The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

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<th>Brief description of the organisation¹</th>
<th>Established in 1945, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is an intergovernmental organization. It has 194 Member Nations, two associate members and one member organization, the European Union. Achieving food security for all is at the heart of FAO’s efforts - to ensure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate development policies. FAO is also a source of knowledge and information. FAO is headquartered in Rome and has field offices in about 100 countries.</th>
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<td>Mission²</td>
<td>FAO’s three main goals are: the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; the elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all; and, the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.</td>
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<td>Fields of Activity/structure Statistics</td>
<td>FAO develops methods and standards for food and agriculture statistics, provides technical assistance services and disseminates data for global and regional monitoring. FAO also plays a leading role as the custodian for 21 Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) indicators. Statistical activities at FAO cover the areas of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, land and water resources and use, climate, environment, population, gender, nutrition, poverty, rural development, education and health as well as many others. FAO’s decentralized statistical system operates under the broad oversight of the Office of the Chief Statistician, who coordinates the statistical work of FAO divisions at a corporate level, in order to strengthen the quality and consistency of statistical practices across FAO. More information can be found here: <a href="http://www.fao.org/statistics/en/">http://www.fao.org/statistics/en/</a></td>
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¹ Description of the statistics section/department in the organization
² Mission of the statistics section/department of the organization
| **Mandate** | The Report of the First Session of the FAO Conference held in the City of Quebec, Canada, from 16 October to 1 November 1945 declared under Article I of the Functions of the Organization that “The Organization shall collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture. In this Constitution, the term ‘agriculture’ and its derivatives include fisheries, marine products, forestry and primary forestry products.” |
| **Statistical work programme** | The FAO Statistical Programme of Work provides a summary of all of the principal statistical activities at FAO, and a detailed description of all the individual statistical activities carried out by FAO Divisions active in the field of statistics. It presents the organization’s operational activities according to different statistical categories and domains. It is carried out on a biannual basis.

The current programme covers the period 2016-2017 and is organized around the following statistical functions:
- Data Output – From Data Collection to Dissemination
- Analytical Publications
- Statistical Standards
- Statistical Capacity Development
- Statistical Coordination and Governance


| **Number of staff** | Total for FAO: 3250 Regular Programme staff (2015)
Staff engaged in statistical activities at FAO HQ: about 90 Regular Programme staff
10 regional or sub-regional Statisticians |
| **Flagship Publications** | • AQUASTAT publications - FAO’s Global Water Information System
• FAO Global Statistical Yearbook and Pocketbook
• FAO Yearbook of Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics
• FAO Yearbook of Forest Products
• Global Assessments of Animal Genetic Resources
• Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) (every 5 years)
• Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model (GLEAM)
• OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook
• The State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI)
• The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) (every 2 years)
• The State of the World’s Forests (SOFO) (every 2 years)
• World Fertilizer Trends and Outlook |
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