

Summary Report

SECOND JOINT NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON RICE DATA FOR THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES

"Strengthening Agricultural Market Information in Thailand
and the Philippines" (MTF/RAS/395/JPN)

Manila, Philippines, 3-4 December 2014



ABSTRACT

The Second Joint National Workshop on Rice Data for Thailand and the Philippines was held at F1 Hotel Manila, Philippines from 3 to 4 December 2014.

The workshop served as a venue to discuss the initiatives being implemented by different institutions to improve the rice data systems of Thailand and the Philippines. During the workshop, implementing countries were given a chance to report the activities that were conducted in relation to the project and plan the activities for 2015.

This document contains the summary of the workshop proceedings and copies of the presentations and discussions as annexes.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFSIS	ASEAN Food Security Information System
ALIS	Agricultural Land Information System
AMIS	Agricultural Market Information System
APCAS	Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BAS	Bureau of Agricultural Statistics
CAI	Centre of Agricultural Information
CSS	Cereals Statistics Section
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAS	Foreign Agriculture Service
INAHOR	International Asian Harvesting Monitoring System for Rice
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
JASMIN	JAXA's Satellite-based Monitoring Network
JAXA	Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOC	Ministry of Commerce
NFA	National Food Authority
OAE	Office of Agricultural Economics
PRiSM	Philippine Rice Information System
PSA	Philippine Statistics Authority
RESTEC	Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan
RIICE	Remote Sensing Based Information and Insurance for Crops in Emerging Economies
TA	Technical Assistance
UN	United Nations

OPENING SESSION

The Second Joint National Workshop on Rice Data for Thailand and the Philippines was conducted on 3-4 December 2014 in the Philippines. The workshop was attended by eight (8) Thai delegates and ten (10) Filipino delegates. Resource speakers were from the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS), Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).¹ The workshop was conducted to share the initiatives of different institutions to improve rice statistics, present the major accomplishments in 2014 and plan the activities for 2015.²

The workshop formally opened with the Welcome Statements of Mr. Romeo Recide of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and Mr. Aristeo Portugal of FAO.

In his Welcome Statement, Mr. Recide stated the main objective of the project, Strengthening Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), which is to improve the capacity of Thailand and the Philippines to deliver accurate, reliable and timely statistics on rice. He was pleased that FAO is strengthening its statistical work and continues to assist member-countries through various initiatives. He also recognized the contribution of AFSIS, ADB, and IRRI in improving agricultural statistics in the ASEAN region.

Mr. Portugal shared some of the most important statistics mentioned during the closing of the 2014 International Year of Family Farming. He stated that with new challenges such as climate change and other disasters, it becomes imperative to formulate the right strategies which will depend on statistics. He expressed his hopes that the workshop will be instrumental in finding ways to strengthen decision making.

¹ List of participants is in Annex A.

² Workshop agenda is in Annex B.

SESSION 1: LEARNING FROM THAI AND PHILIPPINE 2014 EXPERIENCES

The first session focused on the activities accomplished under the project in 2014. The session started with the presentation of the project's major achievements by Mr. Kimihiko Eura. This was followed by the report of activities in 2014 by Ms. Supaporn Bongsunun for Thailand and Mr. Mario Padrinao for the Philippines.³

Discussion: Report of Activities for Thailand⁴

FAO RAP clarified the concepts of spot-checking and back-checking. The Office of Agricultural Economics (OAE) stated that spot-checking is done by the headquarters and regional officers while doing the survey, while back-checking is checking the estimates once the survey is done.

FAO HQ asked about similar initiatives being undertaken in Thailand. The OAE responded that it has collaborations with the ADB and the IRRI. FAO HQ also inquired about OAE's plans in getting better stocks information. The OAE plans to formulate an efficiency policy.

Discussion: Report of Activities for the Philippines⁵

FAO HQ asked if the Philippines expected the minimal difference between the results of the survey and the results of crop cutting. Delegates of the PSA were surprised by the small difference, but were pleased with the results. The PSA stated that crop cutting is conducted to establish reality checks and benchmarks from time to time, establish credibility for the system, and to be used for data quality control. Other information generated from crop cutting are harvesting loss and area not planted or uncultivated.

FAO RAP asked about the sample size for the interview and actual crop cutting. The PSA responded that there are around 200-300 samples for the interview method and 68 samples for crop cutting. FAO RAP thinks synergy among remote sensing, crop cutting and interview method needs to be established.

FAO RAP inquired about the items which cause cost problems in crop cutting. The PSA said that equipment is the major expense. FAO RAP stated that GPS will be provided by the project.

The OAE asked about the computation of harvesting loss. The PSA responded that harvesting loss is computed through a weighted average method.

³ Presentations are in Annex C.

⁴ Details of discussion are in Annex D.

⁵ Details of discussion are in Annex E.

The PSA and OAE were asked about the constraints encountered in the implementation of the project. The PSA stated that limited time and collaboration with cooperators were the main constraints. The OAE responded that the main constraint was getting the actual data from farmers.

IRRI said that it may be impossible to measure real yield. IRRI shared that a number of reports compare crop cutting and survey, but there is no definitive conclusion on which is better. IRRI proposed to come up with a consistent and transparent methodology across regions and to take a look at seasonality.

SESSION 2: LEARNING FROM RELEVANT REGIONAL AND GLOBAL INITIATIVES

The second session included presentations on initiatives being undertaken by various institutions to improve agricultural statistics, particularly on rice. For this session, Mr. Francois Fonteneau presented the highlights of the AMIS Project in 2014, while Mr. Mukesh Kumar Srivastava presented the global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region. Other activities and projects being implemented were presented by Mr. Shoji Kimura for the AFSIS, Ms. Dalisay Maligalig for ADB, and Mr. Andy Nelson for IRRI.⁶

Discussion: AMIS⁷

The PSA asked why improvements on trade data are not part of the methodological developments of AMIS. FAO HQ responded that capacity development on trade data will not be conducted because of other priorities. FAO RAP explained that trade (agriculture) is a separate system and that the FAO is a user of trade data; thus, it does not lead the technical work in improving the quality of this data.

The National Food Authority (NFA) inquired about the measures undertaken by AMIS to access information of countries that do not regularly submit theirs. FAO HQ responded that the AMIS Secretariat provides official statements and forwards these to the AMIS policy group. FAO HQ said that if a country cannot provide information because of its inability to generate said information, capacity building activities will be provided.

The OAE shared the difficulties in monitoring stocks data in Thailand and asked about other ways to monitor these. FAO HQ stated that the project is willing to provide support. FAO RAP shared that having confidentiality agreements can be useful.

Discussion: Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics⁸

The PSA asked about collaboration among similar initiatives. FAO RAP stated that it is trying to forge collaboration among all possible projects implemented by FAO and its external partners.

⁶ Presentations are in Annex F.

⁷ Details of discussion are in Annex G.

⁸ Details of discussion are in Annex H.

Discussion: Improvement of Agricultural Statistics in ASEAN Countries by AFSIS⁹

ADB clarified the outputs of JAXA's Satellite-based Monitoring Network (JASMIN) since Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines are also covered in ADB's project. This will be discussed by AFSIS and ADB in a separate meeting.

The PSA and FAO RAP look forward to the revitalized AFSIS framework. The PSA asked about the complementation between AMIS and AFSIS. FAO HQ stated that AMIS' focus is on market transparency. FAO HQ shared that the FAO is working closely with AFSIS through a South-South Cooperation project. FAO RAP stated that it will organize a workshop with AFSIS to present the list of good practices to AFSIS member-countries.

Discussion: Improvement of Agricultural Statistics in ASEAN Countries by ADB¹⁰

FAO RAP inquired if ADB can provide assistance to Thailand in Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics for Food Security. ADB stated that Thailand's interest is in remote sensing. The OAE opted to join in the second project (Innovative Data Collection Methods for Agricultural and Rural Statistics) only.

FAO HQ was interested with the cost-benefit analysis of the Agricultural Land Information System (ALIS). ADB responded that for ALIS, two (2) weeks are needed to determine whether the mesh is agricultural or not. For International Asian Harvesting Monitoring System for Rice (INAHOR), most of the processes are automated, but the skills needed to run the software are different.

IRRI asked about the use of Google Map under the project. ADB said that boundaries of the province are overlaid in Google Map.

Discussion: Experience from the RIICE and PRiSM Projects for Rice Crop Monitoring in Thailand and the Philippines¹¹

FAO RAP inquired about the variables placed in the model and how many years of data it will take to establish the model. IRRI stated the variables used which are daily weather, temperature, rainfall, solar radiation, planting date, leaf area index, management practice, and inputs (e.g. fertilizer). On how many years of data are needed, IRRI stated that the model has been developed in a course of 30 years of research.

⁹ Details of discussion are in Annex L

¹⁰ Details of discussion are in Annex J.

¹¹ Details of discussion are in Annex K.

The OAE asked if the model captures calamity from outbreaks. IRRI stated that estimates of calamities cannot be directly captured in the model.

FAO HQ asked about IRRI's intention to crowd source information. IRRI is looking at the possibility to get information from the field through this kind of communication.

FAO HQ wondered why the US relies on field survey for yield measurement and forecast when it uses remote sensing in monitoring the information of other countries. ADB stated that the US uses mail-in survey because it needs a lot of variables other than production.

FAO RAP asked about the progress of remote sensing technology. The PSA shared that 30 years ago, the idea of remote sensed pictures are pictures taken from an airplane. IRRI stated that it is working on the improvement of the images' scale.

SESSION 3: RICE STOCKS MEASUREMENT, METHODOLOGIES AND PRACTICES: PROGRESS AND ISSUES

Mr. Fonteneau started the third session with his presentation on stocking patterns and supply chain analysis. This was followed by the presentation of Mr. Sakon Wanasethi on Thailand's system of rice stocks measurement. Thereafter, Ms. Jacinta Estrada presented the rice stocks survey of the Philippines.¹²

Discussion: Stocking Patterns and Supply Chain Analysis¹³

FAO RAP emphasized the importance of having generic guidelines. From the generic framework, a supply chain framework can be prepared.

Participants clarified some concepts such as carry-forward stocks, working stocks, food security stocks, and discretionary stocks. FAO HQ said that carry-forward stocks refers to stocks at the end of the crop calendar of a particular year and stocks at the beginning of the crop calendar the following year. Working stocks, also called pipeline stocks, are used to produce other products. Discretionary stocks are bound by price expectations. These are stocks sold in the future (as dictated by prices). Food security stocks are reserves. The PSA suggested for more generic classifications (e.g. government stocks, household stocks, private stocks) to be included.

The OAE inquired about the best time to measure the inventory of on-farm stock and how to get information for the commercial survey. FAO RAP stated that the closing stock will be most relevant for on-farm stock. FAO HQ said that the best time to measure depends on the country's crop calendar. On getting information for the commercial survey, FAO RAP stressed that it is best to win the confidence of the respondents.

The PSA asked how quantity in transit can be generated and how to measure rice that came illegally from other countries. FAO HQ said that quantity in transit deserves attention in the survey design. On how to measure rice that illegally came from other countries, FAO HQ responded that this will likely be explored in 2015.

Discussion: Engaging with Professional Associations¹⁴

The PSA asked if the OAE has records of non-farm households and under which these are classified. The OAE explained that non-farm household stock is the responsibility of the Ministry of Commerce (MOC); thus, it was not included in the presentation. FAO HQ stated that the income expenditure survey can be used to get this information.

¹² Presentations are in Annex L.

¹³ Details of discussion are in Annex M.

¹⁴ Details of discussion are in Annex N.

FAO HQ asked if the OAE has explored getting information from professional associations. Representatives of the OAE stated that farmers' associations are asked for information, but the OAE is not certain if the data is accurate. FAO HQ shared that in the UK, after the survey and before the estimates are released, a meeting is held with professional associations to discuss the likelihood of the numbers they provided.

Participants from the Philippines asked if the OAE considers carry-over stocks in supply and if processing of rice is included in utilization. The OAE stated that it does not have stocks data from surveys to include it in the equation. Processing of rice is included under industrial use.

AFSIS proposed an alternative method (other than survey) to obtain stocks data. FAO HQ emphasized that the project wants for change in stocks to be measured through a survey as the residual approach may not be good enough. FAO RAP expressed their willingness to assist.

FAO RAP inquired about the frequency of estimation of seed rate and feed ratio. The OAE responded that seed rate is in the production survey and feed ratio is in the livestock survey, which is done annually.

Discussion: Measuring What Matters: Carry Forward Stocks¹⁵

The OAE asked about the measure of output of reliability. The PSA explained that including such measures is part of the future directions. Measures of reliability or accuracy can be computed but are used internally and are not part of the processing system. The PSA stated that errors are controlled because of good practices such as consistency checks and data validation.

FAO HQ inquired about the reliability of the frame. The NFA said that the list of respondents is regularly updated. Businessmen, including small and medium-sized ones, are required to renew registration with the NFA. FAO RAP asked about the legal requirements to be able to register. The requirements are posted in NFA's website.

¹⁵Details of discussion are in Annex O.

SESSION 4: DESIGNING 2015 PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In the fourth session, the group was divided into two to discuss the possible activities for 2015. Delegates from the Philippines and Thailand presented the workshop outputs after the planning activity.¹⁶

Discussion: Country Plans and Needs Expressed¹⁷

FAO HQ suggested for the PSA to start assigning possible roles and budget lines for ADB, IRRI, and FAO. This was noted by the PSA.

FAO RAP stated that the main objective should be getting the total production through crop cutting. It was raised that variability can also be studied since it is linked to production.

FAO RAP suggested corresponding with the Government of Japan regarding the developments of the project. The PSA inquired if the activities need to be translated into a work and financial plan and if there are other inputs needed to come up with a more detailed activity proposal. FAO RAP stated that the activity proposal is needed. FAO HQ stated that it will send a proposal to Thailand by 15 December 2014.

¹⁶ Workshop outputs are in Annex P.

¹⁷ Details of discussion are in Annex Q.

CLOSING SESSION

The participants expressed their gratitude to the project and hoped that the identified activities for 2015 will be successfully accomplished. The resource speakers were likewise grateful and hoped for continued collaboration.

In his Closing Statement, Mr. Eura highlighted the cooperation that has been established among agencies. He said that the project will continue, and he promised to coordinate with the Japanese government regarding the developments in the project.



**FAO Second Joint National Workshop on Rice Data for Thailand and the Philippines
(MTF/RAS/359/JPN)
3 to 4 December 2014, Manila, the Philippines**

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pour
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et
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Organización
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y la
Alimentación

“Strengthening Agricultural Market Information in Thailand and the Philippines” (MTF/RAS/359/JPN)

2nd Joint National Workshop on Rice Data for Thailand and the Philippines 3-4 December 2014, Manila, the Philippines


Agenda

3 December		
09:00-09:30	Registration	
09:30-10:00	Opening session <i>Mr. Romeo Recide</i> <i>Philippine Statistics Authority</i> <i>Mr Aristeo Portugal</i> <i>Assistant FAO Representative (Programme)</i>	1
10:00-10:30	Photo session and Coffee break	
SESSION 1: Learning from Thai and Philippines 2014 experiences		
10:30-10:50	Major achievements of the project in 2014 <i>Mr. Kimihiko Eura</i> <i>Project Coordinator, FAO RAP</i>	2
10:50-11:30	Report of activities for Thailand in 2014 <i>Ms. Supaporn Bongsunun</i> <i>Expert, Centre for Agricultural Information, Office of Agricultural Economics, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand</i> Q&A, discussion	3
11:30-12:30	Updates of Activities for the Philippines in 2014 <i>Mr. Mario Padrinao</i> <i>Chief, Crops Statistics Division, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, Philippine Statistics Authority</i> Q&A, discussion	4
12:30-14:00	Lunch	
SESSION 2: Learning from relevant regional and global initiatives		

14:00-14:40	AMIS 2014 progress and on-going work <i>Mr. François Fonteneau</i> <i>AMIS Programme Coordinator, Statistics Division, FAO</i>	5
	Q&A,	
14:40-15:30	Overview of FAO's Activities in ASEAN countries <i>Mr. Mukesh Kumar Srivastava</i> <i>Senior Statistician, FAO RAP</i>	6
	Q&A	
15:30-16:00	Coffee break	
16:00-16:40	Activity Summary of AFSIS <i>Mr. Shoji Kimura</i> <i>AFSIS Expert</i>	7
	Q&A	
16:40-17:20	ADB Activities for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics <i>Ms Dalisay S. MALIGALIG</i> <i>Principal Statistician, ADB</i>	8
	Q&A	
17:20-18:00	Experiences from the RIICE and PRiSM projects for rice crop monitoring in Thailand and the Philippines <i>Dr. Andy Nelson</i> <i>Senior Scientist, IRRI</i>	9
	Q&A	
18:30-	Dinner / Social event	
4 December		
SESSION 3: Rice stocks measurement, methodologies and practices: progress and issues		
09:00-10:30	Open discussions following specific presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stocking patterns and supply chain analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Presentation: ESS o Open discussion - Engaging with Professional Associations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Presentation: Thailand o Open discussion - Measuring what matters: carry-forward stocks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Presentation: Philippines o Open discussion 	10
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	
SESSION 4: Designing 2015 projects activities		
11:00-12:00	Designing national work programs and discussing inputs required from the project. This session will break-up into two sub-groups, one for the Philippines, the other for Thailand.	11
12:00-13:00	Lunch	

13:00-14:00	Designing national work programs and discussing inputs required from the project. This session will break-up into two sub-groups, one for the Philippines, the other for Thailand.	11 (cted)
14:00-14:40	Presentation of country plans and needs expressed - <i>Rapporteur, Thailand</i> - <i>Rapporteur, Philippines</i> - <i>Mr. Kimihiko Eura, Project Coordinator, FAO RAP</i>	12
14:40-15:00	Conclusion and closing session	13

Workshop Outputs




Republic of the Philippines
Philippine Statistics Authority
 (Bureau of agricultural statistics)

Plans for 2015

Recommendations: (Philippines Group)

- 1. Crop Cutting Pilot Activity:**
 - Select only major producing areas (5 provinces– Visayas and Mindanao) –covers April and September (collaborate on harmonized activities PRISM (IRRI) and PPS (PSA-QA) and Crop Cutting (AMIS)
 - Consultant for IT side (use of other Software)
- 2. In-Depth Analysis of rice production/area survey data**
 - Organize mentoring -/training o - March
- 3. Commercial Stocks**
 - Organize Forum for Triangulation of Results: Advocacy on the importance of data derived from CSS - (Producer, User and Other Experts) – May
- 4. Updating of SUA parameters**
 - Technical Assistance on the Updating of Processing Parameters for Food and Non-Food
- 5. Household Stocking Survey**
 - Sharing of relevant information on methodologies and results with the stakeholders- March
- 6. Conduct of Regional Workshop in Tokyo, Japan - October**



OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Country Plans and Needs: THAILAND

Supply Side Data

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- Data quality control
- Sampling design
- Onfarm stock survey
- Seed use ratio

Demand Side Data

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- Review of balance elements (Jan 2015)
- Identification of priority improvement (Commercial Stock Survey)