



Overview of FAO's Activities in Asia and the Pacific Region since the 21st Session of APCAS

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The work undertaken by FAO and RAP in the Asia and the Pacific region involves normative and project work.

This presentation highlights some of the work carried out in the region since 2006.



Selected Indicators (a)

Soon after the RAP Senior Statistician assumed duties in late May 2007, the first task at hand was the preparation and publication of the

Selected Indicators of Food and Agricultural Development in the Asia-Pacific Region, 1996-2006.

Published in October 2007. Copies of this publication were distributed to member countries (also available at this APCAS session).



Selected Indicators (b)

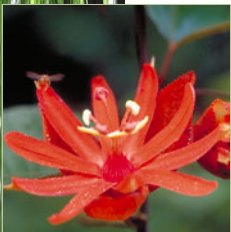
- The twenty-fourth issue of the Selected Indicators presented data on selected items for the years 1996-2006.
- The indicators were grouped under the following headings:
 - agricultural land and population,
 - agricultural inputs and production indices,
 - staple food crops, edible oil crops, horticultural crops, fibre crops, other crops and livestock
 - agricultural trade
 - fisheries, forestry
 - nutrition
 - other indicators (including status of organic farming).



Selected Indicators (d)

- For almost all commodity tables, data were mainly retrieved from the FAO computerized data bases, (e.g. FAOSTAT, FAO Yearbooks).
- Revisions in FAOSTAT data resulted in several modifications and amendments to the statistics.
- Data series differed in some instances from those in previous editions of the *Selected Indicators*.





FAOSTAT redevelopment (a)

- In 2006-2007: The methodological framework, processing and dissemination systems of FAOSTAT was redeveloped together with its coverage, commodity classifications, statistical and meta-databases with the aim of providing more up-to-date and reliable statistics.
- Data from 1990 were revisited, resulting in changes in the historical data
- The methodology for the estimation of food balance sheets was also revised in FAOSTAT. New aggregation techniques for the conversion of transformed commodities into primary equivalents.



FAOSTAT redevelopment (b)

Since late 2007, a full technical methodological review and analysis of FAOSTAT is being undertaken. This has caused that the core data set be temporarily unavailable on the FAOSTAT site.

The revision is expected to be completed in late 2008 or early 2009 (more information at <http://faostat.fao.org>).





Project work

In terms of ongoing projects, only two statistical projects were operational in May '08. Technical backstopping provided to:

● “Strengthening Regional Data Exchange System on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Asia and Pacific Countries (RDES)” GCP/RAS/184/JPN

This project completed activities in December 2008 and a presentation of the draft final report will be made at this session of APCAS

● “Support to the Food, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Information Management and Policy Unit (FAAHM) in Developing and Agricultural Statistics and Market Information System – Phase II”

GCP/AFG/042/EC

Two backstopping missions have been undertaken as of June '08.





Project formulation (1)



July 2007

TCPF (Technical Cooperation Programme Facility) project proposal “**Improving livestock statistics in Nepal**”
Proposal in Nepal’s hands.



November 2007

A UTF (Unilateral Trust Funds) proposal: “**Decentralization of Timor Leste’s Agricultural Statistics System**”.
Proposal in TCAP’s hands.



December 2007

A TCP proposal: “**Training on Agricultural Census Methodology and Time Series Analysis in Pakistan**”.
Implementation to start soon



January 2008:

A TCP proposal: “**Assistance in the formulation of a proposal for conducting an Agricultural Census in Cambodia**”

Project formulation (2)



February 2008

Regional project concept: “*Strengthening National Capacity to Undertake the Census of Agriculture 2010 in Asia-Pacific Countries*”.

Proposal presented to a Japanese Mission and TC on 12 March 2008



March 2008

A project concept: “*Food and Crop Survey for Laos*”.



May 2008

A TCP regional proposal to “*Monitor Food Market Developments in the Asia-Pacific Region for Rapid Response to Soaring Food Prices*”.

Proposal in TC hands

A TCP proposal “*Strengthening Capacity for Statistical Assessment of the Situation and Outlook of Rice in Lao PDR*”.

Proposal in TC hands



Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS)

- Finalization of the report of the Twenty-first Session of APCAS held in Phuket, Thailand, September 2006.
- Visit to Malaysia, 12-15 November 2007 to discuss arrangements and procedures for Malaysia to host the Twenty-second Session of APCAS.
- Preparation of the Malaysia APCAS Session: MoU, invitations to participants, agenda, timetable, APCAS documents, selection of papers, etc.





Organization and participation in meetings

The Senior Statistician participated and organized several meetings, including:

- **22–24 October 2007** *Fourth International Conference on Agriculture Statistics* (ICAS-4), Beijing: Participation & presentation of Paper

- **11-14 December 2007**: *Expert Consultation on Farmer's Income Statistics*:
 - ✓ 10 presentations (6 countries, Eurostat, USDA, FAO HQ and Consultant)
 - ✓ Roundtables.

- Co-organization of a Regional Workshop with Stakeholders of FAO Statistical Program in Asia and the Pacific.



Evaluation of FAO's Global Role as a Provider of Statistics and Statistical Services (a)

- The recent *Independent External Evaluation* (IEE) of the FAO recommended a **review of FAO's work in statistics.**
- An independent external evaluation of FAO's statistical system, and its related databases and data systems is now underway.
- An independent mission visited two case-study developing countries in Asia (*Vietnam* and *China*) as well as major stakeholder institutions in March-April 2008. They discussed:
 - the quality of work undertaken by FAO in statistics;
 - FAO's role in global agricultural statistics, services and comparative advantages.





Evaluation of FAO's Global Role as a Provider of Statistics and Statistical Services (b)

A Regional Workshop with Stakeholders of FAO Statistical Programme in Asia and the Pacific was held in early May and attended by participants from *Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines* and *Thailand*.

The objectives of the stakeholder workshop :

- to gather the viewpoints of different stakeholders about the relevance and usefulness of FAO statistical products (such as FAOSTAT, yearbooks, the Selected Indicators for Asia and the Pacific, FRA, SOFA, SOFI, etc.)
- To discuss the findings of the evaluation mission

Report is under preparation





Forestry Statistics (a)

- The most comprehensive assessment of forests and forestry to date, published in 2006:

Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005 (FRA 2005)

- Based on information collated from 229 countries and territories for three points in time: 1990, 2000 and 2005.
- The results were presented according to six thematic elements of sustainable forest management (CD-ROMs of FRA 2005 available)



Forestry Statistics (b)

Next FRA:

- FRA 2010 process was officially launched in March 2008.
- FRA 2010 is also designed to cover the forest-related information needs for monitoring progress towards the 2010 *Biodiversity Target of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*, the *Global Objectives on Forests of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)* and the *Millennium Development Goals*.
- <http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra2010/en/> provides a full range of information about the forest resources related information by country, sub-region, region and global level.

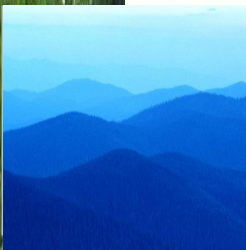




Fishery statistics (a)

In the last two years, RAP Fisheries Group (RAPI):

- Participated in several regional meetings and workshops on fishery statistics, “*Capture and Aquaculture, marine and inland*” organized by regional organizations (e.g. Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, SEAFDEC)
- Co-organized (with the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific, NACA) the “*Workshop on establishing a coordinating working party on aquaculture statistics (CWP-AS)*” in January 2008.





Fishery statistics (b)

Several projects relating to fishery statistics has been backstopped and implemented by RAPI:

- FishCode STF project on “*Fishery information gathering for fishery policy and management*” in Thailand
- TCP project on “*Addressing the Quality of Information on Inland Fisheries*” in Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand
- A project formulation mission to China on “*The improvement of information on inland capture fisheries in China*”
- Backstopped a GCP project on a “*Marine Fishing vessel census*” in Banda Aceh, Indonesia



Fishery statistics (c)

A major component of the statistical work performed by RAPI is the preparation of the biannual publication :

“Status and Potential of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia and Pacific”.

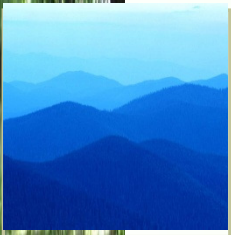
This year the report will also highlight the issue of inland capture fisheries statistics.



Coordination of the Organization's work with other agencies

- Attended the “*Third Workshop on Forging Partnerships in Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific*” in November 2007, organized by UNESCAP & SIAP.
- Attended the “*Third Session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)*” in November 2007, UNESCAP.
- Continued role in the process of revision of international classifications like CPC, ISIC, ISCO and SITC undertaken by UNSD in the last years
- ESS collaborated with the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD) and the World Bank on the preparation of a sourcebook on indicators for monitoring and evaluation of development projects/programs in agriculture/rural development.





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**