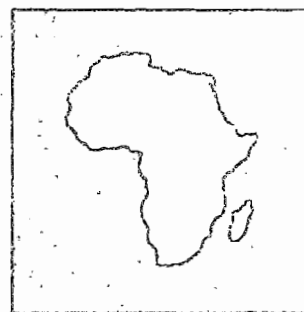




STATISTICAL

newsletter



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Executive Secretary's Office

Mr. Robert K. Gardiner, Executive Secretary, arrived in Addis Ababa on 19 May after a visit to New York following the completion of his mission to Congo (Leopoldville). He has since visited a number of "French-speaking" countries in North and West Africa for discussions with heads of states and cabinet ministers regarding activities of the Economic Commission for Africa. He has also attended meetings of the Committee of Direction of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning held in Cairo early in June, the ECOSOC in Geneva and the Conference of Finance Ministers in Khartoum on the proposed African Development Bank. He has paid brief visits to USSR and Poland at the invitation of the respective governments to discuss the latter's programmes of assistance to African countries.

Mr. Pierre Le Harivel (France), has arrived in Addis Ababa to take up his post in the Economic Commission for Africa as Chief of the Training Section in the Executive Secretary's Office. Mr. Le Harivel will be responsible for all aspects of ECA's planning of and participation in training programmes throughout Africa, with special emphasis on centralizing and co-ordinating these programmes.

Mr. Le Harivel comes to ECA after nearly three years in the United Nations Office in the Congo where he was technical adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director of the Fellowship Service. Prior to 1960 Mr. Le Harivel spent fifteen years in UNESCO in a variety of posts.

Mr. Jacques Royer, formerly Chief Statistician, ECA, and now "Adviser to the Executive Secretary on the African Institute for Economic Development and Plan-

ning", has concurrently been appointed Officer-in-Charge of ECA's North African sub-regional office in Tangiers. The opening of a sub-regional office in Tangiers was voted upon at the Fifth Session of the Commission last March. Mr. Royer is scheduled to move to Tangiers in September this year and he will be joined there by a skeleton staff detailed from Addis Ababa. Another sub-regional office will open in Niamey (Niger) in October 1963.

The sub-regional offices, it is hoped, will be in a better position than the headquarters in Addis Ababa to establish intimate contacts with member governments and to follow closely developments in their sub-regions. In particular, they will be the focal point of ECA's growing advisory services and its efforts to help governments to co-ordinate their national development policies and plans.

Statistics Division

Mr. Joseph E. Gholl (Lebanon), has joined the Economic Commission for Africa as a Statistician in the Statistical Development Section of the Statistics Division. Mr. Gholl has transferred to ECA after more than three years in the FAO technical assistance programme as adviser to the Government of Ethiopia on agricultural statistics. Prior to 1959, Mr. Gholl was from 1952 in the Lebanese government as a statistician with the Bureau of Census and Vital Statistics.

Mr. John Francis Rupert Casimir (Dominica, British West Indies), recently joined the Statistics Division of the Economic Commission for Africa as a Statistician in the Economic and Social Statistics Section. Mr. Casimir was previously employed as a research assistant in the Federal Statistical Service of the West Indian Federation and also worked some time as statistical officer in Dominica.

TRAINING

The statistical training centres established or assisted by the UN to meet the needs for training of middle level statistical assistants in various parts of Africa completed their second year end of June this year. Figures of enrol-

ment at these centres for the two years 1961-62 and 1962-63 were published in the January 1963 issue of the Newsletter. According to these figures 179 trainees from 27 countries have taken advantage of training facilities

offered by the four centres at Achimota (Ghana), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Yaoundé (Cameroon) and Abidjan (Ivory Coast).

The Advisory Board of the Achimota Centre, while reviewing the activities of the Centre over the past two years, noted that the level of courses offered during 1962-1963 was higher than in the preceding year. Trainees who successfully completed the course this year should be able to undertake supervisory duties at middle levels; they should also be able to conduct simple surveys designed and prepared by a fully qualified statistician. Some of the students, if opportunities are given, should be able to pursue courses at higher level and quality as professional statisticians. The Advisory Board has recommended that the level of courses at the Centre should be equivalent to the requirements of the Intermediate Examinations of the Institute of Statisticians in the U.K.

The centres at Achimota and Addis Ababa both suffer due to the uneven educational qualifications of the trainees admitted from different countries. In Addis Ababa particularly trainees from Libya (and to a lesser extent from UAR) are handicapped due to lack of proficiency in English. This is reflected in the results of the final examination for 1962-63, shown in the following table:

Country	Total No. of trainees	Trainees who passed in					
		All Subjects	Four Subjects	Three Subjects	Two Subjects	One Subject	No Subject
Ethiopia	7	2	2	—	1	2	—
Libya	3	—	1	—	1	—	1
Sudan	4	3	—	—	—	1	—
U A R	3	—	1	1	—	1	—
Total	17	5	4	1	2	4	1

It is hoped the sponsoring governments will make suitable pre-coaching arrangements for their trainees in their home countries before they arrive at the Centres; such pre-coaching facilities can help in raising the level of training at all the centres and increase the benefit which the trainees can derive from courses offered at these centres.

The level of the courses offered at Yaoundé Centre is relatively lower than that of Achimota and Addis Ababa courses due to the lower educational qualifications of the entrants. There is, however, great emphasis on practical exercises and field work at this centre. During 1962-63 the programme at the Centre included 350 hours for lectures on various subjects and 294 hours for practical exercises. Following this the trainees participated in a family budget survey carried out in the region of Ngaoundéré. The trainees followed the work done by the supervisors first, and then carried it out alone. The field activities also included visits to different sections of the Central Statistical Office of the Cameroon and participation in the processing of surveys conducted.

Of the 20 trainees enrolled at the Yaoundé Centre in 1962-63, 16 were awarded Proficiency Certificates as a result of the final examination.

Selection of trainees for the 1963-64 courses which are scheduled to start in October next is now in progress. Apart from trainees from Ghana the Achimota Centre this year will admit 8 trainees from Nigeria, 7 from Liberia and 5 from Sierra Leone. At the Addis Ababa Centre provision has been made for award of 18 fellowships to eligible candidates from Libya, Somalia, Sudan and UAR. Ethiopia is expected to send about 10 trainees. Of the 24 candidates already accepted for admission at the Yaoundé Centre 10 are from Cameroun, 1 from the Central African Republic, 5 from Congo (Brazzaville), 4 from Congo (Leopoldville), 1 from Chad, 1 from Gabon and 2 from Togo. There are seven more vacancies which will be filled in September 1963.

ECA ACTIVITIES

The Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa has convened four meetings of statistical experts on specific subjects during the next few months in addition to the Third Conference of African Statisticians which is scheduled to meet in Addis Ababa from 2 to 11 October, 1963.

Technical Meeting on Food Consumption Surveys

This meeting has been convened jointly by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Africa in accordance with recommendations of the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference and the Second Conference of African Statisticians. It will be held in Rabat (Morocco) from 17 to 25 July 1963 and will be attended by nearly 30 statistical and nutrition experts from various African countries. The main purpose of the meeting is to discuss the adaptation of a Draft Programme for Food Consumption Surveys, prepared by the Secretariat of FAO, to meet conditions in Africa. The meeting will also consider the uses of food consumption surveys and their relation to other statistical inquiries in Africa.

Technical Meeting on Balance of Payments

There will be another meeting of experts in Rabat from 31 July to 9 August to consider problems relating to the compilation of balance of payments statistics in African countries. This meeting is being convened jointly by the International Monetary Fund and the Economic Commission for Africa in accordance with a recommendation of the Second Conference of African Statisticians.

The staff of the International Monetary Fund has prepared a comprehensive paper for the guidance of the participants. This paper is intended to be generally applicable to the problems encountered by all countries initiating a programme of balance of payments compilation. While the principles and concepts of the balance of payments must necessarily be the same everywhere, the compilation of the statistics is, of course, circumscribed by the social and institutional environment of each country. It is expected that the meeting of the African balance of payments technicians in Rabat will provide an opportunity for a fruitful exchange of views on the special problems that arise in compiling balance of payments statistics in the African countries. Technicians from 14 African countries will attend this meeting.

Working Group on Foreign Trade Statistics

A Working Group on Foreign Trade Statistics will be held in Addis Ababa from 25 to 28 September 1963, shortly before the third Conference of African Statisticians. This Working Group will be composed of 10 to 12 experts from various African countries and representatives from the GATT and the Statistical Office of the European Common Market Organization. The Working Group will review ECA's work programme in the field of foreign trade statistics and will deal specifically with (a) the problems of construction of index numbers of foreign trade statistics, and (b) unit of quantities used in African countries.

Conference of African Statisticians

The draft provisional agenda of the Third Conference of African Statisticians published in the January 1963 issue of the Statistical Newsletter has been amended as follows:-

- (i) Review of statistical development and related problems
 - a) progress report by countries
 - b) training facilities and requirements
 - c) technical assistance to statistical development in Africa provided by ECA, UN Headquarters and Specialized Agencies.
- (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) Population Statistics
- (iv) Agricultural Statistics
- (v) Labour and industrial statistics

(vi) Trade Statistics

- (vii) Household surveys (including Food Consumption surveys)
- (viii) National Accounts
- (ix) Processing facilities and problems in Africa
- (x) Programme of work for 1963-65
 - a) General policy rules concerning meetings
 - b) meetings to be held in 1963-65
 - c) other activities

Working Group on Capital Formation

Still another working group of experts will meet in Addis Ababa from 9 to 16 October 1963 in order to discuss practical problems connected with estimating capital formation in African countries. It is generally recognized that firm and detailed estimates of gross fixed capital formation are very much needed as the basis for development planning in the countries of the region. The working group will discuss some conceptual points of particular interest to the African countries and it is hoped that definite recommendations will be agreed upon as to the methods of estimation which are most suitable for these countries. The problems of estimating capital formation in the traditional sector will be given special attention.

Although the main emphasis will be put on gross fixed capital formation, problems of estimating the net change in inventories and depreciation will also be dealt with to some extent. As a result of its discussions, the working group may propose ways of improving the capital formation estimates of the countries of the region on the basis of presently available statistics and lay out a programme for new basic statistics needed for the future development of the estimates.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The following technical assistance experts in Statistics have been appointed to the under mentioned territories for assignments as stated since January 1963:

Cameroon

Mr. F. Snapper (UN)
Statistical Organisation

Ghana

Mr. G. Parniczky (UN)
Statistical Sampling

Morocco

Mr. N. Hong (UN)
Demographic Statistics

Somalia

Mr. G. Pellizon (UN)
Junior Statistician

Uganda

Miss A. Martens (UN)
National Accounts

FAO ACTIVITIES

Seminar on Methodology of Agricultural Surveys

A seminar on Methodology of Agricultural Survey will be held in Lagos, Nigeria, from 29 July to 3 August 1963. This seminar is the first of the working groups convened at the recommendation of the First Session of the FAO Commission on Agricultural Statistics for the African Region. It will be attended by approximately

twelve participants and will discuss the following important items:-

- (a) methodology of area and yield surveys of food crops;
- (d) treatment of area and yield statistics under conditions of mixed cropping; and
- (c) enumeration of livestock in nomadic zones.

Consultant on Food Statistics

Under the Special Programme of Agricultural Education and Training in Africa, **Mr. John M. Harries** has been appointed as a consultant on food statistics for a period of approximately six months beginning early July 1963. His duties will be to advise African Governments on:

- (a) the importance of establishing in each country a food statistics unit;
- (b) the basic data to be compiled by the unit and the methodology to be used;
- (c) the organizational set up of the unit; and
- (d) the selection of staff for the unit and the development of a curriculum for training them on the job.

During the course of his assignment Mr. Harries will

be visiting Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanganyika and Uganda.

Study Tour

FAO has sponsored a Group Fellowship Study Tour on "The Uses of Sampling Methods in Agricultural Statistics" in USSR from 15 July to 15 September 1963. Twenty-four countries including several African countries have been invited to designate up to two candidates each. Programme of work of the study tour will include sampling methods in current agricultural statistics; surveys on crop areas, yields, livestock numbers, animal production, productivity studies based on sample surveys, etc. Lectures given by Russian statisticians will be prepared beforehand, translated into English and made available to fellows in advance.

NEWS FROM COUNTRIES

Ethiopia

Ato Habtu Eshete, a former Director General of the Central Statistical Office, has been appointed to be Assistant Minister in-charge of Statistics in the Prime Minister's Office. In that capacity Ato Abtu will resume responsibilities as head of the Central Statistical Office once again.

A multi-purpose national survey is projected and currently under study to be tested in one province. The survey will be extended to other provinces in stages, beginning with the fiscal year 1963-64.

Tanganyika

Training of statisticians.

The 1962/63 session of the training course for statistical assistants was successfully completed by all the trainees. Four of them also took the Registered Statistical Assistants Examination of the London Institute of Statistics. All the participants in this course now continue their training at a course for intermediate level statisticians which started July 1, 1963 and will end in May 1964.

The 1963/64 session of the course for statistical assistants started April 1, 1963, with five participants. The syllabus is broadly the same as for the previous session. Classes are held from 7 to 11 a.m. six days a week. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. the trainees take part in the work of the Statistical Office in order to gain practical experience.