

CAPSA Biennial Activity Plan for 2016-2017

Last updated December 2016

This Biennial Activity Plan has been developed to supplement and strengthen the CAPSA business plan for 2016-2018 outline of framework, which was endorsed by the Governing Council at its twelfth session, February 2016, Bangkok. It reflects recommendations collected from the member States: (a) efforts should be made to continue to ensure and enhance the relevance of CAPSA's work to the needs of member States by engaging member States for inputs on programmatic activities; (b) the Governing Council suggests (i) natural disasters and agriculture and (ii) impact of climate change on agricultural production, as well as support to member States in reviewing implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goals 1 and 2, for consideration as future areas of work of CAPSA. It also has taken into consideration member States' guidance provided at the seventy-second session of the Commission, such as (a) promoting research and synthesizing research findings on issues related to climate resilient agriculture, (b) strengthening local governments' capacity for introducing policies to improve the sustainability of agriculture, (c) developing regional cooperation for accelerating technological innovation and transfer, and (d) targeted dissemination of policy recommendations and good practices.

The first draft of this document was circulated among Governing Council members and continuously revised on the basis of their feedback. The implementation of the planned activities is subject to resource availability.

<i>Areas of work</i>	<i>Activities planned</i>
Regional cooperation	
(a) Enhanced regional cooperation and advocacy for integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development into policies, strategies and frameworks for agricultural innovation, rural livelihood and food security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESCAP Commission session (2016/2017)• CAPSA Governing Council (2016/2017)• Information services and database on sustainable agriculture for poverty reduction (2016/2017)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Websites operation and maintenance○ Expanding online functions• <i>Palawija Forum</i>: triannual• E-Digest (science monitor) and E-Flash (policy monitor): monthly• Networking

Analytical research

(b) Strengthen member States' and other stakeholders' evidence-based decision-making that integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development into policies, strategies and frameworks for agricultural innovation, rural livelihood and food security

- LIFT case studies/policy briefs on stakeholder mapping and PIP on promotion of climate-resilient agriculture
- LIFT policy papers
- Policies to support innovation for disaster-resilient agriculture
- Measurement of sustainable agriculture produce and products
- Review of progress in policies for sustainable agriculture

Capacity-building

(c) Improved capacity to operationalize the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development into policies, strategies and frameworks for agricultural innovation, rural livelihood and food security

- Multi-stakeholder dialogues on climate-resilient agriculture in Myanmar (two in 2016)
- Training on participatory rural appraisal for promotion of climate-resilient agriculture in Myanmar (three in 2016)
- Training on communication, advocacy and networking for promotion of climate-resilient agriculture in Myanmar (2016)
- Policy workshop: transition towards sustainable agriculture in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – strategic implementation and monitoring of policy progress (November 2016 to be supported by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific/2017)
- Workshop on policy instruments to support promotion of sustainable agriculture produce and products (2017)
- Regional dialogue on policies to support innovation for disaster-resilient agriculture (February 2017: postponed)
- Workshop on strategy for sustainable development of agriculture sector through technology transfer by government research institutions (offered by Malaysia, July 2017)

Combined: field project

(i) An Integrated Rural Economic and Social Development Programme for Livelihoods Improvement in the Dry Zone of Myanmar (2016)

(ii) Improved capacity to operationalize the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development into policies, strategies and frameworks for agricultural innovation, rural livelihood and food security

Thematic highlights

(1) An Integrated Rural Economic and Social Development Programme for Livelihoods Improvement in the Dry Zone of Myanmar (January-December 2016)

With ongoing extrabudgetary funding, CAPSA will continue in 2016 implementing the Integrated Rural Economic and Social Development Programme for Livelihoods Improvement in the Dry Zone of Myanmar (LIFT) Project, with focus on the climate-resilience of agriculture in the dry zone of Myanmar through the implementation of analytical research and capacity-building activities.

Analytical outputs

- Case studies and policy brief on policies, institutions and processes related to sustainable agriculture in the dry zone (June-August 2016)
- Case studies and policy brief on stakeholder mapping towards better knowledge management and efficient resource utilization for climate-resilient agriculture and rural development in the dry zone (June-August 2016)
- Two policy papers

Capacity-building outputs

- Two multi-stakeholder dialogues on climate-resilient agriculture in Myanmar (May and November 2016)
- Three training sessions on participatory rural appraisal for promotion of climate-resilient agriculture in Myanmar (August 2016)
- Training on communication, advocacy and networking for promotion of climate-resilient agriculture in Myanmar (July-August 2016)

(2) Strengthening agricultural innovation for enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters (June 2016-May 2017)

Consultation is in progress for development of a new project proposal with potential funding from the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund. This activity responds to the emerging needs for member States, as recommended by the Governing Council at its twelfth session, held in Bangkok in February 2016, and will be implemented with input from the capacity-building workshop on resilient agriculture in the Pacific small island developing States that will be held in August 2016 in Fiji. The activity aims to assist Asian and Pacific developing countries, including the most vulnerable countries, in enhancing national research and development capacity for promoting technological innovation towards more sustainable and disaster-resilient agriculture. To this end, it will start with a scoping, stocktaking and analytical study on relevant policy approaches and initiatives to activate such technological innovation. The analytical study would provide inputs for a regional dialogue among national agriculture research institutes and research and development centres and will serve as a basis for development of further knowledge products that will be disseminated through a strengthened CAPSA network, as key regional mechanisms for knowledge-sharing, training and South-South technical cooperation.

Work components

- Finalization of a project proposal with identification of focus areas and engagement of resource experts (June-August 2016)
- Scoping, stocktaking and analytical study on relevant policy approaches and initiatives (September-December 2016)
- Regional dialogue among Governments, national agriculture research institutes and research and development centres (February 2017: postponed)
- Development of policy recommendations – knowledge products (January-May 2017)
- Information disseminated through a strengthened CAPSA network, as key regional mechanisms for knowledge-sharing, training and South-South technical cooperation (May 2017)

(3) Regional review of the state of sustainable agriculture: measuring policy progress in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (June 2016-December 2017)

The work fulfils CAPSA's mandated function on research and analysis of trends and opportunities with regard to improving the economic status of rural populations, and strengthens targeted dissemination of innovative policy options and good practices, but also responds to emerging needs for regional FUR for progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals related to sustainable agriculture (Goal target 2.4 in particular). The activities will be initiated by using resources from the regular budget and CAPSA's institutional contribution budget. Participation of member State experts (including Indonesia) as well as collaboration with partner institutions will be maximized.

Work components

- Literature review, in-house study (June-August 2016)
- Expert consultation (September 2016)
- Participation in IAEG thematic group on indicator 2.4.1
- Policy workshop on transition towards sustainable agriculture in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – strategic implementation and monitoring of policy progress (November 2016 to be supported by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific)
- Compilation of a prototype SoSA report (December 2016-March 2017)
- Continued regional consultation on measuring policy progress towards sustainable agriculture in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (2017)

(4) Policies to support the promotion of sustainable agriculture produce and products, with a focus on regionally harmonized certification mechanisms (June 2016-December 2017)

The work supplements work under thematic focus (3), and aims to develop innovative policy proposals for accelerating the adoption of sustainable agriculture at local, national and regional scales. Particular focus is placed on strengthening of market-based instruments to provide economic incentives for farmers and value chain actors dealing with sustainable agriculture produce and products. Building upon CAPSA's earlier research on assessment of sustainable agricultural technologies, as well as on adding value to fresh and processed produce through product certification, proposed interventions include (a) identification of methodologies and indicators for measuring/assessing agricultural produce and products, (b) supporting the development of national standards and/or certification schemes for sustainable agricultural produce and products to enhance their market access and competitiveness, and (c) establishment of regional mechanisms for coordination and harmonization of such standards/certification schemes. Consultations are ongoing with interested parties and partner institutions. Possibilities of the use of Indonesia's newly pledged in-kind contribution need to be considered.

Work components

- In-house study (June-August 2016)
- Publication of *Palawija Forum* focusing on economic instruments to promote sustainable agriculture (August-September 2016)
- Policy workshop on transition towards sustainable agriculture in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – strategic implementation and monitoring of policy progress (November 2016 to be supported by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific)
- Developing a working paper (December 2016-March 2017)
- Sustainable agriculture round table: APFSD4 side event (March 2017)
- Workshop on strategy for sustainable development of agriculture sector through technology transfer by government research institutions (offered by Malaysia, July 2017)
- Formulation of regional action plan (2017)