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# Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics

<b>Twenty-fifth Session</b>
<b>Vientiane, Lao PDR, 18-21 February 2014</b>
<b>Agenda Item 4</b>
<b>Overview of FAO's Activities in Asia and the Pacific Region since the 24th Session of APCAS</b>

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This APCAS is being held within a shorter period of 14 months than usual two years. This period also marked changes on officers within FAO. During this period FAO and RAP in the Asia and the Pacific region was involved normative and project work in the region. The normative work of FAO where the leadership was provided by FAO Statistics Division will be reflected in the technical contributions under different agenda items. The following sections highlight some of the work carried out in the region since October 2012.

## **Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS)**

FAO RAP published the report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the APCAS and the Senior Statistician played a role in preparation and organization of APCAS 25 in his role as Secretary of the Commission. You would have noted that this APCAS has nearly 50 technical documents for consideration, which perhaps reflects a record number.

FAO RAP has continued to administrate the electronic APCAS newsgroup. The APCAS-List is used to keep communication with Senior Statistics Officials from APCAS and other FAO member countries in Asia and Pacific region. Relevant information and news on recent developments in agricultural statistics and meetings are disseminated through the list.

## **Regional Yearbook**

The 2012 issue of FAO flagship publication *Selected Indicators of Food and Agricultural Development in the Asia-Pacific Region* was published. This publication has been substituted by new series of FAO Yearbooks which will contain a Global and Regional Versions following nearly the same format. The first issue of this publication is available as draft and is under revision for publication. The design of this will be presented by colleagues FAO Statistics Division in this session of APCAS.

## **FAOSTAT**

The Regional Office of FAO plays a coordinating role in collection of data from member countries of the Region in various FAO Statistical questionnaires which are sent to countries for collection of national level data. A report on this will be presented in this session of the commission.

## **News Letter**

FAO RAP earlier published a monthly newsletter “Asia Pacific Food Situation Update” (APFSU) to monitor developments in the food market. The scope of the newsletter has since been expanded to cover food related policies also, and it is now called the “Asia Pacific Food Price and Policy Monitor”. The newsletter is distributed electronically to diplomatic missions, other UN and international development organizations, FAO colleagues, media and other stakeholders in the region. It is also disseminated through the APCAS-List and posted on the RAP website.

## **Website on Agricultural Statistics in Asia and Pacific**

A comprehensive web site of all activities relating to agricultural statistics in the region has been launched and will be presented in the session relating the Global Strategy. Besides the activities pertaining to the Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy, it will also include information on activities performed by FAO through its regular programme. It is planned to establish a country page for each country in the region which will provide information on the statistical system of the country

and recent activities. Member countries will be encouraged to contribute to this portal for exchange of information.

### **Participation in the Meetings**

FAO Regional Statistician organized two technical sessions for the Sixth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS VI) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil during October, 2013, and participated in the conference to make 5 technical presentations and poster session. The work related to establishment of a globally accepted Framework for Assessing the Country Capacity to Produce Agricultural and Rural Statistic. The work is being published by FAO in two volumes. This work has been completed with its validation in all the regions of the world. The work was started in Asia as a pilot exercise and presented in the last APCAS. The outline of the finalized publication will be presented in this session also for seeking further guidance of the Commission.

The Senior Statistician also participated in the Governing Council of SIAP and a Management Seminar organized for the Heads of the National Statistic Office.

### **Training Workshops Organized**

Two regional training workshops were organized in Bangkok to build capacity of selected countries to analyse the Food Security related data.

- In 2012 with the collaboration of NSO Thailand, and participation of 11 countries (Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam).
- In 2013, 5 countries (Afghanistan, China, Maldives, Malaysia and Pakistan),

A Sub-regional Workshop on Sex- disaggregated Data in Agriculture and Rural in Bangkok was organized in November 2012.

### **Regional Action Plan to Implement Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural And Rural Statistics**

Since the endorsement of Draft Regional Action Plan for the Strategy in the last APCAS, It has been finalized and received funding. The printed version of this document is available for collection at the document desk. The implementation of the plan has already started in four countries, namely Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Indonesia and Samoa, in addition to Bangladesh. The full report of activities and the 2014 Work Plan of the Strategy in the region will be presented and discussed in a session dedicated to this topic.

With regards to the training component, the UNESCAP signed a MoU with FAO in July 2013 and the SIAP has already conducted three workshops in 2013 on sampling methods for agricultural surveys, minimum set of core data and use of administrative data. Two workshops on use of data for policy analysis were organized by ESCAP..

The Asian Development Bank is contributing with its own funding to the implementation of the Global Strategy through the project “Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics for Food Security” in four Asian countries, covering Bhutan, Lao PDR, Maldives and Viet Nam. FAO and ADB jointly organized an Expert Meeting on Crop Monitoring as side event of this APCAS. Its report will be presented in the Session relating to the Global Strategy.

Activities of RAP- GS in 2014 will concentrate on: a) conducting in-depth country assessments and preparing SPARS in the 8 priority countries; b) providing technical assistance to selected countries; c) ensuring that training needs are integrated in sector plans; d) strengthening the capacity of national and regional training institutions, and e) developing standard curricula and syllabuses and developing e-learning material.

### **Technical Assistance to Countries**

The following projects were implemented in the region to provide technical support to member countries.

1. Regional TCP Project on Building statistical capacity for quality food security and nutrition information in support of better informed policies' for Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Philippines and Nepal.
2. Technical support to Thailand to review the agricultural and food statistics for the monitoring of MDG and WFS hunger targets.
3. Provided technical assistance in the analysis of the 2013 Risk and Vulnerability Survey and the available 2010 agricultural census data. Lao Risk and Vulnerability Survey Analytical and Risk and Vulnerability Survey 2012/13- Analysis Report and Women, Food and Land).Reports were finalized and disseminated.
4. DRK/10/003 “Strengthening of Food and Agriculture Information System” (FAIS) is a US\$1.57 million and 3-year project funded by UNDP. It aims at assisting the DPRK MoA to develop and establish a comprehensive FAIS that responds to the needs of Government for policy and programme planning towards food security.
5. GCP/AFG/063/EC Strengthening Agricultural Economics, Market Information and Statistics Service. Project **completed** activities in early 2013..
6. GCP/CMB/040/MUL First National Census of Agriculture (NCAC I). It is being implemented over three years beginning May 2012, NTE: June 2013).
7. TCP/CMB/3401 Assistance to preparatory activities of the first National Census of Agriculture.

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**Completed**

8. GCP/LAO/017/SWI “Second Lao Census of Agriculture 2010/11”. TCP/MYA/3301 (D) “Planning for the 2010 Myanmar census of agriculture (MCA 2010)”. TCP started on 1 April 2010 and **completed** activities in April 2013. The project was initially planned on two phases. However, since donor funding for the second phase failed to materialize (data collection of the supplementary modules, census data processing and analysis, publication and dissemination), the TCP was extended. All reports, including terminal statement, were completed and cleared.
9. TCP/PHI/3401 “Establishment of the Food Security Information System in the Philippines (Phil-FSIS)” is a 2-year (\$366,000). The project is implemented by BAS in coordination with NSO and other agencies.
10. TCP/RAS/3305 (Baby 08) “Support to the preparation of the Regional Implementation Plan for Asia of the Global strategy to Improve Agricultural Statistics”. Project **completed** activities in May 2013.
11. GCP/RAS/285/JPN “Statistical Support to the Global Strategy within the context of AMIS”.
12. GCP/TIM/005/EC Establishing a sustainable National Information and Early Warning System (NIEWS) on Food Security in TL. The 36-month project beginning Jan 2012.
13. MTF /RAS/372/MUL - Asian Regional Component- Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics. A Regional Office of the GS has been established.
14. TCP/BGD/3401 “Harmonisation and Dissemination of Unified Agricultural Production Statistics in Bangladesh”. This project beginning Mar 2012.
15. TCP/CKI/3302 “Agricultural Census and Statistics”. The 24-month and US\$309,000 project aims at assisting the Government of Cook Islands with the conduct of the Agricultural Census (AC) in 2012.
16. TCP/TIM/3402 “Establishing a sustainable National Information and Early Warning System (NIEWS) on Food Security in Timor-Leste”. This project started in Sep 2012 and will end in Apr 2014.
17. GCP/SLK/3401 Baby02 “Technical support for agricultural census, 2013”. The project aimed at assisting the Department of Census & Statistics (DCS), Sri Lanka, with its plans to conduct the Census of Agriculture in 2012.
18. **Tonga:** A new project has been approved to provide assistance for conducting the third agriculture census in Tonga.

