

Report of the Training on Statistical Survey Techniques ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Project Bangkok, Thailand, 1-5 December 2003

Following the First Technical Meeting held in Bangkok by the Office of Agricultural Economics, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives on 9 August 2002, the topics of project objectives, work plan, training programs, and other related issues were discussed among delegates from ASEAN + 3 countries. The meeting agreed with the plan to have two training courses, one workshop and one focal point meeting each year. However, only one workshop and one training course were proposed during the first year of implementation.

The first training course held by AFSIS entitled "Statistical Survey Techniques" invited 25 statistical personnel from 12 countries i.e. Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Union of Myanmar, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore, People's Republic of China, Japan, Korea, and the ASEAN Secretariat. The training course was organized at both AFSIT Center, Office of Agricultural Economics, Kasetsart University Complex, Bangkok, and Juladis Khao Yai Resort and Spa, Pakchong, Nakhon Rachasima during 1-5 December 2003.

Dr. Thiravira Subhanij, Deputy Secretary-General, OAE, Mr. Yoshihiko Kunimitsu, MAFF Japan, and Mr. Shinya Nakai, JICA Resident Representative, Bangkok delivered the addresses at the Opening Ceremony of the Training Course and the AFSIT Center. Representatives of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Embassy of Japan as well as JICA experts were also invited along with the guests from Thai agencies concerned.

Prior to the training session, guest speakers from MOAC, OAE, and JICA expert gave lectures on (1) Introduction to the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR), Project in Relation to AFSIS, and (2) Balance Sheet Construction and Stock Estimation. This is to provide the participants the overview of food supply in individual country.

The training curriculum that was approved at the Workshop on Data Standardization held in Ayutthaya during 29-31 July 2003 includes:

1. Basic Theory of a Sampling Survey,
2. Checking Method of Examination of Survey Results,
3. Actual Measurement Method for Area Survey,
4. Crop Cutting Method,
5. Monitoring Method for Crop Growing,
6. Balance Sheet Construction and Stock Estimation, and
7. A Case Study on Crop Cutting Survey (Paddy).

General viewpoints (%) obtained from participants are as follows:

- 1) The training course is helpful in general (100%)
- 2) The course met with their expectation (96%)
- 3) The classroom environment was conducive to learning (100%)

- 4) The length of each period was appropriate (96%)
- 5) The training subjects were technically appropriate (96%)
- 6) The trainers were knowledgeable about the subjects (100%)
- 7) The instructional methods were effective (96%)
- 8) Preference to more advanced subjects (100%)
- 9) Satisfaction of the training course (100%)

Further comments include:

1. Contents:

- If AFSIS wants to develop food security for ASEAN countries, it needs to conduct in depth training on food balance sheet,
- The subject of Food Balance Sheet needs to be maintained as many ASEAN countries still have problems to construct it,
- More examples are needed especially for non-statisticians. Conclusion for each subject should be made to make participants understood clearly before launching related exercises, and
- More advanced steps should follow this curriculum.

2. Delivery

- There was language problem in the lecture, especially pronunciation of words by the lecturers,
- The communication between participants and instructors still have problems to achieve good quality of training result,
- *Andragogy*¹ method should be implemented in the training of AFSIS,
- Compulsory of instructors have good English, and more communicative,
- AFSIS should seek experts from ASEAN countries, and
- It would be good if participants have opportunity to operate the computer by themselves during the period of Crop Cutting Simulation on Computer/Paper.

3. Organizing of Training

- Organizers are not satisfactory since no proper briefing on the training schedule, and no proper introduction of training participants, e.g. the work background,

¹ A theory developed by Malcolm Knowles which attempts to describe how adults learn. His hypothesis was that adult learning could not follow the traditional principles in which teachers are responsible for making decisions about what will be learned, how it will be learned and when it will be learned. Because adults in general are more self-directed, they should take control of their own learning.

- Information about accommodation, traveling, etc. should be sent to national focal point with copy to participants at least 1-2 weeks before the course begins.
