

Agricultural statisticians from all Asian countries gathered for Regional Workshop on FAO Data Collection, Processing and Dissemination System of Food and Agriculture Statistics in Bangkok



The group photo of trainers and participants of the workshop



Participants' discussion



Trainers from FAO Rome



Participants from Afghanistan, Malaysia and Russia

The Regional Workshop on FAO Data Collection, Processing and Dissemination System of Food and Agriculture Statistics was held from 28 March to 1 April, 2011 in Bangkok. It aimed to help countries understand better, their uses and related international standards and methodologies in order to meet the requirements of FAO questionnaires and to provide for the compilation of food balance sheets. AFMA was the organizer, in cooperation with the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP) and FAO Rome(HQ).

There were 43 participants in this workshop who were representatives from National Statistic Offices and Ministries of Agriculture from 20 countries in Asia, namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

At the opening session, the keynote address was given by Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, FAO-RAP. Following this, Jairo Castano, from statistics division, FAO-RAP, gave the welcome and introduction remarks while Pietro Gennari, from FAO Rome, gave the general remarks.

The workshop was divided into six main sessions; Country Metadata¹, Production Statistics, Trade Statistics, Price Statistics, Supply Utilisation Account (SUA)²/Food Balance Sheet (FBS)³ and CountrySTAT⁴

¹ Information of relevant data on national food and agricultural statistical systems.

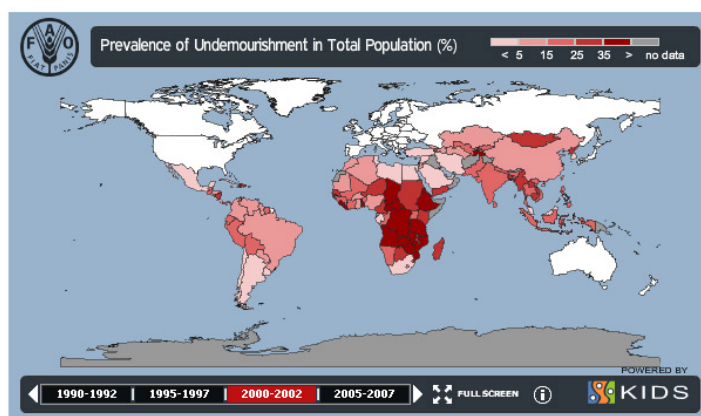
² Time series data dealing with statistics on supply (production, imports and stock changes) and utilisation (exports, feed + seed, food, and other use-including waste) which are kept physically together to allow the matching of food availability with food use.

³ A comprehensive picture of the pattern of a country's food supply during a specified reference period.

⁴ A Web-based system for food and agriculture statistics at national and subnational levels. It provides decision-makers with access to statistics across thematic areas such as production, prices, trade, and consumption.

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In some sessions, such as the ones on production statistics and trade statistics, participants were divided into groups to discuss, to conduct exercises and to work to develop recommendations. The exercises were designed for participants to share experiences of the data collection systems in their countries. For examples, problems encountered during data collecting. After that, Harmonized System (HS) was highlighted in details. In the sessions on Food Balance Sheet (FBS) and Supply Utilisation Account (SUA), a statistic framework was introduced as a tool for monitoring food security. In CountrySTAT session, Jairo Castano, from FAO-RAP gave presentation and there were experiences sharing by delegates from Philippines and Bhutan which are the countries that already developed their own CountrySTAT websites in which contains link to FAOSTAT website. The FAOSTAT website has been a trust source for food and agricultural statistic information. An information from the website that was highlighted in the workshop is the statistic of hunger (<http://www.fao.org/hunger/en/>) which shown map of hunger.



Interactive hunger map from <http://www.fao.org/hunger/en/>

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