Regional Training Course on Sampling Methods for Producing Core Data Items for Agricultural and Rural Statistics

29 September – 10 October 2014
Jakarta, Indonesia

CONCEPT NOTE

I. BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

The Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (Global Strategy) 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. It 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 Global Strategy is based on three pillars: identifying a minimum set of core data; the integration of agriculture into the national statistical system; and the sustainability of the agricultural statistical system through governance and statistical capacity building. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) is coordinating the implementation of the training component of the Global Strategy through principles laid down in the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan (RAP) for the Global Strategy.

The current regional training supports the attainment of a key output of the RAP relating to the development of country-specific minimum set of agricultural and rural statistics. A number of constraints have been identified that may affect production of country specific minimum core set of agricultural and rural statistics, including weak methodology of surveys and lack of technical skills of staff. Given that that most of the crops and other production data in the region are derived from agriculture surveys, it is imperative that the technical capacity of national agencies
be strengthened through adoption and awareness of best sampling methods to increase availability of and enhance quality of core data items.

This Regional Training Course on Sampling Methods for Producing Core Data Items for Agricultural and Rural Statistics is designed to increase knowledge of and capability to apply sampling methods in the production of data on core data items identified in the Global Strategy. The course will run from 29 September to 10 October 2014 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Collaborating partners include SIAP, BPS- Statistics Indonesia and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING COURSE

The course aims to guide participating countries on appropriate sampling methods for producing agricultural and rural statistics. Specifically, the objectives of the course are to:

(i) review the minimum set of core data items for agricultural and rural statistics in the context of the application of sampling methods for producing associated statistics and indicators and

(ii) increase capability of participants in identifying and applying appropriate sampling methods for production of agricultural and rural statistics

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, participants are expected to be able to:

(a) Describe country practices in using sampling methods for core agricultural data in terms of the language and concepts of statistical sampling (sampling techniques, sampling frame, estimation, etc);

(b) Demonstrate understanding of and ability to apply the sampling methods through course case study exercises; and
(c) Evaluate and determine the suitability of sampling methods in collecting and producing minimum core set of data items for agricultural and rural statistics in their respective countries.

IV. TARGET PARTICIPANTS

The Course is designed for senior and middle level government statisticians from national statistical offices and statistical units of ministries engaged in primary data collection of data on crops, livestock, horticulture, fishing and aquaculture statistics. The participants are expected to be those in positions that entail designing statistical surveys and other data collection systems relating to collection and production of agricultural and rural statistics. In addition to practical experience in designing sample surveys, applying sampling techniques and producing statistical estimates, participants are expected to have sound knowledge of basic sampling theory and applications. Approximately 25 participants are expected to attend the course.

V. COURSE DESIGN

The course will involve a mix of lectures, individual assessment exercises, and case study exercises. The training design also features knowledge-sharing on country practices and methods.

VI. CONTENT OF THE COURSE

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<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Content/Outline</th>
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| Module 1: Sampling in the Context of the Minimum Set of Core Data Items | - Concepts, Definitions, and Data Sources  
- Units of measurement  
- Applications of sampling |
| Module 2: Introduction to Sampling Methods | - Basic Concepts  
- Sampling Techniques  
- Survey Designs  
- Sampling Frames  
- Estimation |
VI  PRE-COURSE PREPARATIONS

The course will promote knowledge sharing among countries. The inputs required from participants to be submitted before coming to the training course are:

(i)  Write a country paper documenting the sampling methods and techniques for agricultural surveys conducted in their countries on any of the topics as reflected in the course content above (V). The papers should detail specific methods, rationale, special considerations, constraints and plans for improvement (if any). These papers will be the basis for presentation and discussion training sessions on practices and methods.

(ii) In relation to the constraints and plans for improvement mentioned in the country paper, prepare specific questions on issues on application of sampling methods covered by the training. The training design will take into consideration provision of expert advice on these questions/issues.

These documents should be sent to staff@unsiap.or.jp no later than 22 September 2014.