

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
STATISTICS KOREA

**Regional Training Course on
Agricultural Cost of Production Statistics**

23–27 April 2018 Daejeon,

Republic of Korea

Concept note

I. Background and rationale

Promoting sustainable agriculture and lifting rural populations permanently out of all dimensions of poverty are cornerstones of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as reflected in Goal 2 and various targets under other goals. The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) thus requires the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable agricultural and rural data to produce the relevant SDG indicators and other statistics, disaggregated as relevant.

The Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics aims, as approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2012, to enable target developing countries (90 in total, 20 of which in Asia and the Pacific) to build sustainable statistical systems that produce accurate and reliable agricultural and rural data to inform and guide policy analysis and decision-making.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (RAP) implements, as approved by the global steering committee in 2013, the Global Strategy in the region, with the specific aims of (a) halting the decline in the content and quality of agricultural statistics by developing sustainable systems to produce them and making use of new methods and technologies; and (b) meeting the emerging data requirements not only to support policy decisions regarding the linkage of agriculture to poverty and the environment, but also to monitor how a decision in one area affects others.

The *Regional Training Course on Agricultural Cost of Production Statistics* is being organized in the context of the Global Strategy and the RAP. The course will be held from 23-27 April 2018 in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, and will be conducted by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), in collaboration with Statistics Korea (KOSTAT).

II. Objectives

This training course is designed to contribute to the following expected outputs of the RAP:

- Improve the capacity of countries to adopt cost-effective and reliable methods for producing a minimum set of agricultural and rural statistics;

- Improve the competencies of national statistical systems (NSS) to produce and disseminate a minimum set of agricultural and rural statistics in accordance with international standards and good practices through training and technical assistance.

The overall objective of this 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:

- Increasing understanding of various types of costs related to agricultural operations and how these concepts can be integrated in agricultural and rural statistics data collection programmes;
- Applying estimation methods for all types of agricultural costs of production adapted to the characteristics of the basic data, country capacities and objectives;
- Offering guidance on international principles and standards with respect to cost of agricultural production statistics to ensure comparability; and
- 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.

III. Learning outcomes

As a result of this course, 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;
- Identify key areas of their data collection tools/questionnaires that can be improved to integrate all components of agricultural cost of production statistics;
- Develop an action plan with associated activities to improve the quality of agricultural cost of production statistics.

IV. Course design and content

The course will bring together statisticians involved in the design of agricultural related censuses and surveys, as well as the production of agricultural statistics from those and other (administrative) sources, to learn about recommended international practices on agricultural cost of production statistics. Through expert lectures, country presentations and exercises the course will provide a platform for participants to examine their current agricultural and rural statistics data collection tools and outputs in relation to international practices on agricultural cost of production statistics.

The training topics will cover¹:

- **Uses and users of costs of production statistics:** farmers and agricultural markets, system of national accounts, research, government and policy makers;
- **Statistical outputs, indicators and analytical frameworks:** dimensions of production costs, analytical units, construction of indicators and statistical tables;
- **Data collection methods:** surveys, censuses, 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;
- **Disseminating and presenting data on costs of production:** principles guiding dissemination, statistical quality standards and dissemination examples.

IV. Target participants

Target participants are middle level government statisticians at national statistical office and units of ministries responsible for the design and/or analysis of agricultural surveys and/or the compilation of agricultural statistics, including the preparation of survey and census reports from the dissemination of related statistical products. Around 16 participants from selected countries will be selected to attend the course. Participants should be able to communicate well in English, in both verbal and written form, and possess a good understanding of agricultural statistics and/or economics.

V. Requirements from participants

Prior to the training, each participating country should prepare and submit a country paper to SIAP (staff@unsiap.or.jp) 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 the quality and coverage of agricultural costs of production statistics. The paper should be received by SIAP no later than 13 April 2018.

¹ The final list of topics and detailed program of the training will defined by the trainers.