Tips for searching FAOSTAT for 12.000

FAOSTAT is fairly straightforward to search. These brief tips should help!

1. For the assignment, be sure to get into the part of the site you need. Check the menu bars, and the list of links in the middle of the Home page. Most of your searching is in the Crops section.

2. On the four box searching screen, the database wants you to choose something in each box, even if there is only one choice in the box. For example, **highlight** a country, an item(crop), a year and an "element" each in its box. The use the Show Data tab.

3. To find data for World total, continents, and lists of countries in continents, scroll DOWN in the country box.
4. You can ignore the area near "nested by" and the axis bars.
5. Note units used in the tables. These appear at the top.
6. To download the data files you retrieve, first choose a Download Format. CSV is preferred since it will fit with GIS easily later on. You can choose a thousands separator if you want. Make sure the above box "units" is checked, and click on download. This will save the file to your computer.

7. Post this file to your team's wiki space.
8. FAO has rich data. Explore!
9. Email gcsherra@mit.edu with questions.