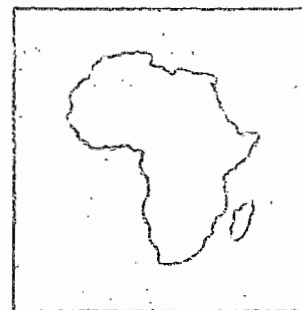




STATISTICAL

newsletter



UNITED NATIONS

No. 9

14 FEB 1963

JANUARY 1963

ECA ACTIVITIES LIBRARY

Fifth session of ECA

Discussion of current economic and social trends in Africa and examination of ways to quicken the pace of the continent's economic and social growth will be the main concern of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa at its fifth session which is scheduled to be held in Leopoldville from 18 February to 3 March 1963.

Reports on the progress made on the establishment of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning and the proposed African Development Bank are among the more important background papers to be presented by the Secretariat for discussion. Other items on the agenda include a review of measures to give effect to the recommendations of the Second Conference of African Statisticians and other activities of the Secretariat to promote statistical development; public administration; housing; town planning and urbanization; industrial resources and development; transport and communications; agricultural problems; monetary and financial problems; trade and commodity problems; international assistance to Africa and training.

With 33 members and three associate members to be represented at its fifth session, the Commission will have nearly doubled its membership since its inception in 1958.

Third Conference of African Statisticians

It has been provisionally agreed to hold the third conference of African Statisticians in Addis Ababa from 2 to 11 October 1963. The draft provisional agenda includes discussion of the following substantive items:

- (i) Review of statistical development
 - (a) progress reports by individual countries
 - (b) summary reports of various ECA meetings related to statistical development
- (ii) Statistical development in relation to development planning
 - (a) administrative aspects of the problem
 - (b) recommendations on programmes of statistical activities in relation to development planning

- (iii) Review of training and technical assistance problems
 - (a) training
 - (b) regional advisory service
 - (c) technical assistance
- (iv) Population statistics
- (v) Agricultural statistics
- (vi) Labour and industrial statistics
- (vii) Trade statistics
- (viii) Household survey (including food consumption surveys)
- (ix) National accounts
- (x) Report on data processing facilities and problems in Africa
- (xi) Programme of work for 1963-65
 - (a) general policy concerning meetings
 - (b) meetings to be held in 1963-65
 - (c) other activities

ECA Statistics Division

As a result of recent changes in the administrative structure of the ECA Secretariat the Statistics Section which had hitherto been part of the Research Division has been raised to the status of a separate Division. Other Divisions under the new administrative structure are: Division of Trade and Surveys; Division for Economic and Social Development; Division for Industry, Transport and Natural Resources; Joint ECA/FAO Agricultural Division and the Division for Administration, Conferences and General Services. In addition a Public Administration Unit and a Technical Assistance Coordination Unit will be attached to the Office of the Executive Secretary.

The Statistics Division has been divided into three substantive sections:

- (a) Statistical Development Section;
- (b) Economic and Social Statistics Section; and
- (c) National Accounts Unit.

The Statistical Development Section will co-ordinate the activities of the regional advisers and will keep under constant review the progress towards establishment and

implementation of long-term statistical programmes in African countries.

The Economic and Social Statistics Section will be further sub-divided into three units:-

- (i) Trade Statistics Unit;
- (ii) Industrial and other Economic Statistics Unit; and
- (iii) Mechanical Unit.

Intermediate System of National Accounts

In accordance with a recommendation of the Second Conference of African Statisticians the Executive Secretary convened a Working Group on the Adaptation of the UN System of National Accounts for use in Africa which met in Addis Ababa, from 24 to 29 September 1962. The Working Group was attended by fourteen national accounts experts, eight of whom are actually responsible for the compilation of national accounts series in Africa.

The Group had before it a preliminary report, "Proposals for an intermediate system of national accounts for use in African countries", prepared by a panel of experts together with written comments submitted by some of the participants. It fully endorsed the Secretariat's view that the United Nations System of National Accounts, as it stood, was not ideally suited to African economies. It was by now abundantly clear that in most African countries it was hardly feasible to obtain estimates of "net domestic product at factor cost" by summing estimates of the income of different sections of the community, as is implied by the layout of Account 2 of the SNA. This presupposed a highly refined system of assessment to tax of individual incomes which did not exist in most African countries at present. Thus merely from the point of view of statistical convenience some provision had to be made for a table showing how domestic product was built up by aggregating the values added in different industries. Also, development planning being a combination of sector planning and commodity planning it was essential to have a lower level of aggregation of product than fitted easily into the SNA in its present form.

After a careful consideration of the various issues involved the Group recommended the adoption, with amendments and modifications, of the proposed intermediate system of national accounts referred to above. This system was considered to be entirely consistent with the basic principles of the SNA and was to be regarded simply as an intermediate step towards the eventual adoption of the UN System in full. Some of the amendments recommended

Staff Movements

Mr. Philippe Berthet, National Accounts Officer at the ECA since 1959, has proceeded on long leave of absence from the United Nations, with effect from November 1962, to take up a special assignment in Paris under the French Government.

by the Group (particularly those relating to the treatment of profits, interest and dividends) would, however, mean a radical departure from SNA, at least concerning the terminology. The Group felt that, as it was not trying to set up new world standards but merely to suggest a "workshop" system for guidance of African accountants, it should be free to depart from recognised procedures if it would mean a further simplification of the task confronting the statistician.

The proposed intermediate system consists of ten main and five supplementary accounts or tables. Of these the following constitute a net addition to the SNA:

Table 1 - Inventory account of human resources

Table 2 - Account of uses and resources by commodity group

Table 4 - Appropriation account of corporations

Supplementary Table S.1 -
Agricultural rural household account

Supplementary Table S.3 -
Combined economic and functional classification of general government current and capital expenditure

The others are modified or expanded versions of accounts and tables already contained in the SNA. The SNA capital reconciliation account of households and private non-profit institutions, part of Account 4, is the only one of the standard accounts and tables of the SNA to have been entirely omitted in the proposed intermediate system, essentially for practical reasons. Its compilation, although most desirable, would, for some time to come, be beyond the scarce statistical resources of most African countries.

The report "Proposals for an intermediate system of national accounts for use in African countries" is now being revised along the lines recommended by the Working Group before circulation to all member countries for their comments. The revised draft will then be submitted for approval to the next Conference of African Statisticians.

Data Processing Facilities in Africa

It was agreed at the Second Conference of African Statisticians in Tunis that the ECA Secretariat should follow up developments in data processing problems (with particular reference to Africa) in close consultation with the Conference of European Statisticians (which has established an expert working group to study problems relating to the application of electronic data processing equipment in statistical offices in Europe) and other interested organizations. The Secretariat was further directed to prepare a report on the current status and future requirements in conventional and automatic data processing

facilities in the context of expanding statistical activities in most African countries. This report which is to be considered by the next Conference of African Statisticians (in the latter part of 1963) would, *inter alia*, form the basis for a programme of regional co-operation between African countries in this field.

Work on this report is currently under way. A staff member of the ECA Statistics Division recently visited a number of European statistical offices to study: (a) the statistical application of computers and other electronic equipment; (b) problems encountered during conversion

from conventional methods to automatic data processing; (c) staff recruitment and training; and (d) maintenance and economics of EDP equipment.

The experience of the European countries with EDP has been generally encouraging. Savings have been achieved in both money and time spent on data processing. Certain applications, however, cost more money but this is balanced by increased quality and precision. There has been marked increase in accuracy due to automatic editing and considerable reduction in manual handling. Moreover, EDP has made possible the tabulation and analysis of more complex and more comprehensive statistics which it would not be feasible to provide by other methods. The use of programme controlled EDP equipment in the statistical production, however, requires a more thorough preparation than conventional processing. The objectives of a project and the tabulation scheme have therefore to be specified completely at an earlier time thereby reducing the element of flexibility available with conventional methods. Flexibility is also affected by the fact that processing of yearly statistics have to cluster in the early summer and in this way create a queuing problem which is further aggravated in an EDP oriented system as everything must pass one or a few computers instead of being processed in parallel by several tabulators etc.

The European statisticians are agreed that because of its great power and speed, introduction of EDP affects the whole programme, organization and operating methods

of a statistical office. The potentialities and the best uses of EDP and also the problems likely to be caused by its introduction in African countries are therefore being carefully reviewed and studied and will be reported to the next Conference of African Statisticians.

As a further step the Secretariat will shortly be undertaking a case study of at least one African country which has had long experience in the use of conventional punch card equipment and which may have a large enough tabulation programme to justify installation of a small or medium sized electronic computer. This study will be designed to review in considerable detail the various jobs which are being performed on the punch card equipment installed at present in order to compare the merits and demerits of conventional machines and electronic computers in terms of flexibility, versatility, accuracy, speed and cost of operation. Likely expansion in tabulation work will also be taken into account.

Ghana has already agreed to such a study. It is understood some African countries have been seriously considering acquiring EDP equipment for statistical work and might, therefore, have undertaken feasibility studies. The Secretariat would welcome any information or documents relating to this problem which the member countries may be in a position to provide to assist in the preparation of a comprehensive report on data processing facilities in African countries.

Seminar on Population Problems

The Seminar on Population Problems in Africa referred to in the previous issue of the Newsletter met in Cairo from 29 October to 10 November 1962 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Hassan Husein, Under Secretary of State for Statistical Affairs in the UAR. Mr. John Durand, Director of the Population Branch at the United Nations Headquarters acted as Technical Director of the Seminar. The Seminar was attended by representatives from 21 African countries, specialized agencies of the United Nations, UN Statistical Office and members of the ECA Secretariat. Messrs. Robert Blanc (INSEE, Paris), Milos Macura (Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade) and Herman Schubnell (Federal Statistical Office, Germany) were invited to act as discussion leaders.

The Seminar emphasized that there had been too little study of the economic implications of present and prospective future rates of population growth in the varying economic circumstances of the countries in Africa. Extension of research in this field was considered necessary in order to provide sound bases for decisions on questions of national policy.

The Seminar further stressed the importance of population projections and recommended that attempts should be made to integrate these with projections of economic and social services in a consolidated national plan. There was general awareness of the weakness of present foundations for such projections in most African countries. It was agreed, however, that it would still be useful to produce the best projections possible in the circumstances, with regard to the demographic quantities most urgently required for policy-making and planning purposes.

The Seminar also discussed the need for extending and improving basic demographic statistics and assessing their quality. One of the principal deficiencies was the

absence of satisfactory current vital statistics. The participants agreed that work in this field was essential and required priority. Much progress had been made in regard to the statistics of numbers, geographical distribution and composition of the population through the taking of national censuses and sample surveys during recent years. Important gaps, however, still remained. Migration was singled out as an important aspect on which present information was least satisfactory. While the development of demographic statistics was progressing at a satisfactory rate, fundamental demographic research was lagging. It was therefore agreed that African governments should orient demographic studies towards questions of developmental policy and planning.

The problems of regional co-operation in filling gaps in demographic analysis and in the training of specialized personnel were also discussed at the Seminar. Participants agreed that provision of advisory services, exchange of information and experience, through seminars and other means, should continue. It was also suggested that samples of punched cards from population censuses and other demographic inquiries should be pooled for centralized tabulations and analysis relating to demographic questions of common regional or sub-regional interest. During the Seminar, it was announced that a sub-regional demographic centre would open in Cairo in the near future. Arrangements were under way for establishing a second centre which would serve the English-speaking countries in Africa. The Seminar was strongly of the opinion that there was a need for early establishment of a centre for trainees from French-speaking countries in Africa.

A detailed report on discussions at the Seminar is being processed and would be released shortly.

TRAINING

Sub-regional Consultations

North Africa

The conclusions of the meeting of the heads of West African statistical offices on training problems held in Yaoundé in April 1962 were published in the Statistical Newsletter No. 7. A similar meeting of heads of North African statistical offices was convened in Khartoum from 3-5 December 1962 to discuss training problems in this region and also to review the progress made towards the establishment and implementation of long-term statistical programmes in various countries. This meeting was attended by 17 participants including the Under Secretary for Statistical Affairs in the UAR (Chairman); Director of the Department of Statistics in Sudan (Vice-Chairman); Directors of Central Statistical Offices from Ethiopia, Libya and Morocco; representatives from Tunisia and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations; Directors of Training Centres in Rabat and Addis Ababa and members of the ECA Secretariat. The Director of Statistics from Guinea also attended this meeting at the request of his Government.

All countries represented at the meeting had drawn up long-term programmes of statistical development as recommended by the Conference of African Statisticians. These programmes had been approved by their respective governments and formed the basis of further expansion of statistical services and output. Statements made by the participants reflected considerable progress in sample surveys covering household consumption and expenditure; demographic, agricultural and industrial statistics; national accounts and trade statistics. More and more attention was being paid to relating statistical activities to planning requirements. In all countries excepting UAR shortage of professional and sub-professional statistical personnel remains a serious handicap though steps have already been taken to ameliorate the position in this regard over the next few years.

The representative of the UAR described the massive in-service training programme being conducted in the Department of Statistics and Census and by the Central Statistical Committee in Cairo. Ethiopia has also started in-service training courses in the Central Statistics Office in addition to the use of the Addis Ababa Statistical Training Centre which was established in October 1961 by the Government of Ethiopia in collaboration with the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Africa to service English-speaking candidates from countries in this region. In Morocco and Tunisia the emphasis so far has been on providing training on the job, but Tunisia is shortly going to establish a local training centre to meet its pressing needs for better qualified sub-professional statistical staff. Libya and Sudan have been relying progressively on the use of facilities available at the Addis Ababa Centre.

Discussion on Addis Ababa Centre revealed that requirements for admission at present were considered adequate (only Libya suggesting lowering of the level). It was felt, however, that more care should be taken in selection of trainees through a more rigid enforcement of entrance requirements. Present system of selection, based on local screening was considered appropriate. It might, however, be improved upon by local tests prior to screening. It was further agreed that process of selection be started earlier to ensure that all trainees would arrive at

the Centre on time. The current curriculum of the Addis Ababa Centre was considered satisfactory.

Libya, it was pointed out, was unable to make full use of the facilities established at the Addis Ababa Training Centre due to shortage of English speaking Libyan personnel. A possible solution seemed to be for Libya to explore facilities for bilateral assistance to train personnel in Arabic in the UAR. Another possibility would be to prepare local staff by coaching in language and mathematics prior to sending them to the Centre in Addis Ababa.

The meeting recommended the issuance of appropriate Certificates to the graduates of the Addis Ababa and other training centres. Co-ordination of standards at various middle level centres was supported as a working goal. Annual meetings of directors of these centres were considered a useful instrument to achieve such co-ordination.

It was felt that the centres established for middle level training should be continued for at least a few years to come and that facilities, if possible, should be expanded. The participants indicated the following annual requirements for seats for their nominees at the Addis Ababa Centre or other middle level training centres: Ethiopia, 10-12; Libya, 15; Sudan, 10; UAR, 3-5.

The meeting noted the facilities available for training of Junior Statisticians at the Centre de Formation des Ingenieurs de Travaux Statistiques in Rabat. The representative from Morocco stated that negotiations were in hand with the University of Paris for admission of the graduates of the Rabat Centre for advanced studies. The meeting was also informed of the establishment in the UAR of a Statistical Research and Studies Institute for advanced studies in statistics. This Institute will be open to students from other African countries as well. (See 'News From Countries').

The participants indicated the following requirements for fellowships in 1963 and 1964 in respect of their countries for training at the university level; Ethiopia, 3-5; Guinea, 10-15 in 1963 and 5-10 in 1964 at the Rabat Centre; Libya, 10 in UAR; Morocco, 4 at INSEE (Paris), 3 at Dakar and 1 in the UAR; Sudan, 2 each year in 1963 and 1964, one in the UAR and one in the Netherlands; Tunisia, 2 at the Rabat Centre in 1963 and one in France; UAR, 10 for post-graduate studies abroad.

The ECA Chief Statistician took this opportunity to inform the participants about ECA activities in the field of statistics.

East Africa

It was originally envisaged that a meeting would be organized for heads of statistical offices in East Africa in the same way as for those of West and North Africa. However this proved impracticable due to non-availability of some participants and other reasons and instead, a member of the ECA Statistics Division toured the area to discuss statistical training matters as well as to undertake other assignments.

The outlook on statistical training in Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika is somewhat different from that in other parts of Africa, particularly with respect to the sub-professional grades. In these countries reliance is placed on part-time in-service training instead of using full-time centres of the type which have been developed in other parts of the continent. The reason derives partly from the emphasis placed on the importance of giving trainees as much practi-

al experience as possible and partly from difficulty in releasing staff from their day-to-day duties. Experience has shown that the method is effective provided the number of hours of formal tuition is sufficiently large, but it must be acknowledged that it is relatively expensive in terms of training personnel.

It should also be noted that in East Africa considerable use is made of the examinations of the Institute of Statisticians in London and they are normally used as the basis for promotion qualifications. The system has the advantage of standards which are easily recognisable, and a series of examinations by which a young clerk can eventually work his way up to professional level. It is not, however, quite in accord with the general feeling that special courses and qualifications should be developed which are closely related to African conditions.

In Tanganyika, the first nine months' course for training six statistical assistants will be completed in February 1963. These officers will take a local examination at the end of the course and the Registered Statistical Assistant examination of the Institute of Statisticians in June 1963. At least one more course will need to be organized to satisfy the immediate needs of Tanganyika for statistical assistants. A UN training officer has been provided for this work under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. He also assists in preparing students for the higher examinations of the Institute of Statisticians in London.

In Uganda, statistical training is being pushed ahead as quickly as possible due to the needs of a rapid Africanization programme. At the present time 10 officers are being prepared for the RSA examination and a further three for the Intermediate examination of the Institute of Statisticians. This is being done without any outside assistance. From September 1963 it is expected that about eight officers will be studying for the Intermediate examination and when this stage is reached it is hoped that a UN training officer can be made available.

In-service training courses in Kenya are operated in conjunction with the East African Statistical Department and at present are utilizing only the resources available locally.

In Rhodesia, preliminary plans are being made for the development of middle-level training and it seems possible that eventually a full-time centre may be established which can also serve neighbouring countries. At present, however, it is still difficult to obtain recruits with secondary school qualifications for clerical level posts.

Training for the Final examination of the Institute of Statisticians and for other degree level qualifications in statistics is still done mainly overseas although preparation for Part I is carried out locally in some countries. It is hoped that additional facilities may be developed at Makerere College in Kampala (Uganda) and plans are proceeding for the establishment of a statistics department in the University College of Rhodesia.

Enrolment at Statistical Training Centres

The Statistical Training Centres established or assisted by the UN to meet the needs for training statisticians in Africa, entered their second year around the middle of October 1962. With the exception of the Centre in Rabat, which offers a two year course at the professional level, these centres cater to the need of training middle level statistical assistants and provide for a one year course. The following tables show the enrolment at each of these centres for the years 1961/62 and 1962/63.

(a) ACHIMOTA (ACCRA) CENTRE

Country	Number of Trainees	
	1961/62	1962/63
Ghana	15	12
Nigeria	4	8
Liberia	4	6
Sierra Leone	2	2
Gambia	—	1
<i>Total</i>	25	29

(b) ADDIS ABABA CENTRE

Country	Number of Trainees	
	1961/62	1962/63
Ethiopia	7	7
UAR	5	3
Sudan	4	4
Libya	2	3
Basutoland	1	—
<i>Total</i>	19	17

(c) YAOUNDE CENTRE

Country	Number of Trainees	
	1961/62	1962/63
Cameroun	6	6
Congo-Léopoldville	4	6
Congo-Brazzaville	4	1
Central African Republic	3	—
Gabon	2	2
Chad	1	—
Dahomey	1	—
Togo	—	2
Mali	—	1
Niger	—	1
<i>Total</i>	21	19

(d) ABIDJAN CENTRE

Country	Number of Trainees	
	1961/62	1962/63 (provisional)
Ivory Coast	4	10
Mali	6	4
Upper Volta	3	—
Togo	2	—
Mauretania	1	—
Guinea	—	16
Dahomey	—	2
<i>Total</i>	16	32

(e) RABAT CENTRE

Country	Number of Trainees		
	1963 Class		1964 Class
	1961/62	1962/63	1962/63
Morocco	22	20	11
Tunisia	19	17	2
Algeria	—	—	14
Guinea	—	—	5
Cameroun	—	—	3
Mali	—	—	1
<i>Total</i>	41	37	36

Total enrolment at these five Centres has therefore increased from 122 trainees last year to 168 during the current year. To this should be added, to complete the picture, another 20 trainees following instruction at the Lagos national statistics training centre. Similarly, the number of UN fellowships awarded for training at these Centres has been stepped up from about 60 last year to

100 this year.

During the current year, the interest and assistance of some agencies has been enlisted to expand, on a bilateral basis, the availability of fellowships at some of the centres. Thus thirteen fellowships have been awarded by EEC and FAC for training at Yaoundé, and similarly assistance has been offered by EEC, and USAID to other Centres.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

As of 31 December 1962 there were 34 experts assigned to 17 African countries under the United Nations programme of technical assistance. This figure does not include the five Regional Statistical Advisers attached to the Economic Commission for Africa for short-term missions in African countries on an ad hoc basis. At the same time FAO had 14 statistical experts in as many African countries, in addition to 3 regional advisers. Similar information for other specialized agencies of the United Nations is available only up to 30 September 1962: ILO, 3; UNESCO, 6; WHO, 12.

The following technical assistance experts in statistics have been appointed to the under-mentioned territories for assignments as stated, since the last issue of the Newsletter.

Africa	A. M. Shafei (FAO)	Regional Advisor in Agricultural Statistics
Ghana	D. Bhate (UN)	In-service training (Opex)
Guinea	M. R. Ghazi (FAO)	Agricultural Statistics
Madagascar	J. Pelayo (UN)	Urban population census
Morocco	J. Gauthier (UN)	Multi purpose survey
Uganda	D. J. Casley (FAO)	Agricultural Statistics

NEWS FROM COUNTRIES

Ethiopia

The **Central Statistical Office**, which was established in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in 1960, has now been transferred to the Prime Minister's Office, effective January 9, 1963. This transfer, it is hoped, will strengthen the position of the CSO and enable it to exercise overall statistical control and co-ordination and to tackle all statistical problems in a national perspective.

A **sample inquiry into household consumption and expenditure** was started in Addis Ababa on December 1, 1962, by the Central Statistical Office of Ethiopia, with assistance from the ECA in regard to certain technical aspects of the survey. During the first month of the survey (December 1962) various field operations were tested and the fieldworkers trained on the job. The main survey begins on January 9, 1963 and will run for one full year. The survey has been designed to:

- (a) establish weights for a consumer price index;
- (b) study patterns of consumption, and
- (c) gain experience in household surveys and establish and train a permanent field survey team in the Central Statistical Office.

The population covered consists of all the Ethiopian households, living in the urban part of Addis Ababa, as at the time of the population census of the city in September 1961.

The population census lists were used as a frame for selecting the households. For each household information is available from census registers about enumeration area, household number, name of head of household and the size of the household. The selected households are first identified in the city, and special "survey slips" are put on the front of each.

The sampling was carried out in two stages. In the first stage one tenth of the urban census enumeration areas were selected with equal probability. Thereafter the households in the selected areas were stratified into four house-

hold sizes and a total of 600 households were selected using varying sampling fractions.

Each selected household is to be interviewed daily during one month. Thus during a certain month a subsample of the selected sample households, 50 in number, will be interviewed daily. There are ten field workers and each field worker has to interview 5 households daily. Checking is carried out by supervisors and other senior staff of the survey.

The final tabulation may be undertaken mechanically if suitable facilities are available at that time. In the meanwhile, monthly results will be tabulated manually within the Central Statistical Office.

Kenya

A **household survey** is being undertaken in the Central Province over a full period of 12 months which will cover the two complete crop cycles normally obtainable in one year. The area covered by the survey is 7,400 sq. miles and its population is 1.6 million. It is divided into 5 administrative districts.

Staff for the survey has now been recruited and training and field tests are expected to be completed shortly. A two stage sample design is being used with small geographical areas as the primary units. The preliminary enumeration of all households in the 45 selected first stage units should be completed before the end of January.

It is intended to select 1,080 households for the second stage of the enquiry within three or four strata based on farm acreage, this being the only available indicator of household income. The principal records maintained for these households will be as follows:

- (a) a fortnightly record of receipts and payments under broad headings for each household over a period of one complete year;

(b) detailed records of domestic expenditure, farm production, etc., obtained from daily visits covering four periods of a fortnight for each household during the course of the year.

Other records will deal with assets, loans, manpower, etc. It is appreciated that the total period of detailed daily recording for each household (8 weeks) is shorter than would be desirable, but this could be increased only by accepting a very considerable reduction in the overall sample size as funds available for the enquiry are limited.

Results will be summarized on a monthly basis in order to give a constant check on the progress of the survey for control purposes. At the end of the 12 months' recording an annual summary of results for each household will be prepared from the fortnightly and daily records.

Arrangements are being made for the final analysis of the results to be carried out mechanically.

Sudan

The Government has approved an additional expenditure of £S 612,000 (US\$ 1.8 million) on the development of statistics over a period of six years beginning 1 April 1962. The major projects included in the development plan are census of agriculture; census of mining, manufactures and construction; household surveys and national income studies. Preparations for the census of agriculture have been taken in hand. Field enumeration is scheduled to start in October this year and will be carried through two agricultural years (October to May). Steps are also being taken to establish a nucleus field survey organization within the Department of Statistics.

United Arab Republic

A **Statistical Studies and Research Institute** was established in May 1962 within the Cairo University, to provide training for a two year post graduate diploma course. It may offer other courses of study at different levels for the statistical workers and assistants in the different government departments and other organizations. It will also provide research opportunities and technical advice on statistical matters to interested individuals or organizations on a contract basis. The curriculum for the two year diploma course comprises mathematical statistics, statistical laboratory, statistical methods for research workers, sampling techniques, econometrics and specific fields of statistics like demography, vital statistics and economic statistics. The instruction given so far has been in the Arabic language though provision has been made for instruction in English for some of the courses. The number of hours per week is 14 during the two years, and the applicant is required to hold a University degree before admission to the diploma course. 1100 candidates applied for admission for the first course which began in November 1962, but the Institute accepted only 120.

The Cairo University has also established a bachelors degree in statistics and the course extends over 4 years. The first batch of students attending this course will graduate next summer. The first batch of graduates from the Institute of Statistics will be ready in the summer of 1964.

The degree course at the Cairo University and the post-graduate diploma course at the Institute and facilities offered by them for statistical research are open to eligible candidates from other African countries.

FAO ACTIVITIES

(From FAO Regional Statistician for Africa)

African Commission on Agricultural Statistics

The First Session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics was held in Tunis from 22 to 27 October 1962. It was attended by participants from 18 countries. Mr. Bahgat El-Tawil, Deputy Chief Statistician, represented the ECA. Mr. A. Kamoun of Tunisia and Mr. Ly Bocar of Senegal were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

The Commission reviewed the state of food and agricultural statistics in various countries of the region, examined the work of FAO Statistics Division in the region and discussed various items of programme of work e.g., minimum programme for current agricultural statistics, standardization of concepts and definitions in current agricultural statistics, census of agriculture, statistics of food consumption, statistical training and research and data processing.

It reviewed the various methodological problems impeding the rapid development of agricultural statistics in the region and recommended that FAO convene suitable working groups of national experts to study them. It drew particular attention to the consideration of problems of area and yield surveys for food crops and stressed the importance of the work on standardization of agricultural statistics.

In considering the method of work of the Commission delegates stressed the need to regard its activities on a continuous basis and recommended the Director-General to establish a permanent executive committee. As an interim measure the chairman and vice-chairman of the first session are expected to work in close co-operation with the Secretariat to follow up the activities of the Commission during the period before the next meeting.

A similar meeting of the Near East Commission on Agricultural Statistics was held in Amman, Jordan from 12 to 19 November 1962.

Regional Advisers

Mr. J. B. Simaika, regional adviser in agricultural statistics visited UAR in October 1962 and is currently visiting the countries of the former French Equatorial Africa to initiate a group country technical assistance project in agricultural statistics.

Mr. Abdel Moneim Shafei, formerly Professor of Statistics at Cairo University and Under Secretary of State in UAR, has joined FAO as short term regional adviser in agricultural statistics. After a brief stop over in Addis Ababa he will be visiting Sudan and Morocco to provide assistance in connection with their agricultural census and survey programmes.