

## Concept Note

# ASEAN Stakeholders Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Strategy and The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Directors-General of Agricultural Statistics and Information in ASEAN+3 Countries

*15-17 June 2015  
Bangkok, Thailand*

## Background

The [Regional Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific](#) (RAP) to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics for the GS was endorsed in the regional meetings, and started implementation of activities by the Regional Office in early 2013. Each country in the region was invited to join the GS project. Based on the response, the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) has endorsed 15 countries in the region as the prioritized countries as of January 2015. According to the project guidelines of the GS, technical assistance and training activities have been implemented in these countries. The GCP/RAS/285/JPN has supported activities of the Regional Office for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (GS), which is located in the FAO, Bangkok.

Regarding the ASEAN region, the RSC has selected 5 countries namely Indonesia (2013), Lao PDR, Myanmar (2014), Cambodia, and Vietnam (2015). In Indonesia, the country challenge to improve the agricultural statistics has been clarified by implementing the In-depth Country Assessment (IdCA). Based on result of the IdCA, a Country Proposal has been prepared by the country, and their Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS) will be developed in the future. The IdCA has been in process in Lao PDR. The other three countries are expected to start the activities with the National Statistics Office and relevant ministries in the near future.

The latest RSC, the third session on 14 Nov, has also endorsed to invite two sub-regional institutions in the Asia and the Pacific, namely the ASEAN and the SAARC, to participate in the committee as the member. Based on the common recognition that the sub-regional institutions should play a leading key role in the integration of agricultural statistics into the national statistics system, the objective of the invitation is to discuss it with them and establish the road to mainstream agricultural statistics into the sub-regional statistics.

The ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) has been organizing the sessions to improve the sub-regional strategy and statistics, but agricultural statistics has not been included in a priority area. The staff of Regional Office for GS has started to participate in the meeting to appeal the importance of agricultural statistics and to share an effort of GS.

On the other hand, the secretariat of ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS), which is a Bangkok based agency, has established since 2003 by the consensus of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) meeting. The main role is to



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strengthen food security in South-East Asia through dissemination of better food security information to its member states and to assist them in building their capacity to develop their own systems. In the past, the AFSIS has also worked together with the FAO in statistical or relevant project/initiatives, such as (a) Crop Supply and Demand Analysis in Cambodia and Lao PDR, (b) Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) in Thailand and Philippines, (c) South-South cooperation to transfer ASEAN experience to African countries.

By taking the opportunity of the AFSIS Director-General meeting being organized on June 2015, we will be able to 1) share experiences and discuss the progress of the GS project with ASEAN's DGs and representatives from other sub-region in the Asia and the Pacific, and 2) be a good opportunity to discuss the appropriate sub-regional structure and a future strategy to be mainstreamed in the sub-regional statistics, so that it must become the strong impact/initiatives for sub-regional and national level for the improvement of agricultural statistics.

## **Objective**

The objective of the meeting is to 1) share the information/progress and challenges/good examples of the GS project with the ASEAN countries and the stakeholders, and 2) discuss the appropriate sub-regional structure and a future strategy to be mainstreamed in the sub-regional statistics for the enhanced initiatives/functions of sub-regional institutions. Also the meeting will provide an open forum for other sub-regional institutions and implementing partners to share their ongoing activities for agricultural statistics in the region, and to outline opportunities for greater collaboration in the future.

## **Outputs**

Outputs of the meeting are:

1. Shared experiences and best practices through on the ongoing implementation of the Global Strategy in Asia Pacific, especially from the ASEAN region;
2. Communication network among sub-regional representatives in the Asia and the Pacific and implementing partner of the GS;
3. Proposals for the AMAF meeting including a strong impact to the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS)

## **Participants**

Participants of the meeting will include the AFSIS member countries (ASEAN + 3), representatives from sub-regional agencies (ASEAN, SAARC, and SPC), and multilateral agencies such as the ADB, and FAO. A total of 50 participants are expected to participate in the meeting.



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### **Duration**

The meeting will be a day in conjunction with the AFSIS-DG meeting and is scheduled for 15-17 June 2015.

### **Venue**

The workshop will be held in Bangkok, Thailand at:  
Anantara Bangkok Riverside Resort & Spa