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Продовольственная и
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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Thirty-seventh Session

Colombo, Sri Lanka

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**Report of the Twenty-ninth Session of the Asia and the Pacific Agricultural
Statistics Commission (APCAS)**

Queries on the content of this document may be addressed to:

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1. The Twenty-ninth Session of Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS 29) was hosted by the Government of Mongolia, under the leadership of the National Statistics Office of Mongolia, and convened virtually in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 22 to 25 November 2021. APCAS is a Statutory Body of FAO that brings together senior statistics officials from FAO Members of Asia and the Pacific region who are responsible for the production and dissemination of agricultural statistics in their respective countries. They review the developments in their statistics systems since the last session and exchange ideas with experts from FAO and other organizations on the state of food and agricultural statistics in the region. FAO uses this occasion to inform Members about its activities during the preceding biennium, particularly in Asia and the Pacific region.
2. As per the FAO constitution, the term “agriculture” and its derivatives include crop cultivation, livestock raising, fisheries, marine products, forestry, and primary forestry products.
3. A total of 209 participants attended the session, including 149 delegates from 25 APCAS Members, and observers from seven countries and eight regional organizations. They included:
 - 149 registered delegates from 25 Members of APCAS;
 - Quorum during the twenty-ninth Session:
 - Present, physical delegation: Mongolia;
 - Present, virtual delegation: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, People’s Republic of China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, United States of America and Viet Nam;
 - Absent/did not connect during the session: Afghanistan, France, Myanmar, New Zealand and the Russian Federation;
 - 17 observers from seven non-APCAS FAO Members: Kiribati, Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, Singapore, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu;
 - 16 observers from eight regional organizations: the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Food Security Information System (FSIN), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Pacific Community, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), UN Mongolia and UN Women; and
 - 27 FAO staff: four physical delegations from FAO Mongolia; 23 virtual delegations from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the FAO Sub-regional Office for the Pacific, the Office of the Chief Statistician, and the Statistics Division.
4. The prominent themes discussed during APCAS 29 were: the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and adaptations of statistical operations; the challenges of and methodological development for collecting Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators in Asia and the Pacific; the 50x2030 Initiative and innovations in agricultural statistics; the use of earth observation data for producing agricultural statistics; and enhancing fishery, aquaculture and forestry data. In addition, the Commission reviewed the intersessional activities of APCAS since its twenty-eighth session, held in Bali, Indonesia in February 2020.
5. The Commission acknowledged the significant improvements made to agricultural statistics in the region and the impact that FAO and APCAS have had on the region. The Commission commended the work of the Secretariat and the technical support provided by FAO to APCAS Members over the biennium and appreciated FAO’s support to initiatives to build capacity and strengthen regional cooperation in agricultural statistics.
6. The Commission provided the following recommendations for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC):
 - a. continue to support the integration of agricultural statistics and SDG indicators into national statistical systems, and improve coordination and collaboration with development partners in supporting countries;

- b. coordinate efforts with development partners to support countries to improve fisheries and aquaculture statistics; improve the collection and production of data on small-scale fisheries and inland fisheries; and improve the methodology to estimate the volume of aquaculture production;
 - c. support countries in implementing farm-based surveys and using appropriate data collection methods and tools to compile nationally representative data and indicators, including SDG indicators; simplify and adapt the 50x2030 surveys based on country needs and circumstances; adopt computer assisted personal interviewing systems for data collection; and adopt and scale up innovative and cost-effective methodologies, including technology use, use of earth observation data and remote sensing;
 - d. provide technical assistance to countries on SDG indicators in order to: improve data collection, compilation and reporting of SDG indicators; integrate alternative data sources to disaggregate SDG indicators; prepare Voluntary National Reviews. Specific mention was made on the need to improve compilation of SDG indicator 2.1.2 - Food Insecurity Experience Scale, 12.3.1.a - Food Loss Index, as well as food consumption away from home;
 - e. with regards to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific: provide focused assistance on SDG reporting; continue delivery of technical assistance via partnerships between international and regional partners, such as the Pacific Community; and provide technical assistance on data collection methodologies in the context of SIDS, including use of remote sensing, Earth Observation data, Geographic Information System (GIS) measurement, and administrative data.
7. The Commission endorsed the report¹ of the meeting of the Twenty-ninth Session of APCAS.

¹ <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9110en/cb9110en.pdf>