



**Expert Consultation on ‘Strengthening Linkages Between Research and Extension to Promote Food and Nutrition Security’**  
**11-12 December, 2013**  
**United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand**

**Introduction**

An Expert Consultation on “Strengthening Linkages between Research and Extension to Promote Food and Nutrition Security”, jointly supported by the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) through the SATNET Asia project<sup>1</sup>, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with inputs from the Asia Pacific Association of Agriculture Research Institutions (APAARI), will be held on 11-12 December 2013 at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Consultation will assess the current status of Research and Extension systems’ effectiveness to address Food and Nutrition Security following years of low international and national investment. During the era of the Green Revolution, all governments of the region emphasized establishment of effective research-extension programmes in order to expedite transfer of technologies and their adoption by farmers with strong support from development partners. However, since the late 1980’s and 1990’s, research-extension systems fell under the budget constraints of structural adjustment processes. Since this time, new stakeholders have emerged to complement government research and extension systems: Private sector research, extension and marketing outlets, NGOs (both national and international), ICT service providers, internet information sources and globalization of information access have all added to the research-extension landscape with opportunities for new linkages.

Indeed, the challenges facing Asia and Pacific region are great with an increasing demand for quality food production and processing under the constraints of climate change, feminization of agriculture, urbanization, global economic crisis and competition and only marginal areas for expansion of production. Sustainable intensification of production for crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry must be supported by more effective and efficient research - extension service within the shortest possible time to face these challenges.

**Objective:**

The objective of the Expert Consultation is to assess existing research-extension system links in selected member countries, identify opportunities and gaps, and explore how the research-extension services can more effectively and efficiently ensure food and nutrition security.

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<sup>1</sup> ‘Network for Knowledge Transfer on Sustainable Agricultural Technologies and Improved Market Linkages in South and Southeast Asia’ (SATNET Asia) is a European Union-funded project that aims to support innovation by strengthening South–South dialogue and intraregional learning on sustainable agriculture technologies and trade facilitation in the Asia-Pacific region.



**Specific Objectives**

- Assess the current status of research and extension system links, including government, private sector, NGO and others in selected countries in the Asia and the Pacific region and identify opportunities for their further development.
- Exchange information and share knowledge available in different countries in the region and learn from each other's experience.
- Identify relevant national policy and programme options for strengthening research and extension systems and linkages in order to enhance food and nutrition security, particularly for small scale farmers, while addressing regional support mechanisms as appropriate.

**Expected outputs**

- Country status on research-extension linkages assessed and future opportunities for further development, including private sector and ICTs, identified
- Mechanisms to support improvement of research-extension linkages by stakeholders in the Asia and the Pacific region discussed for follow-up action.
- An Action Framework for strengthening research-extension linkages in the region is developed, and regional collaboration and networking is enhanced.
- A report of the Expert Consultation is published including case-studies on how to improve research-extension services to promote food and nutrition security.

**Venue**

United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok, Thailand.

**Participants**

This event will be a high level Expert Consultation involving approx. 40 delegates. Heads of research and extension from various countries in the Asia-Pacific region are expected to participate. Some representatives from the private sector, civil society, United Nations entities and other international organizations will also participate to enrich the consultation.

**Programme:**

The tentative programme is enclosed as Annex 1 for reference.

**TENTATIVE PROGRAMME****Day 1: Wednesday, 11 Dec 2013**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Activities</b>
9.00 – 10.00 am	<b>Inaugural Session</b>	<b>Opening/Inaugural/Keynote remarks</b>
10.00 – 10.15 am	Coffee break	
10.15 – 11.30 am	<b>Session 1: Theme presentation &amp; panel discussion</b>	<p><b>Theme presentation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional level overview of the research-extension system (FAO and CAPSA)</li> </ul> <p><b>Panel discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Role of research-extension system in promoting food &amp; nutrition security</li> </ul>
11.30 am -12.30 pm	<b>Session 2: Country presentations (South Asia)</b>	<p><b>Selected country presentations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current country-level status of the research-extension linkage, identification of gaps, key initiatives to address the gaps, future plans</li> <li>- Discussion</li> </ul>
12.30 – 1.30 pm	Lunch	
1.30 – 2.30 pm	<b>Session 3: Country presentations (South-east Asia)</b>	<p><b>Selected country presentations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current country-level status of the research-extension linkage, identification of gaps, key initiatives to address the gaps, future plans</li> <li>- Discussion</li> </ul>
2.30 – 3.30 pm	<b>Session 4: Country presentations (Other sub- regions)</b>	<p><b>Selected country presentations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current country-level status of the research-extension linkage, identification of gaps, key initiatives to address the gaps, future plans</li> <li>- Discussion</li> </ul>
3.30 – 3.45 pm	Coffee break	
3.45 – 4.45 pm	<b>Session 5: Panel discussion</b>	<p><b>Panel discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evolving role of extension systems, including ICTs, as ‘Knowledge Brokers’ between researchers and farmers</li> <li>- Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
4.45 – 5.00 pm	<b>Session 6: Wrap up</b>	<b>Wrap up of Day 1</b>

**Day 2: Thursday, 12 Dec 2013**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Activities</b>
9.00 – 10.45 am	<b>Session 7: Day 2 overview &amp; role of non- government actors</b>	<b>Recap of Day 1 &amp; overview of Day 2</b>  <b>Presentations on private or NGO-led research- extension systems</b> - Examples of successful private-sector led- initiatives - Examples of successful NGO/civil society-led initiatives  <b>Moderated discussion on role of non-government actors</b>
10.45 – 11.00 am	Coffee break	
11.00 am – 12.15 pm	<b>Session 8: Working groups - Developing an Action Framework for strengthening research- extension linkages</b>	<b>Explanation of group work</b>  <b>Working group discussions</b> Tentative topics: 1. Better connecting research to demand 2. Strengthening extension and advisory services 3. Improving private sector and civil society engagement in extension and advisory services at national level
12.15 – 1.30 pm	Lunch	
1.30 – 3.00 pm	<b>Session 9: Presentations by working groups</b>	<b>Working groups to present outcomes of group work to plenary</b> - Presentations by working groups - Discussion
3.00 – 3.15 pm	Coffee break	
3.15 – 3.45 pm	<b>Summary &amp; closing remarks</b>	<b>Summary, Recommendations &amp; Closing Remarks</b>
3.45 – 4.00 pm	<b>Meeting Evaluation</b>	<b>Evaluation of the event</b>