



منظمة الأعدنية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
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Food
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des
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Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

Agenda item 3

STAT-EMPOWER-3
September 2009

Expert Consultation on Statistics in Support of Policies to Empower Small Farmers

Bangkok, Thailand, 8 -11 September 2009

BACKGROUND OF THE EXPERT CONSULTATION AND OF ITS OBJECTIVES

Background and Objectives

At its last Session in Kuching, Malaysia (June 2008), APCAS noted that there was a need to revisit conventional approaches to both data collection methods and types of information collected in the context of rising food prices and other crisis. This was needed to keep information systems attuned to data needs for early warning signals of price and market fluctuations, in order to set up mitigating measures against negative impacts of rising prices.

The Commission made recommendations on the role of statisticians in assisting policy makers formulate timely corrective measures when confronted with food market crises. In this context, RAP is organizing an **Expert Consultation on Statistics in Support of Policies to Empower Small Farmers** in Bangkok from 8 to 11 September 2009.

The expert consultation is designed to:

- 1) Contribute to the improvement of agricultural statistics to better assist decision-makers to formulate sound policies to support small farmers in the Asia and Pacific Region;
- 2) Discuss approaches to data collection and types of information that better suit current data needs of policy makers in the context of a changing world economy;
- 3) Advise FAO on the development of capacity building and technical assistance programmes in the future years with a view of improving statistics in support of policies to empower small farmers.

The Expert Consultation is attended by experts from Australia, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Republic of Korea and Thailand, and four experts from FAO headquarters.

Sixteen technical documents will be discussed. In addition, round-table discussions will be held on two topics of the agenda, covering "Market information systems: leveling the playing field for small farmers" and "Recommendations on statistics strategies in support of policies for small farmers". The Session's Agenda included topics on:

1. Characterization of small farmers to target policy implementation
2. Strategies to meet new statistical demands in an evolving world
3. Market information systems: leveling the playing field for small farmers
4. Information at community level for the benefit of smallholders.