

## What is CountrySTAT?

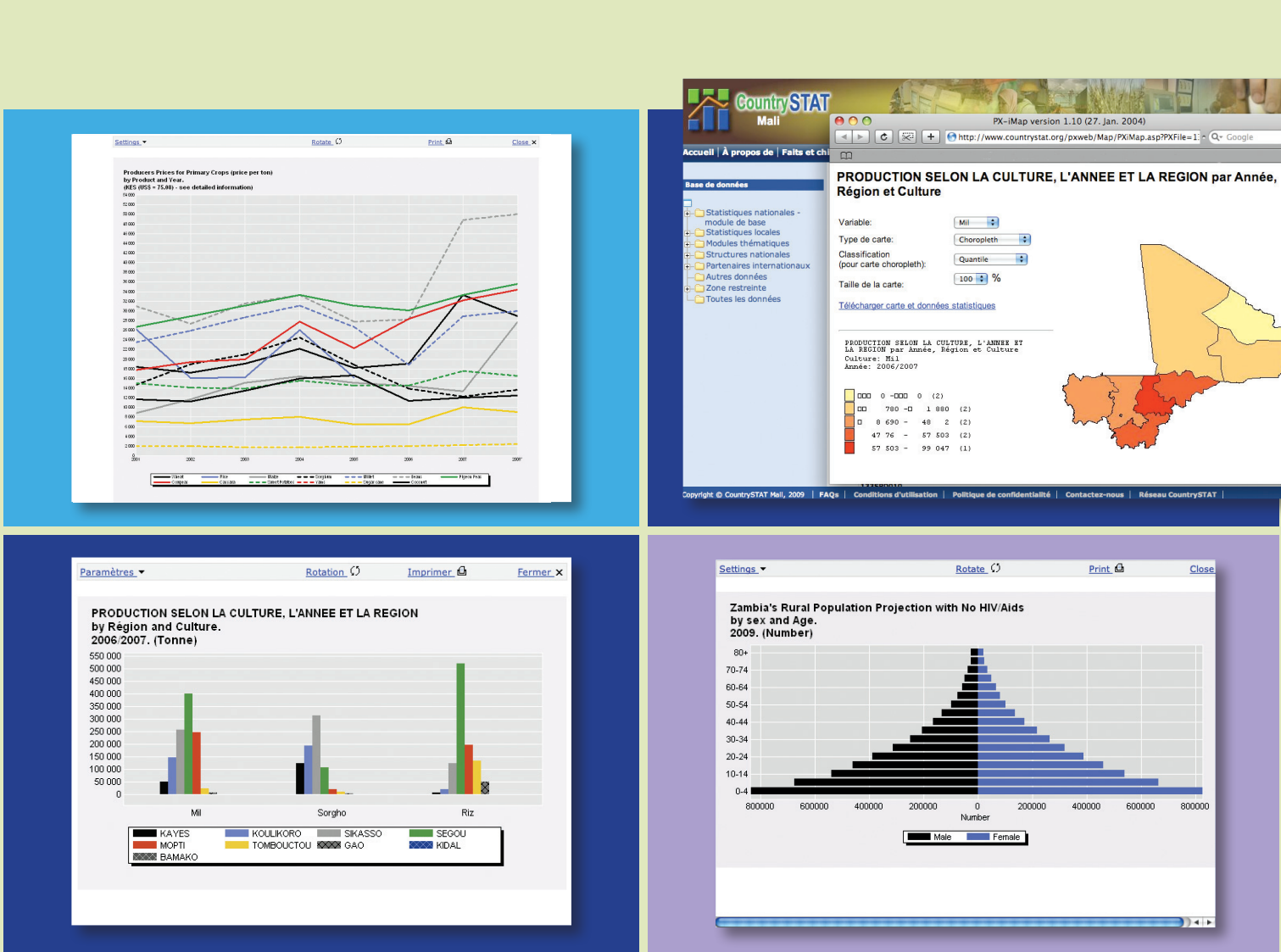
CountrySTAT is a Web-based information technology system for food and agriculture statistics at the national and subnational levels. It provides decision-makers access to statistics across thematic areas such as production, prices, trade and consumption. This supports analysis, informed policy-making and monitoring with the goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.

Through national and regional CountrySTAT projects, FAO 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. In each country, the national government makes a substantial contribution to ensure its deployment and continued training and maintenance.

Since 2005, FAO's Statistics Division has introduced CountrySTAT in over 20 countries in Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.\*

\* Algeria, Angola, Arab Organization for Agriculture Development, Argentina, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Palestine, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, West African Economic and Monetary Union, Zambia

## CountrySTAT outputs



## CountrySTAT success stories

### THE PHILIPPINES

CountrySTAT has taken off in the Philippines where the government now funds and maintains the system. The Philippines' Bureau of Agricultural Statistics acts as the umbrella organization over nine statistical authorities. Since CountrySTAT's adoption, data from 1990 onward are available and updated monthly. By strengthening the national statistical system, farmers and policy-makers can track current prices at the farm gate and at wholesale and retail markets. What's more – the Philippines now provides its expertise to other developing nations.



### BHUTAN

Bhutan – located in the heart of Asia – was until recently one of the most isolated nations in the world. With CountrySTAT, its data collection and diffusion are entirely self-managed; the country's data are now available online and can also be shared with other nations. They are now looking for new activities to broaden and deepen CountrySTAT's potential within the country. What began as a tiny venture is now a fully operational nationally and internationally recognized project that is owned and maintained by the national authorities.

### TOGO

The West African Economic and Monetary Union believed so strongly in CountrySTAT that it provided its own funding of US\$1 million to insure the involvement of Togo, Niger and Guinea Bissau. After training by FAO, Togo now reports food and agriculture statistics to RegionSTAT UEMOA and FAOSTAT. A FAOSTAT team has reviewed the data and found them to be error free, proving that Internet data are as accurate as data collected through lengthy questionnaires. Developing countries may find CountrySTAT puts a nation on the radar of national, regional and donor community decision-makers as it provides the needed criteria to judge interventions for fostering food security.



### BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso is poised to benefit from its implementation of CountrySTAT. Through the country's Ministry of Agriculture, 22 government institutions have been brought together to discuss food and agriculture statistics and create a CountrySTAT Technical Working Group. The group now meets regularly to work on issues of data quality and accessibility, fully engaging the national institutions in the common goal of sustainable, improved access to statistical data.



# CountrySTAT

For successful policy-making

## How the CountrySTAT network functions

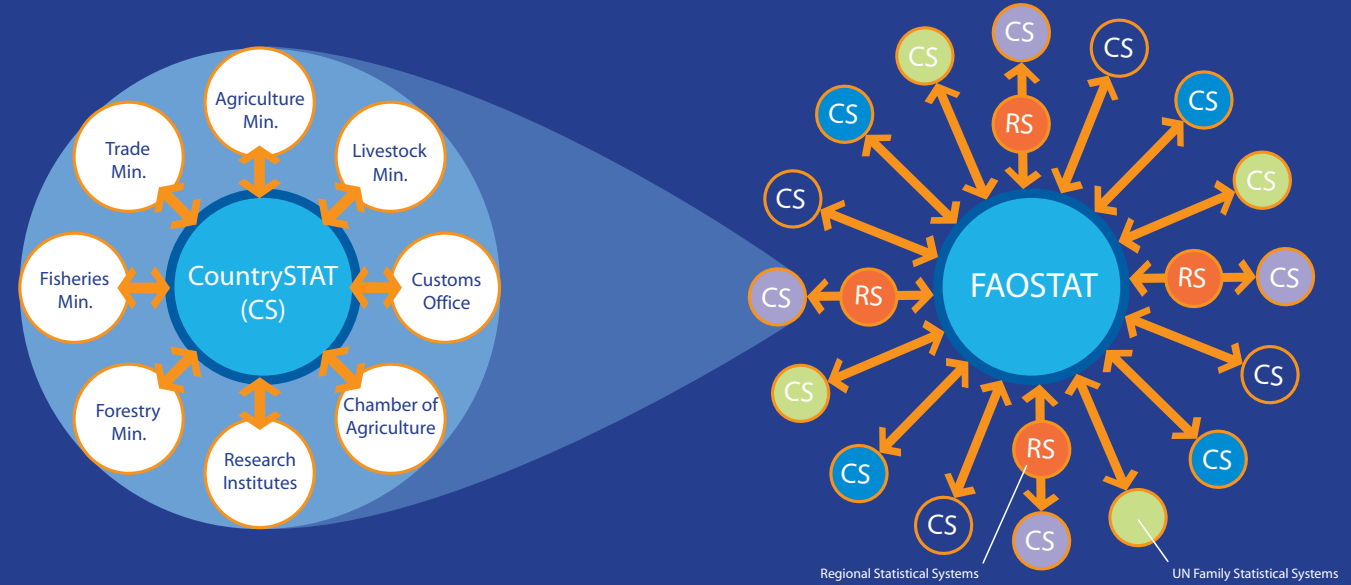


CountrySTAT is primarily for national statistical work and is compatible with FAOSTAT, the world's largest food and agriculture database covering more than 200 countries and territories. CountrySTAT is also compatible with RegionSTAT, an intermediate version of the system typically owned by regional organizations, which are mandated to check quality and coordinate national statistics.

Countries that adopt CountrySTAT will see data and analysis quality improve, for example, in the case of food balance sheets and food security analysis. Dialogue between national stakeholders will be fostered through subnational collaboration and facilitated institutional capacity building. Lengthy statistical questionnaires from international organizations will be replaced with direct Internet reporting using cutting edge data harvesting technology. Statistics will be available instantly via the Internet for machine and human reading.

Merging this data means that regional and international trade will be highlighted to policy-makers, allowing them to constantly monitor the markets. A dynamic CountrySTAT-FAOSTAT global network assists countries in the utilization of CountrySTAT for evidence-based policy- and decision-making.

### HOW THE GLOBAL NETWORK FUNCTIONS



### Seven advantages of CountrySTAT

- improves access to national and subnational statistics;
- easily links to other information systems including FAOSTAT, RegionSTAT and the Global Information and Early Warning System Work Station;
- provides quality through international standards and statistical frameworks;
- easy to maintain for owners, easy to access for users – three clicks to your data;
- creates a CountrySTAT reference group of government ministries, technical ministries and national statistical offices;
- provides standardized data for the calculation of supply utilization accounts and food balance sheets;
- monitors national and regional food security programmes.

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### AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM FOR NATIONAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

- Improved access to statistics
- Facilitates exchange of data and metadata
- Promotes international standards
- Easy to maintain, easy to use – three clicks to your data
- Supports evidence-based policy-making
- Monitors progress towards Millennium Development Goals and World Food Summit goals



EUROPEAN UNION, BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION, COOPERAZIONE ITALIANA, ARAB ORGANIZATION FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, FAO NETHERLANDS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME, WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION.

The following groups are financial partners, who along with the national and regional authorities of involved countries, support CountrySTAT: