



STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Twelfth session
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS^{1/}

(Report by the Secretary-General)

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (Forestry and Forest Products Statistics)

Development and application of standards

1. Through the combined efforts of FAO and ECE, a flow chart and a classification table for forest products have been developed with the aim of systematizing the collection of end-use statistics in conjunction with transformation statistics. FAO recommends that member countries be guided by the developed nomenclature and classification (which makes use of the ISIC classes for industries and the combined SITC-BTN classes for products) in future programmes of data collection. This work is summarized in an article, "End-Use Statistics" (Unasylva, Vol. 14, No. 3, 1960).

New statistical series compiled

2. The third in a quinquennial series of world forest inventories was compiled and published (see para. 3). Several new categories of data are included.

New publications

3. There are as follows: World Forest Inventory 1958 (March 1960); Yearbooks of Forest Products Statistics (1960, 1961), in conjunction with the Economic

^{1/} This document consists of information received from the Food and Agriculture Organization, supplementary to that contained in document E/CN.3/286.

Commission for Europe: Timber Bulletin for Europe (Vol. XII, No. 3-4; Vol. XIII, No. 1-4, Vol. XIV, No. 1-2).

New projects, surveys, research, etc.

4. Wood consumption surveys in Africa. Since 1959 FAO has undertaken, in co-operation with member country forest services, wood consumption surveys in five African countries. The primary purpose has been to provide a more substantial base for the forecasting of future requirements. Studies have been completed in Uganda, Kenya, Tanganyika and Ghana and work is in progress in the Sudan. A major phase of the work has been a sample census of wood consumption in rural areas. This was supplemented by a variety of enumerations and sample surveys of consumption in urban areas and by large centralized users. Reports are published or in process for all but the Sudan study.

5. FAO is currently engaged in a regional study on trends and prospects in consumption and production of forest products in Africa. The paucity of statistics has prompted the extension of the sample census approach, used in the recent national studies, to all countries in which forest services with the co-operation of national statistical agencies can accommodate even a small sample. The Statistics Division of FAO has assisted with advice on the over-all survey design and, in individual countries, with specific guidance from technical assistance experts.

Technical co-operation

6. At the Far East Training Centre in Aerial Forest Inventory held in the Federation of Malaya and North Borneo, 2 August to 9 October 1960, a considerable portion of the programme was devoted to sampling and to data processing. The centre, attended by 22 participants from eight countries, was staffed by FAO officers, and officials of the Malaya Government Service and of the University of Malaya.

7. Experts. S.L. Pringle (Canada), J.E.M. Arnold (United Kingdom), and M.F.E. de Backer (Belgium), (54 man-months combined), advised in Uganda, Kenya and Tanganyika on wood consumption surveys and requirements forecasting.

H.J. von Maydell advised, under a German bilateral assistance programme

(9 man-months) in Ghana on a wood consumption survey. E.J. Schreuder (Netherlands) (6 man-months) advised under the Central American Integration Scheme (CAIL) on forestry statistics.

Future work programme

8. A wood consumption survey in the Sudan is to be completed in 1962 or 1963. Wood consumption surveys are to be carried out in other African countries as part of an African timber trends study.

9. Improvement in reporting of national forestry statistics - including 3 man-months of Swiss bilateral assistance to several French-speaking West African countries - will be undertaken.

10. Regular periodic publications, including the 1963 World Forest Inventory, will be issued.

11. At the FAO/ECE Joint Working Party on Forest and Forest Products Statistics, problems of statistical reporting on forest-fire statistics, forest labour, forest product prices and conversion factors will be considered.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (Fishery Statistics)

Development and application of standards

12. The Expert Meeting on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area (September 1959, Edinburgh) was organized jointly by FAO, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF). This meeting reported extensively on standard classifications, definitions and methods to be used in fishery statistics at the national and international level. To reduce the workload on national offices reporting to the three international agencies interested in the statistics of fisheries in the North Atlantic region, the meeting proposed the introduction and design of standard reporting forms.

13. Acting on a recommendation of the meeting, the FAO Conference (10th session, 1959) established a Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area. Through this Continuing Working Party, standards in the field of fishery statistics have been further elaborated.

New statistical series compiled

14. During 1960 and 1961, FAO began the collection of statistics on full-time, part-time and occasional fishermen (using the definitions proposed by the Expert Meeting on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area).

New publications

15. During 1960 and 1961, the following volumes of the Yearbook of Fishery Statistics were published. Vol. X, International Trade (1958-59), Vol. XI, Production (1959), Vol. XII, Production and Fishing Craft (1960). Each of these volumes appeared during the second half of the calendar year following the last calendar year covered, the latter is the one mentioned in the title of the Yearbook.

Future work programme

16. The work of the Statistics Section of the Economics Branch of FAO's Fisheries Division is planned to cover the following.

17. Fishery statistical standards and services. (a) Improvement and development of international standards and organization in fishery statistics. (i) Through investigations and in liaison with other units of FAO, other international agencies, national institutions, etc., establish international standard classifications and definitions, methods of collecting, reporting and treating fishery statistics and apply such standards to the publication and improvement of the Yearbook of Fishery Statistics. These activities are related to the statistical classification of aquatic animals and plants, fishery commodities, fishing regions and areas, fishing craft, fishing gear and methods, fishermen, etc. They also concern the development of standard reporting systems and methods, including standard reporting forms, to be used in the North Atlantic region and in the Mediterranean. (ii) The maintenance of liaison and co-operation with national and international organizations includes the secretarial servicing of the joint FAO/ICES/ICNAF Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area, of which the third session will take place early in 1963. (b) Through preparation of working aids, manuals, bibliography, etc., assist national offices and international and regional agencies to improve and extend the application of standard classifications, methods and practices in the collection,

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treatment and prompt publication of fishery statistical data. Also provide for investigating and keeping under continuous review the nature and usefulness of currently produced publications and, in particular, report on proposals for improving publication media presenting fishery statistics.

18. Preparation of Yearbooks of Fishery Statistics and other tabulations.

The following volumes of the Yearbook will be published during 1962-63:

Volume XIII (International Trade, 1960-61) to be published in the latter half of 1962 with statistical data for series of years up to and including 1961;

Volume XIV (Production, 1961) to be published in the latter half of 1962 with statistical data up to and including 1962; Volume XV (Production and Fishing Craft, 1962) to be published in the latter half of 1963 with statistical data

for series of years up to and including 1962. In addition to the statistical tabulations appearing in these three volumes, the programme provides for the preparation of special statistical series, including index numbers for world fishery production, quarterly statistics on international trade in selected fishery commodities.
