

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF DIRECTOR-GENERALS OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS AND INFORMATION IN ASEAN +3 COUNTRIES

30 – 31 March 2010, Busan, Republic of Korea

INTRODUCTION

1. The Fifth Meeting of Director-Generals of Agricultural Statistics and Information (5th DG-ASI) in ASEAN+3 Countries was held on 30 – 31 March 2010 in Busan, Republic of Korea. The Meeting was organized by the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Project Secretariat in collaboration with the Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MIFAFF) of Republic of Korea.

2. The Meeting was attended by the Director – Generals and Senior Officials from statistical organizations for food and agricultural statistics and Focal Points of the AFSIS Project of the ASEAN + 3 countries. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat were present and assisted the Meeting. ADB and FAO representatives also attended the meeting. The list of delegates is shown in **ANNEX 1**.

3. The main objective of the Meeting was to provide guidance on the implementation of AFSIS Project, particularly for the development of agricultural statistics and information of the respective ASEAN + 3 countries. The Agenda of the Meeting is attached in **ANNEX 2**.

Agenda Item 1: OPENING SESSION

4. Mr. Tamarat Wanglee, Adviser to the Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand, delivered the Opening Statement and welcomed all delegates to the Meeting. He expressed his gratitude to MIFAFF of Republic of Korea for co-organizing this meeting. He thanked MAFF of Japan for the continuous financial support to the Project. He also expressed his appreciation to all Member States and delegates for the active participation and support to the Project. He pointed out that a substantial progress has been made in project implementation. Early Warning Information and Agricultural Commodity Outlook reports have been improved and more commodities have been included. He added that the Project was well acknowledged at the 31st AMAF Meeting held in November 2009 in Brunei Darussalam for its contribution toward the food security in the ASEAN region. He reiterated that the information obtained from the Project, which includes supply of, and demand for food crops is very useful for production and utilization planning for food crops. He hoped that the outcomes derived from the Meeting will benefit to all Member States in terms of food insecurity reduction. The full text of his opening remarks appears as **ANNEX 3**.

by policy makers and producers. An Inception Workshop will be organized soon with the relevant stakeholders to identify specific outputs, review the current process and develop a work plan. Over the implementation period of 18 months, the project will be carried out with the activities such as the dispatch of international and national experts and organizing regional Workshops.

15. The Meeting took note with appreciation for the support extended by ADB. The Meeting agreed on the proposed collaboration with ADB and recommended further collaboration and discussion at the planned Inception Workshop.

Agenda Item 4: AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY OUTLOOK AND EARLY WARNING INFORMATION REPORTS

16. The Consultant of AFSIS Project made a presentation on “Agricultural Commodity Outlook and Early Warning Information” which appears as **ANNEX 8**.

17. In his presentation, the general and specific work plan for EWI and ACO Reports as well as definitions for rice, maize and sugarcane used in the Reports were discussed. Information on import by countries of origin and export by countries of destination within and outside ASEAN will be added in the next ACO Report. This particular report included report on rice and maize, which initially focused on rice. He highlighted the food security situation in the region in 2009 and forecasted situation in 2010. He also mentioned the problem encountered during preparation of EWI and ACO Reports, which included 1) Late submission, 2) Inconsistency within the figures submitted, and 3) Incomplete data.

18. The Meeting was informed that questions and recommendations would be accommodated during the Roundtable discussion under the Agenda Item 7.

Agenda Item 5: REPORT ON MID-TERM EVALUATION OF AFSIS PROJECT

19. A representative from the Office of Agricultural Economics, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand presented the result from the Mid – term Evaluation Report prepared by an independent third party evaluator, Associate Professor Dr. Sarun Wattanutchariya, Dean of Faculty of Economics, Sripatum University. The evaluation were carried out through survey questionnaires, which had been previously circulated to all participants, focal points and DGs of Member Countries, with a view to enhance the benefits from project activities. The respondents were asked to provide their views with respect to the following issues: a) Human Resource Development; b) Information Network Development; c) Overall Achievements and Other Aspects. The consolidated results derived from the questionnaires appear as **ANNEX 9**.

20. The results from the evaluation showed that the Project succeeded in developing regional food security information network and improving the capacity of Member States in providing and analyzing the information. Information network development was rated at satisfactory level especially in the usefulness to the current work or function of related agencies and the usefulness of ACO and EWI. The