

The ASEAN Stakeholders Meeting on the Implementation of the  
Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics

# **Presentation on ADB Activities in Support of Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics**

Nagraj Rao

15 June 2015

# Outline of Presentation

Updates on two ADB projects:

- R-CDTA 8029 - Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics for Food Security (ending in August 2015)
- R-CDTA 8369 - Innovative Data Collection Methods for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (ongoing activities)

# R-CDTA 8029 - Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics for Food Security

- Intended impact:  
Increased usage of agricultural and rural statistics in policy making for food security
- Expected outcome:  
Increase in agricultural and rural statistics that are of better quality and that are collected regularly

# Implementation Arrangements

- Implementation period: December 2011 – August 2015
- Close collaboration with SGAS, ESCAP and FAO.
- Countries covered: Bhutan, Lao PDR, Maldives, Philippines, and Viet Nam

# Accomplishments

- Supported the development of the Regional Action Plan (in collaboration with FAO RAP, ESCAP and countries in the region)
- Country Action Plans
  - Inputs gathered from stakeholders' workshop and high level meetings
  - Lao PDR Action Plan endorsed by the Government
  - Drafts completed for Bhutan, Viet Nam and Maldives
  - Workshop materials are in the Community for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (CARS) website <http://cars.adb.org>
- Training courses and workshops
  - Offered specific training programs in basic statistics, sampling, national accounts, questionnaire design, survey operations and budgeting.

# Methodological Studies

- Bhutan Living Standard Survey 2003, 2007 and 2012: A Comparative Analysis of Rural and Urban Households
- Examining the Available Data Sources for Agriculture Statistics in Bhutan
- Examining the Existing Agriculture Data Sources in Lao PDR
- Improving Agricultural Data Collection Systems in Lao PDR
- Adoption of **A**gricultural **L**and **I**nformation **S**ystem (**ALIS**) for Agricultural Area Estimation in the Philippines
- Improving the Design of Livestock Production Probability Surveys in Viet Nam

# Innovative Data Collection Methods for Agricultural and Rural Statistics

- Intended impact:  
More evidence-based policies and programs for food security using innovative methods of data collection.
- Expected outcome:  
Improved quality and timeliness of rice crop area and production estimates and forecasts

# Outputs

1. Customized software applications on analyzing satellite imagery and similar tools provided to pilot countries.
2. Selected staff in pilot countries are able to use output 1 as inputs into rice crop estimation and forecasting methods.
3. Online training program on the use of satellite imagery and similar tools for agricultural and rural statistics provided for open access.

# Implementation Arrangements

- Source of funds: Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction
- Implementation period: June 2013 – July 2016
- Countries covered: Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam
- Technical Advisor: Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- Consulting firm: Remote Sensing and Technology Center of Japan in joint venture with Asian Institute of Technology

## General Approach

- **I**nternational **A**sian **H**arvest **M**onitoring System for **R**ice (**INAHOR**) software developed by JAXA to be tailored to pilot countries specific needs.
- Both optical and radar satellite imagery used.
- A series of four training programs will be undertaken to teach implementing agencies staff on the use of the modified INAHOR for estimating rice area and production.

## What has been done so far?

- Two trainings in each pilot country on basic remote sensing concepts and use of the International Asian Harvest Monitoring System for Rice (INAHOR) software with archived data along with subsequent updates to country specific INAHOR software.
- Technical and Business requirements for modifying INAHOR determined in consultation with implementing agencies, JAXA and the ADB project team.
- Training on QGIS software

## Remaining Activities

- Phased Software Development, Training and Field Validation for remote sensing application for agricultural statistics, until mid 2016
- Ground-truthing survey in Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam at the start of wet cropping season of 2015 (July 2015)
- Crop cutting exercises in Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam during harvest season of 2015 (October 2015)
- On-line training program for remote sensing application in agricultural statistics (July 2016)



For More Information:

[nagrajrao@adb.org](mailto:nagrajrao@adb.org)

<http://cars.adb.org>

(Community for Agricultural and Rural Statistics)