SYSTEM OF ENVIRONMENTAL-ECONOMIC ACCOUNTING FOR AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES (SEEA-AFF)

STATUS REPORT TO LONDON GROUP
17 OCT 2014
Context

• Aim to provide countries with a tool/approach to organise information to assess the interactions between Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing activities and the Environment

• FAO motivation
  1. Strategic Objective 2: “Increase and improve the provision of goods and services from Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in a sustainable manner.”
  2. Policy issues include food security, sustainable production and rural incomes
  3. Post 2015 agenda & SDG; agri-environmental indicators
  4. Integration of FAO statistics
  5. Advancing conceptual framework for agricultural statistics

• Project supported within the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics.
Progress to date

- Project endorsed by UN Committee of Experts in Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) in 2012: Commenced in June 2013
- Design of the SEEA AFF accounting framework advanced to cover 9 broad data domains
- SEEA AFF database under development drawing data from other FAO datasets
- Ongoing work on SEEA AFF with four pilot countries
- Completion of first draft of SEEA AFF guidelines
- Expert Group Meeting 7/8 October: Focus on policy links & purpose
Analytical & policy themes

• Themes covered by current design
  • Activity / product specific inputs (e.g. input intensity)
  • Food consumption and waste / Food security
  • Biomass extraction and sustainability
  • Cross industry / activity

• Themes that could be covered with some extensions
  • Rural incomes (also links to demographics, gender, health)
  • World trade and global supply chains

• Geo-spatial perspectives
## Data domains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Agricultural production</th>
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<tr>
<td>2. Forestry</td>
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<td>3. Fishing</td>
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<td>4. Water resources</td>
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<td>5. Energy and emissions</td>
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<td>6. Fertilizers and pesticides</td>
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<td>7. Land use and land cover</td>
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<td>8. Soil</td>
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<td>9. Economic data</td>
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Accounting framework

- Basic statistics and data
- Base accounts
- Combined presentations
- Indicators and indicator sets (agri-environmental / SDGs / etc)

SEEA AFF
Pilot country work

- Four pilot countries: Australia, Canada, Guatemala, Indonesia
- Aim to get initial feedback on design, potential usefulness at national level and general feasibility of compilation. Not aimed at full implementation.
- Feedback to date very positive. In all countries SEEA AFF has opened up potential collaborations and policy connections.
- Many data are available, but not all.
- Seek to expand country coverage in next phase
Internal FAO work

- Development of structures for 14 base accounts drawing data from existing FAO databases
- Testing and initial assessment of data coverage and quality
- Generally speaking there are a good range of data available to populate most accounts but more work to do particularly on “environmental variables” (fertilisers, energy, emissions, water, land use, soil)
- Highlights a lack of standardisation across datasets, for example in terms of classifications (e.g. product classifications)
- Preliminary country level combined presentations completed
- Aim to populate all base accounts for one country by end 2014
Next steps

• Revise SEEA AFF and undertake broader, global consultation (mid Nov – mid December)
• Advance development of SEEA AFF database, final report on data coverage and quality (end December)
• SEEA AFF and summary of consultation feedback for discussion at UNSC (Mar 2015)
• Side event on SEEA AFF at UNSC
• Updated SEEA AFF (end March)
• Development of FAO strategy on SEEA AFF (i) testing and implementation at country level; (ii) data work within FAO (incl indicators)
• Ongoing work to articulate links between SEEA AFF and SDG
• Finalise SEEA AFF for potential adoption by UNSC in 2016
Questions and discussion