

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 I*). 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 $0\pm 3\%$).

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 primary 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)

Cape Verde	1
West Sahelian Africa	1
Ethiopia	2
Kenya	2
East Sahelian Africa	4
Côte d'Ivoire	1
Nigeria	2
West Moist Africa	3
Cameroon	2
Congo, Republic of	1
Uganda	1
Central Africa	4
Mozambique	3
Tropical Southern Africa	3
Mauritius	2
Insular East Africa	2
Total: Tropical Africa	17
Algeria	3
Egypt	1
North Africa	4
South Africa	3
Temperate Southern Africa	3
Total: Temperate Africa	7
Total: Africa	24

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

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

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%	35
- temperate countries	531	78%	58

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

Results Summary Show All Pages and Questions Export... View Detail >

Filter Results

To analyze a subset of your data, you can create one or more filters.

Add Filter...

Total: 677

Visible: 677

Share Results

Your results can be shared with others, without giving access to your account.

Configure...

Status: Enabled

Reports: Summary and Detail

1. EVALUATION OF FAO WOOD PRODUCTS INFORMATION

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

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes	83%	484
No	17%	99
Total Respondents		583
(skipped this question)		94

2. Untitled Page

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

	Response Percent	Response Total
INTERNET version of FAOSTAT Forestry database	72.4%	347
FAO Yearbook of Forest Products (hard copy)	38.2%	183
CD-ROM version of FAOSTAT Forestry database	11.3%	54
Pulp and Paper Capacities Survey (hard copy or PDF)	16.7%	80
Recovered Paper Data (hard copy or PDF)	11.7%	56
Total Respondents		479
(skipped this question)		198

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

	Response Percent	Response Total
Never	11.3%	57
Less than once a year	20.8%	105
About once a year	20.6%	104
Several times in a year	47.4%	240
Total Respondents		506
(skipped this question)		171

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)


	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes 	68.5%	322
No 	31.5%	148
Total Respondents		470
(skipped this question)		208

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)

	Response Percent	Response Total
Very good 	28.1%	118
Good 	58.3%	245
Poor 	6%	25
Very poor 	0.5%	2
Don't know 	7.1%	30
Total Respondents		420
(skipped this question)		257

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:

	Response Percent	Response Total
are better than other sources of similar information 	19.5%	79
are worse than other sources of similar information 	1.7%	7
are comparable with other sources of similar information 	14.8%	60
are the only source of this information available to me 	13.8%	56
are the primary source of this information 	18.8%	76
complement the information I can get from other sources 	31.4%	127
Total Respondents		405
(skipped this question)		272

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)

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes 	85.9%	286
No 	14.1%	47
Total Respondents		333
(skipped this question)		344

2. 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 Respondents	334
					(skipped 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
(skipped this question)	535

6. Untitled Page

1. 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)

	Response Percent	Response Total
Very important 	68%	230
Important 	25.7%	87
Quite important 	4.7%	16
Not important 	0.3%	1
Don't know 	1.2%	4
	Total Respondents	338
	(skipped this question)	339

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

	Response Percent	Response Total
Very important 	43%	144
Important 	30.1%	101
Quite important 	14.6%	49
Not important 	5.7%	19
Don't know 	6.6%	22
	Total Respondents	335
	(skipped this question)	342

7. Untitled Page

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

	Response Percent	Response Total
National government, statistics office	58.2%	251
International organisations other than FAO	40.1%	173
Universities and research institutions	52.4%	226
Your own company/organisation or produce them yourself	30.4%	131
Consultants or consulting companies	24.8%	107
View Other (please specify)	10.9%	47
Total Respondents		431
(skipped this question)		246

8. Untitled Page

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

	Response Percent	Response Total
Very important	58.6%	242
Important	24.5%	101
Quite important	12.6%	52
Not important	2.9%	12
Don't know	1.5%	6
Total Respondents		413
(skipped this question)		264

2. 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
(skipped this question)	565

9. Untitled Page

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

	Response Percent	Response Total
Government or public-sector company	18.1%	86
Non-governmental organisation	8.4%	40
Academic or research institution (including students)	47.9%	228
Intergovernmental organisation other than FAO	1.3%	6
Media and publishing	1.9%	9
Consulting company (Including self-employed consultants)	10.9%	52
Other private-sector company	9.9%	47
View Other (please specify)	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

1. 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
(skipped this question)	499