



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة للأمم
المتحدة

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Food and
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Agenda Item 4

Overview of FAO's Activities in Asia and the Pacific Region since the 23rd Session of APCAS

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The work undertaken by FAO and RAP in the Asia and the Pacific region involved normative and project work. The following sections highlight some of the work carried out in the region since 2010.

Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS)

Another area of activities of the Senior Statistician in the region was associated with the work as Secretary of APCAS. It mainly involved the publication of the last report and preparation of the current APCAS session in Da Lat, Viet Nam.

FAO RAP has continued 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. Relevant information and news on recent developments in agricultural statistics and meetings are regularly disseminated through the list.

Selected Indicators and other publications

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 this publication will be distributed to member countries and will be also available at the Da Lat APCAS session.

The 2012 Selected Indicators *will* present data on selected items for the years 2001-2011. The indicators are grouped under the following headings: Agricultural land and population, Agricultural inputs, Production indices, Staple food crops, Edible oil crops, Horticultural crops, Fibre crops, Other crops, Livestock, Agricultural trade, Fisheries, Forestry, Nutrition and other indicators, including a

¹ Senior Statistician and APCAS Secretary

table on bio-energy in the region. A section on country profiles preceded the tables. For almost all commodity tables, data were mainly retrieved from the FAO computerized databases, especially FAOSTAT.

FAO RAP continued publishing the monthly newsletter “Asia Pacific Food Situation Update” (APFSU) to monitor developments in the food market. The newsletter is distributed electronically to diplomatic missions, other UN and international development organizations, FAO, media and other stakeholders in the region. It is also disseminated through the APCAS-List and posted on the RAP website.

Project work

Project work 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:

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”.
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”

The above activities involved substantial backstopping work and visits to the countries.

Organization and Participation in Meetings

The Senior Statistician participated and organized several meetings, including:

1. 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).
2. 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.

3. Nov 2011: First meeting of the Steering Group Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics, Manila, Philippines.
4. May 2012: Regional Workshop on Sampling for Agricultural Censuses and Surveys System of Food and Agriculture Statistics, Bangkok.
5. May 2012: Regional Workshop on Linking Population and Housing Censuses with Agriculture Censuses, Noumea, New Caledonia.
6. 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. This has involved the establishment of a Steering Group, a joint Secretariat housed in FAO RAP, the organisations of face-to-face and teleconferences, country assessments and the preparation and revision of multiple drafts. More details will be presented in a separate agenda item.

Cooperation with other Organizations and Agencies

Close co-operation is maintained with UN and International Organisations involved in food and agricultural statistics in the Asia and Pacific region. FAO has been represented in meetings on statistics, including those organised by ESCAP, such as the:

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

Conclusions

RAP's statistical project work continues to grow. 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.

Country statistical capacity remains weak in the region. Support in this area is highly relevant as more reliable and timely information will result in optimal formulation and monitoring of food security policies.

Awareness has been gradually increased on the importance of the World Census of Agriculture (WCA) 2010. More and more countries and development partners in the region realize the importance of conducting censuses of agriculture and request FAO guidance.

The electronic APCAS newsgroup continues to keep the communication with Senior Statistics Officials from APCAS and other FAO member countries in the region.