

WHAT IS CountrySTAT?



HAVE A PROBLEM? Here's a solution



CountrySTAT outputs

CountrySTAT IS A NATIONAL STATISTICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.

The system harmonizes and integrates data on food and agriculture coming from different sources. Through a core database, policy makers and researchers can group data across thematic areas – such as production, trade and consumption – in order to study relationships and processes.

FAO forms partnerships with national statistical offices and ministries of agriculture to introduce the system and build national capacity to use it. In each country, the national government makes a substantial contribution to deployment, maintenance and training. In 2005, FAO's Statistics Division introduced CountrySTAT in Ghana, Kenya and Kyrgyzstan. Many other developing and developed countries* have shown an interest in adopting it.

* Algeria, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Panama, Philippines, Sudan, Swaziland, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Technical NOTE

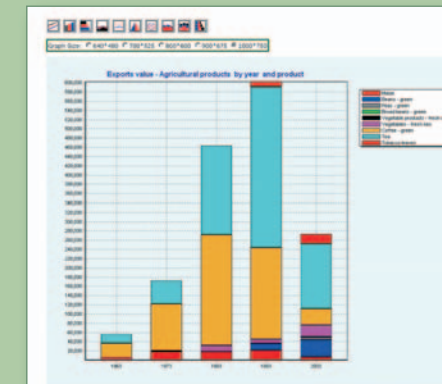
CountrySTAT can operate in many popular formats: HTML, XML, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Access, Comma-Separated-Value (CSV) files and others. It is Internet based so there is no need to build costly new computer networks to link government offices. The engine that powers the system is called PC-Axis. Owned by Statistics Sweden, it has been used for many years in Nordic and other countries. FAO developed CountrySTAT using the PC-Axis software components to match the needs of developing countries.



In **country A**, a researcher in the Ministry of Agriculture wants to conduct a livestock survey. Since he can't survey every village, he needs to choose representative villages. But the demographic, economic and market information he needs for his calculations is compiled by another ministry. He logs on to CountrySTAT, which links databases from all government ministries, and finds what he needs.

In **country B**, a policy maker is studying market prices for fruit and vegetables produced on small-scale farms. She needs road and transportation data, but the statistician in charge of that data in another ministry is known as an "information gatekeeper", someone reluctant to share information. FAO has found that this problem diminishes when CountrySTAT unifies all the ministries. Why? A culture of sharing evolves in which even "information gatekeepers" have something to gain – access to others' statistics that they may need for their own calculations. The system even gives them credit for their work.

In **country C**, the trade minister reads a report on the booming global cut flower market. He asks the agriculture minister if the region near the international airport is good for growing flowers. The latter asks his policy section for a snap report not only on land, labour, input, water and transport requirements for flowers, but on flower production and export information for other countries in the region. Researchers find all the data they need for their calculations in CountrySTAT – and in FAOSTAT, the global database designed to be compatible with its national counterpart (see back cover).



Crop yield by region, item and year					
1999 2000 2001 2002 2003					
Upper East	Wheat	13,554	94,766	40,207	65,444
	Rice, Paddy	0,167	19,108	38,832	73,548
	Maize	30,491	35,822	19,453	8,757
	Sorghum	8,964	72,659	16,409	69,687
Upper West	Wheat	49,511	67,043	11,093	89,542
	Rice, Paddy	70,342	76,983	44,309	5,348
	Maize	22,801	57,816	68,479	67,289
	Sorghum	13,165	32,786	38,042	3,352
Northern	Wheat	37,791	16,935	24,427	38,621
	Rice, Paddy	56,035	18,708	54,821	42,168
	Maize	34,551	64,577	23,566	23,267
	Sorghum	21,611	53,406	40,020	91,683
Brong Ahafo	Wheat	18,999	73,913	97,857	42,203
	Rice, Paddy	19,522	50,231	33,167	67,317
	Maize	81,475	52,007	30,855	70,629

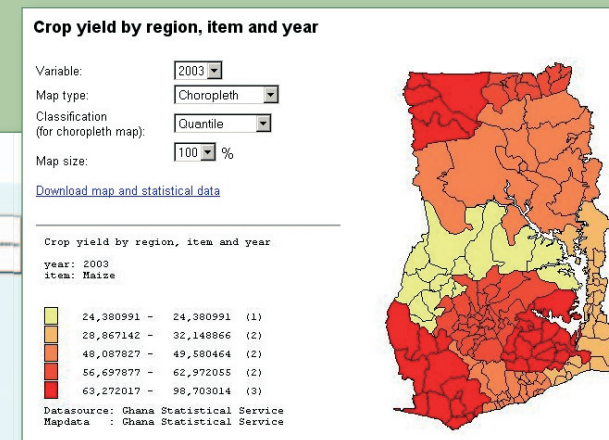
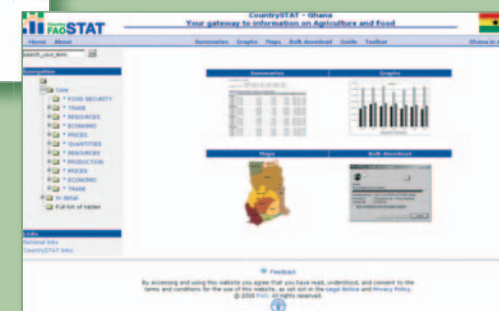


Table: Crop yield by region, item and year. Unit: kg/Ha		
region	item	year
Total: 11 Selected: 1	Total: 7 Selected: 5	Total: 5 Selected: 3
Brong Ahafo	Wheat	1999
Volta	Rice, Paddy	2000
Ashanti	Sorghum	2001
Eastern	Maize	2002
Western	Wheat	2003
Central	Rice, Paddy	
Greater Accra	Sorghum	



FIVE ADVANTAGES of CountrySTAT

It provides a **SOUND BASIS FOR POLICY DECISIONS** in food and agriculture.

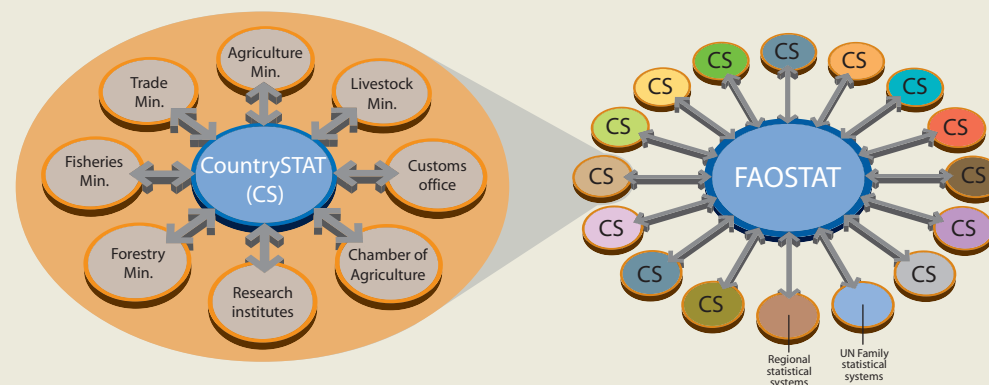
It groups existing **NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS** under one umbrella.

It organizes even **COMPLEX DATA** in seconds.

It is **INTERNET BASED**.

It has already been **TESTED AND REFINED** by many advanced countries.

How CountrySTAT works with FAOSTAT



**ALTHOUGH CountrySTAT IS
PRIMARILY FOR NATIONAL
STATISTICAL WORK,**

it is compatible with and feeds information
into FAOSTAT, the world's largest food and

agriculture database, covering more than 200 countries and territories.

By adopting CountrySTAT, countries will improve FAOSTAT's capacity to provide high-quality statistical data at the international level. It also promotes exchange of data within countries, between countries, and between FAO and countries. Everyone wins.

Increasing regional and international trade means that policy makers always have one eye on what agricultural commodities their competitors are producing, for home consumption or for export. A dynamic CountrySTAT-FAOSTAT "super system" will help countries identify emerging markets and opportunities.

For further information, contact:

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CountrySTAT

AN **INTEGRATED SYSTEM** FOR NATIONAL
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE STATISTICS



- EASY TO USE AND UPGRADE
- AFFORDABLE
- A SOUND BASIS FOR POLICY CALCULATIONS
- FACILITATES SHARING AMONG DATA OWNERS

