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# Towards a System of Environmental Economic Accounting for Agriculture

Robert Mayo,  
Statistics Division FAO



# Content and acknowledgement

1. The need of an accounting framework for agriculture and the environment
2. Integrating agriculture activities in one framework
3. Relationship with other accounting frameworks
4. Implementation feasibility
5. Proposed handbook development process

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# Why a SEEA-Agriculture?

- Policy and research needs – strong relationship between Agriculture and the environment
  - major user of direct inputs from the environment;
  - major contributor to environment degradation;
  - major provider/user of ecosystem services
- Builds on existing accounting frameworks
  - SEAFA and EEA = extension to include sustainability of production, consumption and accumulation
  - SEEA-FO and SEEA-FI = extension to cover the whole Agricultural sector



# Why a SEEA-Agriculture?

- Provides the conceptual framework for the Global Strategy to improve Agricultural and Rural statistics, (UNSC, Feb. 2010):
  - Foundation for integrating food and agricultural statistics into National Statistical System;
  - Establishing a core minimum set of statistical indicators;
  - Multidimensional information system that combines and harmonize data from various surveys and censuses.



# What is SEEA-Agriculture?

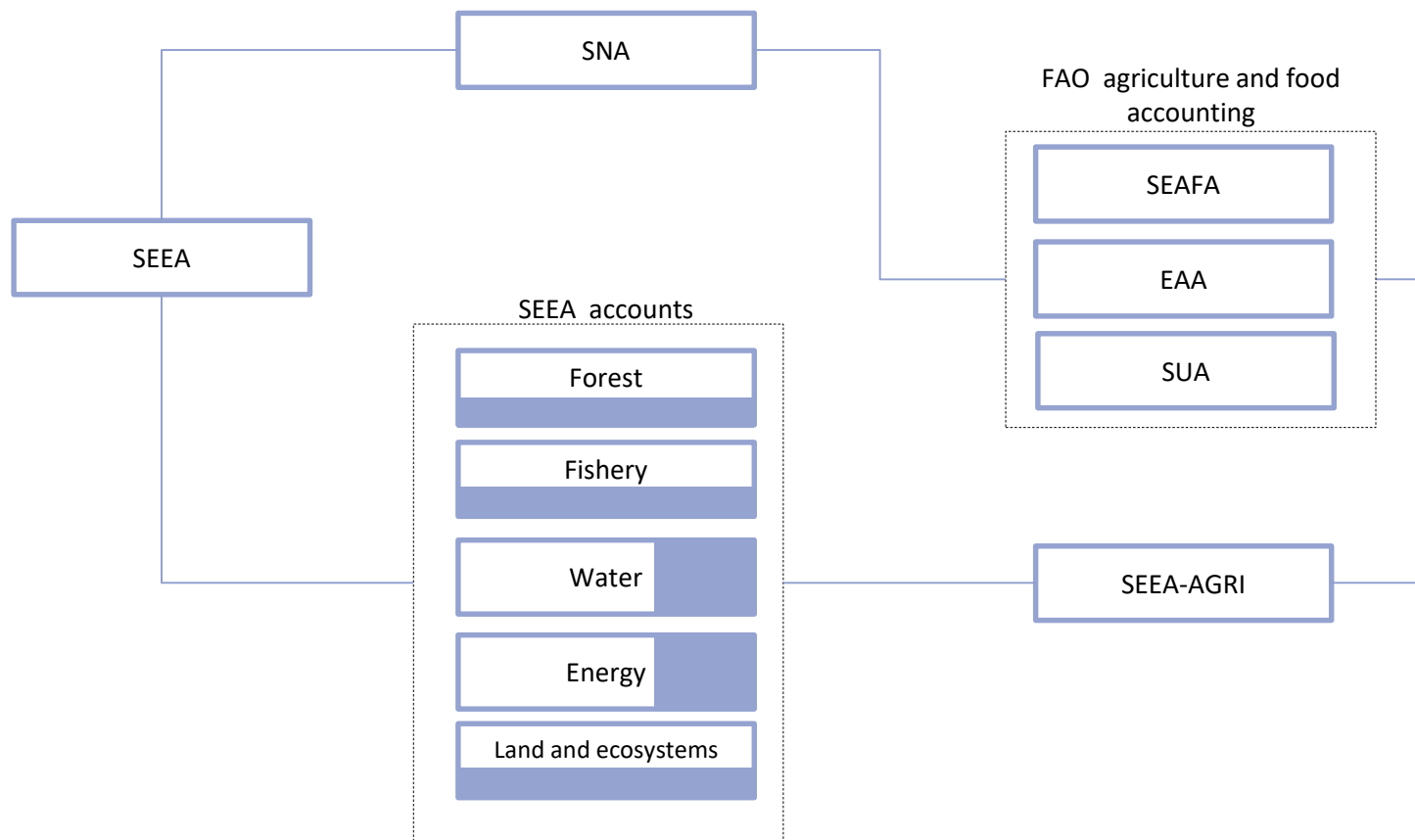
- Subsystem of the SEEA: Standard satellite account for the integration of agriculture and environmental data;
- Allows monitoring of the economic importance of agriculture; estimation of its full costs & benefits; improvement of its management; Life cycle analysis appr.
- Based upon internationally agreed concepts, definitions, classifications and inter-related tables and accounts;
- Relevant for both developed and developing countries;
- Different from other SEEA subsystem => focuses on one broad activity rather than on one specific resource.



# Integrating agricultural activities

- Definition of Agriculture in the ISIC rev. 4, includes 3 groups of activities:
  - Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities
  - Forestry and logging
  - Fishing and aquaculture
- Reasons for integration of these 3 groups of activities:
  - closely interconnected at the farm level (most farms are engaged in more than one of these activities at the same time);
  - same data source (common for agricultural surveys and censuses to include some information about all this group of activities).
  - All 3 sub-sectors strongly related to basic population needs of food, energy, shelter and other uses of raw materials.

# The SEEA-AGRI as SEEA subsystem





# Feasibility of implementation

- The flexibility of the system allows a modular and selective approach according to: Data availability; Data quality; Country agricultural structure
- 3 types of datasets: minimum requirement; recommended; desired
- Identification of a core account is critical for upscaling and implementation
- Technical capacity in countries needs to be strengthened (link to the implementation Plan of the Global Strategy)
- Synergies with the implementation of the SEEA



# SEEA-AGRI Development Process



- UNCEEA agreed to include the development of the SEEA-Agriculture in its medium term work plan and to be led by FAO;
- London Group to establish a subgroup on Agriculture as a forum to develop the new guidelines;
- Make use of the experiences of countries which have already undertaken some SEEA-Agriculture (e.g. Germany, Netherlands and Sweden);

# SEEA-AGRI Development Process



- UNCEEA and the LG as forums for review and discussion towards development of SEEA-AGRI
- SEEA-Agri is very important for the development of Vol. 2 of the SEEA because of its strong linkage with Ecosystem accounting.
- Proposed roadmap includes 5 stages in a 2(3) year process
- SEEA-Agri development from current country experiences
- Pilots - Use the available data in FAO to build the accounts for a number of countries and verify therefore what the problems/data gaps are