



Rice Policies and Food Security in Asia, 10-12 February 2009, Thailand

AFMA in association with FAO held a “Workshop on Rice Policies and Food Security in Asia – what have we learned from the 2008 rice price crisis and can we avoid another one?” from 10-12 February 2009 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The workshop was a consultation meeting among rice policy researchers, FAO officers, and private rice traders. The opening speech was delivered by Mr. He Changchui, Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific. The workshop was attended by twenty six participants including secretariat staffs.

During the two and a half days of the workshop, there was discussion and analysis of various rice statistics, government actions and policies and the course of world and domestic rice prices during the crisis. The meeting discussed the reaction of government agencies to the situation and what were the impacts of each policy. Although the rice crisis happened at approximately the same time as the global food price crisis, the causes were different. For example, political considerations played a more important role in the rice crisis, with weather, the weak dollar, and higher oil prices of less importance. Views on the causes of the rice crisis at the international level were presented by Tom Slayton in his paper (available at <http://cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1421260/>). Presentations from Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, India, Bangladesh, Korea, Japan and China gave an insidestory of the situation and decisions in 2008 at national levels.

The topics presented and list of participants can be found in AFMA website. At the moment, most of the papers and presentations are not yet available for public distribution. The papers and conclusions from this workshop will be edited and published later this year by FAO (Agricultural Development Economics Division or ESA). Once it has been published, AFMA Newsletter will bring it to review again.