

Remarks
by
OUTGOING CHAIR
Mr Nguyen Van Lieu
Deputy Director General, General Statistics Office,
Vietnam

at

the Twenty-Fifth Session of the
Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics
Vientiane, Lao PDR, 18-21 February 2014

His Excellency Mr Vilayvanh Phomkhe, Minister of Agriculture, Lao PDR

Dr Samaychanh Boupcha, Head, Lao Statistics Bureau

**Mr Xaypladeth Choulamany, Director General, Department of Planning and
Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR**

Mr Joseph Schmidhuber, Deputy Director, FAO Statistics Division

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR and Lao Statistics Bureau to host this 25th Session of Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics in collaboration with FAO.

APCAS provides a unique forum for the agricultural statisticians from the member countries to come together to deliberate on the technical issues and share their experiences and best practices to further improve statistics in the region for greater cause of ensuring Food Security and better nutrition.

It was a great honor for me to have the opportunity to take the Chairmanship at a time when APCAS was completing its golden 50 years of existence since its constitution in 1963. I must emphasise that the Commission has performed its duties with highest technical standards and provided strong support and guidance for the development of agricultural statistics in the region. This has been made possible through active cooperation of all its members. I note that the agenda for this session is quite comprehensive and addresses important strategic issues like promoting South-South cooperation in agricultural statistics, besides emerging technical issues.

I thank all of our colleagues in the region who have worked tirelessly to improve agricultural statistics in their respective countries. I am glad to note that good progress has been made since the endorsement of Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in the last APCAS at Da Lat, barely fifteen months ago. The implantation of plan has now started in 4 out of the 8 priority countries identified in 2013 through collaborative efforts of FAO, ADB and SIAP. Capacity building events have also been organized to implement the Regional Action Plan. To fulfil the research needs an Expert Meeting on Crop Monitoring has also been organized. I am sure we are on good track of progress.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As outgoing chairman of APCAS, I am sure that under our next chairman's leadership and guidance, we will continue to work together with renewed vigour for achieving our shared goal of promoting quantity and quality of agricultural statistics.

Finally, I take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt thanks to our host Lao PDR for their warmest hospitality extended to us in this beautiful city of Vientiane. I hope and believe that all other distinguished delegates also share the same feelings.

I wish the new APCAS host Lao PDR and FAO a successful 25th Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on the Agricultural Statistics.

Thank you!