

**FAO Asia and the Pacific**  
**Regional Capacity Building Workshop of Country Nutrition Focal Points on**  
**“Promoting nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food system”**  
Bangkok, Thailand  
October/November 2016 (tentatively)

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*Concept note*

**Background and justification**

FAO is the lead technical UN agency on promoting nutrition-sensitive agriculture development, assisting governments of Asia and the Pacific countries to mainstream nutrition into their agriculture and food security policies, programmes and investment plans. FAO seeks to ensure that food systems and agriculture interventions are incorporated in multi-sectoral nutrition strategies. FAO is optimizing the impact and visibility of Nutrition across the Asia and the Pacific region and seeks to improve on the coherence and coordination among regional, sub-regional, country and HQ nutrition officers support on the provision of technical assistance for advancing sustainable nutrition sensitive agricultural food systems towards achieving overall nutritional well-being in Asia and the Pacific by 2025.

FAO decentralized offices at national and regional level are making efforts to effectively deliver competitive and innovative programs that have nutrition activities. FAO also ensure that nutrition is mainstreamed and or fully incorporated in CFPs and UNDAF processes. They are also strengthening relationships with key regional and sub-regional economic commissions as well as international partners, in particular ASEAN, SAARC, PIF, SUN Secretariats, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and IFAD at national, sub-regional and regional level. In particular, FAO country offices would also need to pursue and promote UN joint collaborative efforts with UNICEF, WFP, WHO and donors. Nutrition focal points based in FAO country offices are assisting countries to follow up on the ICN2 declaration and its framework for action and prioritize nutrition in their development agenda.

Equipping FAO country focal points with key knowledge, skills and tools that increase the quality of support provided to governments and development partners will foster implementation of recommendations for mainstreaming nutrition in national agriculture and food security programmes as well as agricultural policies, strategies and investment plans, and engaging effectively in multi-sectoral dialogue and platforms at country levels.

**Objectives**

The objectives of this workshop are:

- 1) To strengthen the capacity of FAO country staff to promote nutrition sensitive agriculture and food systems policies and programmes (including social protection) at country level, in line with ICN2 Framework of Action, the Rome Declaration and Sustainable Development Goals.
- 2) To facilitate lesson sharing across countries and improve the coordination of FAO's interventions in the field of nutrition and social protection in the region.

## Expected results

The workshop will strategically prioritize the following:

- *Country national nutrition officers and focal points are equipped with key knowledge, tools, lessons learnt on priority areas relevant for nutrition*
  - Strategy to support advocacy, policy-planning and programming related to mainstreaming nutrition into food and agriculture
  - Social protection and nutrition linkages
  - Gender and nutrition linkages
  - School nutrition and school feeding systems
  - Resilience food security and nutrition, and the linkages with climate change effects on nutrition
  - Advancing the integrating of nutrition indicators in food security information systems and linking food and nutrition security/agriculture information systems across the continent
- *Mainstreaming nutrition in FAO country programming frameworks (CPFs)*
  - FAO nutrition focal points are technically reinforced in understanding on global and regional priorities and FAO's Nutrition Strategy.
    - FAO Strategic Objectives and RAP priorities
    - Post ICN2 with its Rome Declaration and framework for action
    - How nutrition priorities are incorporated into CPF process
  - The participants equipped with knowledge and skills for mainstreaming nutrition into CPFs
  - Relevant nutrition priorities identified and discussed
  - Follow-up plans for mainstreaming nutrition into CPFs prepared and discussed
- *Coordination / Partnership and UN Joint Programming*
  - Understanding on strategic engagement by FAO nutrition focal points and staff in the UN country team to promote multi-sectoral efforts to improve nutrition – for example through the UNDAF and UN Joint Programmes – and ensure nutrition-sensitive food and agriculture concerns are well integrated in these efforts.
- *Reinforced team-work and coordination for delivering nutrition sensitive agriculture and food system policies, programmes and investment plans*
  - Existing nutrition-related activities currently implemented by FAO country and regional offices presented and discussed.
  - Information on FAO materials, resources and strategic approaches for nutrition with resources from country level, shared and made available.
  - The knowledge-sharing network amongst FAO nutrition focal points in Asia enhanced.

- The ToRs of informal regional network on nutrition is presented and discussed.

The workshop methodology will be very participatory, including presentations of case studies by the country staff and group work exercises. Participants will be invited to submit case studies to be shared in the workshop either as presentations or in a poster session. These case studies will then be compiled and the most positive examples used to show case FAO's work on nutrition in the region.

### **Participants**

The meeting is organized for FAO country nutrition focal points, national project staff implementing nutrition related activities. The travel costs of participants will be cost-shared by FAO country offices and Regional Office will provide budget to cover four days DSAs. The total number of participants is around 25 staff of FAO, including regional office and HQ.

### **Tentative date and venue**

The four days meeting will be arranged at the conference room of FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, it is tentatively proposed to be organized in October (or November) 2016.