



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

JOINT MEETING

**Hundred and Sixteenth Session of the Programme Committee and
Hundred and Fifty-sixth Session of the Finance Committee**

Rome, 5 November 2014

Progress Report on Language Balance in FAO's products

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

Mr Mario Lubetkin
Director, Office for Corporate Communication (OCC)
Tel. (06) 570-54595

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;
a FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications.
Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org*



m1868e

1. The aim of this document is to provide the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees a progress report on language balance in FAO's products further to review of the Programme Implementation Report 2012-13¹ (PIR) in May 2014.
2. PIR Annex 2: FAO language policy of the Programme Implementation Report reported the following summary of progress on language balance through the end of 2013:

Publications

451. *During 2012-13, a total of 1 745 publications in FAO languages was prepared for release, representing a 38 percent increase over the 1 269 in the previous biennium. Of the total, 53 percent were in English, 12 percent in French, 15 percent in Spanish, 5 percent in Arabic, 3 percent in Russian and 3 percent in Chinese (including those funded by the Chinese Publications Programme). The remaining 9 percent was issued in multiple language versions. Given the importance that the Organization attributes to publications, in 2013 the new publications policy was put in place to better target FAO publications to the key audiences.*

Electronic material

452. *The language coverage of FAO.org improved substantially during 2012-13 thanks to the launch of the new FAO.org Web site in June 2013, which features all new content produced in the languages of the Organization. Regarding the FAO Document Repository, efforts were made to increase the coverage of publications prepared in decentralized offices. As a result, it now contains more than 59 000 documents in various languages. The breakdown by languages is 42 percent in English, 21 percent in French, 18 percent in Spanish, 9 percent in Arabic, 8 percent in Chinese and 2 percent in Russian.*

3. As a result of the consolidation of the Publishing Policy and Support Group into the Office for Corporate Communication (OCC) in 2013, there is now a new drive to give FAO's publication products higher and more balanced language coverage considering that publishing: a) is an integral part of the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization; b) constitutes a major activity for professional staff at headquarters and in decentralized offices; c) underpins FAO's core functions; and d) makes a significant contribution to the achievement of the Organization's goals and Strategic Objectives.
4. As reported during to the Joint Meeting in May 2014,² considerable efforts continue to be made, *inter alia* through establishing partnerships that will ensure the long-term sustainability of improved language coverage. These efforts include, for the following languages:
 - a) **Chinese:** FAO has been coordinating closely with the Centre of International Cooperation Service (CICOS), Ministry of Agriculture in the People's Republic of China, to upgrade FAO's Chinese publications programme; as a result 15 publications have been completed in Chinese language as of August 2014 and 18 publications are currently in the process of being developed;
 - b) **Russian:** an FAO delegation attended the Moscow International Book Fair during September 2014 in order to identify both commercial and institutional publishers that could support FAO in facilitating the cost-effective production of Russian language publications, and in disseminating these publications to FAO's intended target audiences;
 - c) **Arabic:** the Organization is working with other UN agencies to identify companies that can provide services at reduced costs to increase the number of publications produced in Arabic while maintaining high-quality standards; as a result, a worldwide request for proposals is being issued to build a roster of service providers;
 - d) **Spanish, French:** a new framework agreement was negotiated with the International Training Centre for ILO (ITC-ILO) to provide services for the cost-efficient production to support FAO

¹ C 2015/8 www.fao.org/pir

² CL 149/6 para. 2.g)

in increasing its publication outputs in these two languages; as a result of this effort, the number of publications in French and Spanish at the end of August 2014 was already higher than in 2012 or 2013.

5. FAO is also undertaking efforts to improve the electronic dissemination of its publications. In addition to producing more publications in all FAO languages, the FAO Document Repository has been revamped and was launched in May 2014, and now includes 61 000 documents and publications available in FAO languages.

6. The above shows a clear commitment of the Organization to improve the language balance of FAO products in a sustainable way and in the long term. The results of these efforts will be reported to the membership in the appropriate documentation to members.