



EXPERT CONSULTATION ON STATISTICS ON FARMERS' INCOME

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THE CONSULTATION



Venue

The Consultation was held at FAO regional office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, 11-14 Dec 2007.



Attendance

Experts from Australia, India, Indonesia, Korea, the Philippines and Thailand; experts from ERS USDA, Eurostat and FAO



Specific objectives

- Identify methodologies for collection and possible integration of surveys to obtain farmers' income data.
- Review processing of farmers' income data and identify appropriate strategies for imputation and analysis.
- Recommend optimal strategies for improving the collection and analysis of farmers' income data.



Recommendations by the Expert Consultation.....

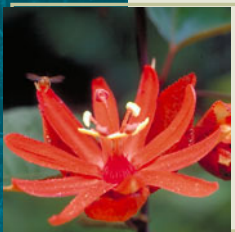


Budgetary considerations

Budgetary constraints can influence sampling design, accuracy of the data, frequency and timing of data collection

EXPERTS' RECOMMENDATIONS

- FAO could increase awareness among national governments on the use of farmer income data.
- Countries should look for funding of data collection, analysis and dissemination beyond the framework of public spending.





Information Requirements and Definitions

Farm households tend to be burdened with various surveys socio-economic information collected often inconsistent across Asia Pacific countries.



EXPERTS' RECOMMENDATIONS

- Define the core data requirements that provide consistency and comparability between collections across countries and over time.
- FAO might develop guidelines on the conduct of farm income related surveys, including imputation methods.



Framework for measuring Income

The complexity in concepts related to farmer income called for an appropriate framework where measurements could be based on.

EXPERTS' RECOMMENDATIONS

- Accounting frameworks like the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) and the System of National Accounts (SNA) should be considered when measuring farm household incomes.



Under-reporting

Discrepancies have been noted between household income and consumption expenditure, suggesting under-reporting in farm income.

EXPERTS' RECOMMENDATIONS

- A pilot study should be undertaken across countries to assess the extent of underreporting of farm income data, e.g. by comparing income data with consumption and savings data.
- Case studies could be used to estimate correction factors to adjust under-reported data on income.





Accessibility.

Quality problem with farm income data often related to difficulty in reaching respondents in areas of difficult access (e.g. remote areas or zones with security problems).

EXPERTS' RECOMMENDATIONS

- **FAO explore the possibility of conducting a study or a workshop to identify methods that can efficiently be used to collect farm income data from areas where access is difficult.**



Public Awareness and Feedback

The need for increased public awareness on the usefulness of the results from farm income data;

Need greater efforts of feedback to the farmers as to how data provided by them were utilized.



EXPERTS' RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve the accessibility to and feedback of information to all stakeholders, including farmers, as a way of incentive to provide reliable information.





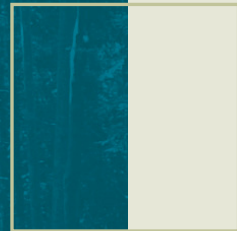
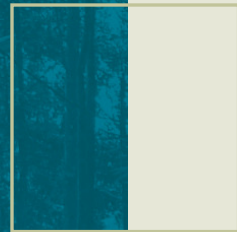
Information Technology .

The growing use of information technology (e.g., satellite images, internet, hand-held computers, automated checking and imputation, etc.) in the collection, analysis and dissemination of farm income and other socio economic data;

IT enhances the collection, analysis and dissemination of this data.

EXPERTS' RECOMMENDATIONS

- A review should be undertaken on the use of IT in farm income surveys from collection to analysis and dissemination of data, assessing its potential applications in Asia-Pacific countries .





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION