

**High-Level Regional Consultation on Policies to Respond to High Food Prices,  
Bangkok, 1-2 October 2012**

**Breakout Group Discussion Arrangements**

**2 October 2012**

It is expected that each group will select a Chairperson, who will moderate the group discussion and present the findings to the plenary, and a rapporteur, who will assist the Chairperson to take note of the main points discussed and conclusions and recommendations derived by the group.

A suggestion is made below for 3 breakout groups. Because the aim is to share experiences and best practices, and to articulate solutions and recommendations, it is desirable that each Group has a good mix of countries, such as rice/food exporters and importers, large and small, and neighbours and from other sub-regions.

**Breakout group arrangements:**

<b>Group 1 (London I)</b>	<b>Group 2 (London II)</b>	<b>Group 3 (London III)</b>
India	China	Thailand
Bangladesh	Pakistan	Malaysia
Nepal	Cambodia	Maldives
Indonesia	Mongolia	Lao PDR
Bhutan	DPR Korea	Japan
Myanmar	Sri Lanka	Timor-Leste
Philippines, The	Viet Nam	

**Group discussion**

The idea is to exchange views and perspectives on some selected issues and programmes, so that best practices from around Asia may be identified so as to respond to the food price crisis. For this reason, below, under each main topic, an indication of the issue that may taken up is indicated, as an example.

1. Increasing food production
  - a. The issue of self- sufficiency
  - b. Focusing on research- e.g. higher yields, resilience to shocks
  - c. Incentives – high output price, cost of production (role for subsidies)
2. Social safety nets – cost-effective safety nets, difficulties in upscaling/downscaling?
3. How to promote diversified diets and nutritious foods?
4. Transparent and efficient markets
  - a. Role for stocks and other market interventions
  - b. Information and analytical needs
  - c. Links to AMIS
5. Responsible trade policies and regional coordination and cooperation