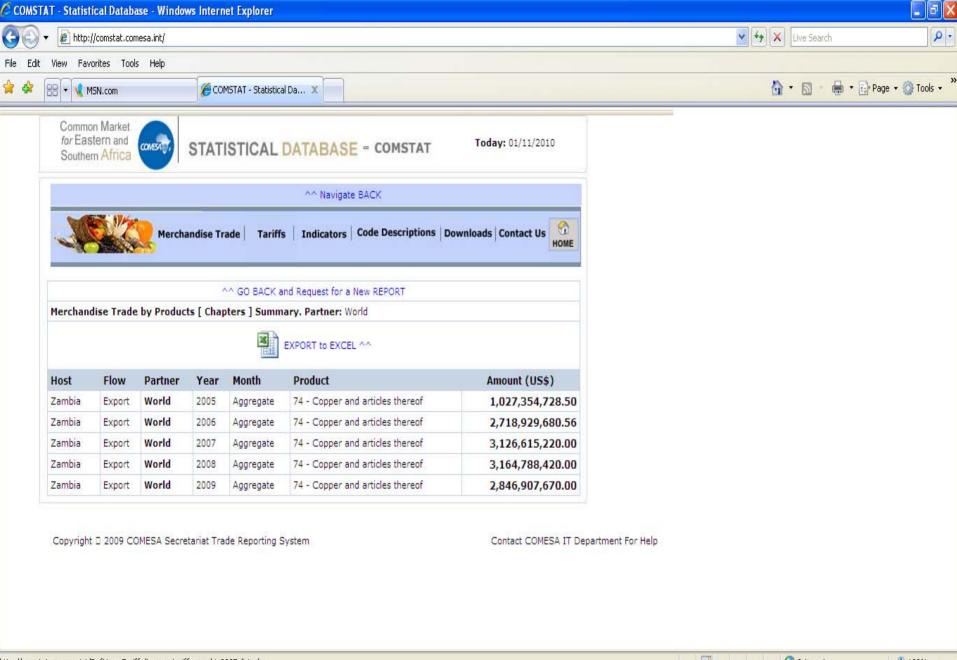


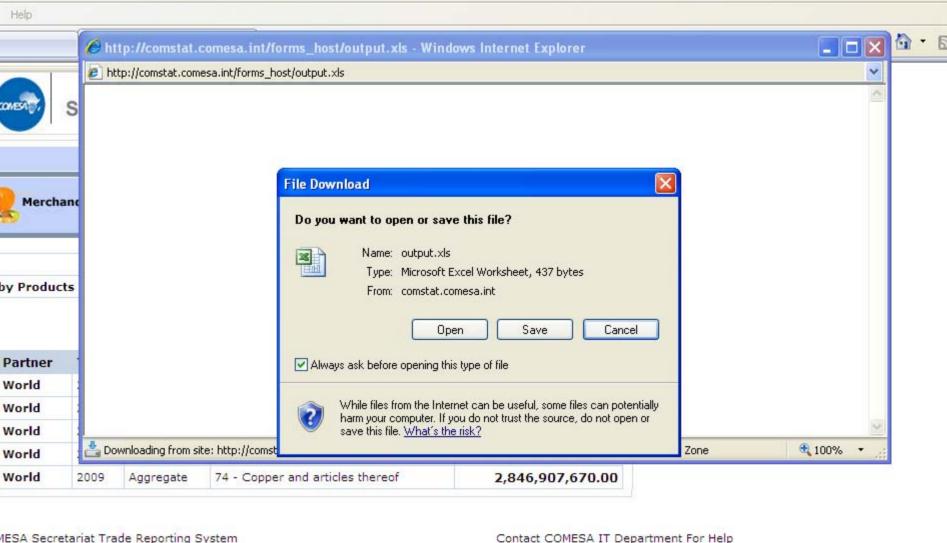
Trade by Product





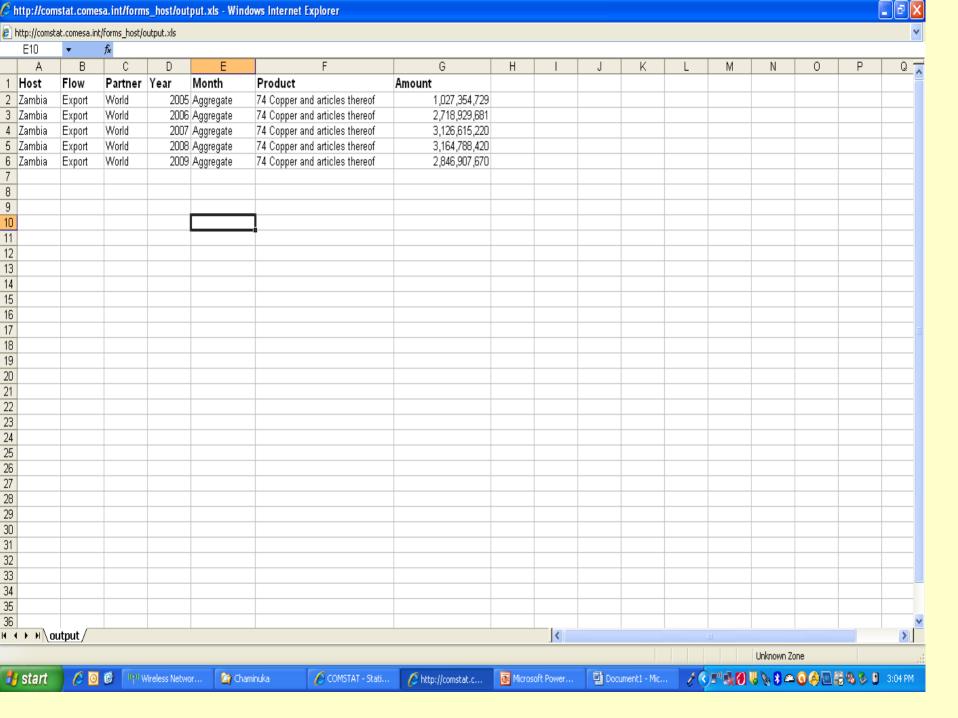




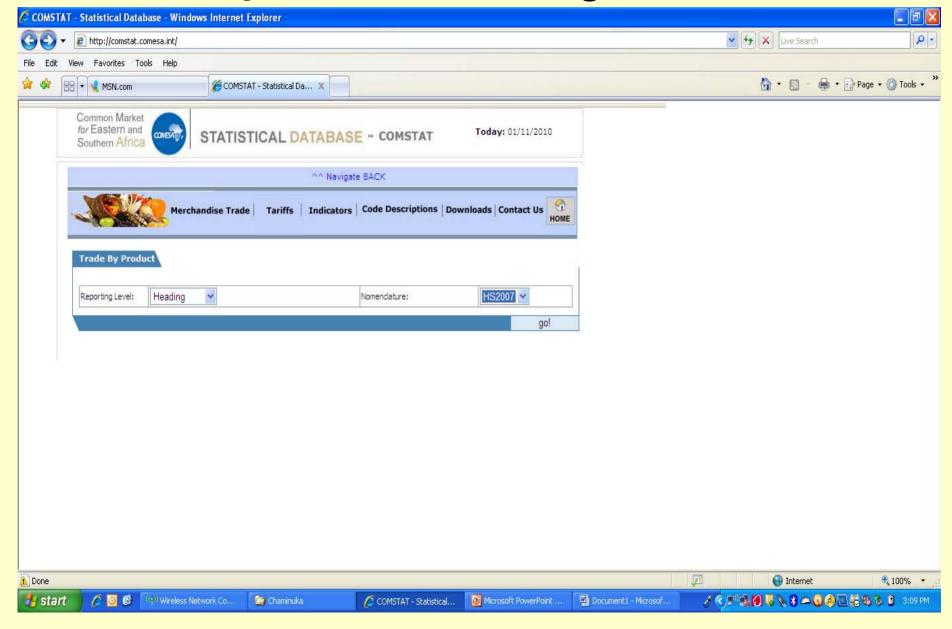


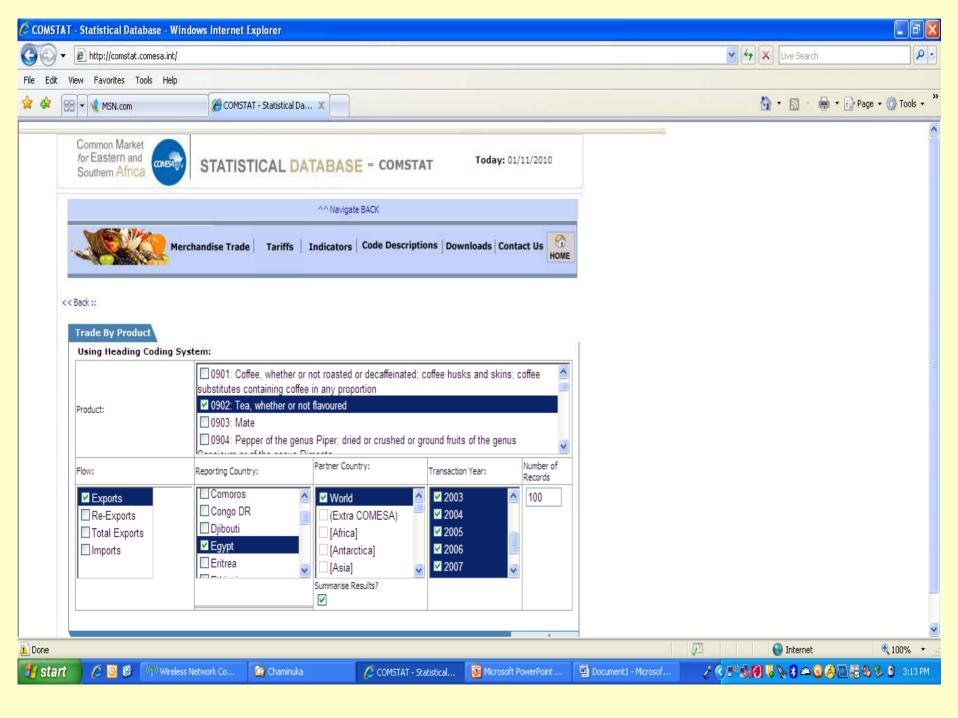
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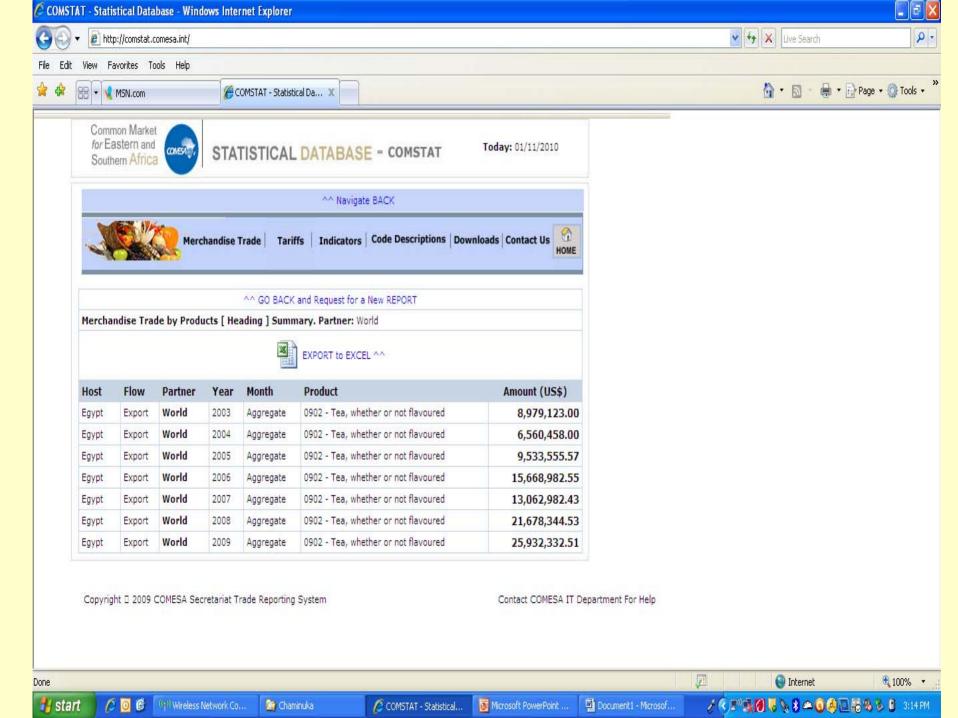
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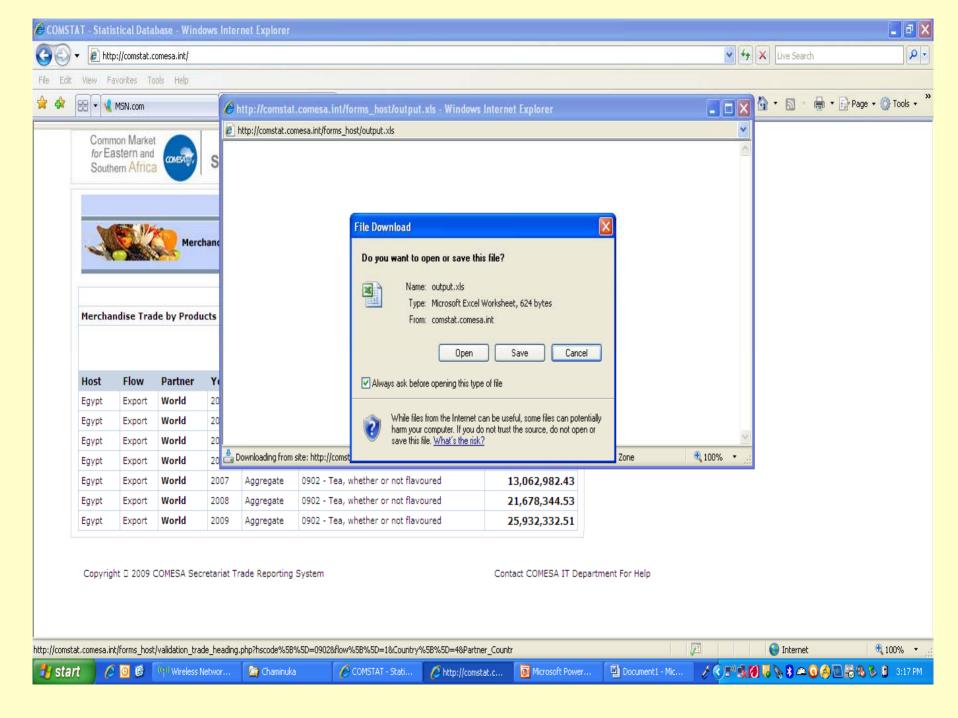


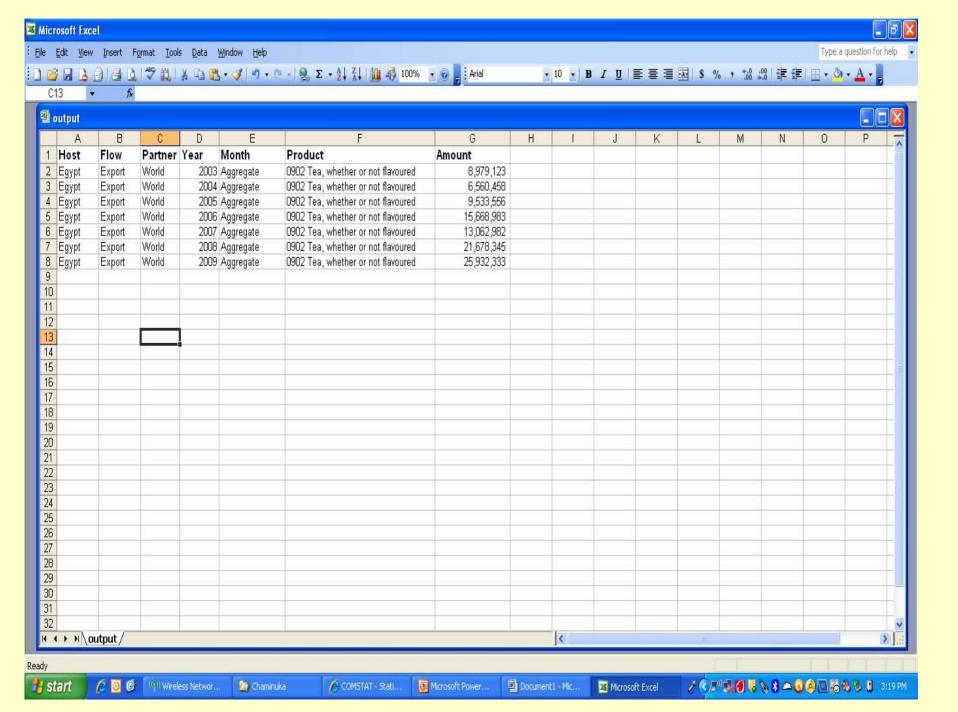
Trade by Product Heading level

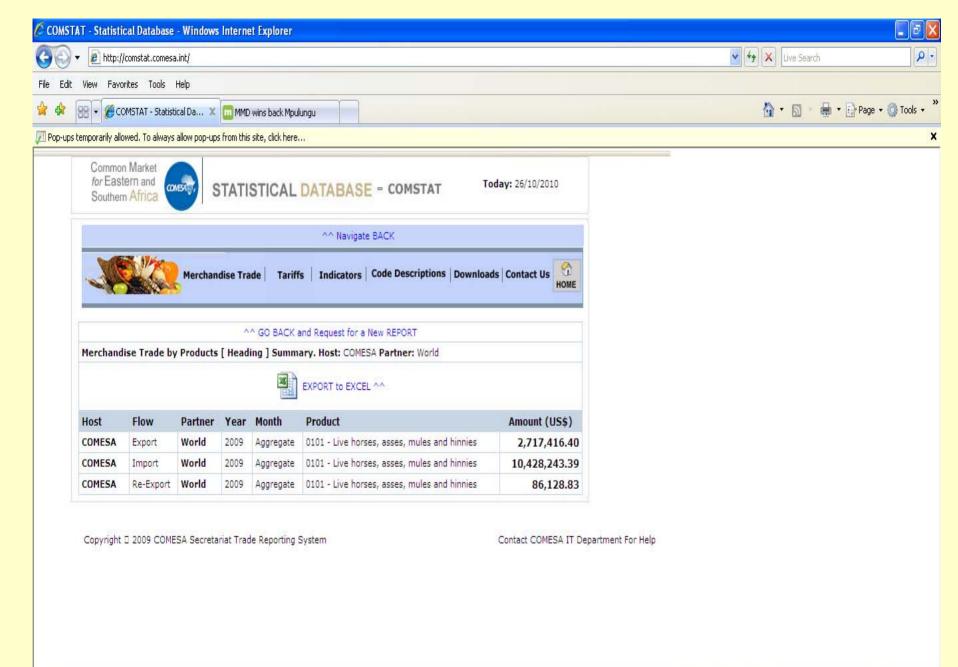


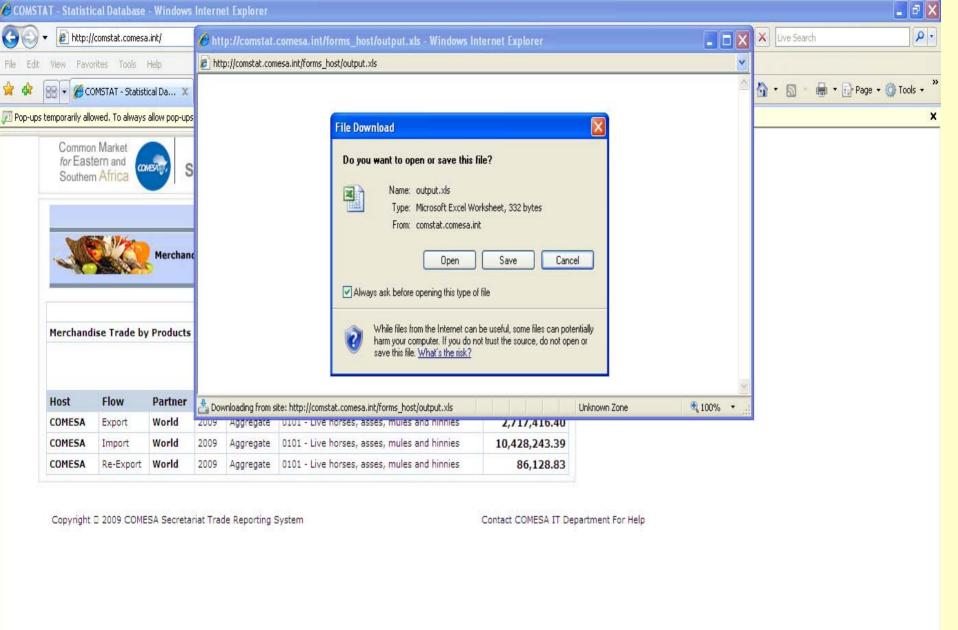


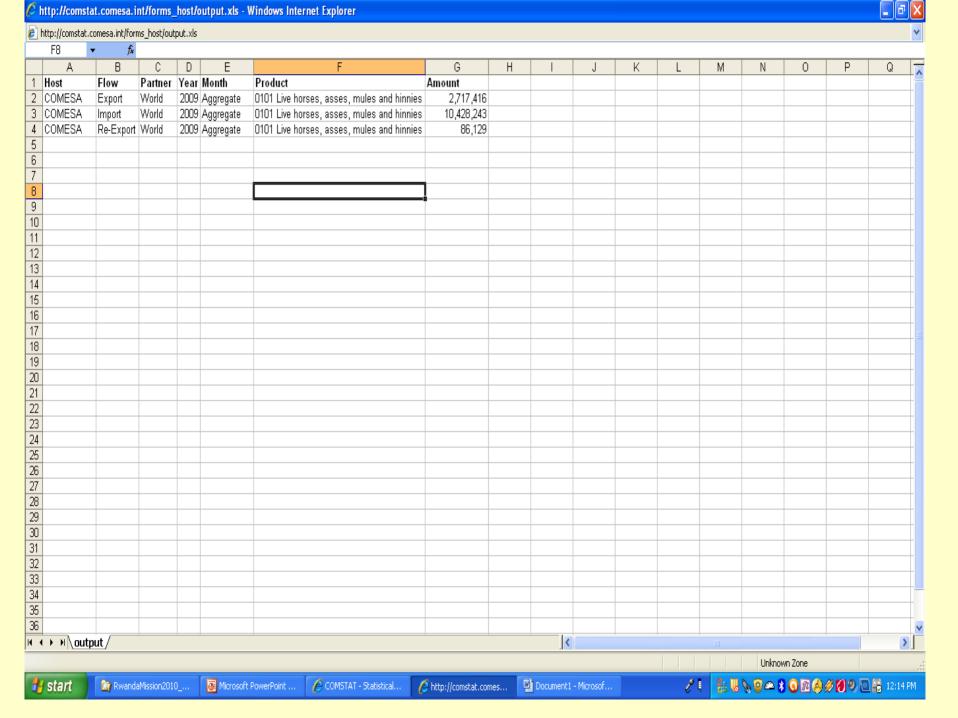


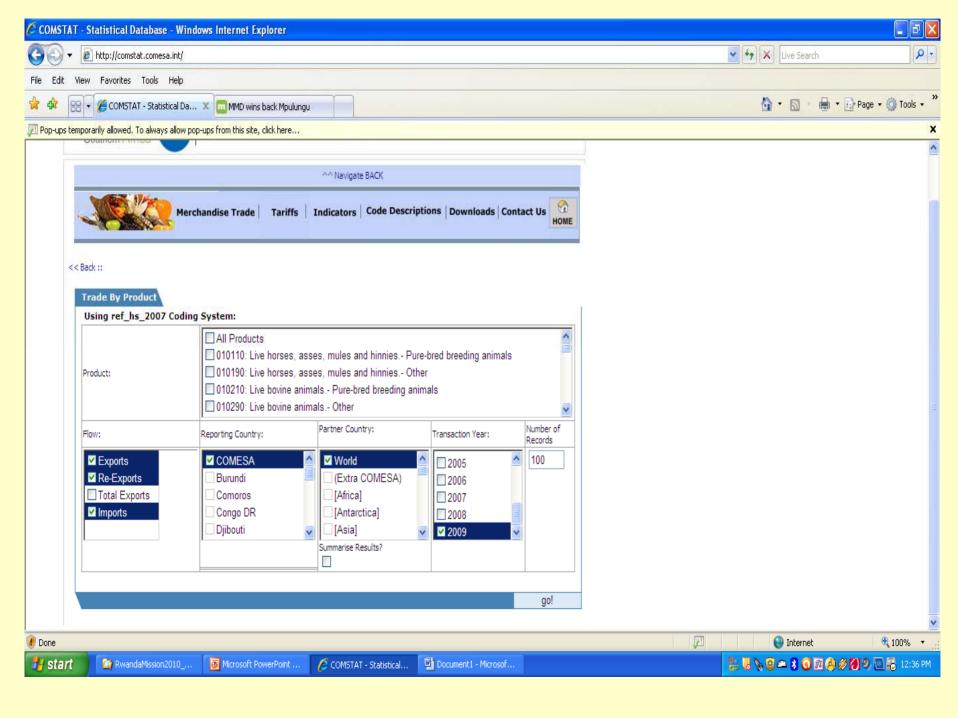




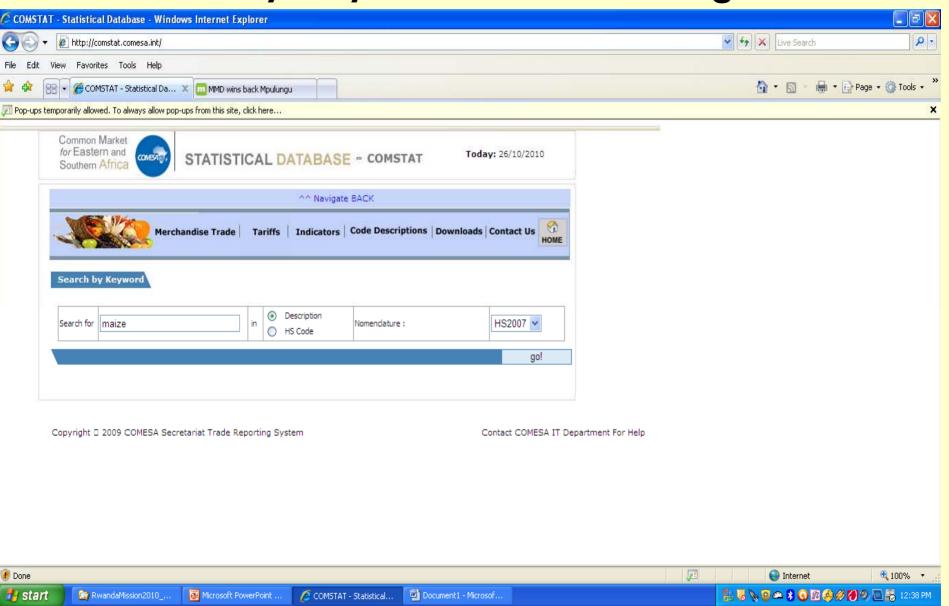


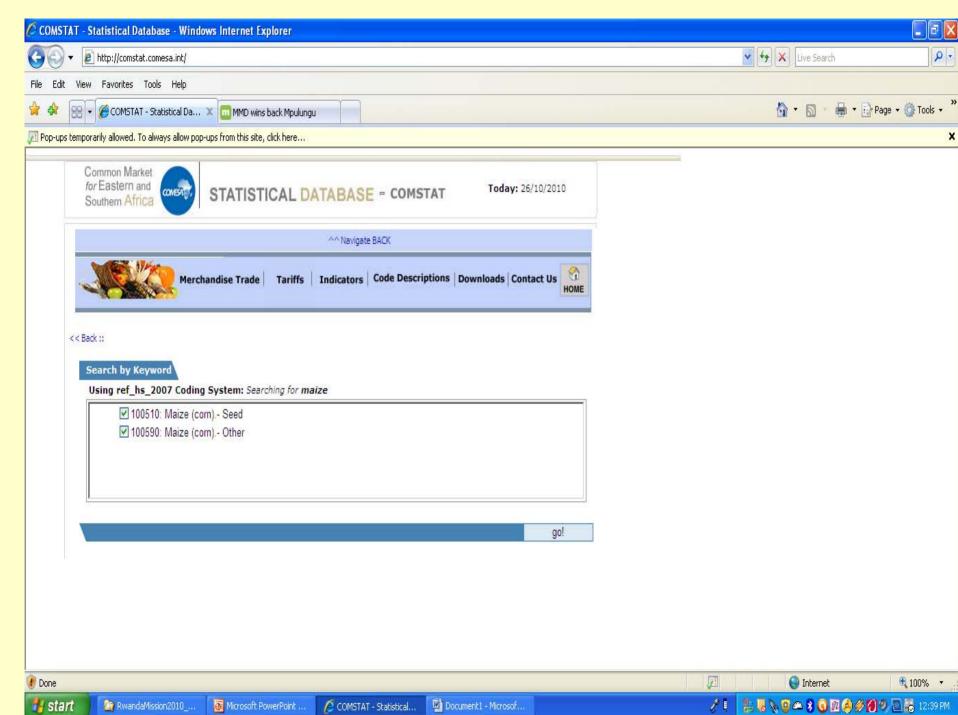


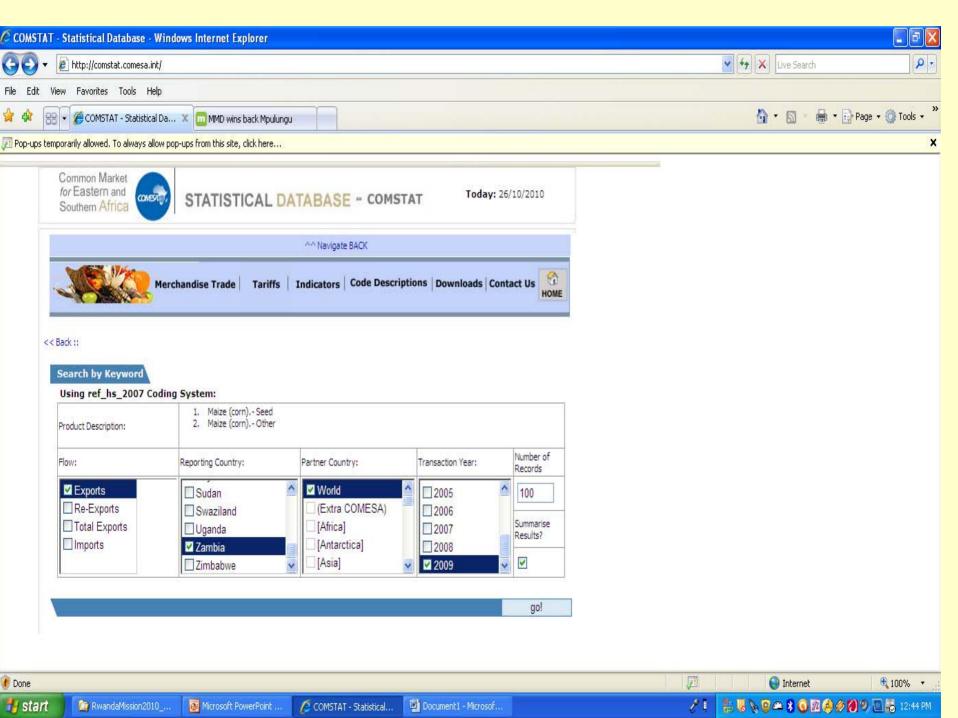


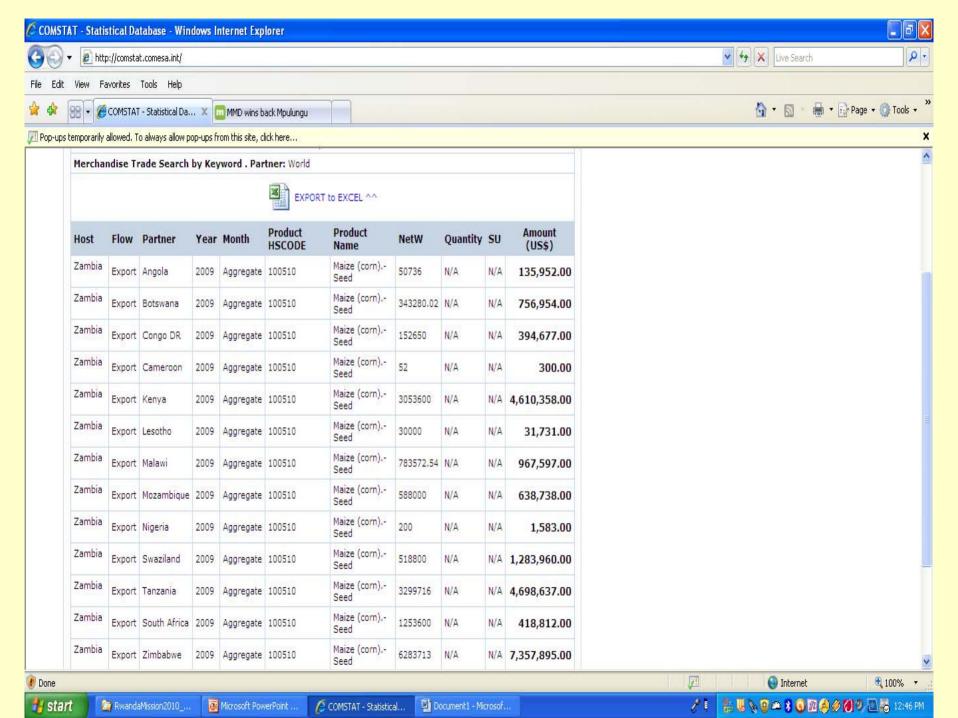


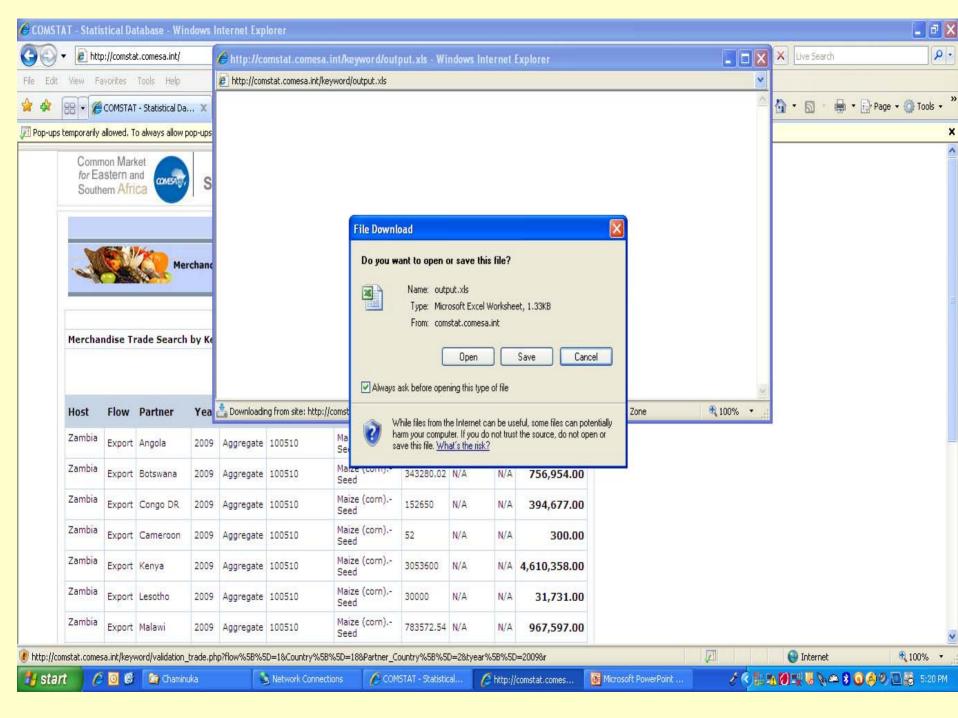
Search by keyword Sub Heading level

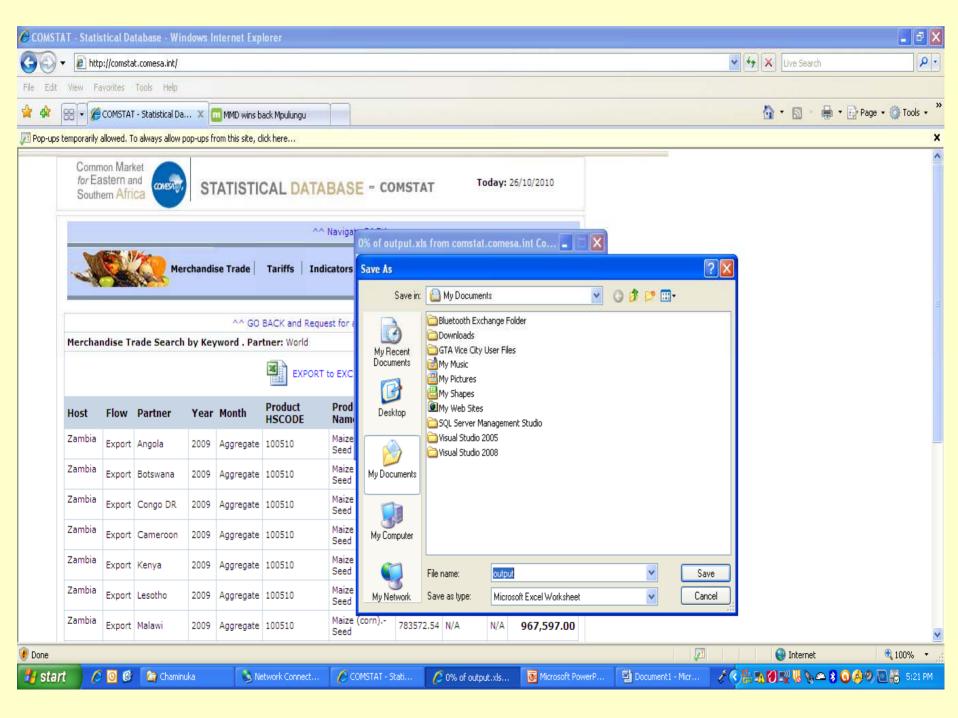


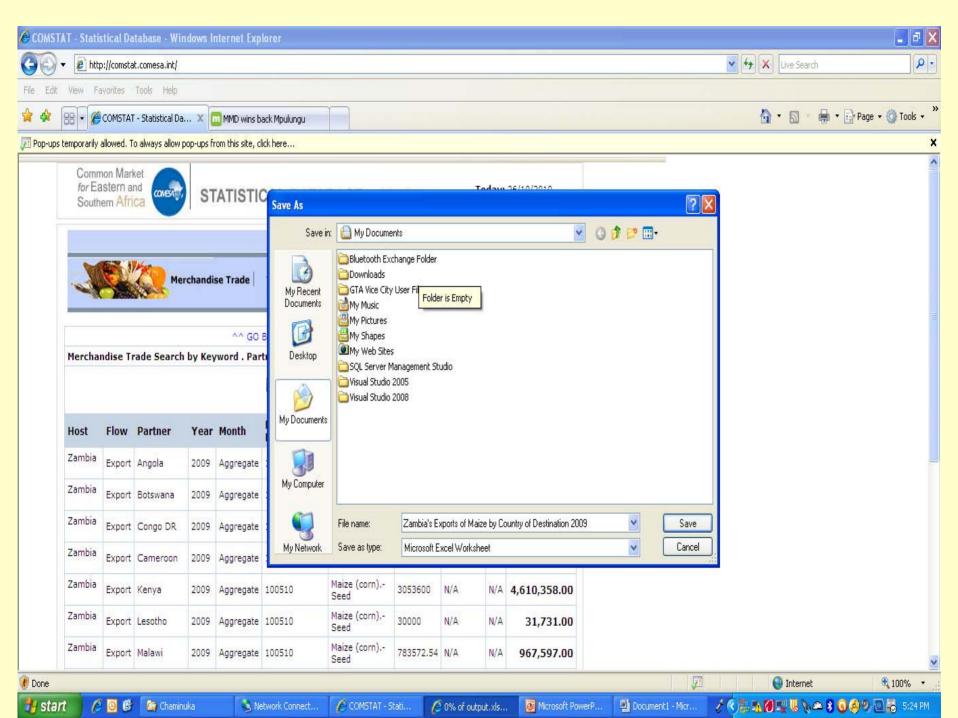


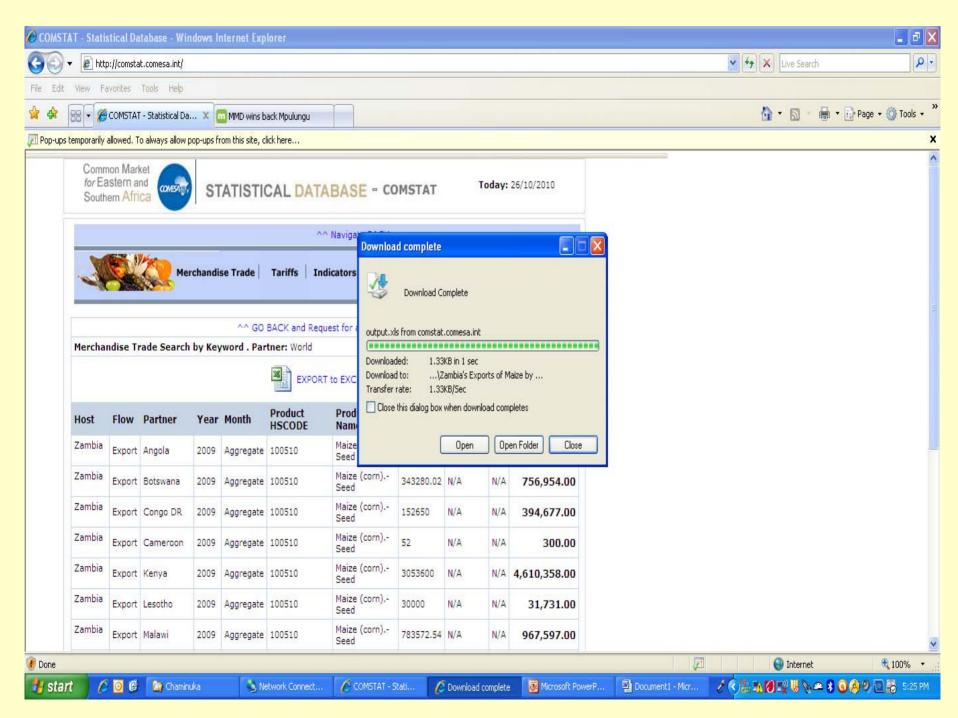


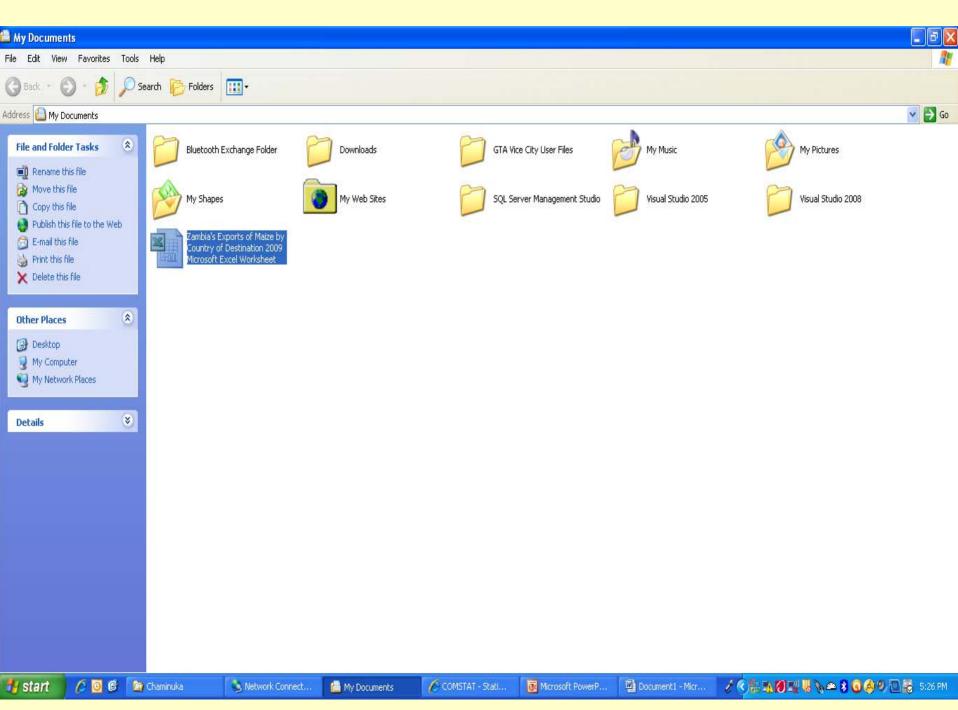


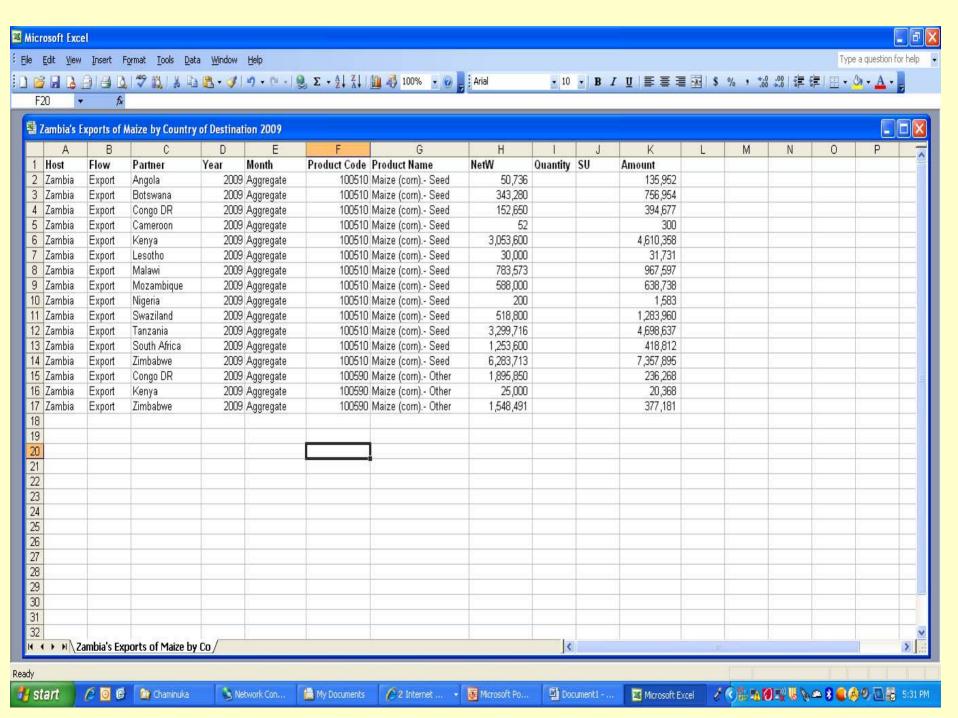




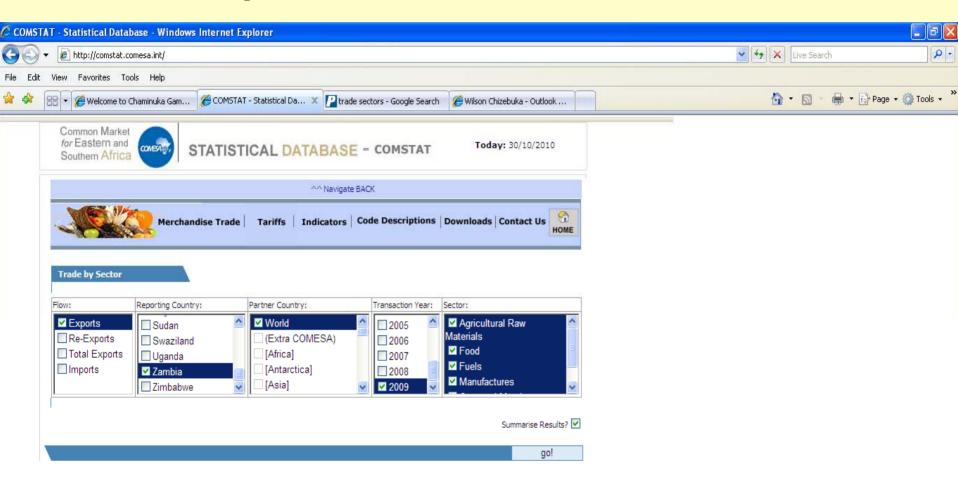


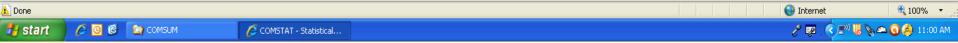


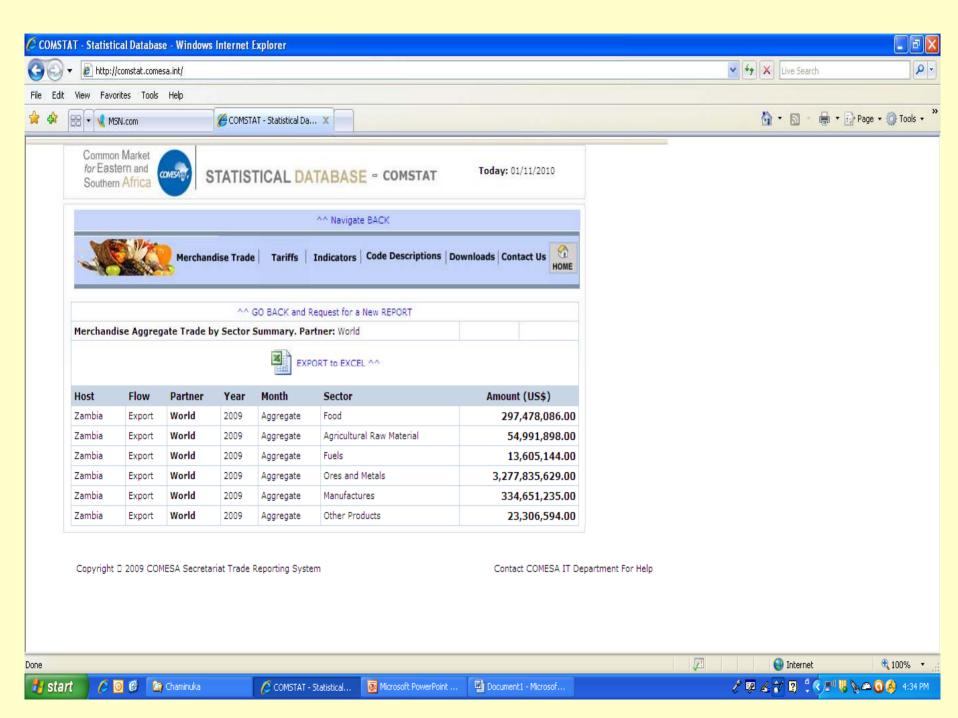




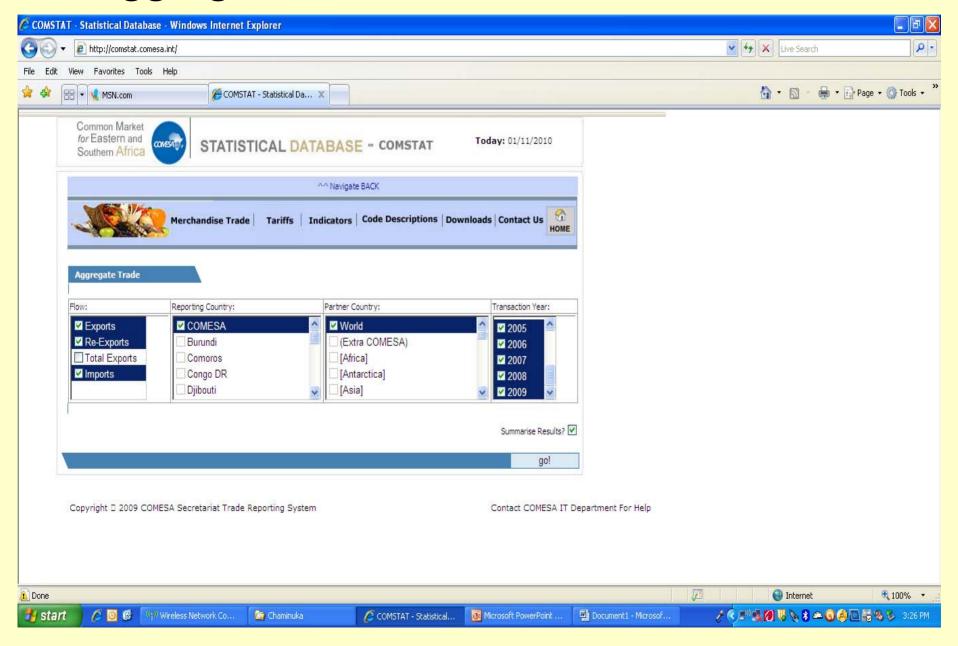
Trade by Sector

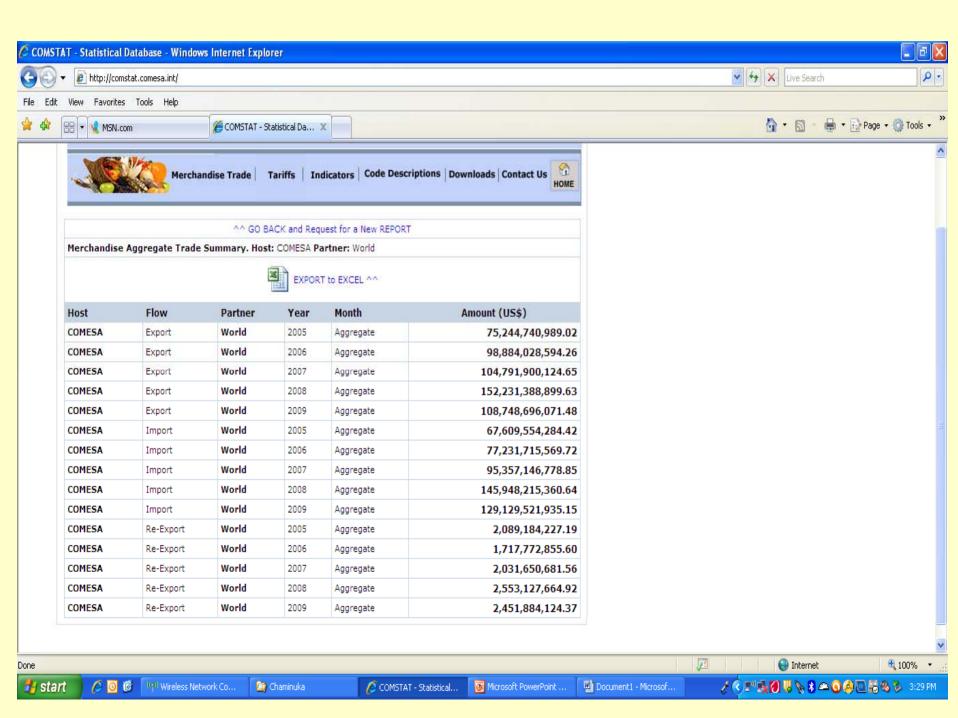


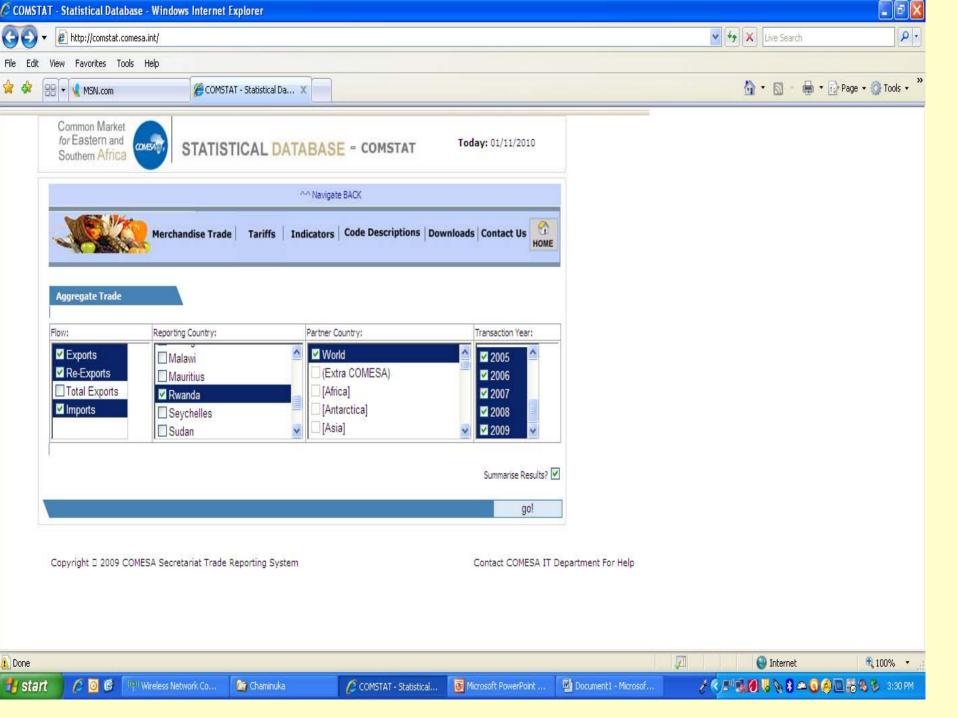


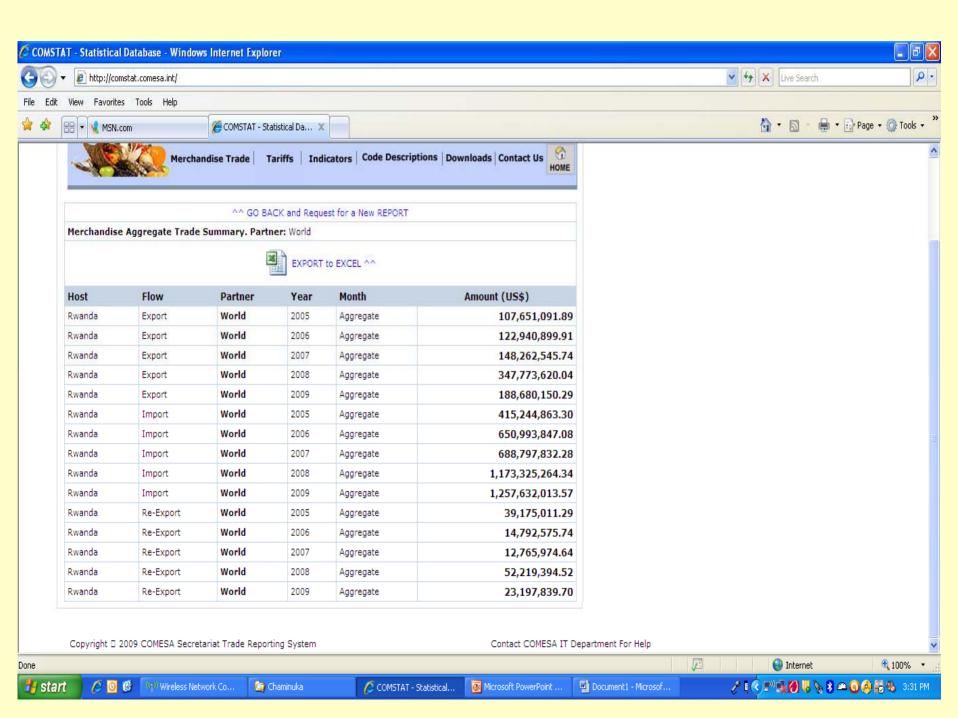


Aggregate Trade









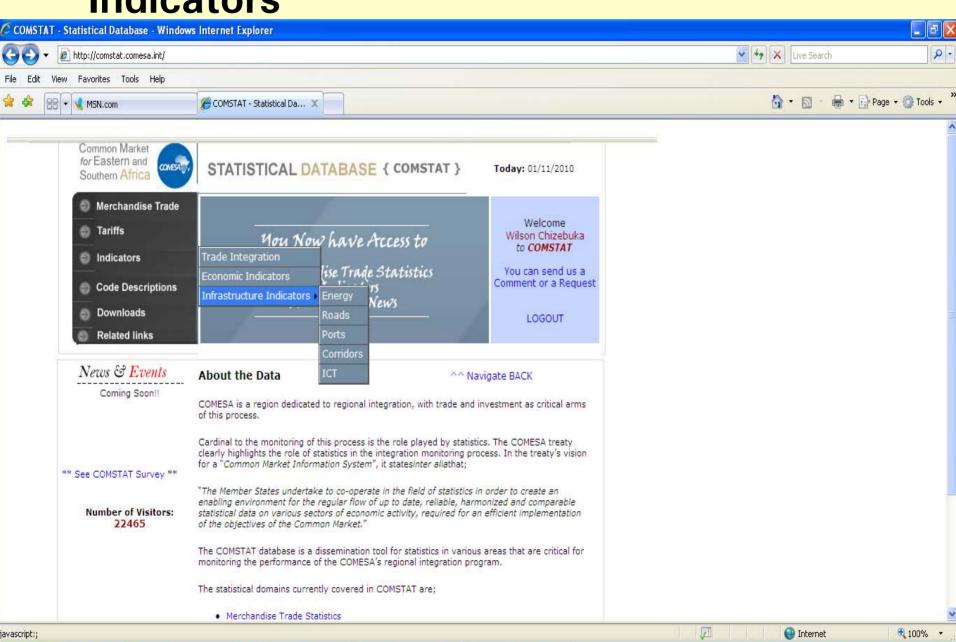
Indicators

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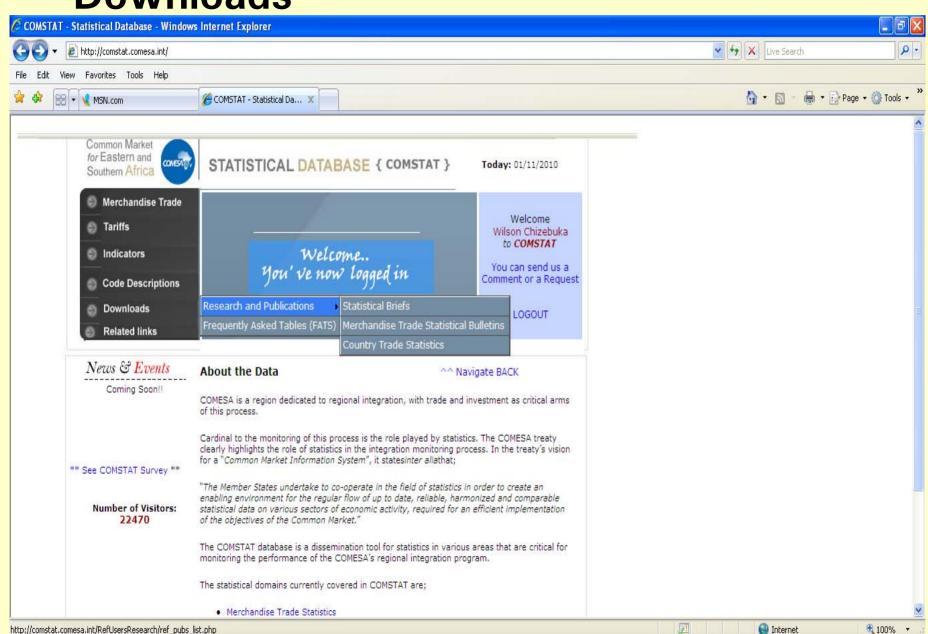
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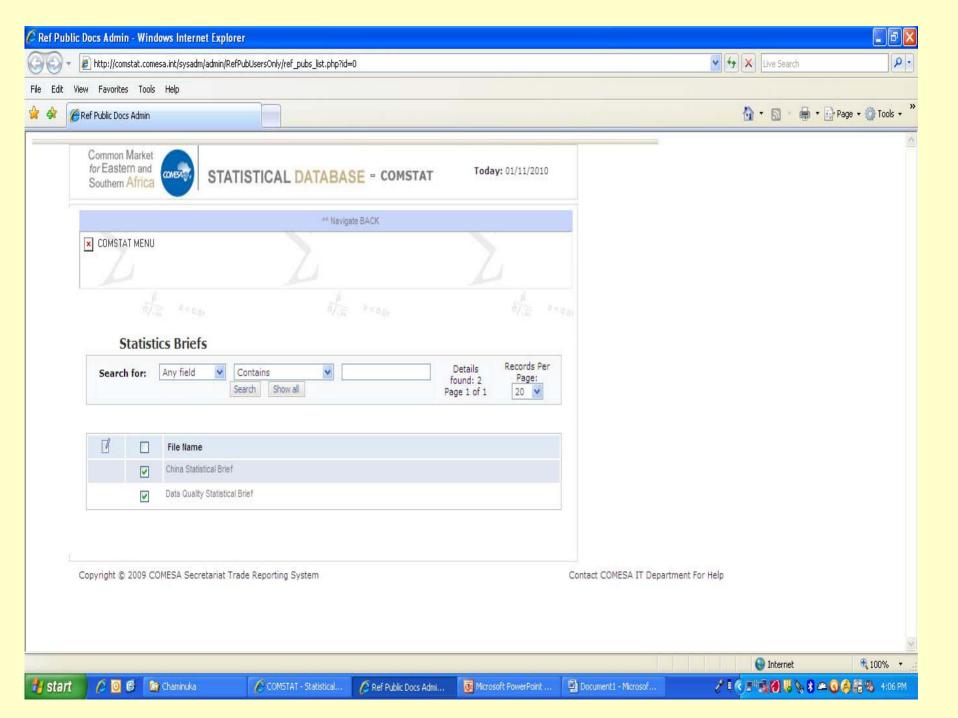
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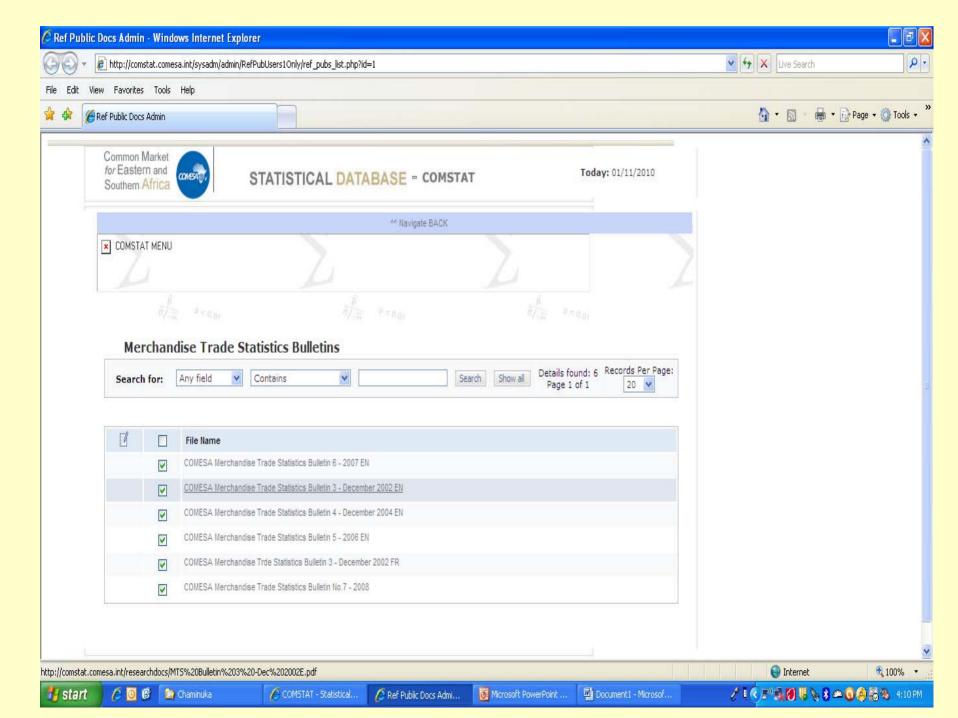


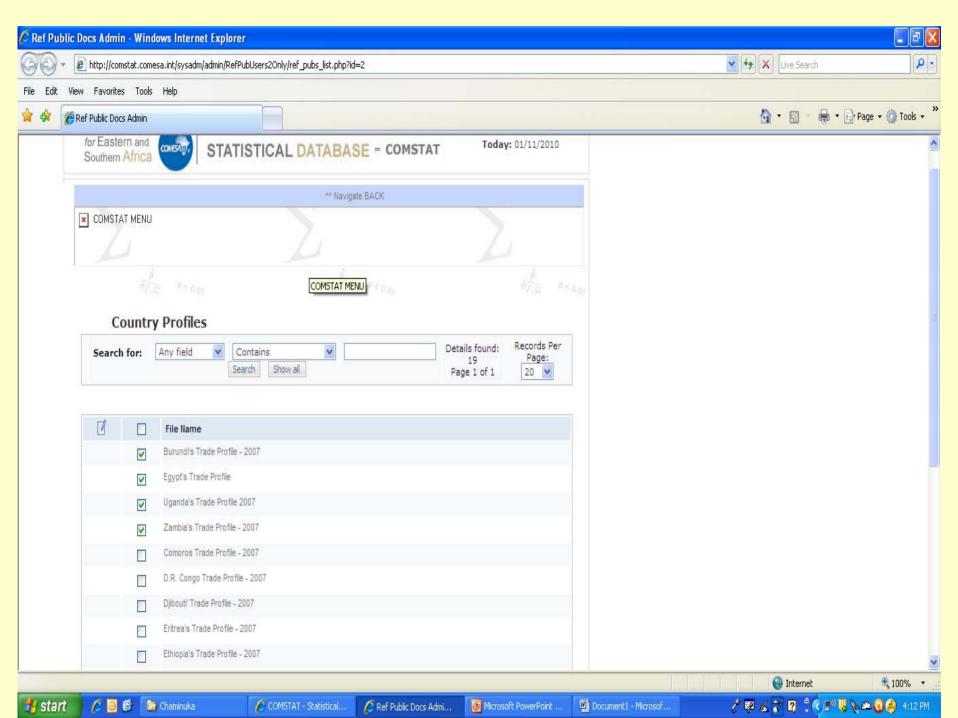
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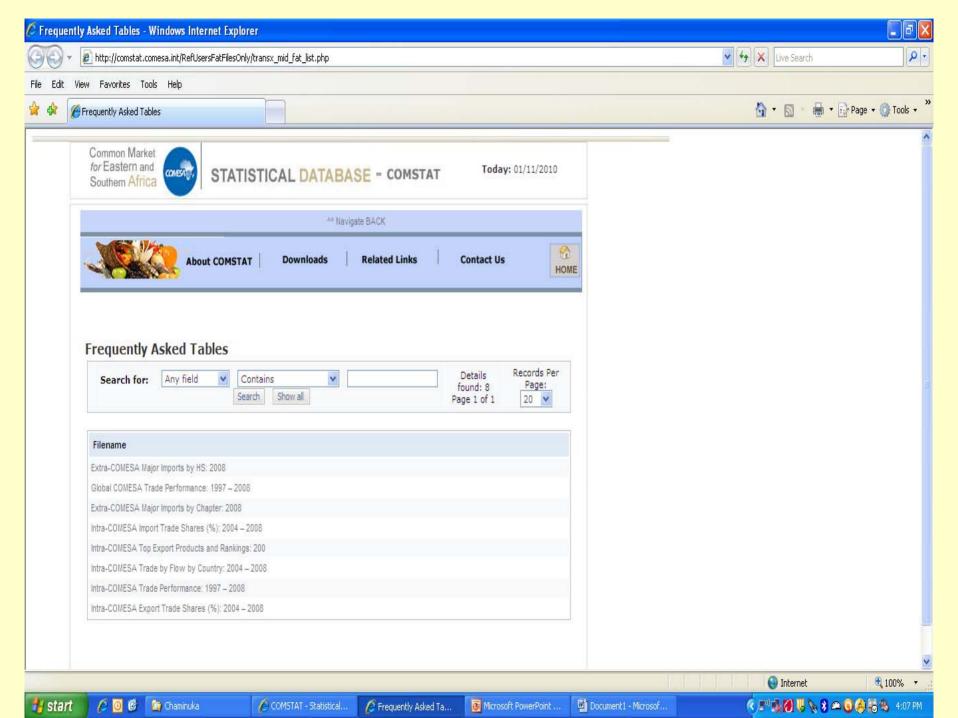
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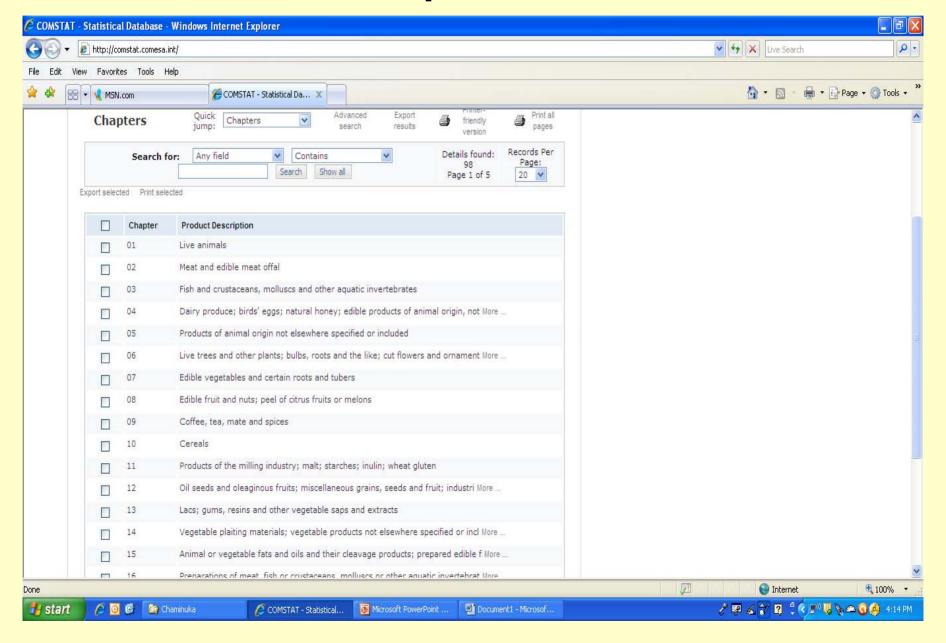


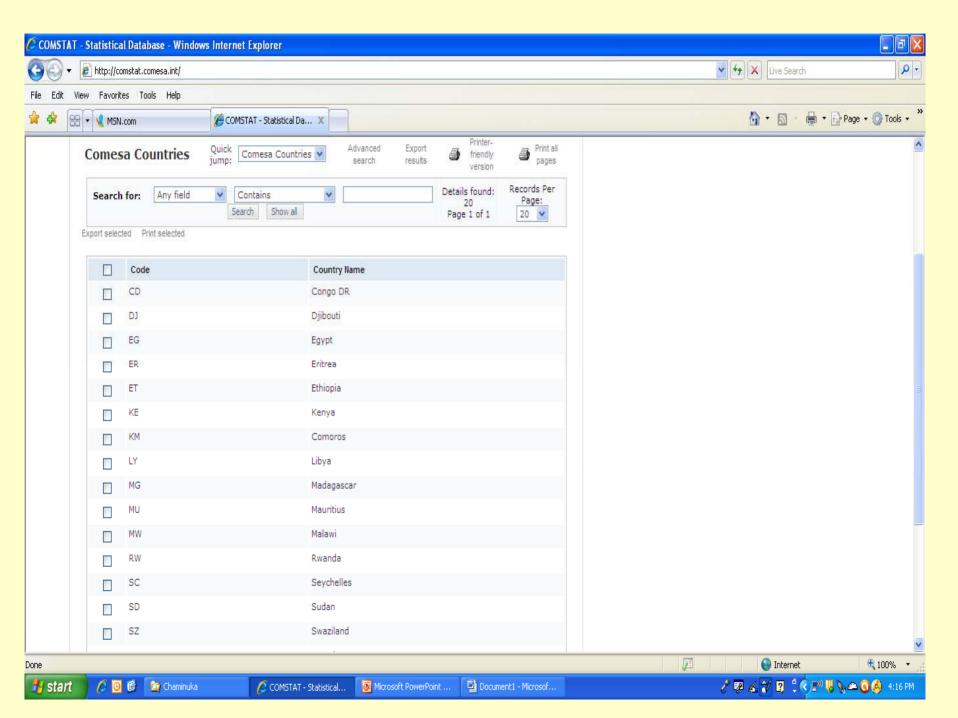


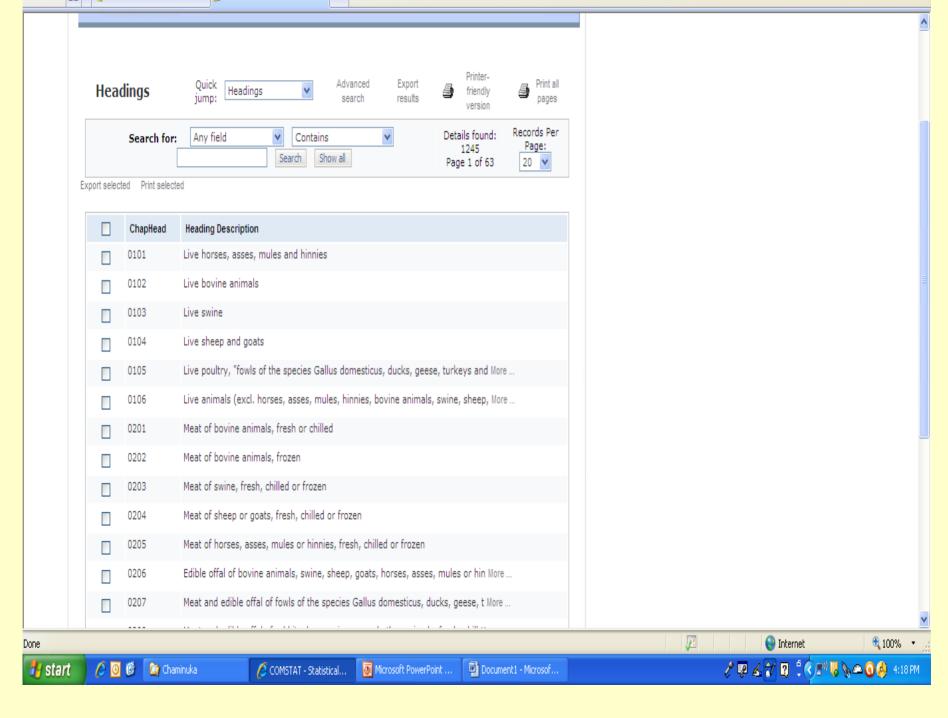


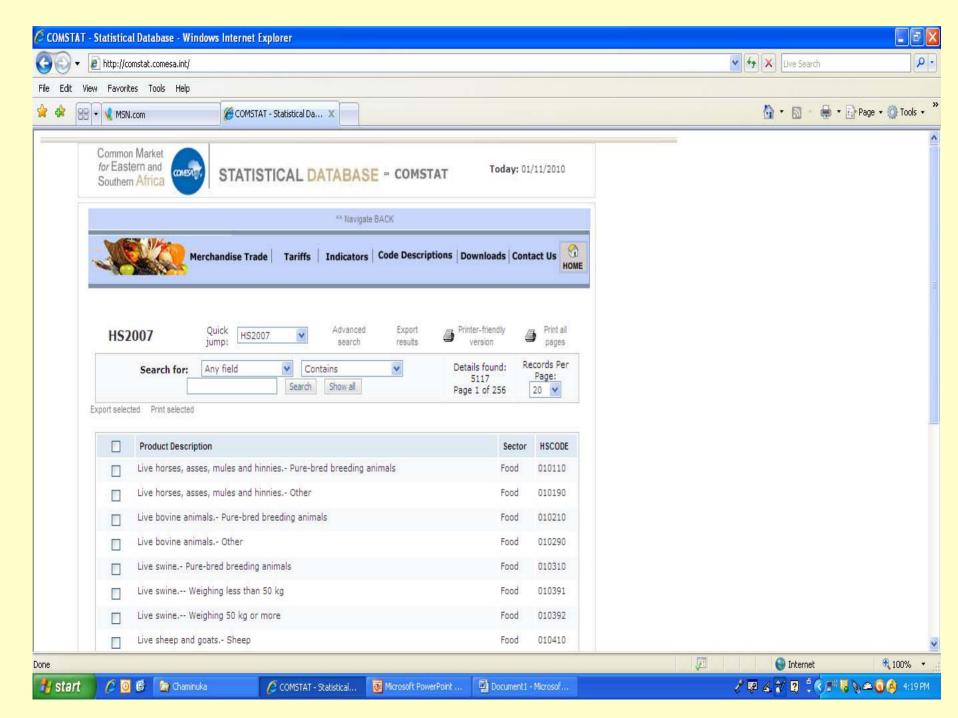


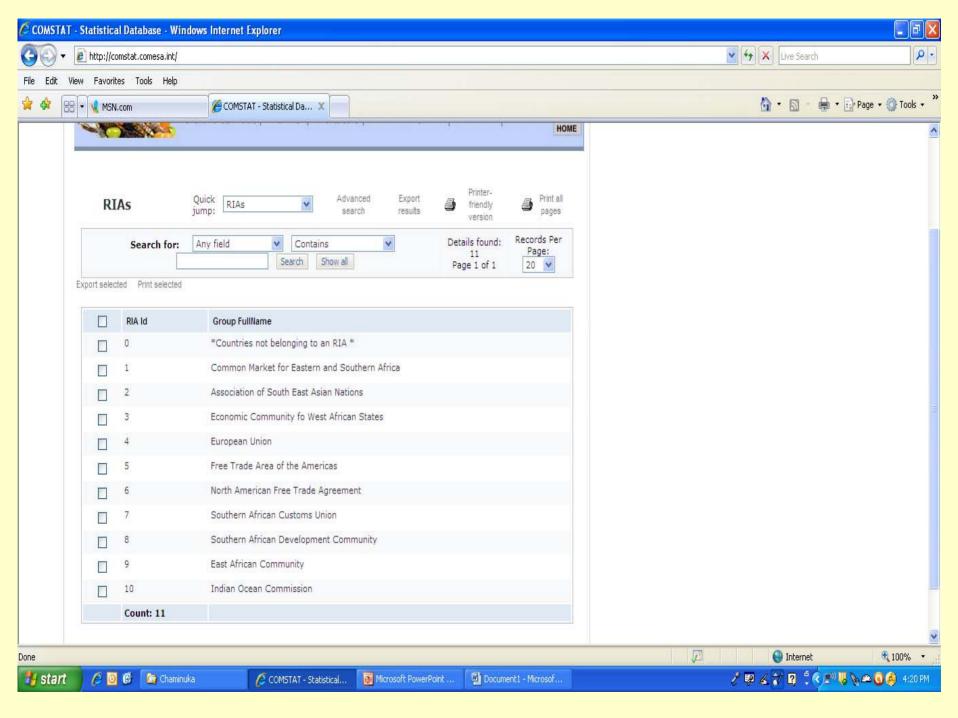
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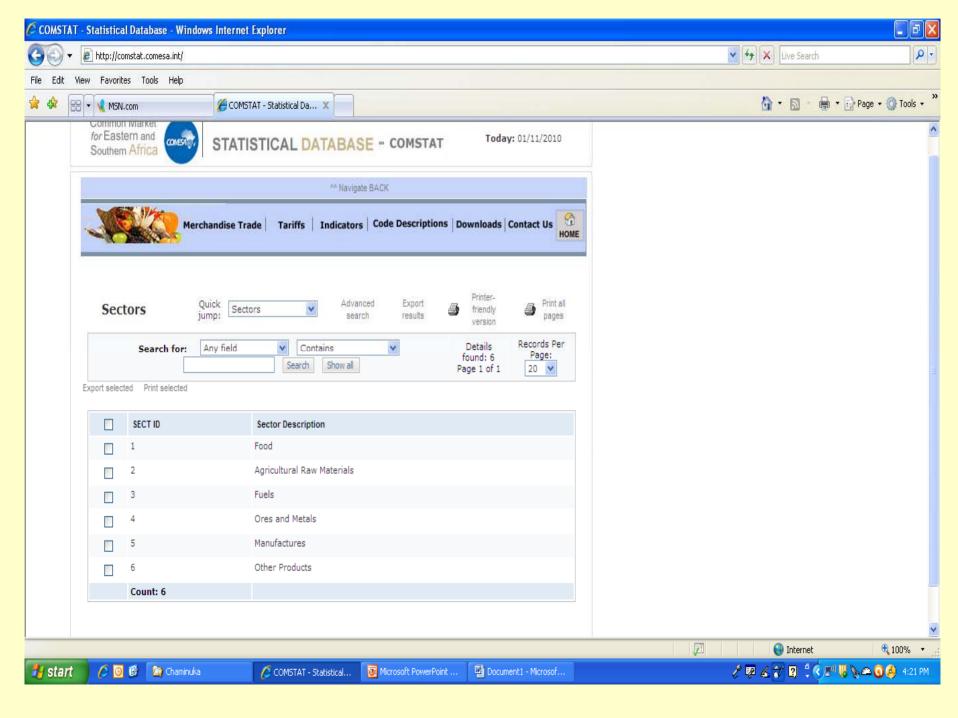












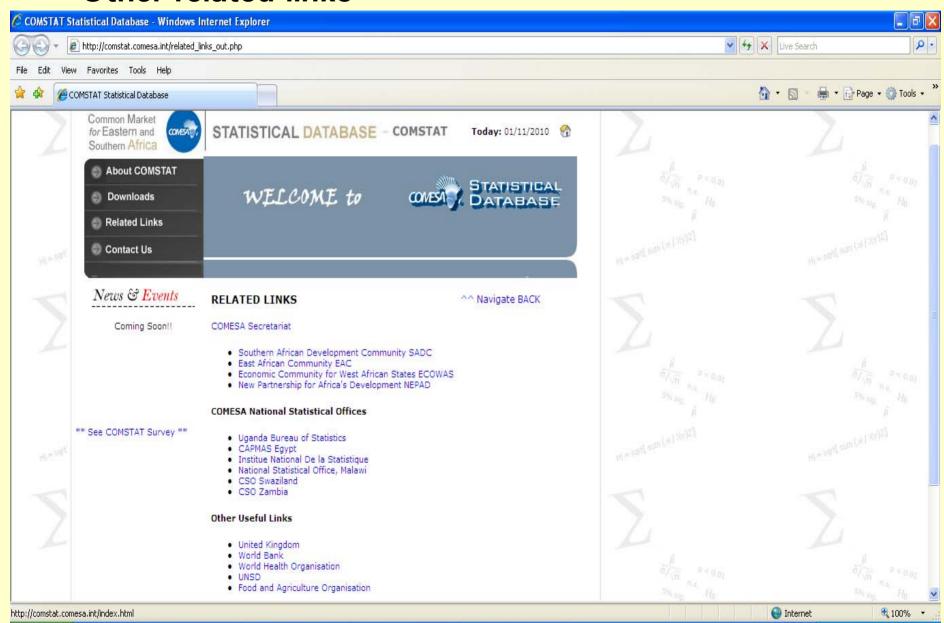
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