



# ***Overview of FAO's Activities in Asia and the Pacific Region since the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of APCAS***

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**FAO, Bangkok**

***Twenty-fourth Session of the Asia and Pacific  
Commission on Agricultural Statistic (APCAS)  
Viet Nam, October 2012<sup>1</sup>***



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## Overview of FAO's activities

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The work undertaken by FAO and RAP in the Asia and the Pacific region involved normative and project work.

This presentation highlights some of the work carried out in the region since the last APCAS Session.



# ***Main Activities***



## APCAS

- Serve As Secretary of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS)
  - Preparation of this APCAS Session, publication of last APCAS report.
  - FAO RAP has continued to administrate the electronic APCAS newsgroup. The APCAS-List is used to keep communication with Senior Statistics Officials from APCAS and other FAO member countries in Asia and Pacific region.
  - The APCAS e-list disseminates relevant information and news on recent developments in agricultural statistics and meetings.



## Publications

- Publication of Selected Indicators 1999-2009 & 2000-2010
  - The FAO flagship publication *Selected Indicators of Food and Agricultural Development in the Asia-Pacific Region* was published in 2010 and 2011.
  - The 2012 issue is on press for distribution on World Food Day in mid-October 2012. Copies of the publication will be distributed to member countries.
  
- Other Publications
  - FAO RAP continued publishing the monthly newsletter “Asia Pacific Food Situation Update” (APFSU) to monitor developments in the food market. Newsletter distributed electronically to other UN and international development organizations, media and other stakeholders in the region. Also disseminated through the APCAS-List and posted on the RAP website.



## Project Work

- FAO RAP work in statistical projects has been active in the last two years.
- Operational statistical projects rose from 10 reported at the last APCAS Session to 15 by September 2012.
- Technical backstopping has been provided to the following projects.



## Technical Backstopping

1. DRK/10/003 “Strengthening of Food and Agriculture Information System” (DPRK)
2. GCP/AFG/063/EC “Strengthening Agricultural Economics, Market Information and Statistics Services” (Afghanistan).
3. GCP/LAO/017/AUL “Preparation of the Second Lao Census of Agriculture 2010” (Lao PDR).
4. GCP/LAO/017/SWI “Second Lao Census of Agriculture 2010/11” (Lao PDR).
5. GCP/TIM/005/EC “Establishing a sustainable National Information and Early Warning System (NIEWS) on Food Security in Timor-Leste”.
6. Project TCP/CKI/3302 “Agricultural Census and Statistics”.
7. TCP/CMB/3401 “Assistance to preparatory activities of the first National Census of Agriculture”.



## Technical Backstopping (cont.)

8. TCP/MYA/3301 “Planning for the 2010 Myanmar census of agriculture (MCA 2010)”.
9. TCP/PHI/3401 “Establishment of the Food Security Information System in the Philippines (Phil-FSIS)”.
10. TCP/RAS/3305 “Support to the preparation of the Regional Implementation Plan for Asia of the Global strategy to Improve Agricultural Statistics”
11. TCP/SLK/3301” Assistance for the Agricultural Census in 2012”
12. TCP/NEP/3301” Support of National Sample Census of Agriculture 2011/12”
13. TCP/NIU/3101 “”Second Census of Agriculture in Niue”
14. TCP/PNG/3202 “Formulation of a Framework for Improving the Agricultural Statistical System in PNG”
15. TCP/BGD/3203 “Assistance in the data processing and analysis of the Bangladesh census of agriculture”



## Organization and Participation in Meetings

The Senior Statistician participated and organized several meetings, including:

- March 2011: Regional Workshop on the FAO data collection, processing and dissemination system of food and agriculture statistics in Bangkok, Thailand (20 countries). 43 participants (from National Statistical Offices and Ministries of Agriculture).
- Nov 2011: Subregional workshop on gender-disaggregated statistics (in cooperation with ESW), Bangkok for SAARC countries. 16 participants (from National Statistical Offices and Ministries of Agriculture) from 9 countries participated.
- Nov 2011: First meeting of the Steering Group Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics, Manila, Philippines.
- May 2012: Regional Workshop on Sampling for Agricultural Censuses and Surveys System of Food and Agriculture Statistics, Bangkok.
- May 2012: Regional Workshop on Linking Population and Housing Censuses with Agriculture Censuses, Noumea, New Caledonia.
- Jul 2012: Second meeting of the Steering Group Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy

- An activity that has taken substantial time and efforts is the formulation of a Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Rural and Agricultural Statistics. Activities included:
  - The establishment of a Steering Group;
  - A joint Secretariat housed in FAO RAP;
  - The organisation of face-to-face and teleconferences;
  - Country assessments;
  - The preparation and revision of multiple drafts;
- More details will be presented in a separate agenda item.



## Coordination of the organization's work with other agencies

- Member of ESCAP's Steering Group on the Regional Programme for Economic Statistics (SGRPES).
- Member of the Regional Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific
- Participate in Second and Third sessions of ESCAP's Committee on Statistics in Dec 2010 and 2011.
- Contribution to the joint PARIS21/FAO program for the integration of agriculture into National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NDSD).
- Partnering with ESCAP and ADB in the preparation of the Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Rural and Agricultural Statistics.



## Conclusions and lessons learned

- RAP's project work has substantially increased in the last two years. Although RAP's contribution to support statistical capacity building in the region remains mainly limited to TCP projects and regional workshops/meetings, it is expected that this could change during the implementation of the Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy.
- More awareness needed: reliable and timely information will result in optimal formulation and monitoring of food security policies.
- The electronic APCAS newsgroup continues to keep the communication with Senior Statistics Officials from APCAS and other FAO member countries in the region.



**Thank you for your attention**



## i) Regional workshop on FAO Data Collection, Processing and Dissemination System of Food and Agriculture Statistics

- **Dates:** Bangkok, 28 Mar-1 Apr 2011
- **Objective:** explain and discuss FAO data requirements of production, trade, Food Balance Sheet (FBS) and producer prices data, and related international standards and methodologies
  - Better meet the requirements of FAO questionnaires
  - help to improve statistical practices in countries
- **Participants:** 43 participants from 20 countries of the region, viz., Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao DPR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Russia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Viet Nam
  - From NSO and MOA



## **i) Regional workshop on FAO Data Collection, Processing and Dissemination System**

### **Conclusions:**

- The workshop was highly appreciated by the participants as an excellent opportunity of sharing the information between national institutions and FAO.
- Participants expressed the need for technical support and capacity building from FAO in order to assist them in the organization of their agricultural information systems.
- Participants were able to recognize the use and application of the information for determination of public policies, as well as the importance of the quality of data provided.



## ii) Sub-Regional Workshop on Sex-Disaggregated Data in Agriculture and Rural Development for South Asian Countries

**Dates:** 29 Nov – 2 Dec 2011, Bangkok

### **Objective:**

To strengthen knowledge on the need to develop the evidence base through sex-disaggregated data (SDD) to support equitable and more effective agricultural policies that would result in improved agricultural productivity.

### **Participants:**

16 MoA and NSO staff from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

One each from MoA and NSO





## **ii) Sub-Regional Workshop on Sex-Disaggregated Data in Agriculture and Rural Development for S Asian Countries**

### ***Findings:***

- Gender concepts are not well understood
- No institutional set-up for producing, analyzing or promoting gender statistics in most countries
- Viable entry point via Agricultural census
- Needs for further capacity development activities and tools to guide statisticians through the different stages of identifying key gender indicators and producing, analyzing, using and disseminating agri-gender statistics for policy and decision making.

### ***Further activities:***

- A similar workshop for Southeast Asian Countries (13-16 Nov 2012), discussions on-going for the Pacific.



### iii) Regional workshop on use of sampling for agricultural censuses and surveys

- **Dates:** Bangkok, 14-18 May 2012
- **Partners:** FAO, USDA/NASS, SIAP, IASRI
- **Objective:** to upgrade the technical skills of the national staff involved in the design and implementation of agricultural census and surveys
  - Focus on practical aspects of sampling techniques
  - Bridge Course in basic statistics (1 day)
- **Participants:** 16 countries of the region, viz., Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, DPR Korea, Lao DPR, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam
  - Twinning of NSO and MOA



### iii) Regional workshop on use of sampling for agricultural censuses and surveys

- **Conclusions and recommendations:**

- the purpose of the workshop was just to expose the participants to potential use of sampling for designing the surveys rather than making them sampling experts.
- Workshop highly appreciated. Request for similar workshop to be organized at country level with a longer duration
- The duration of the bridge course should be extended for at least two days
- MOA and NSO developed a common understanding of issues relating to development of agriculture statistics and their possible solutions



## iv) Regional Workshops on Linking Population and Agriculture Census

### Dates

- Noumea, New Caledonia, 28 May - 1 June 2012 in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
- Near-East workshop in Amman, Jordan, 24-28 June 2012 in collaboration with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Arab Institute of Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS)
- Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 9-13 July 2012 in collaboration with ENSEA (Ecole Nat'l Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée).

### Background

- In line with Pillar II of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural/Rural Statistics: integration of agric. into the NSS.
- Integration of agri-censuses with population and housing censuses also advocated by the FAO WCA 2010, UNSC in the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses and by regional organizations the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).



## **iv) Regional Workshops on Linking Population and Agriculture Census**

### **Highlights**

- Unique participation of Directors and Senior officers of both Ministries of Agriculture and National Statistical Offices
- Gains from integrated censuses for building an integrated national statistical system.
- Best methods for integration under particular country conditions
- Open channels and networking for further coordination in integration of the two censuses



# iv) Regional Workshops on Linking Population and Agriculture Census

## Benefits highlighted by countries

- Dialogue between MoAs and NSOs
  - In some cases the first opportunity
- Systematic approach to integration which would provide the items necessary for policy and planning
  - Some censuses include agricultural questions but may not be the right data for policy makers
- Reduction in cost to the national statistical system as a whole
  - Need for a separate agricultural census could be eliminated
  - Scale of enumeration of an agricultural census could be reduced
  - Limited resources for agricultural data collection. Integration provides opportunity for more regular provision of agri-data.



## v) Regional Workshop on Food Security Analysis of Food Consumption Data from Nat'l Household Survey

*Place and Dates:* Bangkok, 23-27 July 2012

*Participants:* NSO and MoA participants from 11 countries: Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam

### *Objective*

- Strengthening capacity of member countries to generate, manage, analyse and access data and statistics for improved food security and better nutrition.
- Provide technical support to national experts in the processing and analysis of available NHS food consumption data to derive food security and nutrition indicators at national and sub-national levels for the assessment and monitoring of the country's FS situation

### *Activities of Workshop*

- Understanding the indicators of the main components of FS at national and sub national levels including the MDG and WFS Hunger indicators;
- Practical use of FSSM/ADePT to derive food security indicators using COUNTRY NHS food consumption data



## v) Regional Workshop on Food Security Analysis of Food Consumption Data from National Household Survey

### *Conclusions*

- Countries' participants used the ADePT food security tool to process and analyse their food consumption data collected from their National Household Survey (NHS).
- Food security indicators for components of food availability, food access and food utilization have been identified at national and subnational levels.
- Participating countries obtained the nutrient conversion table for countries' food items useful for nutritional analysis.
- Participants identified some weaknesses in the collection and processing of food consumption data in their NHS.
- Improve the NHS questionnaire design and field work data collection of NHS food consumption data for regular food insecurity assessment and monitoring.
- Use of the ADePT tool for food security analysis of NHS food consumption data.



**Thank you for your attention**