Annex 19

Numerical conventions, weights and measures

Numerical Conventions

In the final CFSAM report text and summary tables all data should be rounded at least to the nearest thousand metric tons. The standard textual numerical conventions are:

1 000 tons - 99 000 tonnes

100 000 tons - 999 000 tonnes

1.xx - 99.xx million tonnes (rounded to the nearest ten thousand)

100 - 999 million tonnes

Avoid the use of other notations - like "100,000" which can cause confusion.

Note that rounding of data should occur only in the final summary tables. To avoid rounding errors keep all disaggregated data unrounded (to the nearest ton). If rounding commands are used on data imported from a spreadsheet, you should check that the rounded figures add up to the totals: if they do not, the table should be foot-noted *"totals computed from unrounded data"*

Measurement and Conversion Factors

In countries where the mission is not sure of the conversion of local weights and measures into the metric system, refer to "World Weight and Measures: Handbook for Statisticians" FAO (1955)

All planted area estimates should be in hectares 1 hectare = 10 000 m^2.

All yield estimates should be in kilogrammes or tonnes per hactare and refer to the whole grain. Country specific paddy/rice and grain/flour conversion rates are available from the latest version of Food Balance Sheets and Per Caput Food Supplies, FAO. Note that both milled and paddy weights are included in the NFBS for rice. Tables including rice data should always specify whether they refer to milled or paddy. Where data on grains is available on bunker and dry weights, use dry weights. The absolute maximum foreign matter and water content should be 15 percent of total weight. Do not convert yield estimates into dry weights unless there is strong information on water and foreign matter and the official time-series data has been converted into dry weights. Roots and tuber data should be in cereal equivalent or in dry rather than fresh weights.

When prices are quoted, the dollar value at the official exchange rate at the time of the price observation should be quoted in parentheses: e.g. (£ 1.00 = US$ 2.20 on 14 February 1995). If prices or other values are base-year adjusted, the base year should be cited e.g. US$ 120 (1985=100).

Crop Production Aggregation

The aggregation of production weights across food types is problematic if roots and tubers with low carbohydrate contents are aggregated with pulses and cereals. If comparisons are made between new year and historic production of all food crops, the usual convention is to calculate total production in cereal equivalents (of the most

commonly consumed cereal) and to compare total cereal equivalent production in the new year with the equivalent calculations for past years. GIEWS uses the following cereal equivalent for the selected commodities.

Table 1: **Cereal (and maize) equivalent of selected crops based on FAO's calorie content of selected foods (in terms of retail weight "as purchased")**

Crop	Calories per 100 gm	Maize equivalent	Cereal equivalent	Approximate CE factors*
Wheat Average	333			
Medium wheat whole meal or flour	334			
Hard wheat whole meal or flour	332			
Soft wheat whole meal or flour	333			
Rice Average	359			
Husked or brown	357			
Home pounded	359			
Milled, white	360			
Maize Average	360	1,00		
Grain or whole meal	356			
Meal, coarse, bolted	360			
Meal, fine, bolted & degerminated	363			
Barley	332			
Sorghum	343			
Ragi millet	332			
Pearl millet	348			
Cereals (Average of wheat, rice, maize, barley, sorghum, millets)	344		1,00	
Potatoes	70	0,19	0,20	0,20
Sweet Potatoes	97	0,27	0,28	0,28
Cassava Average	109	0,30	0,32	0,32
Banana	67	0,19	0,19	0,20
Plantains	75	0,21	0,22	0,22
Yam	90	0,25	0,26	0,26

Source of FAO's Food Composition Tables for International Use - www.fao.org/docrep/x5557e/x5557e04.htm

* Note: Cereal equivalent in each country may differ somewhat depending on the dominent varieties.

If the mission wishes to make general observations on trends in total crop production (including non-food crops) aggregates should be expressed in value terms, using a constant price index. Quantity weighted price indices should be calculated using a standard procedure such as the Laspreye, Paasche or Fisher index.