

**Policy Analysis Workshop: Transition towards Sustainable Agriculture
in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development –
Strategic Implementation, Follow Up and Review**

15 – 17 November 2016, Bogor, Indonesia

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Leaders from the global community adopted in September 2015, the landmark 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a set of bold new Global Goals, as a universal, integrated and transformative vision for a better world. Among 17 goals and 169 targets set out to wipe out poverty, fight inequality and tackle climate change over the next 15 years, SDG #2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” addresses the needs for an urgent and concerted effort to end hunger and poverty and a transformative change towards more sustainable approaches in food production and consumption. Target 2.4 specifically defines “sustainable agriculture” as win-win strategy to achieve increased food production, ensure environmental and social sustainabilities, and enhance resilience to climate change and natural disasters.

While a participatory global process is ongoing for identifying a universal indicator for gauging policy progress towards sustainable agriculture, it is noteworthy that the global debates leading the adoption of the Agenda consistently emphasized the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the whole set of the Goals and the three dimensions of sustainable development. We are all aware that agriculture provides the basis of national economy of the majority of developing countries in Asia and the Pacific, as well as the foundation for healthy society for rural communities, and holds huge implications with the use of natural resources, such as land, water, energy and ecosystem services, which are covered by a number of SDGs beyond SDG#2. In exploring the multiple benefits of promoting sustainable agriculture, and ensuring the maximal impacts on a broad range of sustainable development outcomes, a deep understanding of a variety of policy options, as well as their far-reaching implications on people, the environment, social and political institutions is essential. Further, methodologies to monitor the effectiveness of the policy choices taken, with a set of measurable, realistic and appropriate indicators on different aspects of sustainable development, need to be established in accordance with national priorities and development plans to ensure accountability over efficient use of available resources. Importance of ‘Follow-up and Review’ is emphasized as an indispensable element of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Workshop

The present policy analysis workshop: **Transition towards Sustainable Agriculture in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Strategic Implementation Follow Up and Review**” is planned to respond to above-mentioned emerging challenges of Asia-Pacific developing countries and to assist enhancing national capacities for effectively making relevant policy decisions. The programme is built on that of the previous workshop **‘Monitoring and Evaluation of Policy Options for Sustainable Agriculture, Poverty Alleviation and Food Security in the Post-2015 Development Agenda’** organized by CAPSA and SIAP in Bogor, Indonesia, in November 2014, and further reflects the latest and ongoing discussion at the global level on SDG implementation, as well as ‘Follow up and review’, and aims to highlight most pragmatic components required for critical decision-making for advancing national sustainable development agenda through promoting sustainable agriculture.

Expected Outcome

The workshop is expected to deliver the following outcome:

- (a) to enhance the participants' capacity for engaging in designing, implementing and monitoring the progress in policies to accelerate transition to sustainable agriculture and contribute to attainment of sustainable development goals
- (b) to contribute to formulating national, subregional and regional strategy for intensifying capacity building efforts and strengthening of knowledge sharing and mutual learning for accelerating transition towards sustainable agriculture and contributing to attainment of sustainable development goals.
- (c) to strengthen regional networking for knowledge and experience sharing among policy makers, senior officials, statisticians and experts/ stakeholders working on promotion of sustainable agriculture.

Workshop Programme

To achieve the expected outcome of the workshop, the three-day programme is proposed as organized into thematic sessions. Each session will consist of a judicious mix of introductory note, expert's presentations and facilitated discussion among participants based on preliminary inputs collected through pre-workshop questionnaire. The last session will feature group discussion to formulate recommendations for charting a way forward for strengthening regional capacity building/ knowledge sharing.

A preliminary composition of the sessions is as follows:

- Session 1 - Sustainable Development, the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals
- Session 2 – Agriculture's Link with Socio-Economic and Environmental Sustainability
- Session 3 – Emerging Policy Choices for Promoting Sustainable Agriculture
- Session 4 - Measuring the Policy Effectiveness, Impacts and Progress
- Session 5 - A Way Forward for Strengthening Regional Cooperation

The programme is formulated to ensure maximal interactions among participants and resource persons, rather than simply a continuation of one-way presentations from resource persons. In this context, participants will be invited to substantively contribute to the discussion through presentations based on their national experiences, as appropriate. The programme will also be supplemented by practical exposure through a site visit and interaction with key stakeholders.

Organization

The workshop is organized by the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), in collaboration with other Bangkok-based Divisions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Financial support is provided from the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

Lead Resource People

Professional staff of the UN and other international organizations, in collaboration with eminent policy practitioners, researchers and domain experts will lead discussions.

Participants

The workshop will cater to policy planners, analysts, statisticians and practitioners in rural and agricultural development, working at senior level on issues and policies related to promotion of sustainable agriculture and its contribution to socio-economic and environmental sustainabilities. To fully benefit from the workshop, participants are required to have minimum knowledge of the recent global process on sustainable development, as well as inter-connectivity of economic, social and environmental dimensions of agricultural policy planning, and with a good knowledge of English, essentially. The workshop will accommodate 25-30 participants from Asia and the Pacific.

Pre-course Requirements

The workshop will promote knowledge sharing among participants and includes provision of expert advice. To facilitate such exchange, **the participants are requested to submit a country paper, covering the contents presented in the attached guidance.** The country paper should reach CAPSA no later than **21 October 2016**, so as to allow some follow up communications, if necessary, prior to the workshop.

For Further Information

CAPSA-ESCAP
Jn. Merdeka 145, Bogor 16111
INDONESIA
P: +62 251 834 3277, 835 6813
F: +62 251 833 6290
E: capsa@un.org
www.uncapsa.org

Tentative Programme

Policy Analysis Workshop: Transition towards Sustainable Agriculture in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Strategic Implementation, Follow Up and Review

DAY 1

Opening Ceremony

Session 1 Sustainable Development, the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals

Presentation 1	Keynote Presentation 1 - SD, 2030 Agenda and SDG
Presentation 2	Keynote Presentation 2 - Agriculture's Role in Achieving SDGs

Session 2 Sustainable Agriculture - Economic, Social and Environmental Implications and beyond

Presentation 1	Overview - Sustainable Agriculture
Presentation 2	Multi-disciplinary Review - Multiple Functions of Agriculture
Presentation 3	Agriculture and Environmental Sustainability
Presentation 4	Agriculture and Sustainable Rural Development
Presentation 5	Economic Aspects of Agriculture and Sustainability

Country Presentations
Discussions

Welcome Dinner

DAY 2

Session 3 Emerging Policy choices for Promoting Sustainable Agriculture

Presentation 1	Overview - Available Policy Tools
Presentation 2	Role of Technological Innovation
Presentation 3	Agroecology
Presentation 4	Climate Smart Agriculture
Presentation 5	Disaster Resilient Agriculture
Presentation 6	Economic Instruments

Country Presentations
Discussions

Session 4 Measuring the Policy Effectiveness, Impacts and Progress

Presentation 1	Overview - SDGs, Data and FUR
Presentation 2	Global Process to set a sustainable agriculture Indicator
Presentation 3	Strengthening Rural and Agricultural Statistics
Presentation 4	Agricultural sustainability from Resources Perspective
Presentation 5	Quantifying Multiple Functions of Agriculture

Country Presentations
Discussions

DAY 3

Session 5 A Way Forward for Strengthening Regional Cooperation

- Presentation 1 Overview - SDGs, Data and FUR
- Presentation 2 Knowledge sharing and SATNET
- Presentation 3 South South Cooperation
- Presentation 4 ASEAN Experience
- Presentation 5 Satoyama Initiative

Small Group Discussions
Group Presentation

Session 6 Closing

Conclusions and closing remarks
Certificates / Evaluation

Site Visit

Guidelines for Country Paper

Policy Analysis Workshop: Transition towards Sustainable Agriculture in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Strategic Implementation, Follow Up and Review

A Country Paper should address each of the following five themes in one page maximum (five pages altogether). Supplementary information, if necessary, can be attached as annex.

- Theme 1 – Has your country/ government established any new institutional mechanism(s) to facilitate/ coordinate national implementation of sustainable development goals? Are they established/ considered at inter-ministerial level, or intra-ministerial level? How do they function? Are there any significant challenges and constraints identified through the establishment/ early operation of such institutional mechanism(s)?
- Theme 2 – Are there any agreed definition of ‘sustainable agriculture’ in your country/ government? What are the key socio-economic and environmental aspects considered when assessing ‘sustainability’ of agriculture and rural development? Are there any significant challenges and constraints in sharing such definitions across the society?
- Theme 3 – What are the key policy options your country applies, or plans to apply, to assist enhancing sustainability of agricultural practices and technologies? Could you kindly share some success stories, if any? Or, you may wish to share challenges and lessons learnt. What are the key missing elements in developing innovative policies to promote sustainable agriculture?
- Theme 4 – What kind of statistics does you country maintain to monitor the sustainability of agriculture? Are there any agreed methodologies to holistically capture the holistic nature of agriculture’s sustainability? What are the capacity development needs for your country to improve monitoring the policy progress in promoting sustainable agriculture?
- Theme 5 – What are the international/regional cooperation initiatives that you know of or your country participates in, in the field of sustainable agriculture (such as expert networks, exchange programme, international training opportunities, etc.)? What are the challenges and constraints for your participation in such programmes? What new initiatives do you envisage as beneficial for your country to further promote transition to sustainable agriculture?