



**Role of regional and country organizations in adapting to statistical standards and regional differences:
The Case of food and agriculture statistics**

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Abstract:

The adoption of international standards is essential to producing internationally comparable official statistics. It is however by no mean a linear process. According to FAO's Statistical Capacity Assessment Survey for SDG Indicators conducted in 2019 and other statistical capacity assessment reports (e.g. World Bank, AfDB...), financial, technical and technological capacities of national statistical agencies as well as political support and commitment vary greatly between countries and regions. These differences call for more targeted interventions by international institutions to support the uptake of statistical standards.

To face this challenge, FAO is increasingly building the capacity of its regional and national offices to better mainstream food and agricultural statistics in regional and national cooperation strategies and activities as well as in resource mobilization efforts. Regional roadmaps are currently being developed to support FAO's role in monitoring food- and agriculture-related SDG indicators and other statistical standards, taking into consideration regional particularities, the impact of the UN reform, action plans developed by UN regional Commissions and other relevant regional partnership opportunities. This presentation will highlight some of the key regional differences in countries' capacity to adapt to statistical standards, describe FAO's regional targeted interventions in the context of food and agricultural statistics and discuss the remaining main challenges.

Keywords:

Food and agriculture statistics; Capacity development; Regional and national strategies for the development of statistics; International statistical standards.