

## **SM hosts the Workshop on Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) organized by UNDP and COMESA**

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) organised a sub-regional workshop on Environment Statistics in support of the implementation of FDES for the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) countries in Mauritius from 26 to 29 January 2015. Some 38 participants from 13 countries participated in the workshop including two resource persons from UNSD and one local consultant.

The FDES 2013 is a multi-purpose conceptual and statistical framework which marks out the scope of environment statistics. It provides an organizing structure to guide the collection and compilation of environment statistics at the national level and is very relevant for policy analysis and decision making.

The workshop comprised of in-depth presentation on and discussion about the FDES 2013, including its components, sub-components, topics and basic/core sets of Environment Statistics; application of the Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool; key concepts and terminologies; use of various data sources such as geospatial information systems, remote sensing, scientific research, administrative data; and introduction to the planned Methodological Manual for the Basic Set of Environment Statistics.

The implementation of the FDES 2013 will help countries address the increasing demand for information in support of integrated policies in the follow-up to Rio+20 and the Post-2015 Development Agenda through the strengthening of environmental statistics and indicators.

## **Presentation on 'Housing situation and needs' at MoFED**

In the context of 2015 Budget preparation, SM gave a presentation on 'Housing situation and needs' at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development on 5 February 2015.

Were present representatives of concerned Ministries/ Departments, namely Ministry of Housing and Lands, Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reforms Institutions, and UNDP.

Chandranee Rughoobur, Statistician gave an overview of the housing stock and needs with particular focus on low income households. She based her presentation on the 2011 Housing Census data.

In the discussions that followed, it was decided that a working group led by Ministry of Housing and comprising stakeholder institutions, including SM, would be set up to build upon the work done by SM.

## **Presentation on Big Data at SM by Microsoft Expert**

Mr. Neeraj Mounien from Microsoft (Mauritius) together with Mr Mahmoud ElSerafi gave a presentation on big data at Statistics Mauritius on Thursday 22 January 2015.

They conveyed that Microsoft's vision is to enable users to gain actionable insights from virtually any data. To achieve this, Microsoft has a comprehensive Big Data strategy that offers:

- A modern data management layer that supports all data types — structured, semi-structured, and unstructured data at rest or in motion;
- An Insights layer that provides insights to all users through familiar tools like Office.

According to the presenters, Microsoft's Big Data solution can enable breakthrough discoveries by combining data and models with publicly available data and services, including social media sites like Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. The key benefits are Immersive insight from any data with familiar Office and Business Intelligence tools.

## **Visit of Dr. Patrice Talla Takoukam, FAO Regional Representative at SM**

The UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) assists Mauritius in a number of projects on Agriculture by providing technical and financial support. In this regard, Mr. Patrice Talla Takoukam, FAO representative to Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles was on a 4-day mission to Mauritius for discussing the portfolio of Mauritius.

During his mission he visited Statistics Mauritius and had a meeting with the Director of Statistics and the Census of Agriculture 2014 (CA2014) team. He noted the good progress of work of the Census Project which is benefiting from technical and financial support from the FAO. During the meeting, discussions were also held on the possibility of SM to have the assistance of FAO in the installation, development and training in CountrySTAT, a web-based information system for managing and disseminating food and agriculture statistics at National Level and sub-National level.