

## Note on using the ERHS

The files of the ERHS are provided in a format that should be sufficient to allow anyone to do effective data analysis, while offering clear choices on valuation and aggregation procedures. Many quantities used in the data are still expressed in 'local' units, while not all quantities (such for example consumption of food from own production, or harvested quantities) are not expressed in monetary values. Finally, land is still expressed in local units. This is not a simple matter to resolve. Our own fieldwork suggested that each community uses a variety of units and these are often not easily comparable across communities nor easily expressed in 'standard' units. Still, at the community level, surveys and tests were conducted to allow conversions in these standard units. The results are summarised in the files below, sufficient to convert all units and quantities in standardised units for analysis. Note that these are not without problems – see Capéau and Dercon (1998) for a detailed discussion and some alternatives.

All files provided are in SPSS for Windows, compatible with any version beyond 6. These files can be converted into STATA but note that labels are often longer than STATA allows and they are then cut short.

You need the following files to convert your data:

### **Prodconv.sav: to ensure that all product codes are unified across sections and rounds of the questionnaire**

This SPSS data file contains all the item (or product) codes for production as well as consumption data used in the various rounds and provides a unified item code called item123. This file is necessary due to a revision of codes that took place after round 1. Essentially, codes had not been unified in round 1.

### **Unitconv.sav: to ensure that all unit codes are unified across sections and rounds of the questionnaire**

This SPSS data file contains all the unit codes used in the different rounds and provides a unified list of unit codes called unit123. This file is necessary due a revision of codes that took place after round 1.

### **Conv.sav: to convert all 'local' measurement units in metric units**

This file contains a conversion factor for each item and unit to convert into kilograms. The codes for item1234 and for unit1234 are the same as the ones for item123 and unit123 in the two files above. The conversion factors are based on surveys on local measurement units that took place during round 3 of the survey.

### **Price123: to value quantities**

This file contains the prices of products in the various rounds. All the key products are available. These prices are consumer prices collected at the time of the survey collected in local markets, based on three observations per product. All prices are in birr per kg or litre for liquids.

### **Landconv.sav**

This file contains the community level conversion codes to convert local land units into hectare. Note that some of these units (e.g. Zhir) pose particular problems due to the fact these local units are effectively length and not area measures.

You could now proceed in two ways:

- (a) carefully merge these files with your data and perform the manipulations required
- (b) use and adjust the spss syntax files to suit your purposes. They will perform the exact procedures needed.

The following syntax files help you convert the data.

### **Codeunit1.sps**

This will convert the unit codes in r1p1s5 and r1p1s6 into unit1 codes.

### **Codeunit1unit1234.sps**

This converts all the unit codes used in round 1 of the 94 data into unit123/unit1234 codes.

### **Codepridc1item1234.sps or Codepridp1item1234.sps**

This converts all the item codes used in round 1 of the 94 data into item123/item1234 codes. (Note difference: first file relates to consumption items and second file for production items).

### **Mergeconvfac.sps**

This merges the data you want to convert with the conversion factors and calculates the resulting kilogram amounts.

### **Mergepricekg.sps**

This merges the above with the kilogram prices and calculates the resulting values.

### **Mergepricenumber.sps**

This merges the above with the prices/number and calculates the resulting values.

### **Landconversion.sps**

Provides an example file of converting land units into hectares.

**DISCLAIMER: THESE FILES AND PROCEDURES ARE NOT NECESSARILY ERROR-FREE. WE CANNOT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE ON USING SPSS.**

**Example (could be used as a tutorial):**

**IMPORTANT: None of the changes made by running a syntax file are permanent until you save them.**

This is a step by step guide on how to convert a variable, for example r1p1s6 q16\_5. This file uses units which are different to unit1 codes, so first open **Codeunit1.sps.** Replace the variable name appearing with the variable you want to recode, i.e. q16\_5d, in all the places where a specific file name appears and then run the file. Copy and paste the unit1 code from unitconv.sav into the values field

Then you want to create a new variable unit1234 with the unified codes. To do this open **Codeunit1unit1234.sps.** Remember again to replace any specific file names with the variable you want to recode, i.e. q16\_5d. Run the file. A new variable unit1234 has been created. Copy and paste the unit123 code from unitconv.sav into the values field.

You also need to create a variable item1234 with unified code. To do this open **Codepridp1item1234.sps.** Remember again to replace any specific file names with the variable you want to recode, i.e. q16\_5c. Run the file. A new variable unit1234 has been created. Copy and paste the item123 code from prodconv.sav into the values field.

After this preparation the data file can be merged with the conversion factors and prices. Open **Mergeconvfac.sps.** Replace filenames and variable names according to your working data file. Make sure that file paths are correct. Run the file. This merges the data you want to convert with the conversion factors and calculates the resulting kilogram amounts. Delete variables that have been merged which you don't want to keep in your file. Rename and move variables if you wish.

Open **Mergepricekg.sps.** Replace filenames and variable names according to your working data file. Make sure that file paths are correct. Run the file. This merges the above with the kilogram prices and calculates the resulting values. The correct price to use is p\_r1. Delete variables that have been merged which you don't want to keep in your file. Rename and move variables if you wish.

Open **Mergepricenumber.sps.** Replace filenames and variable names according to your working data file. Make sure that file paths are correct. Run the file. This merges the above with the prices/number and calculates the resulting values. Delete variables that have been merged which you don't want to keep in your file. Rename and move variables if you wish.

Note: If you wish to merge more than one variable in a file, you have to rename all the variables that have been merged or created in order not to lose any information. After you have renamed them, chose the next variable you want to convert and follow the same procedure.