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IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS  
IN ASIA AND PACIFIC COUNTRIES  
(GCP/RAS/171/JPN)

**Proceedings of the National Seminar  
on the System of Food and Agriculture  
Statistics in Cambodia**

Phnom Penh, 3-4 November 1999

Volume I  
Report of the Seminar

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction

1. A national seminar on the system of food and agriculture statistics was held at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) in Phnom Penh on 3 and 4 November 1999. The seminar was organized jointly by MAFF and FAO, under the FAO Regional Project for the Improvement of Agricultural Statistics in Asia and Pacific Countries (GCP/RASII17I/JPN).
2. Thirty-four senior officers from the relevant departments of MAFF, provincial agricultural offices and the National Institute of Statistics of Cambodia participated in the seminar, together with experts from FAO and the Japan International Co-operation Agency.
3. HE Chan Tong Yves, Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, opened the seminar and Mr Nico Janssen, FAO Programme Officer, read the introductory statement. In his opening address, HE Chan Thong emphasized the importance of agricultural statistics and the strong co-operation existing between the ministry and FAO.
4. Mr Ryuki Ikeda, agricultural statistics expert for the project, introduced the project and the purpose of the seminar, which was to assess the current system of agricultural statistics in Cambodia and identify the needs and expectations of data users in the country. In addition, the seminar discussed problems and issues faced in the collection, analysis, use and dissemination of food and agriculture statistics.

## Introductory remarks on food and agriculture statistics in Cambodia (Session 1)

5. The document entitled “Current situation of Cambodia’s agricultural statistics system and development goal” was presented by Mr Kith Seng, Deputy Director, Department of Planning, Statistics and International Co-operation (DPSIC) of MAFF. It was noted that the agricultural sector played a very important role in the Cambodian economy and that political guidelines for socio-economic development focused mainly on agriculture. The development of agriculture had to address two issues, food security for all and sustainable production, processing and marketing policies. The two issues were interdependent.
6. The seminar was informed that the system of agricultural statistics in Cambodia was based on administrative reporting. In the current transition from centrally planned economy to free market, the reporting system was no longer sufficient to meet user needs in a consistent and timely manner. In fact, most of the data available merely came from estimates made by agricultural officers at district and provincial levels.

7. The seminar was also informed that MAFF provided crop and livestock statistics, climate and flood information and market information regularly as agricultural statistics. The ministry also implemented various statistical surveys, such as crop assessment, cost-of-production surveys and market information collection, with the assistance of international organizations. However, due to budgetary constraints, most surveys were discontinued when assistance was phased out.

8. The seminar noted that MAFF intended to introduce and strengthen data collection to upgrade agricultural statistics, based on the sample survey method, in order to obtain data directly from the farmers.

9. Finally the seminar was informed of the plans of MAFF for the development of agricultural statistics along the following lines:

- improvement of the administrative reporting system;
- implementation of a survey on rice and livestock for the year 2000;
- implementation of an agricultural census in the future;
- construction of a food security information system;
- implementation of other agricultural surveys (farmers' income and expenditure, price of agricultural produce, post-harvest loss, etc); and
- enhancement of human resource capabilities through statistical training.

## **Collection of information on crop production (Session 2)**

10. The document entitled "Strengthening agricultural statistics for alerts and for food security" was presented by Mr Hem Sophal, officer in charge of crop statistics at the Department of Agronomy, MAFF. The seminar was informed that agricultural statistics services provided vital data for food security and for alerts to the growing information network in Cambodia. The data on crop situation show growth condition, planted area, destroyed area, yield and production for each crop. Surveys are made weekly, monthly, quarterly and biyearly.

11. The data on crops collected at field level are reported to the Department of Agronomy through the local offices of MAFF, then they are sent to the Statistics Office of DPSIC, which checks, compiles and publishes it as statistics. Surveys on crop production include farmer's intention, crop damage and forecast of production.

12. The seminar noted the necessity of introducing the sample survey method widely in the area of food security to obtain more accurate and reliable figures.

### **Livestock data collection (Session 3)**

13. The document entitled “Animal health and production in Cambodia” was presented by Mr Siv Ngan, Deputy Director of the Department of Animal Health and Production, MAFF. The seminar noted that animal husbandry and disease prevention in Cambodia satisfied domestic requirements, although they had yet to meet the standards of developed countries.

14. The seminar was informed that MAFF had devised appropriate policies and guidelines to encourage and facilitate animal husbandry and the prevention of epizootic diseases. The Department of Animal Health and Production encouraged the dissemination of animal husbandry techniques and of preventive measures such as vaccinations. The concerned ministries and local authorities at all levels collaborated to suppress illegal animal transportation, in order to avoid or prevent the spread of epizootic diseases.

15. As the roundup on the current situation of husbandry for cattle, pigs, chickens and ducks made clear, the main issue was lack of feed. According to the Department of Animal Health and Production, livestock statistics were not supplied in a timely manner but were otherwise satisfactory.

16. The seminar noted that DPSIC co-operated with the Department of Animal Health and Production to implement a pilot livestock sample survey, with the assistance of FAO as of 1995. The survey was carried out for three years and led to the calculation of animal death and survival rates, which are very important for livestock planning. However, the project could not go beyond the pilot stage due to lack of budget.

### **Data collection and information on fishery (Session 4)**

17. The document entitled “Fishery data collection” was presented by Mr Thor Sensereivorth, Chief of the Fishery Statistics Section, Department of Fisheries, MAFF. The seminar was informed that fishery statistics contributed to the making of proper plans for fishery management. These must be based on an assessment of the biological and economic effects of a change in fishery regulations or in hydrology, early warning for any species in decline and essential baseline data for environmental impact assessments. In this connection, the Department of Fisheries and the Mekong River Committee have jointly organized a fishery project to define a strategy for the management of freshwater capture in Cambodia by setting up a fishery data collection system which is based on a scientific methodology.

18. The seminar was also informed that in the past, the statistics of the Department of Fisheries were collected from the burden books and fishing licenses and through

interviews with the lot owners. Such data collection was not sufficient because it did not take into account fishery species. Data were collected by the provincial fishery offices and used as a base of the annual planned figures. However, the burden books were still being used as the basis for catch estimation.

19. In contrast, data collection and analysis of the Project for the Management of Freshwater Capture Fisheries of Cambodia were done with scientific methods. A stratified random sampling system was applied based on a frame survey of fishing gear. Data collection recorded all captured species, catch by type of gear, by month, by season and by district. The price per kg (at the landing site) and the total value were also recorded. At present only large and middle-sized fisheries are being monitored.

20. The data collection of marine capture and aquaculture was also carried out, with city and provincial fishery officers interviewing the fish farmers.

21. The Department of Fisheries has stressed the importance of strengthening the data collection capacity of all staff concerned and of improving the capacity for the supervision of fishing boats in border areas.

### **Market information services (Session 5)**

22. The document entitled “Agricultural market information services in Cambodia” was presented by Mr Lim Saody, Vice Chief of the Agricultural Marketing Office, DPSIC, MAFF. The seminar noted the necessity of agricultural market information for farmers and traders as it enables the former to make rational production choices and the latter to add value to agricultural produce.

23. The seminar was informed that the Agricultural Marketing Office has implemented a market information service programme since 1997 with assistance from FAO and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

24. Market prices were collected from the main markets and wholesale trading centres in Phnom Penh and in ten provincial market centres. All kinds of commodities were covered, such as cereals, fruit and vegetables, fishery products, meat (including poultry), agricultural chemicals, and fertilizers. The data was collected daily by data collectors in the markets and faxed to the Agricultural Marketing Office in Phnom Penh, which processed it the same day for daily broadcast on radio and television.

25. The seminar was also informed that FAO and ADB were to end their assistance at the end of 1999, leaving it to MAFF to support the programme. The ministry was to look for another source of assistance among the international community, due to its own limited budgetary allocations.

## **Cost-of-production survey (Session 6)**

26. The document entitled “Methodology and results of a cost-of-production survey in Cambodia” was presented by Mr Chek Nann, Chief of the Agricultural Statistics Office, DPSIC, MAFF.
27. The seminar noted that cost-of-production surveys define the current structure of cost incurred in producing agricultural commodities. One such survey was undertaken in Cambodia in 1997/1998, with the support of FAO and ADB. The survey focused on paddy and maize.
28. The Cost-of-production Survey on Rice and Maize was divided into three phases, one for the 1997/98 wet-season rice, one for the 1998 dry-season rice, and one for 1997/98 maize (yellow and white). The survey covered eight provinces for the wet-season rice, five provinces for dry-season rice and four provinces for maize.
29. The sampling design was a two-stage sampling, with the villages as primary sampling units and the households as secondary sampling units. The data were collected from a sample of households by the interview method. The survey was carried out under the overall responsibility of DPSIC, MAFF. The staff of the provincial agricultural offices undertook the data collection.
30. The seminar noted the need to repeat the survey to grasp the changes of production costs over time. This would help identify, design and implement appropriate development programmes and policies for the rehabilitation of the country’s agriculture.

## **National accounts for agriculture (Session 7)**

31. The document entitled “National accounts for agriculture” was presented by Mr Heang Kanol, Deputy Director of the Department of General Statistics, National Institute of Statistics (NIS). The seminar noted that a national accounts system consists of an integrated set of macroeconomic accounts, balance sheets and tables itself based on a set of internationally agreed concepts, definitions, classifications and accounting rules. Such a system provides a comprehensive and detailed record of the complex economic activities taking place within an economy and the interaction between the different economic agents. It measures the accumulated wealth and evaluates the performance of the economy.
32. The National Accounts for Agriculture proposed to identify a sector of the economy consisting of institutional units whose main activity was agricultural production. The agricultural sector consisted of three sub-sectors, namely agricultural

households, agricultural corporate and quasi-corporate enterprises, and government-owned non-profit institutions.

33. The compilation of national accounts required consistent and wide-ranging data. For the agricultural sector, many administrative data and survey data, which were made by MAFF, other concerned ministries and international organizations, were used as the main data sources for the estimation.

34. However, there were several data gaps, the seminar was told. In the case of agriculture, not all of the commodities listed as crop, vegetable and fruit crop were covered. The proportion of uncovered crops might be estimated from the consumption data. In the case of livestock, data on slaughter of animals were not available, though they were needed as indicators to calculate trends in output for livestock. And the output of natural fertilizers was not recorded in the output of livestock or agricultural crops. In the case of forestry, the coverage of reported data on firewood was very inadequate and could not be used to estimate output. Data on consumption of firewood available from the consumption surveys were used instead. In the case of fishery, the estimates of marine and inland fish output were not covered adequately.

35. In this connection, NIS made several recommendations to maintain, expand and improve the database for national accounts as a main data user of agricultural statistics. They were:

- to prepare the inventory of existing agricultural statistics;
- improve the quality of the administrative reported data;
- provide agricultural data in order to update the national accounts database; and
- implement small-scale quarterly surveys in order to provide and generate the benchmark or minimum data required for the calculation of indicators used in updating the accounts.

### **Presentation of the seminar output**

36. Finally, the seminar deliberations were summarized by Mr Ryuki Ikeda, agricultural statistics expert of the project, who presented the seminar output report. The seminar was informed of the list of national and international participants in attendance and provided with a summary of the current state of agricultural statistics in Cambodia, with an emphasis on the organizational aspects of DPSIC, MAFF, and on its responsibilities and activities.

37. Then the seminar made the following recommendations as Seminar Output:

1. The Statistics Office of DPSIC, MAFF, should be strengthened further as the main body of Cambodia's agricultural statistics. The relationship on agricultural statistics among the Statistics Office, DPSIC, technical departments and provincial agricultural offices also should be reinforced under the leadership of the Statistics Office.

2. Existing statistical systems and programmes should be reviewed to improve accuracy and objectivity in the statistical data series.
3. MAFF should expand the coverage of sample surveys, at least conducting regular production surveys for paddy and main livestock.
4. MAFF should prioritize the surveys and choose only the most important, due to budgetary and human resource constraints.
5. The administrative reporting system also should be improved through the preparation of unified formats and staff training on data collection methodology.
6. The World Bank project on agricultural statistics is expected to help the government improve the accuracy and reliability of statistics through the use of sample surveys and improvement of the administrative reporting system. The inclusion of and systematic recourse to effective measurement methods such as crop cutting is recommended. The survey design under the FAO technical co-operation project TCP/CMB/4452 could be used as the basis.
7. Furthermore, if the government of Cambodia can implement the agricultural census, the design of sample surveys can be improved by using the results of the census as framework.
8. The agricultural census is very important; indeed, it is the most fundamental survey. It should be implemented in time for World Agricultural Census 2000. When the time comes to implement it, MAFF and NIS should reinforce their co-operation and share knowledge and ability at all stages of the census, such as collection, processing, analysis and dissemination.
9. Human resource development is a priority concern. MAFF should consider setting up adequate training to improve the statistical skills of the staff at every level.
10. MAFF and all relevant institutions and agencies should evaluate a programme for the timely and regular dissemination of statistics and information to the users. The dissemination programme should have a strong user-producer feedback component. The use of the electronic information highway (Internet) as the most cost-effective dissemination mechanism should be explored.

**AGENDA**

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia  
National Seminar on the System of Food and Agriculture Statistics  
3-4 November 1999

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**Wednesday 3 November 1999**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 8:30-9:00   | Registration   |
| 9:00-10:00  | Inauguration   |
|             | Opening address by HE CHAN TONG Yves, Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia  |
|             | Statement by Mr Nico JANSSEN, Programme Officer, FAO Representative in Cambodia  |
|             | Introductory remarks to GCP/RAS/171/JPN: Improvement of Agricultural Statistics in Asia and Pacific Countries<br>Presenter: Mr Ryuki Ikeda, Chief of Technical advisor             |
| 10:00-10:30 | Break  |
| 10:30-11:00 | Introductory remarks on food and agriculture statistics in Cambodia<br>Presenter: Mr Kith Seng, Deputy Director, Dept of Planning, Statistics and International Co-operation, MAFF |
| 11:00-11:30 | Collection of information on crop production.<br>Presenter: Mr Hem Sophal, Officer in charge of crop statistics (Dept of Agronomy)   |
| 11:30-12:00 | Discussion   |
| 12:00-14:00 | Lunch  |
| 14:00-14:30 | Livestock data collection<br>Presenter: Mr Siv Ngan, Deputy Director of Dept of Animal Health and Husbandry  |
| 14:30-15:00 | Data Collection and information on fishery<br>Presenter: Mr Thor Sensereivorth, Chief of Fishery Statistics Section, Dept of Fisheries   |
| 15:00-15:20 | Break  |

15:20-16:00 Discussion

#### **Thursday 4 November 1999**

- 8:00-8:30 Market information services  
Presenter: Mr Lim Saody, Vice Chief, Office of Marketing Office,  
Department of Planning, Statistics and International Co-operation
- 8:30-9:00 Cost of production survey  
Presenter: Mr Chek Nann, Chief Office of Statistics Office, Dept of  
Planning, Statistics and International Co-operation
- 9:00-9:30 National accounts for agriculture  
Presenter: Mr Heang Kanol Deputy Director, Dept of General Director  
(NIS)
- 9:30-10:15 Discussion
- 10:15-10:30 Break
- 10:30-11:30 Presentation of the seminar output
- 11:30-12:30 Closing ceremony  
Closing remarks by Mr Generoso de Guzman, FAO Regional Office for  
Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok  
Closing remarks by HE Teng Lau, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****□ PARTICIPANTS:**

1. HE CHAN TONG YVES Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)
2. HE TENG LAU Under Secretary of State, MAFF
3. Mr KUM SARON Deputy Director General, MAFF
4. Mr KUDO HIROSHI JICA Expert, Adviser to Dept Planning, Statistic and International Co-operation (DPSIC), MAFF
5. Mr NICO JANSSEN Program Officer, FAO Cambodia
6. Mr G. DE GUZMAN Consultant, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand
7. Mr RYUKI IKEDA Agricultural Statistics Expert, FAO Regional Project, (GCP/RAS/171/JPN) Bangkok, Thailand
8. Mr DOUNG BUNNY Deputy Director of Department of Financial and Accounting, MAFF.
9. Mr KUY HOUT Deputy Director of Department of Agricultural Economy and Technical Extension, MAFF.
10. Mr CHEA NEANG Chief of Planning Statistic Office, Department of Animal Health and Production, MAFF
11. Mr PEN VUTH Deputy Director, Department of Agronomy, MAFF
12. Mr NOUV RATANA Chief of Planning Office, Department of Agronomy, MAFF
13. Mr IM CHANTHOL General Directorate of Rubber and Plantation, MAFF
14. Mr SOK THOSYNY General Directorate of Rubber and Plantation, MAFF
15. Mr OUK PHAN Vice Chief, Department of Machinery, MAFF
16. Mr NGEM SOKHA Department of Machinery, MAFF
17. Mr THORN SARATH Chief of Planning and Statistics Office, Department of Forestry, MAFF
18. Mr SOK LONG Department of Fisheries, MAFF
19. Mr OEUR SOPHAL Vice Chief, National Institute Statistics, Ministry of Planning.
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- 27. Mr HANG TRY Deputy of Director, Provincial Agriculture Department of Takeo Province, MAFF
- 28. Mr SOK CHANSOPHAL Chief, Planning and Statistics Office, Provincial Agriculture Department of Takeo Province, MAFF
- 29. Ms MEAS SOTHEAVY Vice Chief, Statistics Office, DPSIC, MAFF
- 30. Mr MEACH YADY Vice Chief, DPSIC, MAFF
- 31. Mr MEN SOTHY Statistics Office, DPSIC, MAFF
- 32. Mr TUOR VANNAK Statistics Office, DPSIC, MAFF
- 33. Mr HENG YUTHIN Statistics Office, DPSIC, MAFF
- 34. Mr TRY VANTHA Statistics Office, DPSIC, MAFF
- 35. Mr MENH BAK EANG Statistics Office, DPSIC, MAFF
- 36. Mr SOK NHOR Statistics Office, DPSIC, MAFF
- 37. Mr HOUN HONG Statistics Office, DPSIC, MAFF

□ **RESOURCE PERSONS :**

- 1. Mr KITH SENG Deputy Director, DPSIC, MAFF
- 2. Mr HEM SOPHAL Officer in charge, Crop Statistics, Department of Agronomy, MAFF
- 3. Mr SIV NHAN Deputy Director, Department of Animal Health and Production, MAFF
- 4. Mr THOR SENSEREIVOTH Chief, Fishery Statistics Section, Department of Fisheries, MAFF
- 5. Mr LIM SAODY Vice Chief, Marketing Information Office, DPSIC, MAFF
- 6. Mr CHEK NANN Chief of Statistics Office, Department of Planning, Statistics and International Co-operation, MAFF
- 7. Mr HEANG KANOL Deputy Director, Department of General Statistics, National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning

**STATEMENTS**

- **Opening address**  
HE Chan Tong Yves  
Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- **Statement at the opening ceremony**  
Mr Nico Janssen  
Programme Officer, FAO Representative in Cambodia
- **Introductory remarks on the regional project Improvement of Agricultural Statistics in Asia and Pacific Countries (GCP/RAS/171/JPN)**  
Mr Ryuki Ikeda  
Agricultural Statistics Expert, GCP/RAS/171/JPN
- **Closing remarks**  
Mr Generoso de Guzman  
Consultant, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok
- **Closing of Statement**  
HE Teng Lau  
Under Secretary of State, MAFF



## OPENING SPEECH

**HE Chan Tong Yves  
Secretary of State  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Forestry and Fisheries**

It is my pleasure and privilege to welcome all of you here today and I'm very pleased to take part in the opening of the National Seminar on Food System and Agricultural Statistics.

On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and on my own behalf, may I express my heartfelt thanks to Ryuki Ikeda and Genoroso de Guzman and through them to the Government of Japan and FAO for providing both financial as well as technical expertise to strengthen agricultural statistics. As you know, the Royal Government of Cambodia believes that the agricultural sector is fundamental in the rehabilitation and development of the economy. To succeed in producing a vibrant, productive and efficient agricultural sector, the Government needs to set up short- and long-term plans, which will have to be based on accurate and reliable statistics.

The current structure of agricultural statistics in Cambodia is a decentralized one. Agricultural statistics such as planted area, damaged area, harvested area, production and so on are basically prepared through a reporting system. A reporting system is essentially a process of compiling administrative records. Statistics obtained in this manner are an extremely vital source of information for planners and policymakers. While we further our ability to carry out sample surveys and agricultural censuses and seek financing for such methods, our current method of administrative reports will remain firmly in place to provide whatever is needed. We need, however, to improve our the agricultural statistic figures, which provide critical information on issues of food security. I would like to urge all of you participants to review and discuss the existing statistics and set up appropriate method for data collection in the future.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you know the government policy gives high priority to agriculture, which ensures food security, poverty alleviation and supply agricultural products and jobs. Since all of you are inclined toward statistics, I will provide some interesting statistics about Cambodia. Rice is the staple food for Cambodia. We have had a surplus rice production in Cambodia for the last seven years and it is estimated that we will be in surplus by about 232 000 tons in the new millennium. This figure was estimated based on the expectation of the favourable weather patterns and with reduced damage compared to the last year. Furthermore, crops other than rice such as maize, potato, vegetable, etc, and also permanent crops show signs of significant increases in production.

Meat consumption has increased too in the last few years. However, difficulties in estimating of amount consumed prevents us from providing you with accurate figures.

Finally, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia I would like to take this opportunity to once again express my appreciation to the Government of Japan and FAO who have

continuously supported our attempts to improve agricultural statistics in Cambodia. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries hopes that we will continue to receive more support and work more closely with our partners in development.

I would also like to thank all the participants to this seminar, which I hope will benefit everyone. I now formally declare this seminar on food system and agricultural statistics open and I wish you all a very productive seminar.

Thank you.

## STATEMENT AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

**Mr Nico Janssen  
Programme Officer  
FAO Cambodia**

It is my pleasure to participate in the National Seminar on Agricultural Statistics in Cambodia. On behalf of FAO I would like to say that we are concerned with Cambodia's agricultural statistics and I would like to thank the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for organizing this important meeting.

This seminar is held thanks to the co-operation of the Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and FAO's Regional Project "Improvement of Agricultural Statistics in Asia and Pacific Countries" (GCP/RAS/I 71/JPN), which is financed by the Government of Japan. The purpose of this seminar is to review the existing system of food and agriculture statistics, and to identify priority areas for improvement.

Cambodia's agriculture has recovered over the last decade and rehabilitation of the sector is a key-factor for national economic growth. In fact, nowadays, about 75 percent of the employed populations are engaged in agriculture and the agricultural sector accounts for more than 40 percent of GDP. Improving agricultural production is a major challenge in Cambodia. To do this properly, the need for good statistics has been underscored.

Accuracy of data is important for Cambodia in planning, monitoring and evaluation of agricultural development programmes. We hope that the presentations and discussions during this seminar will focus on this issue. We are interested in knowing how the data are collected at grass-root level, and how they are processed or summarized. Thus methodologies used in the collection and analysis of data will figure prominently in the discussions.

We in FAO attach a lot of importance to this seminar. We hope that, through an exchange of views, the seminar will help identify priority areas that need improvement.

Finally, I would like to encourage active participation and frank discussions during this seminar to bring about useful conclusions and recommendations. May I also express my best wishes to all of you for a fruitful meeting.

Thank you.



# **Introductory remarks on the regional project "Improvement of Agricultural Statistics in Asia and Pacific Countries" (GCP/RAS/171/JPN)**

**Mr Ryuki Ikeda  
Agricultural Statistics expert  
GCP/RAS/171/JPN  
c/o FAO/RAP**

## **1. Introduction of the Project**

This project was formulated following the recommendation of the sixteenth session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (16 the APCAS) held in Tokyo in October-November 1996. In that session, the importance of strengthening co-operation and the establishment of a system for collection and dissemination of statistics among member countries of the Commission were discussed. Japan expressed willingness to contribute and support this effort through a trust fund project to be executed by FAO. This project was approved and was made fully operational in September 1998.

The two objectives of the project are:

- Study national systems of food and agricultural statistics and organize National/Regional Seminars on Production and Use of Agricultural Statistics, and National/Regional Workshop on specific areas.
- Formulate a Plan for the establishment of a data-base and equipment facilities to provide a capability to transfer data in electronic format both to and from countries in the Region, and FAO, using common concepts, standards and classification systems.

Over the last several years, a number of country projects have been implemented at national level by FAO and other international organizations. This regional project is the first one in the field of Agricultural Statistics to include most countries in this region. It covers 16 countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Currently there are many global issues directly and indirectly affecting agriculture, such as trade, environment, and freedom from hunger, etc. Accurate figures from good statistical services can greatly contribute to finding solutions to these concerns. Demand for accurate and comparable statistics among countries will be ever increasing. This project is, therefore, expected to contribute to meet these needs.

## **2. Background of Agricultural Statistics in Cambodia**

Statistics is a useful tool to quantitatively indicate actual conditions of the society and economy. Statistics are like soft infrastructure that has become indispensable in contemporary society. Today, it is difficult to think of how developmental efforts in almost all areas involving the promotion of administration and economic activities could proceed without relying on good statistics.

In agriculture for example, statistics are required in the formulation of policies in such areas as food supply and demand, prices, and agriculture structure. Moreover, for realistic forward-looking planning exercises, project and evaluation, basic data reflecting the actual situation are strongly needed.

In most countries in this region, agriculture provides the foundation of industrial development. In Cambodia, beyond doubt, one of the main industries is agriculture. About 75 percent of the employed population are engaged in the agricultural sector. Agriculture accounts for more than 40 percent of GDP. Strong agricultural policies therefore should invariably comprise the mainstay of the countries' important development policies. The improvement of agricultural production is a major challenge for Cambodia. The development of agriculture could lead to improvements in people's living standards and sustaining security and development of rural communities. To do this properly the need for good statistics is therefore underscored. We should wrestle with the issue of "developing the statistics" for the country's development.

Currently, Cambodia mainly adapts the administrative-type reporting system as the principal source for agricultural statistics. However, with the country's transition from planned to market economy, the reporting system will not be able to adequately support data requirements for development planning and policy formulation.

In recent years, the use of sample surveys such as production survey of crop and livestock, cost of production survey as well as crop-cutting exercises for paddy has been introduced in the country with the assistance of FAO, WFP and other donor communities like ADB. All of these efforts aim at improving national statistical services in Cambodia. The conduct of an agricultural census and implementation of a periodic agricultural sample surveys are among the effective solutions to help the country obtain accurate and objective figures.

## **3. Purpose of the seminar**

With Cambodia's growing interest to actively participate in global and regional organizations such as ASEAN and WTO, the agricultural statistical system in the country is expected to undergo drastic reforms. It is therefore, significant to hold the National Seminar at this time.

This seminar aims to

- assess the state of national food and agriculture statistics services in Cambodia;
- review existing food and agriculture statistical activities;
- identify the demands of and expectations from data users;
- discuss problems, issues faced in the collection, analysis, use and dissemination of food and agriculture statistics; and
- formulate recommendations for future improvement of the national food and agriculture statistical programme.



## **CLOSING REMARKS**

**Mr Generoso de GUZMAN  
Consultant  
FAO Regional Office for  
Asia  
and the Pacific, Bangkok**

Agriculture remains the dominant sector of the economy of the most countries in the region. The important role agriculture plays in insuring national food security was put in focus in the last World Food Summit. The need to have in place a strong national food security programme is further emphasized by the ever-increasing world population, which in turn exerts extreme pressure on land use and other resources. The world's total population is now over 6 billion and it continues to increase everyday. In the meantime, total world's arable land resources are not growing as fast. On the contrary, there is an ever growing pressure for the conversion of agricultural land to give way to housing requirements, commercial and industrial development/expansion.

More and more countries in the world are now eager to join the emerging globalization and free market economy. This requires establishing national capacity to evolve forward looking policies and development plans that will allow the less developed countries, as exemplified by countries in the region, to compete with the economic powers of the world and. The policies and plans that can anticipate future trends cannot be formulated out of thin air. The establishment of a strong national statistical service is a necessary prerequisite.

This recently concluded seminar therefore is a timely one especially for this country and the region as a whole. Cambodia, I understand, is now in transition from formerly having a system of strictly centrally planned economy to embracing free market system. It is heartening to note that the country's leadership has recognized the importance of strengthening its national statistical service to support the transition process. This is evidenced by the number of technical assistance in this area the country has requested not only from FAO but other international donor community. In recent years, FAO has responded positively to these requests and provided a number of technical assistance to support the strengthening of agricultural statistics. Some of the outputs of this technical assistance have been presented in this Seminar. World Bank meanwhile, has just approved a five-year Agricultural Productivity Improvement Project that includes a component to further improve and strengthen agricultural statistics in Cambodia as a follow through to earlier assistance provided by FAO.

The quality of papers and the interesting discussions made in the past one and a half days provides a heart-warming indication of the country's determination to have a stronger agricultural statistical system set in place. Through this regional project, GCP/RAS/1 71 IJPN, and the generous support being provided by the Government of Japan, the Asia and Pacific region is setting the pace in having a region-wide system of information exchange among APCAS member countries. This system will generate the synergy that will lead to a

co-operative effort to strengthen the agricultural statistics and information services of all member countries. We can all learn from individual countries experiences and practices in the field of food and agricultural statistics. At the end of the project we hope see a regional plan for the establishment of a regional statistics and information exchange system that responds to the needs of each member country. Perhaps, a prototype implementation of that plan is possible among countries with more developed national statistical services. The outputs of this seminar provide an invaluable support to the formulation of this plan.

The planned region-wide information exchange will also help member countries hasten their participation in the exciting developments in the electronic information highway. We should therefore expect interesting development and greater involvement in the coming months and we look forward to getting the usual co-operation and support all of you.

Thank you and good day.

## **CLOSING STATEMENT**

**HE Tang Lau  
Under Secretary of State  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Forestry and Fisheries**

I am happy and honoured to be here again to close the National Seminar on Food Systems and Agricultural Statistics. Let me begin by saying that I am most grateful to all of you for your active participation and dedication during this period. Such seminars will help improve our understanding of issues that we need to confront and solve as a Ministry, and nation. My special thanks go to Mr Generoso de Guzman, Consultant, and Mr Ryuki Ikeda, Agricultural Statistics Expert, both from the regional office of FAO. They brought to this seminar vast amounts of experience and skills that I am sure have benefited all of you.

Although it was not possible for me to be here, I was continuously briefed and it appears that 7 key points have been discussed during this seminar.

1. Current situation of agricultural statistics and future development goals
2. Data collection on agricultural production
3. Situation of animal health and husbandry
4. Fishery data in Cambodia
5. Methodology and result of agricultural markets information services (AMIS)
6. Cost of production of rice and maize
7. National agricultural accounts

I also know you have worked very hard in this period and have contributed your own learning and experiences so that others may share. Networking and information sharing are important concepts in today's world and I hope you have networked extensively so that we may all learn from each other's experiences.

I always believe that seminars of this type should be ended with recommendations and suggestions that will help reinforce the objectives and help us to set a timeframe in which these objectives should be met. Some of the suggestions that emerge from this seminar would include the following:

1. To improve the structure of agricultural statistics management
2. To encourage statistical data collector
3. To carry out an agricultural census in the near future;
4. To improve and strengthen administrative reporting, carry out a sample survey every two years and to conduct an agricultural census.
5. To improve and strengthen administrative reports. Meanwhile, conducting sample survey should be implemented base the budget available. This satisfies the data users that they have many choices. Some data can't be collected by

administrative; therefore, we need to carry out a sample survey for each 2 or 3 year.

6. Provide necessary facilities for data collection
7. It recognized that the existing agricultural data collections are still not properly
8. Must improve and strengthen management system of agricultural statistics. To expand and strengthen enumerators to provide accurate and timely statistics
9. Need to carry out agricultural census
10. Strengthen capacity building of human resources, provide adequate facilities and fund
11. It is recognized that administrative report is still important sources of agricultural statistics
12. To seek financial supports to conduct annual sample survey or at least one per 2-3 year
13. Data which are not able to collect by administrative report need to conduct survey
14. It is recognized that the figures of slaughtered animal, meat, egg consuming and so on are not reliable. Therefore it need to carry out sample survey one per 2-3 year
15. Need to strengthen import-export animal figures
16. The fisheries data collections supported by MRC are considerably good, however, it need to build up in the future

Of course, there are numerous other issues and items that need to be accomplished as well. While we are far better today than we were a few years ago, there is still a very long way to go. I would like to take this opportunity to request our partners in development such as the FAO, the Government of Japan and other multilateral agencies to continue your support for developing the human capital in this Ministry. Most of our current officials who work on agricultural statistics possess skills other than statistics. We have very few statisticians and many more need formal training. I would also like to urge all of you who participate in these seminars to continue to improve yourselves and develop your skills. They are vital for Cambodia's future.

Once again, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, I would like to extend my deepest thanks to our supporting organizations and governments, and to the participants who gave it their best over the last day and a half. I would like to wish all you good health and success.

I now formally declare this seminar closed.

Thank you.

**NATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE SYSTEM OF FOOD AND  
AGRICULTURE STATISTICS IN CAMBODIA**

Phnom Penh, 3-4 November 1999

**Summary and Recommendations\***

The National Seminar on the System of Food and Agriculture Statistics was held at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) in Phnom Penh on 3 and 4 November 1999. The seminar was organized jointly by MAFF and FAO, under the FAO Regional Project for the Improvement of Agricultural Statistics in Asia and Pacific Countries (GCP/RAS1171/JPN).

The participants to the seminar were 34 Cambodian senior officials from the following ministerial departments or institutions:

- Statistics Office, Department of Planning, Statistics and International Co-operation, MAFF
- Marketing Office, Department of Planning, Statistics and International Co-operation, MAFF
- Department of Agronomy, MAFF
- Department of Animal Health and Production, MAFF
- General Directorate of Fisheries, MAFF
- National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, and
- three provincial agricultural offices, MAFF

Also participating in the seminar were the following foreign experts:

- Mr Hiroshi Kudo, Adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Japan International Co-operation Agency), Phnom Penh
- Mr Nico Janssen, Programme Officer, FAO Representative in Cambodia
- Mr Generoso de Guzman, Consultant, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP), Bangkok
- Mr Ryuki Ikeda, Agricultural Statistics Expert, FAO regional project GCP/RAS/171/JPN, c/o FAO RAP, Bangkok, and

HE Chan Tong Yves, Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia, opened the seminar and Mr Nico Janssen, FAO Programme Officer, read the opening statement. In his address, HE Chan Tong emphasized the importance of agricultural statistics and the strong co-operation existing between the ministry and FAO.

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\*Note: The following text was adopted at the end of the seminar as recommendations.

## **I. Purpose of the seminar**

The purpose of the seminar was to assess the current system of agricultural statistics in Cambodia and identify the needs and expectations of data users. In addition, the seminar discussed problems and issues faced in the collection, analysis, use and dissemination of food and agriculture statistics.

## **II. Current situation of agricultural statistics in Cambodia**

Over one and a half days, the seminar proceeded smoothly along the lines of the agenda. The participants made clear the situation on agricultural statistics in Cambodia and the main points were as follows:

Cambodia has adopted a decentralized statistical structure. The statistical programmes are administrated and operated under the authority of separate ministries. The decentralized statistical units in ministries and departments collect and compile statistics through periodic reports obtained from enterprises, institutions, households and administrative records.

The Agricultural Statistics Office, DPSIC, MAFF, is responsible for the compilation of agricultural statistics. The data collection is undertaken by provincial agricultural offices in close co-operation with the Agricultural Statistics Office and the concerned technical departments of MAFF.

Agricultural statistics and information in Cambodia mainly consist of production statistics for crop, livestock and fishery, and market information. Fishery statistics are collected using the sampling method, with assistance from the Mekong River Committee. Crop cutting is also used to estimate the yield of paddy, in two projects assisted by FAO and by WFP respectively. Production statistics on crop and livestock are based only on the administrative reporting system.

Although DPSIC acquired some experience on sample surveys for production statistics on crop and livestock through an FAO technical co-operation project (TCP/CMB/4452), sample surveys cannot be adopted annually at present, due to financial difficulties.

During this period of transition from planned to market economy, the administrative reporting system is no longer functioning effectively. The introduction of sample surveys would be an effective palliative. Sample surveys can supply objective and reliable statistics with the ability to define error margins. Well-designed surveys, based on sound frames and methodology, often provide more accurate statistics than administrative reporting schemes.

Meanwhile, the administrative reporting system will continue to be an important source of agricultural information. This system can supply micro data from commune level at minimum cost. It has the potential to supply up-to-date data such as growth or damage condition of crops.

Furthermore, an agricultural census is recognized as the most fundamental survey, as it shows the agricultural structure and can supply the frame of sample surveys. It has been slotted for implementation in the near future. However, financial considerations may push back its start indefinitely. The government of Cambodia is seeking appropriate donors.

### **III. Recommendations**

- The Statistics Office of DPSIC, MAFF, should be strengthened further as the main body of Cambodia's agricultural statistics organization. And the relationship on agricultural statistics among the Statistics Office, DPSIC, technical departments and provincial agricultural offices also should be reinforced under the leadership of the Statistics Office.
- It is necessary to review existing statistical systems and programmes to improve accuracy and objectivity in the statistical data series.
- MAFF should expand the coverage of sample surveys, at least conducting regular production surveys for paddy and main livestock.
- MAFF should prioritize the surveys and choose only the most important, due to the limitation of budgetary and human resources.
- The administrative reporting system also should be improved through the preparation of unified formats and staff training for data collection methodology.
- The World Bank project on agricultural statistics is expected to help the government to improve the accuracy and reliability of statistics through the use of sample surveys and improvement of the administrative reporting system. It is also better to include actual measurement methods such as crop cutting. The survey design under the FAO technical co-operation project TCP/CMB/4452 could be used as the basis.
- Furthermore, if the government of Cambodia can implement the agricultural census, the design of sample surveys can be improved by using the results of the census as framework.
- The agricultural census is very important; indeed, it is the most fundamental survey. It should be implemented in time for World Agricultural Census 2000. When the time comes to implement it, MAFF and NIS should reinforce their co-operation and share knowledge and ability in all stages of the census, such as collection, processing, analysis and dissemination.
- Human resource development is a priority concern. MAFF should consider setting up adequate training to improve the statistical skills of the staff at every relevant level.

- MAFF and all relevant institutions and agencies should evaluate a programme for the timely and regular dissemination of statistics and information to the users. The dissemination programme should have a strong user-producer feed back component. The use of the electronic information highway (Internet) as the most cost-effective dissemination mechanism should be explored.

4 November 1999