

Agenda for ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics

As of 26 April 2022

Thursday-Friday, 28-29 April 2022 and 29, via Teams
(2-4:30 p.m. CET on 28th and 1-3:30 p.m. on 29th)

This is the first meeting of the Team of Specialists under the Programme of Work 2022-2025. This Team has been merged from the previous Programme's Forest Products Statistics Team and Wood Energy Team.

Leader: to be determined at this meeting

Deputy Leaders: to be determined at this meeting

Day 1

1) **Welcome, introductions.** Participants are invited to briefly present themselves.

2) **Leadership election.** For every 2-year cycle the Team is requested to choose its leadership. The proposed structure of the leadership is one Team Leader and multiple Deputy Leaders, including representatives from the leadership of the two merged teams. The secretariat will ask for nominations and vote at this time.

3) **Adoption of agenda**

4) **Methods of Work**

- a. Summary of work of former ToS. The leaders of the previous Teams will present their activities during the past 4 years. (Branko Glavonjic, Francisco Aguilar).
- b. The secretariat will briefly review the new mandate¹
- c. The secretariat proposes to continue with one annual meeting with topics for statistics on forest products and wood energy. Subteams can be created on topics of interest, not necessarily with secretariat support, not necessarily with the entire team. Outcomes and proposals from these subteams should be reported to the Team leader by a subteam leader for input and endorsement of proposed actions by the Team. *Members of the Team are asked to comment on this plan.*
- d. The secretariat is mailing a survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T5MY2JS>) to determine which themes the subteams could take up and who would be interested in them. The secretariat will report on the results. Suggestions are also welcome.
- e. Discussion of interest and potential for subteams to pursue topics included in survey.

¹ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Mandate_Terms%20of%20Reference%20of%20the%20ECE_FAO%20Teams%20of%20Specialists%20-%20ToS%20on%20Forest%20Products%20and%20Wood%20Energy%20Statistics.pdf

5) **Review of ECE/FAO activities.** Kindly read the document prepared for the Working Party² as this provides background material.

a. Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ)

- i. Rate of replies
- ii. Common problems
- iii. Processing issues
- iv. 2021 cycle

b. Timber Forecast Questionnaire (TFQ)

- i. Forecasts are being published only for reporting countries. In the past, countries that did not reply to questionnaire were published with data repeated from last available year. This was effectively a “no change” forecast.

Starting in 2020, the secretariat has published forecasts only for those countries that provided data. This new method provides a forecast that is more closely tied to the responses we have received. It also results in subregional totals that are not comparable with the actual totals as provided in e.g. *Annual Market Review*. Last year’s Forest Products Team meeting discussed this. *Does the Team have additional comments to make?*

- ii. Market Discussion. As the date of the Discussion is not confirmed we do not have a confirmed deadline for the questionnaire. This will be discussed further at the ToS meeting.

c. Engineered Wood Products (EWP). This has been issued twice as a trial questionnaire with limited results as mentioned previously to the Forest Products Team. The Team requested another round of the questionnaire. In the future, as these products are now in the trade classification starting in 2022, we could expect some improvement. *The Team is requested to provide suggestions* on whether the questionnaire should be repeated as is (trial basis) or developed as part of the JFSQ.

d. Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE)

- i. The secretariat has completed the 2019 data round and is planning a launch of the 2021 round. A presentation on these preliminary results will be provided.
- ii. Plans for the 2021 round will be presented.

e. INForest platform v 1.2 (<https://forest-data.unece.org/>). This new platform, developed with the aid of the Team, was made available in March 2021 and has seen steady use (over 2000 users in 2021). Additional languages have been added and an update of the data is being released at the end of April. We ask Team members to provide comments and encourage use of the site in their networks, particularly for those outside forestry sector.

Day 2

6) Harmonised System trade classification

a. 2022 issues (furniture, sawnwood SPF), incorporate in next year JFSQ.

The 2022 revision of the HS is now in force. The main changes are in SPF lumber (4407.13), LVL (4412.4x), engineered structural timber products (4418.8x) such as glulam, CLT, I-beams, wooden furniture seats and parts (9401.31, 41, 91), and tropical wood. Monthly data is already available and

² <https://unece.org/forestry-timber/documents/2022/03/session-documents/work-area-1-data-monitoring-reporting-and>, starting on page 4

should improve the visibility of the wood industry. Please raise any questions you may have understanding these changes.

- b. **2027 proposal.** We requested Working Party and ToS members to provide input to our proposed list from last year. This was reviewed by IWG earlier this month.
 - i. List of comments
 - ii. List of items from IWG. *Team is asked to provide any additional comments.*
 - iii. Preparation of package to World Customs Organization – plan and deadlines

7) Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics (IWG) meetings.

The secretariat will brief the team members on the results of these discussions.

- a. Changes to 2021 JFSQ (none significant)
- b. FAO and ECE have discussed with the UN COMTRADE group (spring 2021) about improving conversion factors in COMTRADE and having better unit values checks.
- c. Linking the structure of the JQ to flags (data status) in FAOSTAT (FAO). The FAOSTAT flag system has been revised in recent years and this is leading to discrepancies with forestry flags.
- d. Every five years, when the HS is revised, the IWG may introduce more significant changes to the JFSQ. These would be prepared for next year's JQ2022.
 - i. **Members are asked to suggest items to add or drop from the questionnaires.**³ Suggestions can also be provided at the Working Party in June 2022 and would then be considered by the IWG.
 - ii. Options for veneer (including veneer that goes to plywood production or not)

8) Statistical systems (information on our partners and how data is handled)

- a. Data exchanges
- b. Using COMTRADE vs JQ trade data from countries
- c. ECE DB issues. Estimations of subitems, aggregation problems.

9) Updates – members of Team are invited to come forward with proposals

- a. Information on the revision of the EU Renewable Energy Directive
- b. Eurostat - new biomass questionnaire (Rajmund Lackzo)
- c. ECE projects of interest.
- d. FAO projects of interest
 - i. Wood fuel modelling
- e. Czech national data platform (Michal Synek)
- f. Activities from participants (contact secretariat). Please mention activities that you believe would be of interest to mention or present at meeting. Also provide any publications or links to country forestry statistics information. These would be included in an annex to meeting report

³ Principles for items on the JQ include the following: (a) a clear definition, including HS codes; (b) potential to collect data; (c) interest shown in having data; (d) avoidance of duplication; (e) continuity of data series over time; and (f) changes are long lasting. Source: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2007/3, para 14.

10) Next meeting, topics, timing and location.

The Working Party 2022 is planned for June 1-3. Meetings of subteams may be organized based on the discussions during the present meeting.

END OF MEETING

Tentative Timetable

Thursday, 2 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. CET

14:00 – 14:30 Welcome, election, agenda

14:30 – 15:30 Methods of work

Break

15:45 – 16:30 Review of ECE/FAO activities

End of Day

18:30 – 20:00 Optional evening on-line activity

Friday, 1 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. CET

13:00 – 14:15 Harmonised System, IWG, Statistical Systems

Break

14:30 – 15:30 Information from participants and proposals

End of Day