

Message from The Chief Statistician of Malaysia



It is a great pleasure to welcome you, on behalf of the Government of Malaysia, to the twenty-second session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS). I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations for having the confidence and trust in Malaysia to host this auspicious meeting.

The biennial APCAS meeting brings together statisticians and researchers from twenty-four FAO member countries in the Asia and Pacific region, who are responsible for the development of agricultural statistics in their respective countries. This meeting provides an avenue to review the progress and the ensuing work in agricultural statistics since the last session, held in Phuket, Thailand in 2006. In addition, this meeting serves as a forum in the exchange of ideas and experiences with the presence of experts from FAO and other organisations regarding the state of food and agricultural statistics in the region.

The Government of Malaysia gives strong emphasis towards the development of the agricultural sector. In this context, agriculture has been declared as the third engine of growth besides manufacturing and services sectors. Under the Ninth Malaysia Plan (2006-2010), the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry has been entrusted to revitalize the agricultural sector to promote large-scale commercial farming supported by modern technology, in the quest for high quality and value-added products.

The dynamism of this sector in increasing productivity and competitiveness will further be enhanced through the implementation of effective policies and programmes. To complement this role, the collection of reliable, accurate and timely statistics on agriculture by relevant organisations are vital inputs towards the process.

I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to the various agencies who are involved in the organisation of this meeting and their cooperation and commitment in ensuring the success of this session.

Finally, I hope all participants will find the discussion and deliberations fruitful and beneficial. I look forward to your active participation and hope that this meeting will be the platform to improve and strengthen the collection of agriculture statistics in the formulation and development of viable policies for the sector.

Thank you.

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Malaysia
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