

Standardization & Balancing Commodity Tree dataset content and usage in the Food Balance Sheet framework

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Abstract

This vignette provides a description of the **Commodity Tree** dataset: it plays a key role in the Standardization and Balancing and has been completely renewed in the new Food Balancing Framework. A description is given in this document, functional to the Standardization and Balancing Process.

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Disclaimer

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This paper is dynamically generated on June 7, 2018 and is subject to changes and updates.

The Food Balance Sheet Framework

Definitions

A food balance sheet can be defined as an aggregated and analytical data set that “presents a comprehensive picture of the pattern of a country’s food supply during a specified reference period.”¹ FBS are presented as products accounts, where the quantities allocated to all the sources of total supply must be equal to the quantities allocated to all the sources of utilization. This balance is compiled for every food item consumed within a country at primary commodity equivalent basis, and all of the primary commodity equivalent balances are then combined into a single overall FBS. FBSs are, then, expressed in terms of per capita supply for each food item by dividing by the country’s population, with the per capita supplies being expressed both in terms of quantity and, through the application of food conversion factors, in terms of caloric value, protein, and fat content. These per capita estimates of caloric value for individual food products are then summed to obtain the total daily per capita Dietary Energy Supply (DES) of a country.

¹For this definition and a more extended description of the motivation behind the development of FBS, see FAO, 2001, *Food Balance Sheets: A Handbook*, available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/X9892E/X9892E00.HTM>. Accessed on 19 January 2017.