

REPORT OF THE

**TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE
ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION
ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS**

**Held in Da Lat, Viet Nam
8 – 12 October 2012**



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For copies write to: Senior Statistician
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Atit Road
Bangkok 10200
THAILAND

REPORT

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8 – 12 October 2012

Da Lat, Viet Nam

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (RAP)
BANGKOK, 2012

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ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFSIS	ASEAN Food Security Information System
AMIS	Agriculture Marketing Information System (AMIS)
APCAS	Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics
APFSU	Asia-Pacific Food Situation Update
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
CA	Country Assessments
CAQ	Country Assessment Questionnaires
CFS	Committee for Food Security
CPC	Central Product Classification
DDG	Deputy Director General
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
ESS	FAO Statistics Division
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FBS	Food Balance Sheets
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FHH	Female Headed Household
GHG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
GPS	Global Positioning System
GSO	General Statistics Office of Viet Nam
HS	Harmonized System
ICR	Intelligent Character Recognition
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries
MHH	Male Headed Household
NSO	National Statistics Office
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
PoU	Prevalence of Undernourishment
RAP	Regional Action Plan
SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
SEEA-AGRI	System of Environmental Economic Accounting for Agriculture
SGAS	Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics
SIAP	United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SOFA	State of Food and Agriculture
SOFI	State of Food Insecurity
SUA	Supply Utilization Accounts
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WCA	World Census of Agriculture
WFP	World Food Programme

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

INTRODUCTION

1. The Government of Viet Nam hosted the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS) convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Da Lat, Viet Nam from 8 to 12 October 2012. Over sixty-five delegates from 21 APCAS member countries and 13 FAO staff participated in the session. Four observers attended the session representing one from the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), and two from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

OPENING SESSION

(Item 1 of the Agenda)

2. Mr Nguyen Van Lieu, Deputy Director General (DDG), General Statistics Office (GSO), Viet Nam welcomed all participants to Da Lat, Viet Nam and expressed the Viet Nam Government's gratitude to FAO for accepting Viet Nam's offer to host this APCAS session. Mr Lieu believed that the existence of an important forum like APCAS helped to facilitate the sharing of information for the overall improvement of agricultural statistics in the region.

3. The outgoing APCAS Chair, Mr Hong Narit welcomed delegates to the Commission and thanked the Commission and FAO for giving Cambodia the opportunity to host the 23rd APCAS session in 2010. Mr Hong Narit shared his experiences in the years following the last APCAS session thanking the FAO for sharing their expertise in helping Cambodia to conduct its first agricultural census in 2013. Mr Narit was hopeful of the upcoming session and was keen to draw experiences from the case studies to be presented.

4. Mr Josef Schmidhuber, Principal Officer, Statistics Division FAO, in an opening address welcomed the Commission to the 24th APCAS session on behalf of Mr Pietro Gennari, FAO Statistics Division Director. Mr Schmidhuber noted many of FAO's ongoing activities, particularly the Regional Action Plan for the Global Strategy on Agricultural Statistics.

5. Ms Yuriko Shoji, FAO Representative Viet Nam, thanked on behalf of Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, the Viet Nam Government and Ministry of Planning and Investment for hosting this session. Ms Shoji stressed the importance of agricultural statistics in the policy design process especially in a global economic climate where food prices have become increasingly unstable.

6. Mr Nguyen Van Yen, Lam Dong Deputy chairman of the People's Committee extended a warm welcome to the 24th Session of APCAS to the city of Da Lat in Lam Dong province. Mr Yen described Da Lat as not only a teeming tourist destination but also an agricultural center for the production of key commodity crops due to its geographical location in the mountain regions.

7. Delivering the inaugural address to the Commission, His Excellency Minister Dao Quang Thu, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, welcomed all delegates and participants, and thanked FAO for allowing Viet Nam to host this APCAS session. Mr Thu reminded the Commission of the increasing difficulties agriculture faces due to the increasing threat of climate change and severe natural disasters noting the important role of statistical information in the policy formulation process.

ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIRS AND DRAFTING COMMITTEE

(Item 2 of the Agenda)

8. The outgoing Chair, Mr Hong Narit, Director, Department of Planning and Statistics, MAFF Cambodia presided over the election of the Chair, Vice-Chairs and Drafting Committee. Mr Nguyen Van Lieu, DDG, GSO, Viet Nam, was unanimously elected Chair of the Twenty-Fourth APCAS Session. Mr Savanh Hanephom, Deputy Director-General, Planning and Cooperation Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR, was elected Vice-Chair.

9. The Commission then constituted a Drafting Committee. Messrs Bruce Hockman (Australia), Robert Hale (United States of America), Vidya Dhar (India), Jairo Castano (APCAS Secretary) and Anthony Burgard (Rapporteur, FAO) were co-opted as members of the Committee.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

(Item 3 of the Agenda)

10. The Commission adopted the agenda given in Appendix A as well as the timetable. The list of delegates and observers is in Appendix B and the list of documents is in Appendix C. The speeches delivered in the Opening and Closing Sessions are in Appendices D, E, F, G, H, I, and J. The list of member countries of the Commission, as of October 2012, is in Appendix K.

FAO'S ACTIVITIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE STATISTICS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC SINCE THE LAST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

(Item 4 of the Agenda)

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

(Item 4a and 4b of the Agenda)

11. Mr Jairo Castano, APCAS Secretary, introduced Document APCAS/12/3 "Overview of FAO's Activities in Asia and the Pacific Region since the 23rd Session of APCAS". He informed that FAO activities in the region involved both normative and

project work. These included: (a) serving as APCAS Secretariat; (b) the publication of “Selected Indicators of Food and Agricultural Development in the Asia-Pacific Region” in October 2012; (c) the continuation of Asia-Pacific Food Situation Update (APFSU) newsletter; (d) backstopping fifteen operational statistical projects in the region; (e) the organization and participation in various meetings; (f) further cooperation with other agencies including UNESCAP, PARIS21, and the Asian Development Bank; and lastly (g) the formulation of a Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to improve rural and agricultural statistics. The Commission noted that RAP’s support to statistical capacity building in the region was mainly limited to TCP (Technical Cooperation Programme) projects, but also recognized that this could change during the implementation of the Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy.

12. Mr Jairo Castano continued to elaborate upon further workshops conducted by FAORAP on the topics of: FAO data collection, sex-disaggregated statistics, sampling methodologies, the linking of the population and agricultural census, and also a regional workshop on food security analysis. The workshops played a role in creating greater dialogue between NSOs and the Ministries of Agriculture of participating countries.

13. Documents APCAS/12/4 “CountrySTAT framework in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) countries” and APCAS/12/5 “Agriculture Marketing Information System (AMIS)” were introduced to the Commission by Mr Naman Keita, FAO. In referring to the CountrySTAT framework, Mr Keita outlined that the goal of CountrySTAT framework was to centralize and validate data on food/agriculture coming from different sources into a core database. A new CountrySTAT project was presented to the Commission in the form of capacity building initiatives for national staff in ECO headquarters and also the implementation of a pilot CountrySTAT project in Afghanistan. Mr Keita in a further presentation on AMIS elaborated upon the major components of the system including those related to food market information, the supply and demand position of crops, and the role of the governance structure in the discussion of international market conditions. In this presentation, Mr Keita also shared with the Commission a new project by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) in Nigeria, India, and Bangladesh to utilize innovative methods and digital technology for AMIS; and a project funded by Japan to help both Thailand and the Philippines improve data relating to rice crops also within AMIS. The delegation of Japan highlighted the importance of these projects and elaborated on synergies with ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS). Japan will send a Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) officer to coordinate the implementation of the AMIS project in Thailand and the Philippines.

14. APCAS/12/6 “Report on the side-events on Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Cost of Production” was introduced to the Commission by Mr Francesco Tubiello and Ms Carola Fabi, FAO. Mr Tubiello reporting on the inception workshop on greenhouse gas emission statistics noted the event’s success identifying issues in the collection of GHG emission statistics and demonstrating new FAOSTAT GHG features. Ms Fabi reporting to the Commission on the cost of production statistics noted the good practices and challenges in compiling these statistics through the presentation of case studies in Asia-Pacific countries; which helped to articulate the outline for the FAO handbook on cost of production statistics.

15. Ms Carola Fabi, FAO further introduced to the Commission Document APCAS/12/32 “International Classifications of Agricultural Commodities” in the final session of Agenda IV. Ms Fabi briefed the Commission on the latest updates to the international classification including those of CPC 2.1, HS2012, and HS2017 which showed promise in helping to increase the area of coverage in agricultural and rural statistics.

STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS IN COUNTRIES OF THE REGION

(Item 5 of the Agenda)

16. Four presentations were made during the session with overall facilitation provided by Mr Naman Keita, FAO. The first presentation, APCAS/12/8 “Evaluation of Countries responses to FAO questionnaires” by Ms Carola Fabi, FAO, gave an account of the response rates to the nine FAO questionnaires, which are sent annually to FAO member countries to collect data on different domains of the agriculture for populating the FAOSTAT. The Commission noted the varying rates of response to these questionnaires and the declining trends in the response rates of some questionnaires in the region. The second presentation, APCAS/12/7 “Report on Initial Country Assessments” by Mr Mukesh Srivastava, FAO, outlined the background and methodology of FAO work on initial Country Assessments (CA). The proposed Indicators of Country Capacity to be compiled using the response to the standard questionnaire were presented. Third and fourth presentations, APCAS/12/7a “Assessment of Country Capacity to Produce Agriculture Statistics” by Mr Jairo Castano, APCAS Secretary, and APCAS/12/7b “Overview of the FAO Web Portal” by Mr Anthony Burgard, FAO, outlined the experience of these assessments in the region and demonstrated the resulting indicators for two countries and the contents of a proposed web portal for sharing this information for the benefit of countries and development partners.

17. The Commission appreciated the work of FAO on Country Assessments as a tool for monitoring Country Capacity to produce Agriculture Statistics. It noted there were generally no issues relating to the CA Questionnaire (CAQ) but the methodology for processing the questionnaire was still to be globally accepted. However, incomplete and partially filled questionnaires posed a challenge for building reliable indicators. The Commission recommended the further development of the assessment of country statistical capacity and posting of resulting country profiles in the web portal. The Commission noted the operational issues relating to collecting reliable data for CA and recommended that an instruction manual for filling the questionnaire be prepared. This manual will minimize the scope of subjectivity in response, particularly for questions where an opinion is needed. The Commission also recommended that the raw data, methodology for compiling the indicators and the draft country profiles be shared with the member countries for validation before placing the country profiles on the web site. The Commission noted that the country profiles will be updated on a ongoing basis through country reports and CAQs.

18. The Commission also noted that as the scope of the questionnaire is the entire agriculture sector, including fisheries, forestry, and environment, the responses from various agencies needed to be coordinated at the country level. The Commission recommended that each country should have a focal point to supply information to

FAO and fill the various questionnaires. The focal point could be located in the National Statistics Office or the Ministry of Agriculture, depending upon the specific country situation. The Commission further recommended that it should be the responsibility of the focal point to refer the relevant questions of the CAQ to different agencies engaged in collection of data on sub-sectors of agriculture. Concerns from the Commission extended to the definition of agriculture, which it felt was out of line with International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC). It was clarified that for practical data collection purposes the Global Strategy adopted a scope of agriculture, beyond ISIC, as in the World Census of Agriculture (WCA) programme.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GLOBAL STRATEGY TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS IN THE REGION

(Item 6 of the Agenda)

19. This agenda item was facilitated by Ms Rikke Munk Hansen, UNESCAP. Four presentations were made. The first presentation, APCAS/12/9 “Progress in the implementation of the Global Action Plan, including mobilization of resources” presented by Mr Naman Keita, FAO, outlined the log frame of the Global Action Plan and noted in particular its coordination mechanisms with the Regional Action Plan (RAP). The second presentation, APCAS/12/10 “Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics 2013-2017 (Draft)” presented by Mr Romeo Recide, Chair of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics (SGAS), elaborated upon the formulation of the Regional Action Plan for Asia-Pacific noting in particular 11 outputs and three components: (a) Technical Assistance; (b) Training; and (c) Research; supported respectively by the implementing partners FAO, UNESCAP, and ADB. The three components, introduced as Annexes E “Technical Assistance”, F “Training”, and G “Research” under Document APCAS/12/10, were presented by APCAS Secretary Mr Jairo Castano and Ms Margarita F. Guerrero, United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), each noting the log frame (including both outputs and activities), work plan, and budget of the specific components.

20. The Commission appreciated the efforts of the Chair, Vice-Chair, and members of SGAS to develop the RAP, and also appreciated support extended by the implementing partners (FAO, ADB, UNESCAP) to the work of the SGAS. Particular appreciation was given by the Commission to the Government of Japan for the support given to the RAP, in the form of the secondment of a junior officer at the Regional Office and its continued support to the SIAP. The Commission appreciated China’s offer to support the RAP, noted its interest in membership of the Regional Steering Committee, as well as its proposal to support the implementation through an exchange of experiences, and provision of technical assistance.

21. In reference to the coordinating mechanisms of the Global Action Plan and the RAP, the Commission noted the need to better articulate the 11 regional outputs with the four global outputs with particular attention directed to the gap between the amount allocated to Asia and Pacific Region in the integrated budget of the Global Action Plan (US\$15 million) and budget in the regional implementation plan (US\$21 million). In this regard, the Commission recommended to further close this gap through (a) a mapping of the regional and global outputs and (b) the prioritization

and indication of regional budget items to the global office, matching the prioritized amount allotted to the Asia-Pacific region in the indicative budget developed by the Global Office in consultation with donors.

22. The Commission noted the three criteria outlined for the selection of the pilot countries in the initial phase of the RAP, namely political will and commitment, importance of agriculture, and need for assistance. The Commission recommended countries interested in benefiting from the implementation of the RAP to make sure to meet these criteria, particularly proven political will and commitment. The Commission also noted the criteria for the selection of committee members.

23. The Commission supported the emphasis on a country-driven approach to ensure the sustainability of the results of the RAP, in which it noted the importance of the transfer of knowledge and development tools to enable national staff in carrying out related work over the long term. In general, the Commission supported the continued involvement of national statistical offices and ministries of agriculture, as reflected in the proposed membership of the Regional Steering Committee. In this regard, the Commission supported the need for the establishment of a national statistical governing/coordinating structure, recognizing that the design of such a structure would be responsibility of each country.

24. Bearing in mind the clarifications provided and suggested amendments, the Commission fully endorsed the RAP.

PROGRESS AND VISION ON WORLD PROGRAMME FOR THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE (WCA) (Item 7 of the Agenda)

25. This agenda item was facilitated by Mr Robert Hale, USA. A total of seven presentations, including a review paper from FAO and six country experiences were made. Later three groups of country delegates worked together to identify the new issues to be addressed in WCA 2020 and the features of WCA 2010 that need to be preserved.

26. The first presentation, APCAS/12/16 "Lessons Learned from the Implementation of the WCA 2010" presented by Mr Mukesh Srivastava, FAO, provided an overview of the pace of implementation of WCA 2010 in the world and in the region. It highlighted the aspect relating to the adoption of new recommendations of FAO in the 2010 WCA programme in the region, particularly: (a) the use of a modular and integrated approach to survey planning; (b) the linking of population and housing censuses with agricultural censuses; and (c) the community-level data. The presentation also highlighted data needs for handling emerging policy issues like capital formation in agriculture, environment issues, family farming, and small holdings.

27. The Commission reviewed the presentations on recent agricultural censuses and surveys from Lao PDR (APCAS/12/11) by Mr Savanh Hanephom, Nepal (APCAS/12/12) by Mr Birendra Kumar Kayastha, the United States of America (APCAS/12/13) by Mr Robert Hale, Indonesia (APCAS/12/30) by Mr Happy Hardjo, India (APCAS/12/31) by Mr Vidya Dhar, and the "Rural, Agricultural, and Fishery Census of Viet Nam"

(APCAS/12/14) by Mr Pham Quang Vinh. The presentations highlighted the use of the modular approach to census and survey planning. Experiences on the use of image scanning and Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR) technologies for data processing were discussed in the Commission. The Commission noted that this technology had mixed results across countries. The difficulties associated with the use of ICR technology for the data gathered through mailed questionnaires were noted, particularly because of absence of a mechanism to control handwritings of the respondents. Some participants also provided positive experiences with the use of other technologies (i.e. Tablet PCs, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), and remote sensing) in their censuses.

28. The Commission noted from the presentations that an increasing number of countries in the region were adopting FAO recommendations for WCA 2010 on the use of the modular approach to data collection (Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam), community-level data (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, Viet Nam), and integrated planning of census and surveys, particularly linking of population and agricultural censuses (Cambodia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Niue, Republic of Korea, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu). The Commission noted a general concern in the region on the limited availability of qualified and trained human resources and the difficulty of access to remote areas.

29. Following the round of country case studies, Mr Naman Keita, FAO, presented Document APCAS/12/15 "FAO/UNFPA Technical Guidelines for Linking Population and Agricultural Censuses". The presentation highlighted that while this linkage would be of more benefit to countries where a large proportion of agriculture holdings was managed by households, there existed analytical benefits in linking social and agricultural data. The Commission additionally posed questions on the relationship between economic census and the agricultural census. Through the responses from the floor the Commission noted that the basic statistical units for collection of data in the two censuses may be different. However, this idea might be worth pursuing and the Commission recommended FAO to provide some guidance on linking the agricultural census with other censuses, keeping in view country practices.

30. Building upon the lead presentation and the country case studies, the delegates were tasked to perform group work to identify key issues to be addressed in the next census programme following the guidelines introduced by Document APCAS/12/16a "Vision for WCA 2020". The group work was facilitated by Messrs Srivastava, Keita and Hale. The grouping of countries was done keeping in view, as much as possible, their geographical vicinity to obtain sub-regional patterns, if any. Group A included Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka; Group B comprised Australia, China, Fiji, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United States of America; and Group C included Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. The groups were asked to present reflections of their members on WCA 2010 and 2020. The groups were asked to particularly report on features of WCA 2010 that the Commission should recommend to FAO to preserve or improve, and the new issues to be addressed in the programme for WCA 2020.

31. The Commission learnt from the presentations that the data items and the flexibility of the modular approach proposed under the WCA 2010 were found to be useful. Several issues to preserve or improve in the WCA 2020 were nonetheless recommended, including: (a) the issue of conducting the agriculture census was becoming increasingly costly and time consuming due to increasing demand of data; (b) the need for detailed guidelines on linking the population and agriculture censuses; (c) enlarging the scope of integration of surveys after censuses; (d) the issue of including narcotics crops, such as poppy and inclusion of medicinal agriculture on land and in water to ensure complete coverage of agriculture activity; (e) gender and the roles of women in agriculture; (f) indicators related to natural disasters and climate change issues; and (g) the efficiency of data collection with the use of new technologies. For the next round of WCA, the groups collectively recommended new issues to be addressed: (a) greater emphasis on environment related statistics; (b) guidelines for the collection of data needed for estimation of GHG emissions; (c) data processing for agricultural census and surveys; (d) a more pronounced role for technologies such as remote sensing; (e) use of administrative data; (f) organic agriculture; (g) the integration of a greater variety of surveys including those related to fisheries and aquaculture; and (h) greater support to countries which are at early stage of development of agriculture statistics. The Commission welcomed the recently published FAO/UNFPA guidelines on linking population and agriculture census.

32. The Commission recommended FAO to undertake technical work to develop the WCA 2020 guidelines on the above issues and continue to provide technical support to member countries.

METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN FOOD SECURITY STATISTICS

(Item 8 of the Agenda)

33. Ms Carola Fabi, FAO, presented the paper entitled “The New Framework for the Food Balance Sheet and Supply Utilization Accounts” (APCAS/12/17). The report outlined the changes made to the FAO Food Balance Sheet (FBS) to update the system and to be more efficient to operate. The undergoing changes were in compiling feed, stocks, waste, industrial utilizations, and the trade pre-aggregation method that transforms food into primary equivalents. The Commission supported the work conducted by FAO noting that these innovations were made to ensure that FBS remained relevant to user needs.

34. Mr Mukesh Srivastava, FAO, presented a report on “The New Approaches to the Measurement of Food Security Status” (APCAS/12/18). Three main changes were being incorporated into the new approach. First, this approach uses a different balance sheet to calculate food availability. Second, it suggests better design for household surveys for a more accurate measurement of food consumption. And third, it made methodological improvements in the calculation of the FAO indicator on the prevalence of undernourishment (PoU) linked to the choice of model and its parameters that ensure a more realistic estimation of the undernourished population.

35. The Commission asked about the validation of the results before publication and international standards for the inputs to the model. FAO estimates are checked and validated internally before publication. Closer interaction with countries takes place

with consideration of each specific situation. It was clarified that the Committee for Food Security (CFS) is the institutional body that discusses and agrees on food security indicators and measures. International Organizations (in particular FAO, World Food Programme (WFP), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development [IFAD]) are members along with countries and FAO has the mandate to monitor MDG indicator 1.9 on the prevalence of undernourishment. It was clarified that the lower estimate of number of undernourished people, as released in the State of Food Insecurity (SOFI) during the week of this APCAS session, was the result of improved methodology and better use of available data.

36. Ms Sureerat Santipaporn, NSO Thailand, presented “Food Insecurity Assessment in Thailand” (APCAS/12/19). The presentation detailed the efforts Thailand has made to recalculate their food insecurity measure. The results of the latest FAO report did not align with other indicators in Thailand that indicated they were net food exporters. FAO assisted Thailand to re-evaluate the three basic parameters used for assessing PoU in the country. As a result of the extensive review, the calculated PoU rate dropped significantly from the 1990 baseline rate in Thailand.

37. The results showed the importance of providing proper inputs to the model and the major effect the inputs have on the results. It was noted that significant sources of calories were excluded from the original calculations and including these had an effect on the PoU rate in Thailand.

DATA COLLECTION METHODS AND ICT IN THE REGION

(Item 9 of the Agenda)

38. APCAS/12/20 “Paddy Production Survey in Viet Nam” was presented by Mr Pham Quang Vinh, Viet Nam. The paper reported changes in the production of this commodity over the past 25 years from Viet Nam being an importer of rice to the world’s second largest exporter and how the measurement of this production changed from crop cutting to a major interview survey (300 000 households). The Commission was provided information about sampling strategies and was also informed that production in districts with less than 100 hectares of paddy in production was estimated based on data from adjoining districts. Mr Vinh noted that because sampling was not completely random, a range of statistical indicators such as standard error were not calculated. The Commission suggested a comparison of results from the crop-cutting and interview methods for estimation of crop yield.

39. APCAS/12/23 “Use of ICT for Statistical Reporting in Viet Nam’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development” was presented by Mr Ngyuen Viet Chien, Viet Nam. The paper reported on a central web-based software designed to allow statistical reporting and produce on-time and accurate data while reducing manpower. The Commission noted that the prospective benefits are maximized when there is standardization of indicators that are being reported via the software.

40. APCAS/12/21 “Estimation of Planted Area Using the Dot Sampling Method” was presented by Mr Kenji Kamikura, Japan. The paper outlined an alternative sampling method which is efficient and reliable based upon using a grid of coordinates in Google Earth to determine where to sample instead of choosing randomly from

a frame of statistical units. The paper promoted much discussion around sampling issues such as the granularity of the grid and about what types of data would be suited to such sampling. Questions were raised concerning the limitations of the technique in areas where the resolution of Google Earth was poor. It was clarified that it was still possible to conduct area surveys with surveys in the field. This method worked well for the estimation of crop area, but more studies would be needed for other types of data. The Commission was informed of a December 2012 experts' meeting in FAO Rome, where the contribution of these types of methods to master sampling frames would be discussed.

41. APCAS/12/22 "Use of Smart-Phones for Food and Agricultural Price Collection and Dissemination" was presented by Ms Carola Fabi, FAO. The paper discussed a pilot programme (in Haiti) where using Smart-Phones in the collection and transmission of data from the field to the processing teams resulted in improved efficiency. A number of factors that would affect the efficacy of this type of programme were noted by the Commission. These included, but were not limited to, cost of phones, signal coverage, cost of data transfer, and maintenance. The Commission noted that mobile phones had been used in India since the mid-2000s for transmission of prices. Other countries such as Pakistan, Lao PDR, and China reported using smart-phones for collection and transmission of data.

42. APCAS/12/24 "The Evolution of Agricultural Statistics in Australia" was presented by Mr Bruce Hockman, Australia. The paper discussed the move of these statistics from the counting of livestock and cropping areas to also examining land use, water usage, greenhouse gases and the complexity of socio-economic and environmental impacts of the industry. In meeting these challenges, the presenter noted the need to look to new technologies and improve collaboration efforts among NSOs.

RECENT ADVANCES IN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

(Item 10 of the Agenda)

43. APCAS/12/25 "Environment Statistics: new database on GHG emissions from agriculture and agri-environmental indicators" was presented by Mr Francesco Tubiello, FAO. Mr Tubiello presented the recent efforts at FAO to extend FAOSTAT to include GHG emission data, computed as the product activity data times an emission factor. The activity data was already provided by the FAOSTAT database (e.g., animal numbers, planted area, land use information), while the emission factors were taken from international guidelines for GHG reporting by countries to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Mr Tubiello explained that the FAOSTAT GHG database offered a range of potential services to APCAS countries, and could be used in technical and institutional capacity utilized as a data platform to inform and support GHG reporting and climate negotiations, providing linkages between mitigation, food security and rural development goals of member countries. The FAOSTAT GHG database was nearing completion and scheduled for launch by December 2012. It was highlighted that a workshop on GHG gases held just before the APCAS was well received by participants who expressed interest for collaboration with FAO via pilot project activities.

44. APCAS/12/26 “Statistics on Private and Public Investment in agriculture: government expenditure, capital stocks, and other FAOSTAT datasets” was presented by Ms Carola Fabi, FAO. Ms Fabi presented on the new effort at FAO to monitor and compile investment flows to agriculture, focusing on the four dimensions: agriculture capital stocks, government expenditures, overseas development assistance (ODA), and foreign direct investment (FDI). Ms Fabi stressed that adequately mobilizing resources and measuring the development impact of investment in agriculture required a comprehensive dataset that must: a) encompass resources for agricultural investment from private and public as well as internal and external sources; b) be internationally comparable; and c) support analysis of the related resource flows. Ms Fabi then explained how FAO was collecting the relevant data across the four dimensions identified above. A framework for presenting and analyzing investment data, and check overall consistency was presented.

45. The Commission welcomed and endorsed the efforts by FAO towards development of databases focusing on both the GHG/environmental data and the agriculture investment data. These data were recognized as very important for providing member countries with critical information and capacity building tools on environmental, climate change and investment issues for more efficient rural development planning. The Commission recommended FAO to continue work on these two important databases, namely GHG/environmental and agriculture investment databases.

46. APCAS/12/27 “A Gender Analysis of Food Security Indicators from Indonesia National Socio-Economic Survey 2011” was presented by Mr Happy Hardjo (Indonesia). He illustrated the use of a household survey for disaggregation of gender related information on food security indicators. He showed a range of relevant food security indicators derived through the household surveys (e.g., household income, nutrition analysis, calorie intake). Results suggested nutrition in female headed households (FHH) was better than male headed households (MHH). This relationship was found under both urban and rural contexts as well as at the national level, despite the fact that household income was in fact lower in FHH. These results indicated the great importance of gender disaggregation of agricultural data and pointed out important policy implications. In the ensuing discussion, the Commission noted that gender disaggregated statistics was not readily available from surveys. The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2010 had a specific focus on gender and agriculture. The main source used in SOFA was the agriculture census. The Commission recommended countries to maximize the use of gender disaggregated data in surveys and analysis as it brings to light important issues such as the role of gender in food security which help better guide policy efforts.

47. APCAS/12/28 “Role of fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia and Pacific Region” and APCAS/12/29 “Progress toward improvement of data and statistics in fisheries” was presented by Ms Sachiko Tsuji, FAO. Ms Tsuji illustrated on the importance of fisheries and aquaculture of the Asia-Pacific region in terms of food security, production and national income. The Asia-Pacific is a major producer as well as major consumer of fish and fishery products in the world and fish contributes quite substantive part of animal protein intake. The region is unique in several aspects, including a close mutual reliance between inland capture fishery and aquaculture as

well as between agriculture and aquaculture, dual use of flooded area by agriculture and fishery, and communities without land holdings, which require specific consideration for implementation of the Global Strategy. Better management on biosecurity, sustainable utilization of ecosystems and mitigation and adaptation of climate change impacts all indicated the increased demands on integrated data covering multiple sectors and aspects and emphasized the importance of the implementation of Global Strategy. Several steps were suggested with emphasis on fishery needs, including full integration of inland capture/aquaculture components into community based surveys, expansion of remote sensing land-use survey to cover aquaculture, sharing and exchanging concepts and available tools among different sectors. Ms Tsuji also highlighted the efforts made to improve statistical concepts, standards, and disseminations in fishery statistics.

48. In response to questions, it was explained that the statistical coverage on socio-economic aspects was still weak in fisheries and aquaculture. Appropriate concepts and procedures, especially suitable for integrated surveys covering different sub-sectors, needed to be established based on experiences and lessons learnt. The Commission recommended FAO to work towards developing proper guidelines and methodologies to integrate fisheries and aquaculture into agriculture and rural census and surveys as well as to reflect census and survey results in improving regular statistics collection, in close collaboration with, and advice and feedback from member countries.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(Item 11 of the Agenda)

Venue, Date and Topics for the Next APCAS Session

49. Lao PDR confirmed its readiness to host the Twenty-Fifth Session before March 2014. Bhutan also expressed willingness to host a future session pending further discussions with its governmental authorities. The Secretary committed to pursue the matter with relevant authorities in these countries.

50. The APCAS Secretary sought suggestions for topics for the next Session of APCAS. The topics proposed by member countries included: (a) climate change and its impact on agriculture; (b) System of Environmental Economic Accounting for Agriculture (SEEA-AGRI); (c) development of an agricultural index; (d) agricultural census and data collection techniques; (e) food balance sheets and stocks; and (f) forestry statistics.

51. Members were advised that additional topics should be referred to the Secretary for consideration.

Other Matters

52. The floor was reopened to the topic of cost of production relating to APCAS/12/6 by Ms Carola Fabi, FAO. In the discussion, the Commission noted and supported the ongoing work by FAO and recommended further development of the handbook of cost of production.

53. The Commission noted that the Republic of Korea and China were working on remote sensing techniques and their proposal to organize a meeting on the sharing of knowledge related to remote sensing specifically the transfer of technologies, the sharing of satellite imagery, and the possible implementation of pilot projects. The Commission praised this initiative and recommended other countries to follow this kind of south-south cooperation for the transfer of technology. FAO expressed its willingness to facilitate this type of collaboration.

54. Ms Carola Fabi, FAO, invited the Commission to refer to the circulated room document "Towards a System of Environmental Economic Accounting for Agriculture (SEEA-AGRI)". FAO is leading the development process for SEEA-AGRI and has set a tentative workplan that include a pilot application in two countries in every region. FAO invited APCAS members to participate in the pilot.

55. The Commission recommended FAO to further collaborate with SIAP to provide training on issues relating to analytical software, sampling design and estimation of sampling errors, probably under the regional action plan of the global strategy.

56. Mr Naman Keita, FAO, informed the Commission that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation had approved on 11 October 2012 US\$15 million as contribution to the Global Fund of the "Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics".

57. The Host Government, Viet Nam, arranged a field visit for the delegates to some interesting sites in Da Lat, including a flower farm and the XQ cultural center.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSING OF THE SESSION

(Items 12 and 13 of the Agenda)

58. The Commission concluded the Twenty-Fourth Session on 12 October 2012 after considering and adopting the report prepared by the Drafting Committee, with amendments.

AGENDA

- I. Opening Ceremony**
- II. Election of Officers** (Chair, Vice-Chair and Drafting Committee)
- III. Adoption of Agenda**
- IV. FAO's Activities in Food and Agriculture Statistics in Asia and the Pacific since the last Session of the Commission**
 1. Overview of FAO activities in the Asia and Pacific region since the 23rd Session of APCAS including information on:
 - 1.1.1 Projects in the region
 - 1.1.2 Regional workshops on: i) FAO Data Collection; ii) Sex-Disaggregated Data; iii) Sampling Surveys; iv) Linking Population and Agriculture Census; v) Analysis of Food Consumption Data from Household Surveys.
 2. CountrySTAT Framework in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Countries
 3. Agriculture Marketing Information System (AMIS)
 4. Report on the side-events on Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Cost of Production
 5. FAO work on International Classifications of Agricultural Commodities
- V. State of Food and Agricultural Statistics in Countries of the Region**
 1. Evaluation of country responses to FAO questionnaires
 2. Report on Initial Country Assessments
 3. Assessment of Country Capacity to Produce Agriculture Statistics
 4. Overview of the future web portal on country level capacity in agricultural and rural statistics
 5. Discussion on Country Assessment Methodology
- VI. Implementation of Global Strategy to Improve of Agricultural and Rural Statistics in the Region**
 1. Progress in the implementation of the Global Action Plan, including mobilization of resources
 2. Overview of the Implementation Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, including the highlights of three components of the Plan (SGAS Chair)
 - a. The Technical Assistance Component (FAO)
 - b. The Training Component (ESCAP)
 - c. The Research Component (ADB)
 3. Panel discussion on regional priorities (Panellists: selected country representatives)

VII. Progress and Vision on World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA)

A. Experience of WCA 2010 (2006-2015)

1. Lessons learned from the implementation of the WCA 2010 and issues for WCA 2020 (FAO/ESS)
2. Country experiences
 - i. Agriculture Census – Lao PDR experience
 - ii. Agricultural census – Nepal experience
 - iii. Agriculture Census and Surveys – US experience
 - iv. Livestock and aquaculture surveys – Viet Nam experience
 - v. 2013 Census of Agriculture in Indonesia
 - vi. India – Agriculture Census 2010-2011
3. FAO/UNFPA technical guidelines for linking population and agricultural censuses

B. Vision for WCA 2020 (2016-2025)

1. Group work by country delegates to identify key issues to be addressed in the next programme

VIII. Methodological Developments in Food Security Statistics

1. New framework for the Food Balance Sheet (FBS) and Supply Utilization Accounts (SUA)
2. New approaches to the measurement of Food Security status
3. Food Insecurity Assessment in Thailand

IX. Data collection methods and ICT in the region

1. Paddy Production Survey in Viet Nam
2. Use of ICT for statistical reporting in Viet Nam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
3. Estimation of Planted Area Using the Dot Sampling Method
4. Use of Smart-phone's for food and agricultural price collection and dissemination
5. The Evolution of Agricultural Statistics in Australia

X. Recent advances in Economic, Social and Environmental Statistics on the Agriculture Sector

1. Environment Statistics: new database on GHG emissions from agriculture and agri-environmental indicators
2. Statistics on Private and Public Investment in Agriculture: government expenditure, capital stocks and other FAOSTAT datasets
3. A Gender Analysis of Food Security Indicators from Indonesia National Socio-Economic Survey 2011
4. Role of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Asia and the Pacific Region
5. Progress toward improvement of data and statistics in fisheries

XI. Any other business

Other Matters

Venue, date and topics for the next APCAS Session

XII. Adoption of the Report

XIII. Closing of the Session

LIST OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS

AFGHANISTAN

H.E. Saleem Khan KUNDOZI

Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and
Livestock
3rd Dist. Jamal Mena
Kabul
Tel: (93) 700 211139
E-mail: saleem.kunduzi@mail.gov.af

Hasibullah MOWAHED

Deputy President General
Central Statistics Organization
CSO, Ansari Watt, Kabul, Afghanistan
Tel: (93) 078 6034962
E-mail: hasib313@gmail.com

AUSTRALIA

Bruce HOCKMAN

Division Head/First Assistant Statistician
Business, Industry and Environment
Statistics Division
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Locked Bag 10, Belconnen, ACT 2616
Tel: (61-2) 62526646
Fax: (61-2) 62528045
E-mail: bruce.hockman@abs.gov.au

BANGLADESH

Salima SULTANA (Ms)

Director
Agriculture Wing
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
Ministry of Planning
E-27/A Agargaon
Dhaka 1207
Tel: (88) 02 8181415
Fax: (88) 02 9111064
E-mail: salimasultana@yahoo.com

BHUTAN

Karpo DUKPA

Statistician, Policy and Planning Division
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Thimphu
Tel: (975) 323745
Fax: (975) 323748
E-mail: karmo@moaf.gov.bt

CAMBODIA

SENG Soeurn

Deputy Director-General
National Institute of Statistics
Ministry of Planning
#386 Monivong Blvd.
Khan Chamkamom
Phnom Penh
Tel: (855) 12821791
Fax: (855) 23213650
E-mail: s.soeurn@yahoo.com

HONG Narit

Director
Department of Planning and Statistics
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
No. 200 Preah Norodom Blvd.,
Sangkat Tonle Bassac,
Khan Chamkamon
Phnom Penh
Tel: (855) 12 918658
Fax: (855) 23 720527
E-mail: hongnarit@yahoo.com

SREY Vuthy

Deputy Director
Department of Planning and Statistics
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
No. 200 Preah Norodom Blvd.,
Sangkat Tonle Bassac,
Khan ChamKarmon
Phnom Penh
Tel: (855) 12 845918
Fax: (855) 23 720527
E-mail: sreyvuthy@yahoo.com

MEAS Sotheavy (Ms)

Deputy Director
Department of Planning and Statistics
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and
Fisheries
No. 200 Preah Norodom Blvd.,
Sangkat Tonle Bassac,
Khan Chamkarmon
Phnom Penh
Tel: (855) 12 975519
Fax: (855) 23 720527
E-mail: sotheavy.meas@yahoo.com

CHINA**Jianhua ZHAO**

Deputy Director-General
Department of Rural Surveys
National Bureau of Statistics of China
57 Yuetan Nanjie
Beijing
Tel: (86) 10 68782858
E-mail: zhaojh@stats.gov.cn

Hao CHEN

Consultant
Department of Rural Surveys
National Bureau of Statistics of China
57 Yuetan Nanjie
Beijing
Tel: (86) 10 68782838
E-mail: chen hao@stats.gov.cn

Wei ZHOU

Consultant
Department of Rural Surveys
National Bureau of Statistics of China
57 Yuetan Nanjie
Beijing
Tel: (86) 10 68782856
Fax: (86) 10 68782854
E-mail: zhouw@stats.gov.cn

Lishui CHEN

Deputy Director-General
Department of Market and Economic
Information
Ministry of Agriculture
11 Nongzhanguan, Nanli
Beijing
Tel: (86) 10-5919 3149
Fax: (86)10-5919 3154
E-mail: Chenlishui@agri.gov.cn

Qiao ZHANG

Professor
Director of Agricultural Information Institute
Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science
(CAAS)
No. 12, South Zhongguancun Street
Haidian District
Beijing 100081
Tel: (86) 10 82109883
Fax: (86) 10 82106261
E-mail: Zhqiao@mail.caas.net.cn

FIJI**Pauliasi Waqa TUILAU**

Principal Economic Planning and
Statistics Officer
Economic Planning and Statistics Division,
Department of Agriculture
Ministry of Primary Industries
Private Mail Bag, Raiwaqa
Suva
Tel: (679) 3 100292
Fax: (679) 3 100293
E-mail: pauliasi.tuilau@govnet.gov.fj and
pauliasi.tuilau@gmail.com

INDIA**Vidya DHAR**

Deputy Director-General
Department of Agriculture and Cooperation
Ministry of Agriculture
Room No. 344, Krishi Bhavan
New Delhi 110001
Tel: (91) 11 23382523
Fax: (91) 11 23382523
E-mail: vidyadhar@nic.in

INDONESIA**S. Happy HARDJO**

Director
Food Crops, Horticulture and Estate Crops
Statistics
BPS – Statistics Indonesia
Jl Dr Sutomo No. 6-8
Jakarta 10710
Tel: (62) 21 3857048
Fax: (62) 21 3857048
E-mail: happy@bps.go.id

Leli NURYATI (Ms)

Head of
Data Horticulture and Estate Crops
Sub-Division, CADI
Ministry of Agriculture
Jl. Harsono RM No. 3
Ragunan
Jakarta 10710
Tel: (62) 21 7807601
Fax: (62) 21 7807601
E-mail: nuryatileli@yahoo.com

Indra SAKTI

Head of
Center Data, Statistics and Information
Secretary General
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur
No. 16 Level 16
Jakarta
Tel: (62) 21 3519070
Fax: (62) 21 3519075
E-mail: indra62@yahoo.com

**Sri Dyah Retnowati SUSENO
PUTRI (Ms)**

Head of Division of Data and Statistics
Center Data, Statistics and Information
Secretary General
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur
No. 16 Level 16
Jakarta Pusat
Tel: (62) 21 3519070
Fax: (62) 21 3519075
E-mail: retnowatii@yahoo.com

Mareta NIRMALANTI (Ms)

Head of
Sub-Division of Processing Data and
Statistics
Center Data, Statistics and Information
Secretary General
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur
No. 16 Level 16
Jakarta Pusat
Tel: (62) 21 3519070
Fax: (62) 21 3519075
E-mail: mnirmalanti@yahoo.co.id

IRAN**Heshmatallah GHOLIZADEH**

Assistant Statistics
Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture
Taleghani Street
Tehran
Tel: (98) 21 64582301
Fax: (98) 21 64582304
E-mail: h.Gholizadeh@agri-jahad.ir

JAPAN**Kenji KAMIKURA**

Senior Statistician
Statistics Department
Minister's Secretariat
Ministry of Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 1008950
Tel: (81) 3 3502 8092
Fax: (81) 3 3501 9644
E-mail: kenji_kamikura@nm.maff.go.jp

Emiko MORIMOTO (Ms)

Section Chief
Statistics Planning Division
Statistics Department
Minister's Secretariat
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and
Fisheries
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 1008950
Tel: (81) 3 3502 8092
Fax: (81) 3 3501 9644
E-mail: emiko_morimoto@nm.maff.go.jp

LAO PDR**Savanh HANEPHOM**

Deputy Director-General
Planning and Cooperation Department
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
P.O. Box 811
Vientiane
Tel: (856) 21 415358
Fax: (856) 21 454715
E-mail: hsavanh@yahoo.com

Vivanh SOUVANNAMETHY (Ms)

Deputy Director
Center for Statistics and Information
Department of Planning and Cooperation
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
P.O. Box 811
Vientiane
Tel: (856) 21 454251
Fax: (856) 21 454715
E-mail: souvannamethy@yahoo.com

MALAYSIA**Zarinah MAHARI (Ms)**

Director
Agriculture and Environment Statistics
Division
Department of Statistics Malaysia
Level 5, Block C6 Complex C
62514 Putrajaya
Tel: (603) 888 57177
Fax: (603) 888 89217
E-mail: zarinah@stats.gov.my

Mohamad Ariffin Bin SARAILA

Assistant Director
Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection
Services (MAQIS)
Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based
Industry
Level 7, Wisma Tani Block 4G2
Precint 4, No. 30, Persiaran Perdana,
62624 Putrajaya
Tel: (603) 887 04187
Fax: (603) 889 02910
E-mail: mohdariffin@moa.gov.my

Nurulain Binti BACHOK (Ms)

Principal Assistant Secretary
Strategic Planning and International
Division
Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based
Industry Malaysia
Level 14, Wisma Tani, No. 28
Persiaran Perdana
62624 Putrajaya
Tel: (603) 8870 1208
Fax: (603) 8870 1088
E-mail: nurulain@moa.gov.my

NEPAL**Birendra Kumar KAYASTHA**

Director, Agriculture Statistics Section
Central Bureau of Statistics
Thapathali
Kathmandu
Tel: (977) 1 4256956
Fax: (977) 1 4227720
E-mail: birendra_kayastha@yahoo.com

PAKISTAN**Sohail Mohammad KHAN**

Chief Economist
Agriculture Policy Institute Pakistan
3rd Floor, Evacuee Trust Building
Sir Agha Khan Road
Islamabad
Tel: (925) 19215230
Fax: (925) 1 9215232
E-mail: smk_138@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINES**Romeo RECIDÉ**

Director
Bureau of Agricultural Statistics
Ben-Lor Bldg., 1184 Quezon Avenue
Quezon City 1100
Tel: (63) 2 371 2050
Fax: (63) 2 371 2086
E-mail: rsrecide@gmail.com

REPUBLIC OF KOREA**Jaehwa PARK**

Deputy Director
Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics Division
Statistics Korea
Government Complex Daejeon
189 Cheongsa-ro Seo-gu
Daejeon
Tel: (82) 42 481 3671
Fax: (82) 42 481 3672
E-mail: nanaimo@korea.kr

Byong-surk HONG

Deputy Director
Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics
Division
Statistics Korea
Government Complex Daejeon
189 Cheongsa-ro Seo-gu
Daejeon
Tel: (82) 42 481 2547
Fax: (82) 42 481 3672
E-mail: hongbs@korea.kr

SRI LANKA**K.A.D.S. RANADHEERA (Ms)**

Deputy Director
Agriculture and Environment Statistics
Division
Department of Census and Statistics
No. 109, Rotunda Tower, Galle Road
Colombo 03
Tel: (941) 1244 7259
Fax: (941) 1244 7269
E-mail: sranadheera@statistics.gov.lk

THAILAND**Rajana NETSAENGTIP (Ms)**

Deputy Director-General
National Statistical Office
Ministry of Information and
Communication Technology
4th Floor, The Government Complex
Building B
Changwattana Road, Laksi
Bangkok 10210
Tel: (66) 2 141 7274
Fax: (66) 2 143 8103
E-mail: raja@nso.go.th

Sureerat SANTIPAPORN (Ms)

Director
Social Statistics Bureau
National Statistical Office
Ministry of Information and
Communication Technology
3rd Floor, The Government Complex
Building B
Changwattana Road, Laksi
Bangkok 10210
Tel: (66) 2 142 1252
Fax: (66) 2 143 8136
E-mail: sureerat@nso.go.th

Nongnooch DEETAE (Ms)

Senior Expert for Agricultural Statistics
System
Office of Agricultural Economics
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Kasetsart University Complex
Phaholyothin Road, Chatuchak
Bangkok 10900
Tel: (66) 2 5794816-7
Fax: (66) 2 5794840
E-mail: nongnooch@oae.go.th

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**Robert HALE**

Mathematical Statistician
US Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 6035
Washington DC 20250
Tel: (1) 202 720 6547
Fax: (1) 202 720 0506
E-mail: Robert.hale@nass.usda.gov

VIET NAM**Lieu Van NGUYEN**

Deputy Director General
General Statistics Office
Ministry of Planning and Investment
No. 6B Hoang Dieu Street
Hanoi
Tel: (844) 3733 9339
Fax: (844) 3846 4345
E-mail: nvlieu@gso.gov.vn

Vinh Quang PHAM

Director
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery
Statistics Department
General Statistics Office
Ministry of Planning and Investment
No. 6B Hoang Dieu Street
Hanoi
Tel: (844) 3846 3522
Fax: (844) 3843 8907
E-mail: pqvinh@gso.gov.vn

Nam Tien PHAM

Deputy Director
Integral Statistics Department
General Statistics Office
Ministry of Planning and Investment
No. 6B Hoang Dieu Street
Hanoi
Tel: (844) 3846 4383
Fax: (844) 3843 8907
E-mail: ptnam@gso.gov.vn

Thuy Thi Thu VU (Ms)

Deputy Director
Social-Environmental Statistics
Department
General Statistics Office
Ministry of Planning and Investment
No. 6B Hoang Dieu Street
Hanoi
Tel: (844) 3843 9872
Fax: (844) 3843 8907
E-mail: vtthuy@gso.gov.vn

Hanh Thi Hong DOAN (Ms)

Statistician
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery
Statistics Department
General Statistics Office
Ministry of Planning and Investment
No. 6B Hoang Dieu Street
Hanoi
Tel: (844) 3846 3492
Fax: (844) 3843 8907
E-mail: dthhanh@gso.gov.vn

Chien Viet NGUYEN

Director
Centre for Informatics and Statistics
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural
Development
No. 2 Ngoc Ha Street
Hanoi
Tel: (849) 1351 9435
Fax: (844) 3823 0381
E-mail: nvchien@mard.gov.vn

Tri Minh PHAM

Head of Data Analysis and Forecast
Centre for Informatics and Statistics
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural
Development
Hanoi
Tel: (849) 13363 719
Fax: (844) 3823 0381
E-mail: phamminhtri@mard.gov.vn

Thuy Thi NGUYEN (Ms)

Chief of Statistics Division
Centre for Informatics and Statistics
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural
Development
Hanoi
Tel: (849) 88811104
Fax: (844) 38230381
E-mail: thuynt@mard.gov.vn

Hai Ha Thi VU (Ms)

Statistician
Centre for Informatics and Statistics
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Hanoi
Tel: (849) 12912881
Fax: (844) 38230381
E-mail: vuthihaiha@mard.gov.vn

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED NATIONS, SPECIALIZED
AGENCIES AND INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS****ESCAP****Rikke Munk HANSEN (Ms)**

Chief
Statistical Information Services Section
Statistics Division
ESCAP
United Nations Building
Rajadamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok, THAILAND
Tel: (66) 2 2881545
Fax: (66) 2 2881082
E-mail: hansenrm@un.org

IRRI

Josephine NARCISO (Ms)

Assistant Scientist
Social Sciences Division
International Rice Research Institute
College, Los Banos, 4031 Laguna
PHILIPPINES
Tel: (63) 2 580 5600
Fax: (63) 2 580 5699
E-mail: j.narciso@irri.org

SEAFDEC

Saivason KLINSUKHON (Ms)

Information Officer
Southeast Asian Fisheries
Development Center
P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, THAILAND
Tel: (66) 2 9406326
Fax: (66) 2 9406336
E-mail: saivason@seafdec.org

SIAP

Margarita F. GUERRERO (Ms)

Director
Statistical Institute for Asia and
the Pacific
3-2-2 Wakaba Mihama-ku
Chiba-shi, Chiba 261 8787
JAPAN
Tel: (81) 43 299 9796
Fax: (81) 299 2521
E-mail: querrero@unsiap.or.jp

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Josef SCHMIDHUBER

Principal Officer
Statistics Division, FAO
Viale Delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, ITALY
Tel: (39) 06 570 56264
Fax: (39) 06 570 55615
E-mail: josef.schmidhuber@fao.org

Naman KEITA

CountrySTAT Manager
Statistics Division, FAO
Viale Delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, ITALY
Tel: (39) 06 570 53827
E-mail: naman.keita@fao.org

Mukesh Kumar SRIVASTAVA

Statistician
Statistics Division, FAO
Viale Delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, ITALY
Tel: (39) 06 570 56880
E-mail: mukesh.srivastava@fao.org

Carola FABI (Ms)

Statistician
Statistics Division, FAO
Viale Delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, ITALY
Tel: (39) 06 570 54555
Fax: (39) 06 570 54206
E-mail: carola.fabi@fao.org

Francesco Nicola TUBIELLO

Natural Resources Officer
Climate, Energy, and Tenure Division,
FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, ITALY
Tel: (39) 06 570 52169
E-mail: francesco.tubiello@fao.org

Mirella SALVATORE (Ms)

Statistician, FAO
Climate, Energy, and Tenure Division
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, ITALY
Tel: (39) 06 570 55309
E-mail: mirella.salvatore@fao.org

Sachiko TSUJI (Ms)

Senior Fishery Statistician
Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and
Economics Division, FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, ITALY
Tel: (39) 06 570 55318
Fax: (39) 06 570 52476
E-mail: sachiko.tsuji@fao.org

FAO VIET NAM

Yuriko SHOJI (Ms)

FAO Representative in Viet Nam
3 Rue Nguyen Gia
Thieu, Street 3
Hanoi, VIET NAM
Tel: (844) 39424208
Fax: (844) 39423257
E-mail: fao-van@fao.org

Vu Ngoc Tien

Assistant FAO Representative
(Programme)
3 Rue Nguyen Gia
Thieu, Street 3
Hanoi, VIET NAM
Tel: (844) 39424208 ext. 19
Fax: (844) 39423257
E-mail: tien.vungoc@fao.org

LIAISON OFFICER

Ha Thi Thu DO (Ms)

Deputy Director
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery
Statistics Department
General Statistics Office
Ministry of Planning and Investment
No. 6B Hoang Dieu Street
Hanoi, VIET NAM
Tel: (844) 3823 4903
Fax: (844) 3843 8907
E-mail: dothuha@gso.gov.vn

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Jairo CASTANO

Senior Statistician
Economic, Social and Policy Assistance
Group
FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific
39 Phra Atit Road
Bangkok 10200, THAILAND
Tel: (66) 2 697 4250
Fax: (66) 2 697 4455
E-mail: jairo.castano@fao.org

Anthony BURGARD

National Consultant in Statistics
FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific
39 Phra Atit Road
Bangkok 10200, THAILAND
Tel: (66) 2 697 4182
Fax: (66) 2 697 4455
E-mail: anthony.burgard@fao.org

Parijat CHUNTAKETTA (Ms)

Secretary
Economic, Social and Policy Assistance
Group
FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific
39 Phra Atit Road
Bangkok 10200, THAILAND
Tel: (66) 2 697 4311
Fax: (66) 2 697 4455
E-mail: parijat.chuntaketta@fao.org

Yohei KUNIKANE

International Consultant on Agricultural
Statistics
FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific
39 Phra Atit Road
Bangkok 10200, THAILAND
Tel: (66) 2 697 4127
Fax: (66) 2 697 4455
E-mail: yohei.kunikane@fao.org

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WELCOME ADDRESS

By

Mr Nguyen Van Lieu

Deputy Director General of General Statistics Office of Viet Nam

at

**The Twenty-fourth Session of the
Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics**

Da Lat, Viet Nam

8 – 12 October 2012

.....

His Excellency Mr Dao Quang Thu Vice-Minister of Planning and Investment

His Excellency Nguyen Van Yen, Vice-Chairman of Lam Dong People's Committee

**Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative,
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific,**

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Good morning

Firstly, on behalf of Mr Do Thuc, Director General of the General Statistics Office of Viet Nam, I would like to warmly welcome delegates to attend the 24th Session of the Asia Pacific Committee on Agricultural Statistics in Da Lat city, Lam Dong province from 8 to 12 October 2012. I wish you all good health and wish the Session great success.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The Session of the Asia Pacific Committee on Agricultural Statistics, which is conducted every two years, has always been considered a very important forum for regional statistical community to assess, discuss, share information and propose solutions to improve and strengthen agricultural statistics aiming at collecting adequate, accurate and timely information in order to serve development and making of policies for development of agriculture and rural areas at national, regional and international levels. As stated in the working agenda, the 24th Session will focus on the important contents, such as review and discussion of the achievements obtained in the past two years since the 23rd Session held in Siem Reap – Cambodia; finding of the direction and action plans for better conduct of statistical work in the field of agriculture, including the Regional Action Plan for implementation of the Global Strategy Strengthening Agricultural Statistics and Rural Areas, etc.

Given the importance and contents of the Session, it is a great honor for GSO to be given the responsibility of coordinating with FAO to organize this Session by the Minister of Planning and Investment. We are aware that this is a great opportunity for Viet Nam Statistics in general and agricultural statistics of Viet Nam in particular to share and learn experiences with colleagues from different countries in the region, international organizations and advanced statistics countries. This is a good opportunity for Viet Nams integration into the regional and global statistics community. This is also a good chance for us to introduce the country, people and culture of Viet Nam in general and Da Lat, Lam Dong in particular. Therefore, GSO commits to work closely with FAO and Lam Dong People's Committee to successfully organize this important event.

On behalf of the General Statistics Office, I would like to express my profound gratitude to H.E Mr Dao Quang Thu, Vice Minister of Planning and Investment who spends precious time to attend, open and direct this Session despite his busy schedules.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mr Nguyen Van Yen, Vice-Chairman of Lam Dong People's Committee for attending the Session opening, for his generous support and guidance to related departments of Lam Dong to coordinate and facilitate for the smooth operation of the Session in Da Lat- a beautiful, rich in history and culture, and hospitality city, a very memorable destination for domestic and international tourists.

I would like to thank the delegates and distinguished guests from international organizations and other countries in the region for attending the Session. My sincere thanks are expressed to FAO for having devoted so much effort to the preparation and organization of this Session. I also would like to thank domestic delegates for your attendance, including representatives from the Ministry of Planning and Investment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, GSO units, the provincial departments of Lam Dong province. Last but not least, I highly appreciate mass media from central to local levels for attending and releasing news on the Session.

With your participation in this Session, I am confident that the Session will be successful through the achievement of objectives.

Once again, I would like to wish Vice-Minister Mr Dao Quang Thu, Mr Nguyen Van Yen – Vice-Chairman of Lam Dong People's Committee, Mr Hiroyuki Konuma – Assistant Director General and Regional Representative, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and all delegates good health.

I wish you fruitful work and you will spend your time to visit beautiful places in Da Lat.

I wish the 24th Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics great success.

Thank you very much!

OUTGOING CHAIR'S ADDRESS

By

Mr HONG Narit

Director, Department of Planning and Statistics,
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia

at

**The Twenty-fourth Session of the
Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics**

Da Lat, Viet Nam
8-12 October 2012

.....

Your Excellency Mr Dao Quang Thu, Vice Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Viet Nam

Mr Nguyen Van Yen, Vice-Chairman Lam Dong People's Committee

Ms Yuriko SHOJI, FAO Representative Viet Nam

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentleman.

At the very outset, let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the General Statistics Office, Ministry of Planning and Investment of Viet Nam, in collaboration with FAO to host this very important 24th Session of Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics. I congratulate the organizers for their excellent arrangement to gather our regional expertised participants here to share and deliberate experiences to further improve and advance agricultural statistics for better serving the main purpose of proper Food Security related policy-making for our region and the world.

It was a great honor for me to have the opportunity to take the chairmanship for 2 years since the 23rd APCAS held in Siem Reap, the Kingdom of Cambodia. I thank all of our colleagues in the region and FAO who shared their expertise and provided their assistance in making our tasks and works successfully done during that period, in which many activities were deliberated, discussed and addressed, such as: issues related to Food and Nutrition Security, Agricultural Commodity Price Index, Sex Disaggregated Data Collection, Improvement of agricultural Statistics on trade-related matters, World Programme for the Census of Agriculture with country agricultural census case study experiences, and capacity building in agriculture statistics and so on.

It, certainly is that the 23rd Session was a satisfying experience in furthering the process of information sharing and strengthening of agricultural statistics within the region. Hereafter, this is the favourable condition for us to increase our collaboration in whatsoever we have adopted from that meeting, and to go for further enhancement.

In the context of Cambodia, we are in the process of implementing our Agriculture Strategic Development Plan (ASDP) 2009-2013, which have been developed in consistent with the government policy and strategic plan, the Rectangular Strategy (RS) Phase II and the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) Updated 2009-2013, which has been contributing to economic growth and accelerating poverty reduction through the promotion and diversification of agriculture. And in relation to this, statistics on agriculture is used as the basic indicators in the planning process in agricultural development, and that the accuracy of the statistical data is needed to ensure better development of planning indicators.

As part of our efforts to participate in the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010, Cambodia, with technical support from FAO, has started to conduct its first agriculture census, that has been planned to be fully implemented in 2013. In this connection, we are keen to draw experiences from case studies of selected countries to be presented in this 24th APCAS. In addition, we have also conducted crop cutting surveys, analysis of food security, implemented Agriculture Land Information System (ALIS), EWI and ACO, etc.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

From Last APCAS, we are now finally at the 24th APCAS, in which heavy loading, challenging but interesting topics of the proposed Agenda lie ahead of us to be presented, deliberate and discussed, ranging from the implementation of Global Strategy and Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, experiences of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA), technical guideline for the linkages population and agriculture census, down to Food Security Methodological Development, to the use of ICT for data collection, and social, economic and environment statistics for agriculture sector, and so on. Despite this tense schedule, I am, as outgoing chairman, confident that under our next chairman's guidance, we will enthusiastically work altogether on the right track towards advancing our agricultural statistics to achieve our objectives of enhancing the level of our food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to deeply thank our host Viet Nam for their warmest hospitality extended to me and my delegates and I hope all other distinguished delegates do receive the same also; and I wish the new APCAS Host-Viet Nam and FAO a successful 24th Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on the Agricultural Statistics.

Thank you!

OPENING ADDRESS

By

Mr Josef Schmidhuber

Principal Officer, FAO Statistics Division

at

**The Twenty-fourth Session of the
Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics**

Da Lat, Viet Nam

8 – 12 October 2012

.....

Your Excellency, Mr He Dao Quang Thu, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Mr Nguyen Van Yen, Vice-Chairman, Lam Dong People's Committee

Mr Nguyen Van Lieu, Deputy Director General of the General Statistics Office

Ms Yuriko Shoji, FAO Representative to Viet Nam

Mr Hong Narit, Director of the Department of Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia and Chair of the Asia Pacific Commission for Agricultural Statistics

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is both a privilege and a pleasure to welcome you all to the Twenty-fourth Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Government of Viet Nam for assisting FAO in hosting this Commission Session. We are particularly grateful to our colleagues from the Viet Nam General Statistics Office, who worked closely with the staff of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, to complete on time all organizational and logistical arrangements. We would also like to extend our warm welcome to the Delegates who, in spite of the long journeys, are attending this Commission Session in large number.

This is the first time that the Commission meets in Viet Nam, 46 years after the first APCAS meeting in 1966. And importantly, Viet Nam did not only host the meeting of the Commission, it also organized two important side events back-to-back with APCAS. One of them focused on measuring Greenhouse Gas Emissions from agriculture, the other revolved around measuring and analysing Costs of Agricultural Production. At this point it shall suffice to say that both events were very carefully and professionally organized and both events rendered results way in excess of our

expectations. My colleagues from the FAO will provide you with a more detailed account of the outcomes later this morning.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to highlight here some of the key developments in the area of agricultural statistics that have emerged over the last two years.

Within FAO, as part of the overall reform of the organization and following an external evaluation of FAO work in statistics, higher priority is being given to statistics and to the internal coordination of statistical activities.

At global level, the international community is now according growing importance to strengthening agricultural statistical systems in developing and developed countries. Importantly, Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics is now moving from the preparation to the implementation phase. The first steps include the creation of the Global Implementation Office and the roll-out of initial substantive activities. The workshop on cost of production held here in Da Lat back-to-back with APCAS is a first illustration of the start of the implementation phase. It could also be seen as a harbinger for many more substantial activities under the Global Strategy in the Asia and Pacific Region.

Since the last Commission session, we also continued to promote and assist countries in the implementation of the 2010 World programme for the Census of Agriculture. The FAO was assisting countries in the region such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Fiji, Lao PDR, Myanmar in conducting their agricultural censuses through Technical Cooperation and donor-funded Projects. Activities also included a regional workshop on the use of sampling techniques for agricultural censuses and surveys, organized by the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in cooperation with many regional and international partners.

The region has recently concluded the first draft of the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy which has been submitted to the Global Steering Committee for endorsement. That draft will be discussed in this Commission Session.

There are also important developments underway at FAO Headquarters with direct impacts and benefits for Asia and Pacific region. For instance, FAO has completely overhauled the platform and the content of FAOSTAT, its corporate database which is now offering faster, easier and more user-friendly access to a rapidly growing set of data domains. These include or will soon include databases on Agri-Environmental Indicators, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Government expenditure on agriculture, producer and consumer price indices, and those even on a monthly basis.

In parallel with the improved corporate information platform, FAO has started to shift the software for CountrySTAT to an improved and royalty-free system. It has also expanded the coverage of CountrySTAT in Asia from an initial focus on the Philippines to Bhutan and Afghanistan. The shift in platforms will facilitate a faster roll-out of the CountrySTAT system to many more countries in the Asia and Pacific region as well as to all other regions in the world.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 24th Session of the Commission has a comprehensive agenda to address. In addition to the topics mentioned above, papers will be presented on private and public investments in agriculture, a new framework for food balance sheets and supply-utilization accounts, and the collection of agri-environmental statistics in Viet Nam, to mention just a few.

The underlying documentation has been prepared by the secretariat and by member countries and has been made available in advance of the meeting for discussion and decision by the Commission.

I encourage the Commission to exchange views in a constructive and open manner, and to widely share the wealth of knowledge and experience present in the region for the benefit of all. We look forward to the Commission's recommendations which will assist FAO in orienting its programme of work in food and agricultural statistics.

Finally, I wish you a successful meeting and a pleasant stay in Da Lat.

Thank you.

OPENING REMARKS

By

Ms Yuriko Shoji

FAO Representative for Viet Nam

On behalf of

Mr Hiroyuki Konuma

Assistant Director-General and

FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific

at

**The Twenty-fourth Session of the
Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics**

Da Lat, Viet Nam

8 – 12 October 2012

.....

His Excellency Mr, Vice-Minister MPI, Viet Nam,

Mr Hong Narit, Director, Department of Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Forestry and Fisheries, Viet Nam, and Outgoing Chairman of the APCAS Organizing Committee

Mr Nguyen Van Lieu, DDG, GSO, Viet Nam

Mr Nguyen Van Yen, Deputy Chairman, Lam Dong People's Committee

Mr Josef Schmidhuber, Principal Officer, Statistics Division, FAO

Distinguished Delegates and Dignitaries,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure to extend, on behalf of Mr Konuma, FAORAP ADG and RR, the Director-General of FAO and on my own behalf, a warm welcome to the Twenty-fourth Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS).

I am especially grateful to the Government of Viet Nam for its generosity in hosting this session in the beautiful city of Da Lat and for providing excellent facilities and an environment conducive to fruitful and productive discussions. I am personally grateful to you, Your Honourable Vice-Minister, for devoting your valuable time to inaugurate this 24th Session of APCAS.

I am delighted to note that some 66 delegates from 21 member countries are attending the meeting. I am particularly happy to note the participation of four observers from the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), IRRI, SEAFDEC and SIAP. I am thankful for your continued keen interest in the work of the Commission and in the activities of FAO. Your active involvement is significant as reliable food and agricultural statistics are more essential than ever for proper planning and decision-making.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Since the establishment of APCAS as a statutory FAO body in 1963 and the first Session of the Commission in Tokyo, Japan in 1966, 23 meetings have been held in 14 different countries. APCAS provides a forum for senior statistics officials from member countries to review recent developments in agricultural statistical systems and exchange ideas with experts from FAO and other bodies on the state of food and agricultural statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

This Commission serves to effectively synthesize the opinions and recommendations of member countries within the region and these are then brought to the attention of all member countries at the FAO regional and general conferences. Therefore, APCAS provides a unique opportunity to put forward proposals that may contribute to the further development of agricultural statistics in the Asia-Pacific region.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

You are well aware that FAO's main mandate is to combat hunger and monitor progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, especially MDG one, Target two, aimed at reducing extreme hunger by half by 2015. Despite the rapid transformation of economies in the region, it still accounts for more than 60 percent of the world's undernourished¹ population due to its large population and relatively low per capita incomes when compared with the Latin American and the Near East and North Africa regions. FAO advance assessments show that 570 million people faced chronic hunger in Asia and the Pacific in 2006-2008.²

A surge in and volatility of international prices of maize, wheat, soybeans, sugar and other food staples has hit the food markets once more. You will recall that this is the third such surge in 4 years and would pose a great risk for negative impact on the vulnerable groups in the society. This is not a crisis yet as wheat and rice stocks are higher than in 2007-2008. However, we must remain vigilant and monitor the situation.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are meeting amidst the historic grandeur that surrounds Da Lat to discuss and review a range of technical and policy issues to be tabled during this APCAS Session which are highly relevant for the economic and social well-being of the Asia-Pacific region.

One of these issues relates to FAO activities since the last APCAS Session, ranging from publications, meetings and training workshops, to project activities.

A summary report of the country assessments prepared by you will be tabled and discussed. FAO will also provide you with feedback on the countries' responses to the FAO questionnaires, including a roundtable discussion on the validation of results and assessments.

¹ FAO, *The state of food insecurity in the world 2011*.

² Ibid.

An interesting agenda item is the Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics which is currently under way in the region. FAO will provide an update on this subject.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As you may recall, in 2005 FAO launched the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 (WCA 2010), FAO's ninth Census round. Several countries have undertaken the Census of agriculture while preparations are under way in other countries. The Session will review the implementation of WCA 2010 in Asia and the Pacific and identify some key issues to be addressed in the next WCA Programme 2020.

The Session will also benefit from presentations by relevant government departments in Viet Nam relating to the census, rice and statistical reporting. Other important topics will include agri-environmental statistics, investment in agriculture and use of IT.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Agricultural statistics have become increasingly important, especially at a time when policy-makers require timely and reliable information for decision-making.

APCAS has provided strong support for the development of agricultural statistics in the region throughout its 49 years of existence. The Commission works not only to monitor progress in the development of agricultural statistics and takes cognizance of the needs of countries, but also sets directions for further developments in statistical systems by providing a platform for sharing country initiatives. FAO looks forward to receiving your directions for our future actions. In turn, I wish to assure you that we at the FAO Regional Office in Bangkok are always ready to extend technical assistance to our member countries to the best of our expert capability.

Finally, let me again convey my sincere gratitude to the Government of Viet Nam for hosting this session of the Commission. I wish to convey again my special gratitude to the Vice-Minister for his participation at this meeting despite his busy schedule. I acknowledge the hard work of the secretariat staff from the General Statistics Office of Viet Nam, in the preparation and organization of this meeting. I would also like to thank Mr Jay Castano, APCAS Secretary, and my colleagues from FAO headquarters and the regional office for their technical contributions and managerial efforts for making this meeting valuable and productive. I would also like to acknowledge the technical contributions from our partners UNESCAP as well as delegates from Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Thailand, Viet Nam, Japan, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

I wish you all success in your deliberations and a pleasant stay in the romantic and beautiful city of Da Lat.

Thank you.

WELCOME ADDRESS

By

Mr NGUYEN VAN YEN

Lam Dong Deputy Chairman of People's Committee

at

**The Twenty-fourth Session of the
Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics**

Da Lat, Viet Nam

8 – 12 October 2012

.....

Honorable,

Mr Deputy Minister of MPI

Mr Nguyen Van Lieu – Deputy Director General, General Statistics Office of Viet Nam

Mr Hiroyuki Konuma – FAO General Director's Assistant and Regional Representative for Asia-Pacific.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of Lam Dong People's Committee, I warmly welcome all delegates presenting at The 24th Conference of Asia and Pacific Committee on Agricultural Statistics in Da Lat – lovely and kindly city.

Lam Dong is a province in South Central Highlands with natural area of 9,744 km² (12 administrative units, 2 cities and 10 districts), population around 1.24 million includes over 40 nationalities, ethnic minority among 22 percent. With natural advantages, these are Lam Dong's potential to develop its tourism and services, long-term industrial crops and hi-tech agriculture.

Located in average height of 1,500 m above sea level, Da Lat – Lam Dong is rare area in the Southeast Asia with temperate climate in tropic zone cause weather in Da Lat is so cool whole year. For a long time ago, Da Lat was recognized as a famous place for tourism and ideal resort. National routes No. 20, No. 27, No. 28 which connect Lam Dong to Ho Chi Minh City, the Southeast, the Highlands and the South – Central Coast of Viet Nam, making a strong socio-economic relationship with neighbouring provinces; Lien Khuong Airport which is 30 km far from Da Lat City is international standard serving for flights to Hanoi Capital, Ho Chi Minh City and Danang City and international flights in near future.

In the field of tourism and service, there're 33 sightseeing landscapes such as Flower Garden, The valley of love, Dreaming Hill, Tuyenlam lake, Prenn waterfalls, ...etc. There're 737 accommodation establishments, including 197 standard hotels from 1 to 5 stars, respond among 40 thousands of guest per day.

Agro-forestry and fisheries are the other advantages of Da Lat – Lam Dong. There's 316 thousand hectares of farming land, among 200 thousand hectares of bazon soil in Baoloc City and Dilinh District appropriated for long-term industrial crops such as tea, coffee, mulberry, ...serving for agricultural processing industry; over 600 thousand hectares of forest with capacity of 150 thousands m³ of wood. Production from fishery reaches over 8 thousand tons per year in 3.2 thousands hectare of pond, lake...specially salmon and sturgeon in Lacduong and Lamha districts, Da Lat and Baoloc Cities. It is higher and higher than traditional method.

Beside the advantage of long-time industrial crops, the climate creates favourable condition for vegetable and flower to develop all year around. Vegetable of Lam Dong is produced by high – tech orientation which would become popular method of farming in Da Lat City and other districts of Duc Trong, Lac Duong, Don Duong ...with production of more than 1.4 mil ton/year. Lam Dong's Flower is various categories and valuable such as: orchid, Cymbidium, rose, camatiens, chrysanthemums... making the outputs in 2012 estimated over 1.8 mil branches and were exported to some countries. For castle breeding, Lam Dong is a local which have many advantages to develop flock of castle in big scale, especially herd of 5 thousand cows for milk produced 10 thousand tons of fresh milk...

Bringing into play all presents given by nature along with the hard and creativeness of people living in Da Lat City – Lam Dong, the value of product per 1 ha for farming reaches h99 mil/ha in 2011.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Because of the variation and diversification in agricultural, forestry productions in general, Lam Dong province in particular and the complexity of agricultural statistics survey is: classification of land for farming, forest, the combination of plants among the production subjects in a local and other locals, the method of join cultivation in a crop and square unit, especially the sense of voluntary of people to provide information for statistic survey... prevented the accurate figures. I hope that by application of scientific methods in statistics survey, collection, procession of information on agriculture will be discussed, exchanged in this conference contributing to improving the property of enough, accurate, punctual of statistic information on agriculture to serve the managing, steering works of all levels and sectors.

On behalf of Lam Dong Provincial People Committee's leaders, may I wish all delegates, guests a fruitful and successful conference. During the time of participating this conference, I am very hopeful, all of you will spend little time on visiting the famous beauty – spots of Da Lat and the City of Flower will make fine impression on the land, friendly and elegant people.

Finally, once again, may I wish all of you the best of health, happiness and a successful conference.

Thank you.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

By

H.E. Dao Quang Thu

Vice-Minister of Planning and Investment

at

**The Twenty-fourth Session of the
Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics**

Da Lat, Viet Nam

8 – 12 October 2012

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Ms Yuriko Shoji, FAO Representative Viet Nam,

Mr Nguyen Van Yen, Vice-Chairman of the Lam Dong People's Committee

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Today, on behalf of the government of the Vietnam Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, I would like to express my great honor and pleasure to deliver this Inaugural Address of the 24th Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics or APCAS, which is held from 8 to 12 October 2012 in Da Lat, Viet Nam.

Firstly, I would like to welcome all delegates and participants from international organizations and countries in the region, representatives from ministries in Viet Nam and Lam Dong People's Committee for attending this Session which is jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Ministry of Planning and Investment (General Statistics Office). I strongly believe that you will make valuable contributions to the success of the Session. I would like to express my high appreciation and deep thanks to the FAO for its entrusted support to choose Viet Nam as a host for, and its close collaboration to organize this Session.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

There is no doubt that agriculture (broadly) plays a very critical role in socio-economic development and political-social stabilization in Viet Nam and other countries in the region. For Viet Nam, a country with nearly 70 percent of rural population and 50 percent of rural labour working in agriculture, development of agriculture is a target, motivation and the most effective tool and solution of the Viet Nam Communist Party and Government in poverty reduction, food security, improvement of living standards of rural population, environmental protection, implementation of Millennium Development Goals which were endorsed in the 2000 MDG Summit in which Viet Nam and other 188 countries committed to implement.

In recent years, the difficulties caused by floods, droughts, sea level rise due to climate change, frequently occurred diseases and over-exploitation of natural resources have adversely affected agricultural production, particularly in Asia-Pacific countries. The goal of adequate provision of food on a global level is thus becoming increasingly difficult and is a major global challenge in the coming years. National, regional and international policy makers are facing with many challenges, the most visible of which is to not only develop agriculture to help millions of people get out of poverty but also reduce the impact of agriculture to environmental pollution, warming of the earth, and simultaneously preserve the land and water resources. These are issues beyond national border.

To address these challenges, in the past years, Viet Nam has been developing appropriate policies and strategies, taking measures to promote industrialization and modernization of agriculture and rural areas; strengthening cooperation, mobilizing resources for investment in research and application of information technology to promote sustainable, environment – friendly development of agriculture and new rural areas. Thus, in recent years, Viet Nams agriculture has made encouraging achievements: agricultural growth is stable at an average rate of 3.3 percent/year over the past 10 years; rice production increased from 32.1 million tons in 2001 to 42.3 million tons in 2011, which has changed Viet Nam’s position from a rice importer into the 2nd largest rice exporter in the world – in other words, Viet Nam has become a food supplier to many countries in the region and the world.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Statistical information on agriculture and rural areas is known as a very important basis for the formulation of policies, plans, programmes and strategies for development of agriculture and rural areas. However, in Viet Nam as well as many countries in the region, information on agriculture and rural areas has not met users’ increasing requirements in terms of quantity and quality. There still exists inconsistency of data, concepts and methods of data collection and calculation, which then leads to differences in assessing the situation between data producers and users. A number of new phenomena in agriculture, such as global warming, use of land and water resources, increased demand for bio-fuel reducing the supply of food crops, etc. have not been fully collected.

In this context, the 24th APCAS with the participation of FAO leading experts in agricultural statistics and other countries in the region is very essential and significant. During 5 working days, the Session will focus on discussing several important contents such as: current situation of agricultural statistics in the region; implementation of the Global Strategy on Strengthening Agricultural Statistics; agricultural census 2010 and vision for the agricultural census 2020; development of statistical methodology for food security; data collection methods and application of information technology in the region; accomplishments in economic, social and environmental statistics associated with the agriculture, etc. The discussion of these contents will certainly help each country in the region further strengthen and improve agricultural statistics to better meet data users requirements. The Session also takes the opportunity to listen to FAO and other countries’ experts sharing experiences, difficulties, successful lessons, and new and advanced methods.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

To fulfill its role as a host country, the Vietnamese Government assigned the Ministry of Planning and Investment (GSO) to closely collaborate with FAO and the Lam Dong People's Committee to successfully organize this Session. I highly appreciate the effort of FAO and Vietnamese agencies in preparation to make this important Session taken place as scheduled. Also, I would like to express my appreciation to the participation of experts and participants from different countries in the region and international organizations. I firmly believe that the Session will be successful and achieve the expected goals. The results of the Session will be the prerequisite and basis for the development of plan and solutions to the implementation of the Global Strategy on Strengthening Agricultural Statistics in each individual country as well as Asia-Pacific region. I wish you all pleasant, unforgettable, fond memories in Da Lat, a city of flowers.

I solemnly declare the opening of the 24th Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics.

Thank You for your kind attention!

CLOSING SPEECH

By

Mr Nguyen Van Lieu

Deputy Director General of GSO

at

**The Twenty-fourth Session of the
Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics**

Da Lat, Viet Nam

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Dear Mr Jairo Castano, Senior Statistician, Economic, Social and Policy Assistance Group, FAORAP

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Good afternoon

We have finally come to the end of the 24th APCAS Session. We have seen a high level of productivity and cooperation among the participants. Please let me brief what we have achieved so far in this 24th APCAS Session:

We have listened to the review of FAO's Activities in Food and Agriculture Statistics in Asia and the Pacific since the last Session of the Commission.

We have been also updated and discussed on state of food and agricultural statistics in countries of the region. We have focused on the implementation action plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, and then have endorsed it for next step of approval. We also concentrated on various issues of the progress of World Program for the Census of Agriculture (WCA) with much valuable brainstorming for the vision of next WCA. We have discussed and made comments on a wide range of matters related to agricultural statistics, such as data collection methods and ICT in the region, and recent advances in economic, social, and environmental statistics in agriculture sector.

We have had a chance to listen to methodological developments in food security statistics.

All APCAS 24 member countries fully support FAO to undertake the Cost of Production Statistics in the near future; and in order to do this, the Commission also requests FAO to continue to provide technical supports to the APCAS member countries, especially to developing countries in the region in this matter.

We are very happy and welcome the invitation from Lao PDR to be the host of the next Session and the Commission.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I would like to take this opportunity to propose recommendations to further development of agriculture statistics in the region as follows: from our discussions, suggestions and comments, it can be seen that most countries in the region are still facing, among others, capacity issues in the field of agricultural statistics. Therefore, the Commission requests continued and further technical supports from FAO through its effective projects under the form of training, technical assistance in methodologies.

I also would like to request FAO to work closely with Lao PDR and APCAS member countries to find a host country for the 26th APCAS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Session is now coming to the end. I believe that this Session has been successful and achieved its goals. One of the crucial aspects of the success is the sharing of information. This is especially important for us to have appropriate actions to improve agricultural statistics in each country from which to strengthen agricultural statistics in the region. For 5 days since 8th of October, we have worked and cooperated closely together in such effective manner. Therefore, on behalf of Dr Do Thuc, Director General of GSO, allow me to convey our special thanks to Mr Jairo Castano for his great help. Without his invaluable assistances, I could not fulfill my duty as the Chair of APCAS 24 Session.

I would also like to thank participants for their very active and productive discussions and comments on each agenda items of the Session, making their great contributions to the success of the 24th Session of APCAS.

I would like to acknowledge Ms Carola Fabi and Mr Naman Keita from FAO, Ms Rikke Munk Hansen from UNESCAP, Mr Robert Hale from USDA for their excellent performance as the facilitators of various important agenda items. Mr Savanh Hanephom, Vice Chair of APCAS 24 for his excellent performance as the chair of one Agenda Item.

On behalf of APCAS 24 member countries, I would like to express our special thank to the Lao PDR delegate for inviting us to participate in the 25th Session of APCAS in Lao PDR in 2014.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the APCAS Secretariat, the experts from FAO in Rome and FAORAP, UNESCAP, SIAP, and other international agencies for their excellent contributions and insights which went a long way in making this meeting a success.

My sincere thanks are also expressed to Drafting Committee, including Messrs Bruce Hockman (Australia), Robert Hale (United States of America), Vidya Dhar (India), Happy Hardjo (Indonesia), Jairo Castano (APCAS Secretary) and Anthony Burgard (Rapporteur, FAO) for their hard working to prepare the draft report.

Even they are not here, may I acknowledge Mr Nguyen Van Yen Vice-Chairman of Lam Dong People's Committee and his staff for logistic supports for the APCAS

24 and for offering APCAS 24 participants to have a wonderful welcome dinner with cultural performance and dance from ethnic groups.

I highly appreciate great efforts of my staff, especially Mr Pham Quang Vinh, Mr Tran Dang Long, Ms Do Thu Ha, Ms Hoang Thi Thanh Ha, and those I could not name here, to prepare very detailed items for the Session and undertake them successfully.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Hoa Binh Event Company for their skillful logistic arrangements, special thank to Mr Jackie Han, Team leader of Hoa Binh International Tourism and Trading Company for his great effort to make our stay in Da Lat and the field trip more memorable and meaningful.

As the host of 24th Session of APCAS, on behalf of GSO, I do apologize for any inconvenience caused to distinguished participants during your stay in Da Lat.

I wish you a safe and pleasant journey home.

I look forward to seeing you some time in either in Viet Nam or overseas.

See you in the next Session of APCAS in Lao PDR in 2014.

I officially declare to close the 24th Session of APCAS.

Thank you very much!

**ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON
AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS**

Members as of October 2012

Afghanistan	Malaysia
Australia	Myanmar
Bangladesh	Nepal
Bhutan	New Zealand
Cambodia	Pakistan
China, People's Rep. of	Philippines
Fiji	Republic of Korea
France	Sri Lanka
India	Thailand
Indonesia	United Kingdom
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	United States of America
Japan	Viet Nam
Lao PDR	

**DATES AND PLACES OF SESSIONS OF THE
ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS**

First	–	Tokyo, Japan, 26 September – 3 October 1966
Second	–	New Delhi, India, 9 – 14 December 1968
Third	–	Bangkok, Thailand, 26 – 31 October 1970
Fourth	–	Seoul, Korea, 6 – 12 October 1972
Fifth	–	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 16 – 20 July 1974
Sixth	–	Manila, Philippines, 25 – 31 March 1976
Seventh	–	Bangkok, Thailand, 17 – 23 August 1978
Eighth	–	Kathmandu, Nepal, 26 – 31 October 1980
Ninth	–	Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2 – 7 December 1982
Tenth	–	Jakarta, Indonesia, 26 July – 1 August 1984
Eleventh	–	Seoul, Korea, 29 May – 3 June 1986
Twelfth	–	Colombo, Sri Lanka, 10 – 16 August 1988
Thirteenth	–	Bangkok, Thailand, 29 October – 2 November 1990
Fourteenth	–	Beijing, China, 8 – 13 June 1992
Fifteenth	–	Manila, Philippines, 24 – 28 October 1994
Sixteenth	–	Tokyo, Japan, 28 October – 1 November 1996
Seventeenth	–	Hobart, Australia, 2 – 6 November 1998
Eighteenth	–	Bali, Indonesia, 6 – 10 November 2000
Nineteenth	–	Seoul, Republic of Korea, 21 – 25 October 2002
Twentieth	–	New Delhi, India, 20 – 24 September 2004
Twenty-first	–	Phuket, Thailand, 11 – 15 September 2006
Twenty-second	–	Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, 9 – 13 June 2008
Twenty-third	–	Siem Reap, Cambodia, 26 – 30 April 2010
Twenty-fourth	–	Da Lat, Viet Nam, 8 – 12 October 2012

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