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Food and
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Organización
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ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

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Agenda Item 4
Overview of FAO's Activities in Asia and the Pacific Region and follow up to the recommendations of the last session of APCAS

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Overview

- Activities since 2014
- Capacity building: Training workshops
- Capacity Building: Technical Assistance through regional /country specific projects
- Collaboration/Partnership with other international agencies
- Follow-up to the recommendations of last session
- Concluding Remarks



Activities since 2014

- 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.
- Technical Assistance and capacity building through Global Strategy, AMIS, Food Security, GCP/TCP projects
- Enhanced collaborations and partnerships with other organizations in the region
- Follow-up on the Recommendations of last session



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APCAS

- Report of APCAS 25 published
- FAO Regional Statistician played a role in preparation and organization of APCAS 26 in his role as Secretary of the Commission.
- This APCAS has nearly 50 technical documents covering diverse dimensions of agriculture sector



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Regional Yearbook and FAOSTAT

- FAO is bringing out a new series of Yearbooks which contains a Global and Regional Versions following nearly the same format. The **FAO Statistical Yearbook 2014 for Asia Pacific Region** has been printed.
- It serves as a reference point on the social, economic and environmental dimensions of agriculture for policy-makers, donor agencies, researchers and analysts as well as the general public.
- The data can be accessed electronically through the FAOSTAT data platform.
- 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.



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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.



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Technical Report on Crop Monitoring for Improved Food Security

- In 2014, a side event was organized with APCAS 25 in Vientiane, Lao PDR
- Deliberations of the event have been developed into a technical Report 'Crop Monitoring for Improved Food Security' jointly published by ADB and FAO
- The Report summarizes the best practices and the statistical methodologies in the region in the form of a series of technical papers and some reference papers.



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Participation in the Meetings

- The Senior Statistician also participated and made technical contribution in
 - the Governing Council of SIAP and
 - Management Seminar organized by SIAP, ESCAP for the Heads of the National Statistic Office.
 - Meetings of ESCAP Committee on Statistics
 - Mid Term Conference of the Global Strategy



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Training Workshops Organized

Food Security Statistics related

- Regional Training Workshop Supply Utilization Accounts (SUAs) / Food Balance Sheet (FBS) 03.03.2014 - 07.03.2014 Pattaya, Thailand
- Regional Training Workshop on Validation of Supply-Utilization Accounts during 20.04.2015 - 24.04.2015 Bangkok, Thailand
- Regional Training Workshop on Food Security Statistics during 21.09.2015 - 25.09.2015 Bangkok, Thailand



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Training Workshops Organized

Global Strategy Meetings of the Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific

- Third Meeting of the RSC organized during 13.11.2014 - 14.11.2014 Bangkok, Thailand
- Fourth meeting of the RSC organized during, 20.03.2015 - 20.03.2015 Bangkok, Thailand
- The ASEAN Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Strategy and the Eighth Meeting of Directors-General of Agricultural Statistics and Information in ASEAN +3 Countries, 15.06.2015 - 17.06.2015 Bangkok, Thailand

Global Strategy Workshops

- Donor Briefing on the Global Strategy on 13.11.2014 in Bangkok, Thailand
- Orientation Programme for new Global Strategy countries, 16.03.2015 Bangkok
- Workshop on Strategic Planning for small Pacific Island Countries during 05-08 Oct. 2015 Nadi, Fiji



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Regional Action Plan to Implement Global Strategy

- Global Strategy is an ambitious programme to improve the quality and availability of ARS in the region
- It has a target to cover 20 countries in the region during 2013-17.
- The implementation is in progress in collaboration with ESCAP/SIAP and ADB
- The project has brought high level of visibility for the agricultural statistics systems in the countries and have also raised expectations of the countries for developing better systems
- A record number of 10 documents have been received for consideration of the commission in the next agenda item.
- Major challenge is the limited availability of professional statisticians in the specialized areas to meet country demands for capacity building



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‘Agricultural Market Information Systems (AMIS)’

- **AMIS** is implemented by the FAO and funded by **the Bill Melinda Gates Foundation in Bangladesh and India** and by **Japan in Philippines and Thailand**
- The project aims to improve market information on 4 major commodities **rice, wheat, maize and potato** and is structured on the four areas of interventions covering
 - Food Stock Measurement,
 - Market Price information system,
 - Tools and Technology for price data collection and
 - Modelling and Crop Outlook
- It seeks to develop the institutional, methodological and human resource capacity in these countries.
- For ASEAN countries, the results of the project are disseminated through ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS).
- AMIS has synergies and compatibility with other statistics development programmes such as Global Strategy, NSDS activities



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Building Country Capacity on Food Security and Nutrition statistics

- The FAO regional project (TCP/RAS/3409) was implemented to improve technical capacity **in support of better informed policies' for Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Philippines and Nepal**
- 3 Regional workshops and national workshops in each country were organized to enable countries
 - to compile, verify and validate country Supply and Utilization Accounts (SUA) and generate Food Balance Sheets (FBS)
 - process Household Expenditure Survey data to compile Food Security Indicators



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Cooperation with other Organizations and Agencies

- Participated in the ESCAP's Committee on Statistics
- Partnering with ESCAP, ASEAN/AFSIS, SAARC, SPC and ADB in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Rural and Agricultural Statistics.



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Follow up action on the recommendations of last APCAS

- Action taken by FAO on the recommendations of the last session (APCAS 25) may please be referred in the document no APCAS 16.4.1.
- Comments are welcome on the follow-up.



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Concluding Remarks

- Global Strategy is making significant impact in the development of agricultural statistics in the region
- RAP's statistical project work has grown significantly and data needs for SDG monitoring will further intensify the statistical activities in the region.
- implementation of **country Strategic Plans (SPARS)**, will drive the statistical activities in the region in the next 10-15 years.
- Demand for technical assistance in the region will grow further along with requirement of statistical professionals in the core areas.
- Statistical capacity on food security statistics continues to remain a weak area in the region. Regional TCP may be considered for resource efficiencies as many countries have expressed need for assistance in this area.
- New World Programme for Census of Agriculture (WCA) 2020 has been launched. More countries in the region will need support in implementing WCA 2020 guidelines
- Regional Office needs to be strengthened to meet the growing statistical needs of the countries in the strategic areas identified in their SPARS.



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Thank You!

