

Recent work of the Conference of European Statisticians

Meeting on statistical methodology (Geneva, 21–24 November 1983)

The meeting considered linkage of data from different sources, interdependencies of survey data and other statistics, the methodology of panel surveys, non-response problems, draft guidelines for quality presentations, and the use of telephone and face-to-face interview techniques for collecting statistics. An amended set of draft guidelines for preparing presentations of the scope and quality of statistics for users was drawn up for adoption by the Conference and subsequent use by national statistical offices in the ECE region.

Meeting on statistics of water use and quality (Geneva, 12–14 December 1983)

The meeting exchanged views on the recently adopted ECE draft standard international classification of water use and quality, in particular the need for an early revision of the quality part of the classification and its use for statistics at different geographical levels. Furthermore, the meeting discussed the implication of the ecosystem approach to the classification of water quality, as well as national practices in this field. The deliberations of the meeting resulted in a set of recommendations for further work by Conference in this field.

Publication of the European Handbook of Economic Accounts for Agriculture (Conference of European Statisticians, Statistical Standards and Studies – No. 35, United Nations, New York, 1983)

The economic accounts and related tables, including the methodology of their construction, are intended to provide a coherent framework to record data relating to the economic results of agricultural production. The methodology for compiling agricultural accounts is derived from the two basic systems on national accounts and balances, viz. the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS).

The European Handbook consists of three parts. In Part I a description is given of the main aspects of SNA and MPS, inasmuch as they are relevant to the derivation of the Economic Accounts for Agriculture. In Part II the system of Economic Accounts for Agriculture and the relationships between its constituent

parts are shown. Part III provides a set of worksheet tables for the compilation of the various components of the accounts. At present, only the accounts for (i) production, (ii) income generation and (iii) capital formation are elaborated in detail. Those relating to (iv) income distribution, (v) capital finance, and possibly (vi) balance sheets are only presented in a general form and without specific recommendations.

The European Handbook of Economic Accounts for Agriculture is available in English, French and Russian.