

**Regional Training Course on
Costs of Agricultural Production Statistics, Communication and Advocacy for Statistics**

26 – 30 June 2017

Daejeon, Republic of Korea

CONCEPT NOTE

I. Background & Rationale

The Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (GSAR) aims to significantly increase the availability and quality of agricultural and rural statistics, produced by a sustainable agricultural statistical system with appropriate institutional, human and financial capacity. The GSAR provides a framework for national and international statistical systems to produce and to apply the basic data and information needed to guide policy on rural development and sustainable agricultural production in line with Sustainable Development Goals. Agricultural statistics contribute 29 indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals.

At a regional level, the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan for the Global Strategy (RAP) addresses the recognized need for promoting awareness of the importance of using agricultural and rural statistics in policy making, monitoring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in advocating for increased and sustained resources for data collection in this sector.

This *Regional Training Course on Agricultural Cost of Production Statistics and Communicating Statistics* partly responds to this need. The training is divided into components, namely (a) *Agricultural Cost of Production* and (b) *Communication and Advocacy for Statistics*.

The component on costs aims at building the capacity of statistical producing institutions in RAP's priority countries and at training their statistical experts-cum-managers to compile high quality and internationally comparable agricultural cost of production statistics.

The second component of the course focuses on laying down communication and advocacy principles to increase awareness, use and uptake of agricultural statistics with respect to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to agriculture. Some of these goals are Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security, improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns amongst other related goals. Furthermore this component will also promote the GSAR minimum core data items that are directly linked to SDG indicators such as agricultural production, farmer incomes as well as sustainability measures amongst others.

The course will run during 26 – 30 June 2017, in Daejeon, Republic of Korea and will be conducted by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the implementing partners of the RAP and Statistics Korea (KOSTAT).

Target participants are a country team consisting of a mix of trainers of national statistical training and research institutions, and statistical experts-cum-managers of statistical offices/units of ministries responsible for the production and dissemination of agricultural and rural statistics.

II. Regional Action Plan Outputs

This training-of-trainers course is designed to contribute to the following expected outputs of the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy:

- Improve political support by decision-makers for agricultural and rural statistics in terms of provision of budget and resources and
- Enhance capacity of national statistical systems to advocate for adequate resources for developing and compiling country-specific minimum set of agricultural and rural statistics on a sustainable basis to support monitoring of SDGs related to agriculture
- Improve the capacity of countries to adopt cost-effective and reliable methods for producing minimum set of agricultural and rural statistics;

III. Objectives

The training course is divided into two parts: (a) *Agricultural Cost of Production Statistics* and (b) *Communication and Advocacy for Statistics*.

The objective of the *Agricultural Cost of Production Statistics* component training is to strengthen the technical capacity of statistical producers (statistical offices and other institutions) to apply relevant international comparable methods and standards in the compilation of agricultural cost of production statistics by:

- Equipping participants with the knowledge and techniques to design data collection schemes for farm level data related to costs, farm structures etc. to meet the needs of various users;
- Increasing understanding of various types of costs related to agricultural operations and associated estimation methods.

The specific objectives of the *Communication and Advocacy for Statistics* component are to:

- Increase understanding of the communication and advocacy issues between the data producer and user that have an impact on the effective use of data for SDG monitoring, policy research and analysis and policy formulation and monitoring;
- Guide countries in developing a communication and advocacy strategy for promoting awareness of the role of agricultural and rural statistics for policy making and evaluation.

IV. Learning Outcomes

At the end of the *Agricultural Cost of Production Statistics component*, participants are expected to be able to:

- Refine data collection tools for agricultural related surveys and censuses with respect to costs of production statistics to ensure alignment with recommended international practices;
- Improve methodologies for estimation of different components of agricultural costs of production;
- Train other staff from national statistical systems (NSS) on the recommended international practices and estimation methods for agricultural cost of production of statistics.

Similarly, at the end of the *Communication and Advocacy for Statistics component*, participants will be expected to:

- Explain all SDG goals and indicators related to agriculture;
- Assess the effectiveness of their current dissemination and communication strategies in facilitating the use of official data and statistics in agricultural policy analysis and formulation and planning and monitoring their implementation;
- Identify effective communication and advocacy tools to raise awareness of agricultural statistics in national development.

V. Course Design and Content

The course will bring together statisticians involved in the design of agricultural related censuses, surveys and production of agricultural statistics to learn about the recommended international practices regarding agricultural cost of production statistics and how to effectively communicate agricultural statistics to monitor SDGs. Through small group seminars, expert lectures, country presentations and exercises, the course will provide a platform where participants can examine their current data collection tools in agricultural censuses, surveys and current agricultural statistics outputs in relation to international practices on agricultural cost of production statistics, and identify areas of improvement through a time bound action plan.

The training topics will cover:

- **Theory:** dissemination and communication practices for statistics producers that facilitate use of data; business case development; advocacy strategies and the media as an advocacy partner
- **Tools & Practice:** understanding target audiences; preparing effective messages that promote use of data;

- **Statistical outputs, indicators and analytical frameworks:** dimensions of production costs, analytical units, construction of indicators and statistical tables;
- **Data collection methods:** surveys, censuses, typical farm approaches, identifying the advantages and limitations of each approach;
- **Data compilation and estimation methods:** Basic principles, allocation of farm-level costs to specific activities, estimation of variable costs, costs of capital goods, labour costs, land costs, pre-production costs.

IV. Target Participants

Target participants are:

- trainers of national statistical training and research institutions focusing on agricultural statistics;
- statistical experts-cum-managers of statistical offices/units of ministries responsible for the production and dissemination of agricultural and rural statistics, and
- agricultural policy researchers and analysts of ministries of agriculture.

About 20 participants from selected countries will be selected to attend the course. The participants should be able to communicate well in English, in both verbal and written form.

VI. Requirements from Participants

Prior to the training, each country team should:

- Prepare and submit a country paper to SIAP (staff@unsiap.or.id) that: (a) describes the type of costs of agricultural production statistics available, their scope, sources, frequency, quality checks protocols and estimation methods (b) explains weaknesses in current methods with specific examples of such shortfalls and (c) outlines specific plans to improve quality and coverage of agricultural costs of production statistics. The paper should be received by SIAP no later than 10 June 2017.
- The country team should also prepare and bring with them to the training venue relevant documentation on specific national policies related to agriculture and rural development; samples of data dissemination products, especially press releases on agricultural and rural statistics, and samples of media releases (print and online).