CountrySTAT
Zambia

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About CountrySTAT

Zambia will soon launch CountrySTAT, a Web-based information technology system for food and agriculture statistics at the national and sub-national level. CountrySTAT provides decision-makers access to statistics across thematic areas such as production, prices, trade and consumption.

This supports analysis, informed policy-making and monitoring with the goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.

Through national and regional CountrySTAT projects, the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the UN forms partnerships with statistical offices and the ministries of agriculture, fisheries and forestry among others to introduce the system and build the national capacity to use it.

CountrySTAT for sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is a project partnership between the FAO country statistics information system and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to substantially improve the quality, accessibility, relevance, and reliability of the national statistics on food and agriculture in 17 sub-Saharan African countries.

These countries are Zambia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda.

Others are Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Mali, Rwanda and Senegal.

Zambia trains CountrySTAT technical personnel

Zambia is ready for the launch of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) CountrySTAT project, after technical personnel drawn from various government institutions and sectors received useful skills and knowledge in the handling and implementation of the project.

The one week training conducted at Chisamba in central province of Zambia will enable participants to set up a CountrySTAT system in their National Statistics Offices.

About 22 trainees who are professionals of National Statistics Office, Ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and economists participated in the training conducted by Yann Laurent, FAO CountrySTAT international consultant.

Yann said in an interview that the training is cardinal, to building capacity to Zambia to produce the required data which is scattered in different institutions.

He said the workshop will enhance skills and knowledge for the participants considering that they are entrusted with the responsibility of collecting data at country level.

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Zambia trains CountrySTAT technical personnel

"The main outcome is unique place in which an end user, anyone who wants to know, to get statistics, data for agriculture in Zambia," Yann said.

He adds that this will also provide an overview of agriculture production in Zambia.

The objective of the training is to provide participants skills and get practice administering CountrySTAT Web sites including back-end preparations.

Depending on the data available, posting to the Zambia website will be done at different intervals (monthly or annually).

Masiliso Sooka, a senior statistician at Zambia's Central Statistics Office (CSO) says the training in was very beneficial as it acted as a refresher course having attended similar courses in Rome.

"CountrySTAT when fully operational will be very beneficial to CSO as a data provider. CSO receives a lot of requests for data from various organizations both locally and internationally including individuals. When fully operational this will reduce the number of clients coming to our offices," Sooka said.

He adds that this will leave CSO with more time to concentrate on providing quality and timely data.

He however said that challenges at the moment is that despite there being a lot of data most of the data are not in the same formats because CountrySTAT requires that the data should in a certain format for it to be uploaded.

Among the institutions who participated are the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Central Statistics Office, Zambia Agriculture Research Institute and the Department of Livestock and Fisheries Development.

Michael Isimwaa, (left) CountrySTAT Zambia cordinator mentoring workshop participants

UN statistics moves to fight hunger in Zambia

In a bid to help fight hunger in Zambia, a well coordinated Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) CountrySTAT project is set to change access to statistics for improved analysis, decision-making and efficient monitoring of the agriculture sector in Zambia and 16 other sub-Saharan African were it enjoys presence.

It will harmonize and integrate national data on food and agriculture within and between government institutions through the implementation of a centralized and standardized database framework, data and exchange platform for the southern African country.

In so doing, it will facilitate planning and decision-making by policy makers and analysts, particularly in the push to reduce hunger and poverty.

Davy Simumba, principal agriculture research officer at the Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI) says the project will greatly assist his organisation to properly document information on plant import permits issued on a monthly basis, plant varieties and seed certificates properly.

Mweemba Chijoka, a fisheries statistician at the department of Fisheries at the ministry of agriculture says the programme is very beneficial and will help in decision-making because of the availability and accessibility of the much needed information.

"It will give ordinary people an idea of the potential of the fisheries sector, such as how much we are able to export.

In terms of reducing hunger and poverty, it will motivate decision-makers because they will have all the information on their finger tips," Mr Chijoka said.

In the short term, the beneficiaries of the CountrySTAT programme are users of food and agriculture statistics who will have easy access to standardized, quality statistics.

Africa's poverty fight boosted by UN data, information project

I am happy to share with you information on an ambitious UN project, CountrySTAT, which is expected to revolutionise access to statistics for improved analysis, decision-making and monitoring.

CountrySTAT is a Web-based information technology system for food and agricultural statistics at the national and sub-national levels.

It gives decision-makers access to statistics across thematic areas such as production, prices, trade and consumption which supports analysis, informed policy-making and monitoring, with the goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.

Through national and regional CountrySTAT projects, the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the UN forms partnerships with statistical offices and the ministries of agriculture, fisheries and forestry, among others, to introduce the system and build national capacity to use it.

In each country, the national Government makes a substantial contribution to ensure its deployment and continued training and maintenance.

CountrySTAT for sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is a project partnership between the FAO country statistics information system and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, intended to substantially improve the quality, accessibility, relevance and reliability of the national statistics on food and agriculture in 17 sub-Saharan African countries.

The countries are Zambia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda.

Others are Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Mali, Rwanda and Senegal.

The idea is to harmonise and integrate sub-national data on food and agriculture within and between these countries, through

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the implementation of a centralised and standardised database framework, data exchange platform and set of analysis tools.

In so doing, it will facilitate planning and decision-making by policy makers and analysts, particularly in the push to reduce hunger and poverty.

CountrySTAT is a statistical and technical framework to organise, harmonise and synchronise data collections in food and agriculture for informed analysis and policy making.

Its goals and objectives are; to bring about accelerated reduction in hunger and poverty through more productive and sustainable agriculture and build an effective programme for handling interconnected statistical information and visual indicators on food and agriculture at sub-national, national, and international levels in line with the

world food summit and Millennium Development Goals, especially in the context of reducing extreme poverty and hunger.

In the short term, the beneficiaries of the CountrySTAT programme are users of food and agricultural statistics who will have easy access to standardised quality statistics. Producers of food and agricultural statistics can harmonise and smoothly publish their national and sub-national statistics.

In the medium term, decision makers will have standardised statistics as a basis for evidence-based, successful analysis and policy-making, while in the long term, small-scale farmers will have improved investment, production and marketing regulations, as a result of improved policy decisions.

Consumers, women, youth and the rural poor will benefit from the improved and affordable national food supply.

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Consumers, women, youth, and rural poor shall benefit from the improved and affordable national food supply.

Sitwala Wamunyima, an extension officer at Zambia's forestry department says his office is delighted about CountrySTAT because information from the department like on total area of vegetation, total forestry for each province in the country and agro ecological zone.

Dingiswayo Banda, a senior economist in the Policy and Planning Department of the ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives is confident the programme is going to improve on wider and efficient dissemination of agricultural statistics.

Mr Banda says "the programme will also help to make information available to ordinary people, more importantly, for farmers to access market information."

"In terms of reducing hunger and poverty, it will provide information on key food security indicators at national, provincial and district levels. It will therefore contribute to achieving the MDG on reducing hunger and poverty," he said.

CountrySTAT for sub-Saharan Africa is a special, privately-funded project within the FAO country statistics information system, to substantially improve the quality, accessibility, relevance and reliability of national statistics on food and agriculture in the 17 SSA countries.

As such, it will facilitate planning and decision-making by policy makers and analysts, particularly in the fight against hunger and poverty.

The programme will help Zambia to address food security and achieve its goal of reducing hunger and poverty, through improved access to statistics for analysis and decision-making.

It will therefore contribute to the country's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of reducing hunger and poverty, which is also central in both the Sixth National Development Plan (SNDP) and Vision 2030.

As Mweemba Chijoka, a fisheries statistician put it, the programme is 'very beneficial' and will help in decision-making because of the availability and accessibility of the much-needed information.

"It will give ordinary people an idea of the potential of the fisheries sector, such as how much we are able to export.

In terms of reducing hunger and poverty, it will motivate decision makers because they will have all the information on their fingertips," Mr Chijoka says.

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Mr Banda says: "The programme will also help to make information available to ordinary people, more importantly for farmers to access market information.

"In terms of reducing hunger and poverty, it will provide information on key food security indicators at national, provincial and district levels." It is always said that information is power. The CountrySTAT programme provides the power needed by policy makers to make informed decisions in order to improve food security and reduce hunger and poverty.

CountrySTAT provides the much-needed information.

Courtesy: Zambia Daily Mail