UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)

Regional Workshop on Statistical Literacy:
Increasing Effective Use of Agricultural and Rural Statistics

13-17 July 2015
Daejeon, Republic of Korea

CONCEPT NOTE

Collaborating agencies: United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (**SIAP**), Statistics Korea **(KOSTAT)** and the Food and Agricultural Organisation **(FAO).**

I. Introduction and Objectives

The Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (GSAR) aims to halt the rapid decline in the content and quality of agricultural statistics by restoring sustainable systems that produce them. It also aims to support demand for emerging data needs to support policy decisions that link agriculture, poverty and the environment.

Agricultural and rural statistics are wide ranging and oftentimes very complex depending on who is using them. Policy makers in government, private business, farmers, academics, students and the general public use agricultural statistics in some way to meet their specific needs. The ability to understand statistics and interpret them correctly—statistical literacy-- is an identified weakness for many countries; this has a direct link to the effective use of data and statistics in the formulation of policies which continues to be a huge challenge.

The capability of official statistical institutions, whether national statistical offices or statistical units of ministries, to lead users of core data on agricultural and rural statistics to correctly interpret, and make accurate inferences from statistics is key to raising the levels of statistical literacy needed to increase their policy use.

This *Regional Workshop on Statistical Literacy: Increasing Effective Use of Agricultural and Rural Statistics* brings together statisticians and stakeholders to examine the issues that need to be addressed in increasing statistical literacy of users of data, particularly those involved in the policy-making process, identify the training needs for improving core competencies for statistical literacy and to map out concrete strategies and implementing activities to meet the identified training needs in their respective countries.

II. Target Countries (by invitation only): Selected countries in Asia and the Pacific especially priority countries of the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan for implementing the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics who have undergone in-depth country assessments

III. Target participants: Countries will be invited to nominate officials to participate in this training. Nominees should be middle-level to senior-level officials with demonstrated experience and actively engaged in producing, communicating or providing training on agricultural and rural statistics, such as: (a) statisticians of national statistical offices, (b) officials from ministries of agriculture, fisheries and fisheries and (c) officials from statistical training institutions. Participants to the training will be selected from among the nominees from invited countries after a selection process *based on information provided in the nomination form for the course*.

IV. Main Topics

- What is statistical literacy?
  - Definition
  - Competency requirements
- Why is statistical literacy important for improving agricultural and rural statistics?
  - Issues in use of agricultural and rural statistics in support of evidence-based policies
  - Understanding user groups and required levels of statistical literacy for enhancing use
- Statistical capability frameworks for improving agricultural and rural statistics
  - Frameworks
  - Mapping statistical literacy competencies to improving capabilities
- Statistical literacy of decision makers in government
  - The decision makers. Who are they?
  - The policy cycle
  - Required statistical competencies of decision makers to effectively use official statistics
- Strategies, tools and activities for increasing statistical literacy
  - Evaluating relationships between data producers and users
  - Raising awareness on data and statistics
  - Increasing access to information
  - Educating key messengers
  - Influencing the education community
  - Training for increasing statistical literacy
- Action Plan: Developing country training programme for increasing statistical literacy for advocating for and improving use of agricultural and rural statistics for evidence-based policies
  - Assessing statistical literacy competencies and identifying training needs
  - Relating objectives of training to identified training needs
  - Contents of training for increasing statistical literacy
  - Measuring outcomes of training

V. Training Design: The course is designed as a training-for-trainers course. The training sessions are designed to enhance understanding of the role of statistical literacy in improving agricultural and rural statistics, identify key issues that affect statistical literacy of target user groups, examine tools and skills-sets for improving participants' capability to increase statistical literacy competencies and levels of target data users and apply knowledge and tools to devise an effective training and communication programme and requisite strategies and activities to foster understanding, use and interpretation of statistics to improve statistical literacy in their respective countries.

A combination of lectures, country presentations and small-group workshops will be used to deliver this course.

VI. Preparatory Requirements: Participants to the course need to prepare a country report to be submitted to SIAP no later than **29 June 2015** that includes the following:

- Existing strategies and programmes on increasing statistical literacy, with as much detail as possible on:
  - target groups
  - inputs (e.g., publications issued, use of corporate websites and other online/digital methods, training programmes) and
  - self-assessment of outputs (based on monitoring and evaluation frameworks; specific outcomes especially of outreach and training programmes)
- Communication practices that give details on: how they interact with key users of statistics/stakeholders; examples of innovative and creative tools for communication; samples of data dissemination products, especially meta data, press releases on agricultural and rural statistics, and samples of media releases