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**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
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**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN
STATISTICIANS**

**Joint UNECE/EUROSTAT/FAO/OECD
Seminar on Agricultural Statistics:
Perspectives for Agricultural and Rural
Indicators and Sustainability**
(Paris, 21-22 November 2002)

**STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (Eurostat)**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL
ORGANISATION (FAO)**

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT
(OECD)**

REPORT*

INTRODUCTION

1. The Seminar on Perspectives for Agricultural and Rural Indicators and Sustainability, convened jointly by Eurostat, FAO, OECD and the UNECE, was held in Paris from 21-22 November 2002. It was hosted by OECD. The Seminar was attended by Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America. A representative of the Economic Commission for Africa also attended. The Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) was represented. Representatives of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) also attended. Australia, Mexico, Republic of Korea (Member Countries of the OECD), China and

* The present report is available on the Internet site www.unece.org/stats. Other documents for the Seminar are also available on the OECD Internet site www.oecd.org/EN/document/0,,EN-document-413-15-no-20-32442-413,00.htm

Nigeria were present under article 11 of the terms of reference of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

2. The Seminar adopted the provisional agenda.
3. Mr. Andreas Lindner (OECD) was elected Chairperson

ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR

4. The following substantive topics were discussed at the Seminar on the basis of invited papers, supporting papers and conference room documents that countries and organisations had contributed:
 - (a) The need for indicators for a changing agriculture;
 - (b) Rural Development Indicators as part of Agricultural Statistics;
 - (c) Sustainable Agriculture Indicators;
 - (d) Labour Input and Productivity;
 - (e) Productivity, Income and Integrated Accounts;
 - (f) Agri-Environmental Indicators;
 - (g) Conclusions and Outlook: Future Issues and Needs.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION AND THE MAIN CONCLUSIONS REACHED AT THE SESSION

5. Recommendations for future work are given below. Other conclusions that the participants reached at the Seminar on the above topics will be presented in a separate report (in English only) prepared by the OECD after the Seminar and distributed to participants and, on request, to other interested persons.

RECOMMENDED FUTURE WORK

6. The Seminar concluded that there are many methodological issues in the area of sustainable agriculture that require further action, consultation and co-ordination. In this context the Seminar agreed that IWG.AGRI should play a facilitating role in setting up “networks” with

country agencies using thematic approaches with variable geometry and with feedback to the IWG.AGRI. To this end the Seminar recommended that the IWG.AGRI to set up task forces in the following areas:

- Rural Statistics;
- Agriculture household unit;
- Environmental Economic Accounts for agriculture.
