

Mission report

Subject	10th International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS X)
Place and dates	Krakow, Poland – from 8 to 10 July 2026
ICO staff member	• Dock No, Statistical Coordinator • Alexander Rocos, Associate Statistician
Purpose of travel	• Participate in the 10th International Conference on Agricultural Statistics to identify methodological innovations and good practices relevant to improving ICO coffee statistics.
Five-Year Action Plan/Programme of Activities relevance	Five-Year Action Plan • Strategic Goal I: Delivering world-class data, analysis and information to the industry and policymakers. A – Priority actions to improve raw data collection, storage and handling • Improve data management (e.g. upgrade IT solutions for data management and related internal processes) in order to increase efficiency of data input, handling, storage and dissemination. • Reinforce the linkage to national statistics institutions in charge of data collection and, where necessary, identify alternative sources of data and explore a wider range of sources of information when gaps appear in the Organization’s statistical coverage. • Establish a robust approach with commonly agreed framework and indicators for assessing and improving the adequacy of the statistical data collected by the ICO to ensure: ○ Quality (timely, accurate, consistent). ○ Comprehensiveness (relevance of variables collected). B – Priority actions to disseminate statistical data and analytics • Strengthen partnerships with other organizations (FAO, UNCTAD, IFAD, etc.) to conduct economic analyses, as well as creating and sharing of knowledge. Results and Deliverables from the Programme of Activities (PoA): • Achieve timely data compilation, improving access and dissemination • Improve methodologies for estimation • Collection, exchange and publication of statistical and technical information • Providing statistics to Members as they request them

	• Elaboration and implementation of statistics and economic research related to new segments of the market • Developing and implementing new information/data dashboards for Members, toolkits • Maintenance and upgrading of all databases, tools, software, API, automated access to data, back-ups and reports
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OVERVIEW

1. The International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS) is a premier global forum dedicated to fostering and leveraging best practices, research, and innovation to meet the evolving needs of agricultural statistics. ICAS brings together producers and users of agricultural data, including national statistical offices, international agencies, academics, and private-sector actors, to share operational successes and explore the latest methodological developments.

2. The 10th edition of the conference was hosted by Statistics Poland, in coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and under the aegis of the Committee on Agricultural Statistics of the International Statistical Institute.

3. The theme of the ICAS X was “Innovative Data Approaches: Shaping Resilient and Sustainable Agri-Food Systems in the Digital Age”, and the three days conference comprised:

- (a) 60 sessions;
- (b) 177 speakers;
- (c) 195 papers/presentations (82 papers were made available); and
- (d) Four panel discussions.

4. The Statistics Section attended the ICAS X as non-speaking delegates to:

- (a) Ascertain the best practices, research, and innovation of national and international organizations to meet the evolving needs of agricultural statistics;
- (b) Benchmark the Section’s current practices against leading approaches; and,
- (c) Develop contacts with agricultural/general statistics organizations to assist with coffee statistics of the Section.

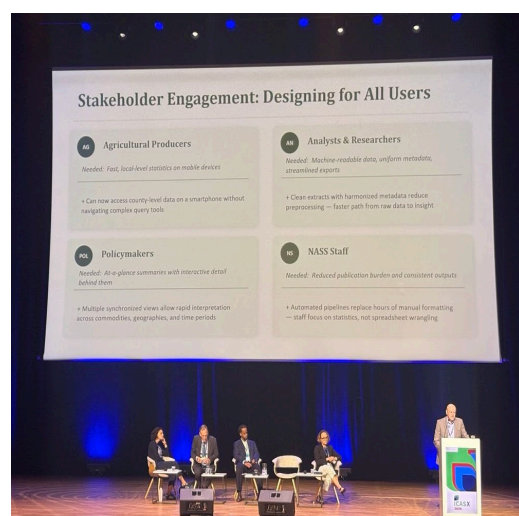
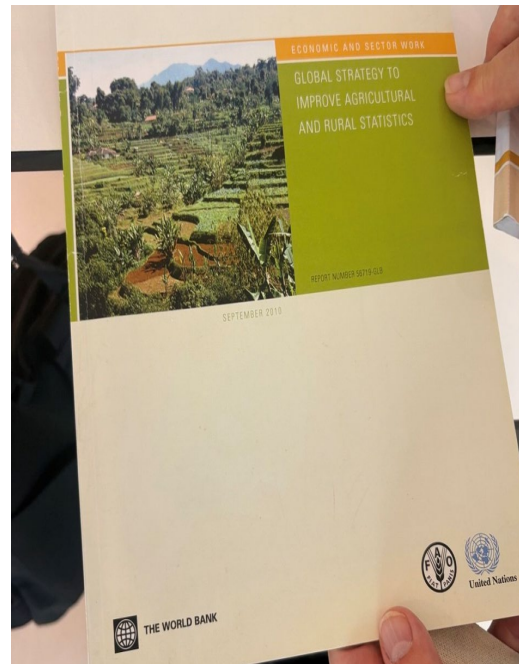
5. The Statistics Section attended sessions deemed most relevant to achieving the aims of this mission and subsequently took part in 27 sessions, including a training course on the practical use of earth observation data for official statistics (full list available in **Annex I**).

CONCLUSIONS/MAIN OUTCOMES

1. The future of agricultural statistics is the integration of traditional surveys with new technologies, rather than replacing established methods.
2. The most important condition for improving statistical outputs is to continue to invest in the existing infrastructure and staff's skills, provide exposure to new methodologies, and engage with the international statistical community.
3. Technology and new data sources can enhance statistics, but their successful adoption depends on staff capacity, expertise, and collaboration.

Main Implications for the ICO

1. **ICO is the authoritative global source** of coffee statistics and related methodologies related to coffee statistics.
2. **Maintain official Member-reported data as the foundation** of ICO statistics, while building the team's capacity to assess, validate, and integrate new data sources to improve coverage, quality, and timeliness.
3. **Invest in the Statistics Team** as the primary driver of improved ICO statistics. Exposure to emerging approaches at ICAS X highlighted the growing importance of skills in remote sensing, geospatial analysis, AI, data science, and data integration alongside traditional statistical expertise.
4. **Apply lessons learned from ICAS X** by exploring how Earth observation, administrative data, and innovative statistical methods can complement official coffee statistics, while ensuring outputs remain grounded in robust statistical principles.
5. **Strengthen partnerships and knowledge exchange** with leading organizations and experts encountered during ICAS X to access methodologies, technical assistance, and training opportunities that can support the modernisation of ICO statistics.



LIST OF EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE STATISTICAL COORDINATOR AND ASSOCIATE STATISTICIAN

Wednesday 8 July 2026

- Welcome and opening sessions
- Keynote speech
- Back to the Roots: Statistics and the Sciences of Agriculture (panel)
- Data-Driven Innovations to Enhance Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability
- Developing Entry-level Agricultural Statisticians and Agricultural Data Scientists around the World for the Digital Age
- Potential and Limits of New Technologies for Agricultural Statistics
- The New 2030 Agriculture Census Round
- Assessing Data Quality in Statistics
- Markets, Trade, and Value Chains
- Combining Statistics, Administrative Data and Earth Observation to Improve Agricultural Statistics in a Period of Profound Turbulence (panel)

Thursday 9th July 2026

- Climate, Agrifood Systems, and Trade
- Improving Crop Yield and Assessment Measures
- S*M*A*R*T* Ways to Collect Data for Agricultural Statistics
- 50x2030 in Practice: Country Innovations in Agricultural Data Systems
- Earth Observation in Official Agricultural Statistics: Methods, Validation and Integration
- Artificial Intelligence for Agricultural Statistics: Innovations in Indicators, Geospatial Methods, and Predictive Analytics
- Evaluating How Well Our Efforts are Working
- Machine Learning and Modelling Data
- Geospatial Data in Agricultural Statistics: Applications, Challenges and Developments
- Advances in Data and Technology to Better Understand Shocks and Risks to Food Systems and the Impact on Markets, Production, and Consumption

Friday 10th July 2026

- Training Course on Practical Use of Earth Observation Data for Official Statistics provided by Statistics Poland
- Data Dissemination and Official Statistics: Informing Data Users
- Census and Survey Data Collection and Statistics
- Measuring Crop Area
- Adapting Agricultural Statistics Curricula to Digitalisation and New Data Sources
- Digital Transformation in Agriculture: Data Systems, Skills, and Governance
- Closing Session