Joint FAO/UNECE Working party On Forest Economics and Statistics 28th session, Geneva, 2-4 May 2006 Agenda Item 6 **Dissemination of outputs**

Findings from FAOSTAT user questionnaire surveys

During the last decade FAO has carried out two FAO forest product statistics user surveys. The first survey was initiated by FAO Working Group on Forestry Statistics which met at FAO in 20-24 November 1996. The 2nd user survey was carried out within the framework of autoevaluation of FAO's programme entity PE 242 P1 "Forest Products Information" in 2005.

User survey 1996

The questionnaire (hardcopy) was distributed together with FAO Forest Products Yearbook (FPY), 85 responses were received. Responses came from 44 countries.

Respondents' profile:

- 41% from Education/Research institutions
- 33% from Public sector
- 16% from private sector (business, consultants, NGOs)
- 9% international organizations

FPY and FAOSTAT are used for (ranked):

- broad market identification
- sector studies (national and international)
- republishing in own publications
- commodity analyses
- pre-investment studies
- training

Needed changes in FPY ranked by respondents:

- add data on secondary products
- enclose electronic copy of FAOSTAT (diskette)
- add non-wood forest products trade statistics

External user survey 2005

A questionnaire was posted online in July 2005 and by the end of April 2006 more than 670 respondents from 93 countries fully or partly filled in the questionnaire (*see Annex 1*). Quite low participation of respondents from Africa (4% of responses) and tropical countries (22%) reflect the usage of online databases. FAOSTAT online user analysis showed that queries from Africa and all tropical countries account for 2% and 17% respectively.

Respondents' distribution by their experience with FAOSTAT is equal – one-third of them use FAOSTAT for more than 5 years, another one-third for 1 to 5 years, and the remaining one third for less than one year (*see Annex 2*).

Respondents' profile:

- 48% from Education/Research institutions (incl. students)
- 32% from private sector (business, consultants, NGOs, media)
- 18% from Public sector
- 1% international organizations

Detailed summary of the answers is presented in the *Annex 2*. It is worth to note that comparison of the first 400 responses with the 677 presented in the *Annex 2* did not change the ranking within the questions at all or changed responses by few percentage points (usually 0±3%).

The statements in the previous paragraphs of this chapter suggest that this survey has a good basis for decisions and hundreds of additional responses probably would not influence the existing results.

Key findings from survey 2005

Current status:

- the biggest <u>primary</u> users of FAOSTAT are academic and research organizations, followed by the private and public sectors
- ½ of users use FAOSTAT several times in a year
- 70% of users have ever quoted FAOSTAT
- overall, 86% of users are satisfied with current FAOSTAT
- 94% of users say that it is very important or important that FAO continues with production of global forest products statistics

Areas for improvement (ranked by respondents):

- existing quality and consistency of statistics (=more important)
- to increase product coverage, i.e. add new series (=more important)
- change the format of FAOSTAT and Yearbook (=less important)

Conclusion

The last survey proved that the following 2 citations from 10-year old survey (1996) are valid and are of first priority today:

- ...Key priority must be improvement of the basic data. I favour keeping the current format. Any elaboration (e.g. % change) going separate (analytical) publications. The yearbook should be the source of accurate basic data. Attention should be given to data quality and logical organization, with minimum elaboration...
- ...Since furniture is the most valuable (added value) wood product, it would be more complete the picture of the use of wood in the world in each year if FAO yearbook will include a special/separate chapter on secondary products all over the world...

In other words, FAO together with collaborating organizations (ITTO, ECE and EUROSTAT) has to focus more on production of reliable basic data series rather than changing dissemination outputs.

ANNEX 1 Respondents to questionnaire survey on FAO wood product statistics (as of 27 April 2006)



Bangladesh	2
India	20
Nepal	1
Pakistan	4
Sri Lanka	1
South Asia	28
Cambodia	1
Myanmar	1
Thailand	5
Viet Nam	2
Continental Southeast Asia	9
Indonesia	11
Malaysia	6
Singapore	1
Insular Southeast Asia	18
Total: Tropical Asia	55
Cyprus	1
Georgia	2
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	10
Israel	2
Kazakhstan	1
Qatar	1
Syrian Arab Republic	1
Turkey	15
United Arab Emirates	1
Western and Central Asia	34
China	16
Japan	41
Republic of Korea	5
East Asia	62
Total: Temperate Asia	96
Total: Asia	151

Cook Islands	1
Tonga	1
Total: Tropical Oceania	2
Australia	6
New Zealand	4
Total: Temperate Oceania	10
Total: Oceania	12

Total: Europe	316
Eastern Europe	101
Serbia and Montenegro	3
Ukraine	2
TFYR Macedonia	2
Slovenia	3
Slovakia	23
Russian Federation	16
Romania	5
Poland	12
Lithuania	2
Latvia	2
Hungary	1
Estonia	4
Czech Republic	15
Croatia	4
Bulgaria	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1
Belarus	2
Albania	2
Western Europe	170
United Kingdom	19
Switzerland	7
Spain	15
Portugal	5
Netherlands	9
Luxembourg	1
Italy	17
Ireland	3
Greece	5
Germany	34
France	19
Denmark	6
Belgium	11
Austria	19
Northern Europe	45
Sweden	19
Norway	3
Iceland	1
Finland	22

Canada	30
United States	47
Total: Temperate North and Central America	77
Costa Rica	1
Guatemala	3
Mexico	10
Nicaragua	3
Central America and Mexico	17
Cuba	1
Jamaica	1
Caribbean	2
Total: Tropical North and Central America	19
Total: North and Central America	96

Brazil	35
Colombia	7
Peru	8
Suriname	1
Venezuela	2
Total: Tropical South America	53
Argentina	7
Chile	16
Uruguay	2
Total: Temperate South America	25
Total: South America	78

	No. of respondents	No. of countries
Africa	24 4%	13
North and Central America	96 14%	8
South America	78 12%	8
Asia	151 22%	24
Europe	316 47%	36
Oceania	12 2%	4
TOTAL	677	93
- tropical countries	146 22%	<i>35</i>
- temperate countries	531 78%	58

ANNEX 2 Summary of questionnaire survey on FAO wood product statistics (as of 27 April 2006)



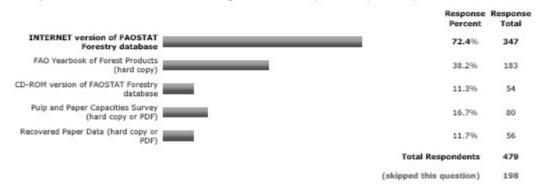
1. EVALUATION OF FAO WOOD PRODUCTS INFORMATION

1. Were you aware that FAO produces wood products statistics? (Tick YES or NO)



2. Untitled Page

1. Do you receive, access or use the following FAO's statistics products? (Tick ANY)



2. How frequently do you use FAO wood products statistics? (Tick ONE answer only)



3. How many years you are the user of FAO wood products statistics? (Tick ONE answer only)

	Response Percent	Response Total
less than 1 year	34.9%	178
1 to 5 years	32.9%	168
6 to 10 years	14.3%	73
more than 10 years	17.8%	91
	Total Respondents	510
	(skipped this question)	167

3. Untitled Page

1. Have you ever quoted any figures from FAO's wood products statistics? (Tick YES or NO)

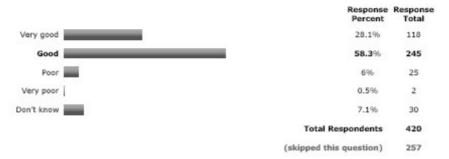


2. What do you use FAO's wood products statistics for? (WRITE in)

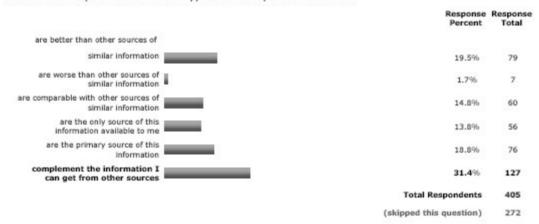
View Total Respondents	418
(skipped this question)	259

4. Untitled Page

1. Overall, how do you rate the quality of FAO's wood products statistics? (Tick ONE answer only)



2. In comparison with the work of other organisations, which of the following statements would you agree with the most? (Tick ONE answer only) FAO's wood products statistics:



5. Untitled Page

1. Overall, are you satisfied with the current contents, quality and presentation of FAO's wood products statistics? (Tick YES or NO)



What areas of improvement would you suggest for FAO in future work related to wood products statistics? (Tick ONE answer only in EACH line)

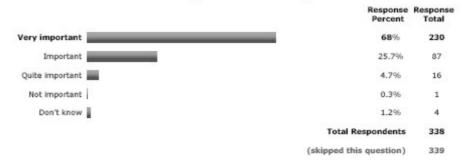
	Most important				Least important	Response Average
Quality of the existing figures in data series	42% (133)	30% (96)	18% (56)	7% (23)	3% (8)	1.98
Consistency of data series, best estimate for missing or poor data	42% (133)	32% (101)	19% (60)	4% (14)	3% (9)	1.94
Data coverage (to include other wood products)	41% (130)	26% (84)	19% (60)	10% (32)	4% (14)	2.11
Change the format of presenting data in FAO Yearbook of Forest Products	12% (38)	17% (51)	24% (73)	25% (78)	22% (68)	3.28
Change the format of presenting statistics at FAOSTAT website	18% (57)	19% (59)	25% (78)	22% (70)	17% (54)	3.02
				Total	l Respondents	334
				(skinned	this question)	343

3. What other issues should be examined in FAO's future work related to wood products statistics? (WRITE in)

View Total Respondents		142
(ski	pped this question)	535

6. Untitled Page

 Overall, how important do you think it is that FAO should continue to produce: a) Global wood products statistics (FAOSTAT and Yearbook of Forest Products) (Tick ONE answer only)

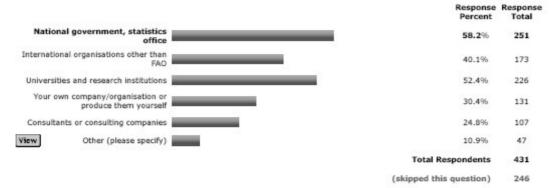


2. b) Pulp and Paper Capacities and Recovered Paper Surveys (Tick ONE answer only)



7. Untitled Page

 Do you use wood products statistics from any of the following sources? (Tick ANY sources that you have used)



8. Untitled Page

 How important is the information about wood production, trade and consumption for you work? (Tick ONE answer only)



Do you have any other recommendations, comments or suggestions about how FAO's wood products statistics could be improved? (WRITE in)

View Total Respondents		112
(ski	pped this question)	565

9. Untitled Page

1. Who do you currently work for? (Tick ONE answer only)



	Response Total
18.1%	86
8.4%	40
47.9%	228
1.3%	6
1.9%	9
10.9%	52
9.9%	47
1.7%	8
Total Respondents	476
(skipped this question)	201

2. What is your country of residence?

View	Total Respondents	677
(skipped this question)		0

10. Thank you for completing the survey

Thank you very much for completing the survey. If you would like to receive copies of some of FAO's
publications related to wood products, please list them in the box below along with your contact details
(name and e-mail or postal address)

View	Total Respondents	178
(ski	pped this question)	499