



**Lao People's Democratic Republic**  
**Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity**

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**Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry**

**Welcome Remarks by Mr. Xaypladeth Choulamany,**  
**Director General, Department of Planning and Cooperation**  
**In his capacity of Chairman of the 12<sup>th</sup>SOM-AMAF + 3 Meeting**  
**Vientiane, September 26, 2012**

H.E Vilayvanh PHOMKHE, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR  
FAO Representatives, Development Partners

Mr. MukeshSrivastava, Secretary of the Commission, FAO

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning!

Firstly, it is indeed my privilege and honor, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, to extend our warmest welcome to all of you of the 25<sup>th</sup> APCAS, and may I take this opportunity to thank FAO for the support and commitment rendered to make this event a reality. And especially welcome H.E Vilayvanh PHOMKHE, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR to the opening ceremony of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics this morning. We are please that you have courteously accepted our invitation to deliver the opening address and to officiate the opening of the session.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we all aware that the APCAS is a biennial event and it has provided strong support for the development of Agricultural Statistics in the Asia and Pacific Region throughout its about 50 years of existence. The commission is also responsible to set directions for further developments of Statistical systems by working as platform for sharing country initiatives. Thus assisting FAO in deciding new program initiatives and for setting priorities in the course of FAO reform.

Lao PDR has been given the opportunity to host the 25<sup>th</sup> Session, where it provides an avenue to review the development in agricultural statistics since the last session held in Dalat, Vietnam in 2012. Besides, this meeting facilitates the exchange of ideas with the presence of experts from FAO and other organization regarding the state of Food and Agricultural statistics in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to thank the FAO Secretary APCAS Commission for selecting Vientiane as the venue for this wonderful meeting. Thank you all delegates, guest and representatives from various international organisation for your kindness in travelling overseas to attend this meeting. Please enjoy your staying in Vientiane, you will be able to spar time to visit our cultural site, night market along the river Mekong is not so far from this Hotel, etc...

**- Thank you and Welcome -**