

ANNOUNCEMENT

Fourth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics

Advancing Statistical Integration and Analysis

The Fourth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS-4) will take place during 22-24 October, 2007 at the Friendship Hotel in Beijing, China. The Conference will be hosted by the National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS) and sponsored by Eurostat, FAO, ISI, UNSD, and the World Bank with the Programme Committee chaired by FAO. It is the fourth in the series of ICAS conferences conducted under the framework evolved by the ISI Committee on Agricultural Statistics.

The Conference will focus on the fundamental issues related to the development of agricultural statistics within an integrated national statistical system. Through discussion and debate, the Conference will provide a forum to facilitate a better understanding of the relationship between economic, social, political, and geographic issues related to rural development and the reduction of poverty; and ultimately to identify, maintain, and establish the core indicators needed for policy and decision making. To promote wide use of agricultural statistics, the Conference will, in particular, stress the importance of statistical harmonization and the need for comparability between countries.

The conference is open to the entire international agricultural statistical community. Given the location of the Conference, agricultural statisticians with experience of Asia are particularly encouraged to participate. Prospective participants are welcome to contribute papers to any of the proposed sessions.

Session Topics

- **Importance**
 - Is agriculture losing its importance?
 - Are agricultural statistics lagging behind other statistics?
- **Integration**
 - How to integrate agricultural statistics into the national statistical system?
 - Who is responsible for agricultural statistics?
- **Indicators**
 - What are the core- or top-ten indicators of agricultural development?
- **Urban/Rural Typology**
 - Is the current typology relevant or is there a need for a new one?
- **Unit of Enumeration**
 - Which is the right unit of enumeration: enterprise, holding, household, or individual? Does it matter?
- **Traditional Methods**
 - Are traditional list and area-frame sample designs relevant or are they obsolete?
 - Sampling design for multiple purposes - what works and what does not?
- **New Technology**
 - Is remote sensing cost effective relative to field measurements?
 - Why is remote sensing not more widely used?
- **Agricultural Census**
 - What is an agricultural census and is it needed?
 - How can it be better integrated with other censuses and surveys?
- **Data Quality & Comparability**
 - Is the agricultural sector being correctly measured?
 - Are the data improving or deteriorating?
 - How to ensure that indicators are comparable?
- **Presentation & Dissemination**
 - What are adequate metadata, modes of dissemination, pricing, and quality?
- **Capacity Building**
 - Is capacity building in agricultural statistics working?
- **New Domains & Dimensions**
 - What are the missing dimensions or domains in agricultural statistics?
 - How relevant and appropriate are the current measures of agricultural inputs and related prices?
 - What is the future of agricultural statistics?

Updated information can be viewed at

<http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/icas>

Other enquiries for ICAS4 should be directed to

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