



Concept Note

for the Asia Regional Technical Workshop

Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security ("Guidelines")

Bangkok, Thailand, 13 – 15 August 2013

Background

The *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security* ("Guidelines") represent an unprecedented international agreement on the governance of tenure, which places secure access to land, fisheries and forests firmly in the context of food security. The guidelines were officially endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) at its Thirty-eighth Session on 11 May 2012. Since then, their implementation has been encouraged by the UN General Assembly, Rio +20 declaration, G20, Francophone Parliamentary Assembly and Ministers from 80 countries at the recent 5th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit.

FAO is conducting regional workshops to raise awareness of the Guidelines and discuss their use and implementation. These regional workshops will be accompanied later by national workshops to promote the Guidelines and to develop stakeholders' capacities to use the Guidelines in specific country contexts.

The Asia Regional workshop is being planned for a three day period during the week of 1-5 July in Bangkok, Thailand. It is being organized by the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific together with FAO Headquarters.

Workshop Objectives

The workshops will support actions to implement the Guidelines and to improve governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests. The specific goals are to:

1. Present the Guidelines and relevant regional initiatives.
2. Discuss and analyze the application of the Guidelines in a range of countries and working contexts.
3. Discuss, identify and propose actions and ways forward to implement the Guidelines and to improve governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests.
4. Link with existing initiatives to create networks at regional and national levels.

Output and expected results

A short report will be written in the end of the workshop to present a record of the main discussions and ideas for follow-up activities. The report will be shared with the participants.

By the end of the workshop the participants are able to define the concept of governance of tenure, outline responsible practices, incorporate the Guidelines and other available frameworks to their activities, and develop recommendations and plans for activities. The workshop will also provide opportunity to the stakeholders to liaise with partners, establish networks and create synergies.

Target audience of the meeting

The workshops will target a range of stakeholders involved in the tenure of land, fisheries and forests. The workshops aim to build a dialogue among actors and ensure that networks are created and existing ones strengthened.

- Government/public sector
- Civil Society
- Private Sector
- Academia and research institutions

About 125-130 people are expected to participate in the workshop.

The regional participants will be invited from Asian countries falling under FAO-RAP, and are expected to be drawn from: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. In addition, there may be self-funded participants from countries such as Japan and Republic of Korea.

Format

The workshop will be for 3 days. The first day will be an introduction to the Guidelines and to other available frameworks in the region. The following two days will concentrate on sharing experiences/case studies, developing capacities on the use of the Guidelines, and identifying ways forward and follow-up actions for implementing the Guidelines.

A preliminary draft agenda is shown in the Annex.

Dates

The workshop will be held during 13 – 15 August 2013.

Venue

The workshop will be held at Swissotel Nai Lert Park Bangkok, Bangkok, Thailand.

Partnerships

The workshops will be organized in partnership with the Bureau of Foreign Agricultural Affairs (BOFAA), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC).