UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)


**Regional Training Course on Agricultural Cost of Production Statistics**


21 – 25 November 2016
Daejeon, Republic of Korea


**CONCEPT NOTE**


## I.     Background & Rationale

The Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (GSARS) 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 GSARS 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.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan for the Global Strategy (RAP) addresses the recognized need for promoting awareness of the importance of using agricultural and rural statistics in policy making and in advocating for increased and sustained resources for data collection in this sector. This *Training Course on Agricultural Cost of Production Statistics* partly responds to this need. It aims at building the capacity of statistical producing institutions in RAP's priority countries and at training their statistical experts-cum-managers to compile high quality and internationally comparable agricultural cost of production statistics

The course will run from 21 – 25 November 2016 in Daejeon, Republic of Korea and will be conducted by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the implementing partners of the RAP and Statistics Korea (KOSTAT).

Target participants are statistical experts from countries involved in the design of agricultural related surveys, censuses and compilation of various agricultural statistics from the corresponding surveys, censuses and other administrative sources.


## II.    Objectives

This training course is designed to contribute to the following expected outputs of the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy:
- Improve the capacity of countries to adopt cost-effective and reliable methods for producing minimum set of agricultural and rural statistics;
- Improve the competencies of national statistical systems (NSS) to produce and disseminate a minimum set of agricultural and rural statistics in accordance with international standards and good practices through training and technical assistance.

The overall objective of this training is to strengthen the technical capacity of statistical producers (statistical offices and other institutions) to apply relevant international comparable methods and standards in the compilation of agricultural cost of production statistics by:

- Increasing understanding of various types of costs related to agricultural operations and how these concepts can be integrated in agricultural and rural statistics data collection programmes;

- Applying estimation methods for all types of agricultural costs of production adapted to the characteristics of the basic data, country capacities and objectives;

- Offering guidance regarding international principles and standards with respect to cost of agricultural production statistics to ensure comparability; and

- Equipping participants with the knowledge and techniques to design data collection schemes for farm level data related to costs, farm structures etc. to meet the needs of various users.

### III.  Learning Outcomes

As a result of this course, participants are expected to be able to:

- Refine data collection tools for agricultural related surveys and censuses with respect to costs of production statistics to ensure alignment with recommended international practices;

- Improve methodologies for estimation of different components of agricultural costs of production;

- Train other staff from national statistical systems (NSS) on the recommended international practices and estimation methods for agricultural cost of production of statistics;

- Identify key areas of their data collection tools/questionnaires that can be improved to integrate all components of agricultural cost of production statistics;

- Develop an action plan with associated activities to improve the quality of agricultural cost of production statistics.

### V.  Course Design and Content

The course will bring together statisticians involved in the design of agricultural related censuses, surveys and production of agricultural statistics to learn about the recommended international practices regarding agricultural cost of production statistics. Through small group seminars, expert lectures, country presentations and exercises, the course will provide a platform where participants can examine their current data collection tools in agricultural censuses, surveys and current agricultural statistics outputs in relation to international practices on agricultural cost of production statistics, and identify areas of improvement through a time bound action plan.

The training topics will cover[1]:

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[1] The final list of topics and detailed program of the training will  be communicated later on

- **Uses and users of costs of production statistics**: farmers and agricultural markets, system of national accounts, research, government and policy makers;

- **Statistical outputs, indicators and analytical frameworks:** dimensions of production costs, analytical units, construction of indicators and statistical tables;

- **Data collection methods**: surveys, censuses, typical farm approaches, identifying the advantages and limitations of each approach;

- **Data compilation and estimation methods**: Basic principles, allocation of farm-level costs to specific activities, estimation of variable costs, costs of capital goods, labour costs, land costs, pre-production costs;

- **Disseminating and presenting data on costs of production**: principles guiding dissemination, statistical quality standards and dissemination examples.

## IV.   Target Participants

Target participants are:

- statistical experts-cum-managers/compilers from statistical offices/units of ministries responsible design-analysis of agricultural surveys or compilation of agricultural statics including reports from surveys/censuses and dissemination

Approximately 20 participants from selected countries will be selected to attend the course. The participants should be able to communicate well in English, in both verbal and written form, and possess a good understanding of agricultural statistics and/or economics.

## VI.   Requirements from Participants

Prior to the training, each country should:

- Prepare and submit a country paper to SIAP (staff@unsiap.or.jp) that: (a) describes the type of costs of agricultural production statistics available, their scope, sources, frequency, quality checks protocols and estimation methods (b) explains weaknesses in current methods with specific examples of such shortfalls, and (c) outlines specific plans to improve quality and coverage of agricultural costs of production statistics.  The paper should be received by SIAP no later than 4 November 2016.

- Send questionnaires currently used in collecting information on costs of production.