

Proposals for the classification of occupations in agriculture, forestry and fisheries in ISCO-08

1 In the current edition of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-88), occupations related to agriculture, forestry and fisheries can be found in major groups 1, 2, 3 6, 8 and 9. The first questionnaire on updating ISCO-88 sought advice about difficulties in distinguishing between agricultural occupations in Major groups 1, 6 and 9, the need for further disaggregation of some or all of these groups, in particular Sub-major group 62 subsistence agricultural and fishery workers.

2 Based on responses to the questionnaire, submissions from interested parties, discussions among experts in occupation classification and examination of occupational data from a number of countries, it can be concluded that there are a number of problems with the way ISCO-88 is currently structured and used. In particular:

- The distinction between Unit groups 1221, Production and operations department managers and 1311 General managers in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing is not particularly useful and is difficult to make in practice;
- The distinction between Farm managers classified in Major group 1 and Market oriented skilled agricultural workers in Minor group 61 is seen as important and useful but is difficult to make in practice with respect to owner operators of farms. There is a considerable variation in practice in national occupation classifications and a wide variation in the size and methods of organisation of agricultural establishments around the World. It may not be possible to achieve a solution which would allow this distinction to be made in a manner which would allow the production of internationally comparable data.
- The distinction between skilled agricultural workers classified in Major group 6 and Elementary agricultural workers in Major group 9 is important, but is also made inconsistently between countries.
- For the majority of countries Sub-major Group 62, Subsistence Agricultural and Fishery Workers is not relevant, as these workers either do not exist or exist only in very small numbers. In some of those countries where subsistence farmers are a large group they are not separately identified in national adaptations of ISCO-88, as it is difficult to distinguish them from other farmers and to draw a sensible boundary between the two groups.
- There is a demand for somewhat more detailed information than ISCO-88 currently allows, especially among international users of agricultural statistics. The lack of detail available for Farm managers, Subsistence farmers and agricultural labourers is a particular problem in view of the variability in national practice in distinguishing these occupations from those in Major Group 6.

3 The steps outlined below are proposed to address these issues. These proposals are reflected in the draft ISCO-08 structure circulated with the second consultative questionnaire on updating ISCO-88 unless otherwise stated.

Managers

4 All farm managers are to be classified in the proposed new Minor Group 131, Farm forestry and fisheries managers.

5 Improved guidelines will be provided on the general distinction between managers, supervisors and skilled workers in relation to the owner operators of small businesses.

6 Special definitional notes will be provided on the distinction between occupations in Minor Group 131 and Major Group 6. The notes used in the European Union will be used as a starting point but will need to be adapted to accommodate the use of terms like 'Farmer' or 'Rancher' in the Americas and Oceania to refer to the owner managers of large scale agricultural establishments.

Distinction between skilled and elementary workers

7 Definitional notes will be provided for Sub-major Group 92, Agricultural, fishery and forestry labourers to make it as clear as possible that this is restricted to jobs that require the performance of simple physical tasks requiring limited or no training or agricultural background. There may need to be specific guidance about the use in occupational titles of terms like 'farmhand' in English and 'peón' in Spanish.

Additional detail

8 Unit groups will be created in Minor Groups 131 and 921 that reflect the minor group structure used for skilled agricultural workers so that those working on Crop farms, Livestock farms and Mixed crop and livestock farms can be identified, regardless of national variations in practice for coding these occupations.

9 ISCO-88 Unit group 6121, Dairy and livestock producers has been sub-divided to allow for the separate identification of dairy producers.

Subsistence workers

10 The definition of Sub-major group 62, Subsistence agricultural, forestry and fisheries workers will be modified so that it is restricted to those who have virtually no involvement with the market. Those who produce a surplus for the market at only certain times of the year or only in good seasons will be classified in Sub-major group 61 with an appropriate breakdown according to the nature of the production. In this way only those living in a relatively traditional non-market lifestyle will be classified as subsistence farmers. No further breakdown will be provided for subsistence farmers as subsistence generally involves production and/or collection of both plant and animal products.

11 Further advice will be sought on the need for subsistence farmers to be represented at the Sub-major group level of ISCO-08 or to be separately identified in ISCO.

Water and firewood collectors

12 A unit group will be created within Minor Group 91 for Water and firewood collectors. Although for many countries these occupations are not significant it is the major activity for large numbers of people in communities without running water or a supply of electricity.

Alternative view

13 A standard “thematic view” of ISCO-88 will be developed so as to allow occupations in agriculture, forestry and fishing to be grouped together in a consistent way. The groups listed in Table 1 are proposed to be included in this “thematic view”

Table 1
**Draft thematic view of occupations in agriculture,
forestry and fisheries**

		ISCO-88 Code
1	Managers, senior officials and legislators	
131	Farm, forestry and fisheries managers	
	1311 Crop farm managers	1221, 1311
	1312 Livestock farm managers	1221, 1311
	1313 Mixed crop and livestock farm managers	1221, 1311
	1319 Farm, forestry and fisheries managers	1221, 1311
2	Professionals	
213	Life science professionals	
	2133 Agronomists and related professionals	2213
3	Technicians and associate professionals	
312	Engineering production supervisors	New group
	3123 Agricultural technicians	3212 part
	3145 Fishery technicians	3212 part
	3146 Forestry technicians	3212 part
	3147 Farming and forestry advisers	3213
6	Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	
61	Market-oriented skilled agricultural and fishery workers	
611	Market gardeners and crop growers	
	6111 Crop farm supervisors	6111, 6112, 6114
	6112 Field crop and vegetable growers	6111
	6113 Tree and shrub crop growers	6112
	6114 Gardeners, horticultural and nursery growers	6113
	6115 Mixed crop growers	6114
612	Market oriented animal producers and related workers	
	6121 Livestock farm supervisor	6121, part - 6124, part
	6122 Livestock producers	6121, part, 6124 part
	6123 Dairy producer	6121, part
	6124 Poultry producers	6122, 6124 part
	6125 Apiarists and sericulturists	6123, 6124 part

	6129	Market-oriented animal producers and related workers not elsewhere classified	6129
613		Market-oriented mixed crop and animal producers	
	6131	Mixed crop and livestock farm supervisor	6130, part
	6132	Market-oriented mixed crop and animal producers	6130, part
614		Forestry and related workers	
	6141	Forestry workers and loggers	6141
	6142	Charcoal burners and related workers	6142
615		Fishery workers, hunters and trappers	
	6151	Aquaculture workers	6151
	6152	Inland and coastal waters fishery workers	6152
	6153	Deep-sea fishery workers	6153
	6154	Hunters and trappers	6154
62		Subsistence agricultural, fishery and forestry workers	
621		Subsistence agricultural, fishery and forestry workers	
	6210	Subsistence agricultural, fishery and forestry workers	6210
8		Plant and machine operators and assemblers	
834		Mobile plant operators	
	8341	Motorised farm and forestry plant operators	8331
9		Elementary occupations	
92		Agricultural, fishery and forestry labourers	
921		Agricultural, fishery and forestry labourers	
	9211	Crop farm labourers	9211 part
	9212	Livestock farm labourers	9211 part
	9213	Mixed crop and livestock farm labourers	9211 part
	9214	Garden labourers	6113 part
	9215	Forestry labourers	9212
	9216	Fishery and aquaculture labourers	9213
	9217	Water and firewood collectors	9162 part