

Workshop on Agricultural Productivity Measurement
22–26 August 2015
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

PREAMBLE

The APO in collaboration with the National Iranian Productivity Organization (NIPO) organized the Workshop on Agricultural Productivity Measurement in Tehran, IR Iran, 22–26 August 2015. APO Director for Iran and Head of NIPO Dr. Roya Tabatabaei Yazdi opened the program with inaugural remarks. Secretary-General Mari Amano gave welcome remarks via a video link.

Twenty-four participants from 12 member economies (Bangladesh, Republic of China, Fiji, Indonesia, IR Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam) and six local observers attended. Four resource persons from Australia, the Republic of China, IR Iran, and Pakistan shared their expertise in thematic presentations on topics related to agricultural productivity (AP) measurement and monitoring. The workshop also included the sharing of country experiences, hands-on exercises on measurement and interpretation of AP, open forums, and visits to the Pistachio Model Farm and greenhouses for the commercial cultivation of ornamental plants.

One important outcome of the workshop was the widespread view among the experts and participants that increased AP was crucial in achieving the objectives of national food security and economic growth, and that building national capacities for productivity measurement and monitoring was essential to strengthen national policies, planning, and programs on AP improvement in Asia and the Pacific. Additionally, the experts believed that an estimation of a set of output-input combinations, which are technically feasible at different points in time in various production environments were needed to help understanding the economic drivers of AP change in Asian countries.

The workshop agreed on the following recommendations for improving AP measurement in APO member countries:

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Data and information

Develop a database for measuring AP through the following:

- 1.1. Publish national account data on agriculture at the disaggregated level, such as by enterprise (i.e., crop, livestock, fisheries, etc.), by sector, and by region.
- 1.2. Conduct and compile regular surveys and censuses at shorter time intervals (e.g., less than five years) to compensate for national account statistics.
- 1.3. Produce data meeting international standards on quantities and prices of outputs and inputs, particularly capital (i.e., investment and associated price series), land, labor, materials and services, etc.
- 1.4. Set up a group of professionals who can advise statistical boards periodically to resolve questions related to data collection and compilation at national level.

- 1.5. Establish a network to facilitate the exchange of data, knowledge, and experience among member countries to support domestic and international policymaking.

2. *AP measurement and analysis*

- 2.1. Use the growth accounting-based index method (specifically including the Fisher and Tonqvist indices) to measure and compare AP across countries.
- 2.2. Continue to improve the related methodology and its application for AP measurement in individual countries or in cross-country studies.
- 2.3. Set up a technical committee or an expert group (including international and national experts) to assist Asian developing countries in building national capacities for AP measurement, analysis, and monitoring.

3. *Policymaking considerations for improving AP measurement*

- 3.1. Facilitate and strengthen cooperation between national statistical agencies and related ministries and departments.
- 3.2. Sensitize planners and policymakers to the importance of AP estimates in effective planning and policymaking for agricultural development and improve their understanding of AP measures and its drivers and determinants.

4. *Overall recommendations*

- 4.1. Build national capacities for AP measurement and monitoring to strengthen national planning, policies, and programs on AP improvement.
- 4.2. Organize follow-up activities such as research, training courses, and workshops to create a critical mass of national experts in AP measurement, analysis, and monitoring.
- 4.3. Strengthen linkages between planners, policymakers, professionals, academics, and concerned personnel in agricultural extension departments and national statistical agencies to streamline and standardize data collection and analysis procedures and methodologies to achieve national AP estimates.

At the end, the participants reached the consensus that they would do their utmost to contribute to improved AP measurement and analysis in their countries by utilizing and disseminating the knowledge, skills, and lessons learned from this workshop.