

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Title:	National Consultant (3 posts: Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam)
Organization:	UNESCAP-CAPSA
Duty station:	home based
Geographical working area:	Respective country.

Presentation:

CAPSA is the Center for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops' Development in Asia and the Pacific, which is a body of UN-ESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific). The Center is based in Bogor (Indonesia). The present project of UNCAPSA aims at: (i) forecasting the impact of the climate change on food production, based on advanced crop modeling; and (ii) to formulate adequate policies to minimize the negative impacts of climate changes on agriculture.

Background:

ESCAP implemented two projects which concern climate changes and diversification issues, namely Stabilization of Upland Agriculture and Rural Development in El Niño Vulnerable Countries (ELNINO -- 2000-2003) and Identification of Pulling Factors for Enhancing Sustainable Development of Diverse Agriculture in Selected Asian Countries (AGRIDIV - 2003-2006) by the contribution from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan. These two projects show that the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events are increasing. Climate changes associated with El Niño and La Niña episodes exert dominant influences on agricultural production and food security. There is a growing concern about how global warming would affect the world's food production and availability. The current project aims to investigate the issue. By analyzing food production patterns under different climate scenarios, especially those related to the El Niño phenomenon, this pilot study will evaluate the impact of climate changes on food production and availability in three countries of Asia and the Pacific: Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam. Based on the results of the study, adequate policies to offset the impact of the El Niño phenomenon on agricultural production and to ensure food security in Asia and the Pacific will be formulated and disseminated.

Strategy:

It is proposed to use the models and techniques of DSSAT¹ (Decision Support System for Agrotechnology Transfer) to evaluate the impact of climate change on food production. DSSAT is a software package integrating the effects of soil, crop phenotype, weather and management options to evaluate and forecast agricultural yield and total production in a given area.

¹ DSSAT is in use by researchers in over 100 countries worldwide. DSSAT is a microcomputer software program combining crop soil and weather data bases and programs to manage them, with crop models and application programs, to simulate multi-year outcomes of crop management strategies.

Responsibilities:

Under the supervision of the head of UNCAPSA and in close consultation with the UNCAPSA project officer, the national consultants (one in Indonesia, one in Malaysia and one in Vietnam) will conduct the study in their respective country. They will:

- 1 Prepare the detailed country study guidelines. The guidelines will set the scope, concepts and methods of the country studies.
- 2 Collect in the target area, data on soil, precipitation, weather conditions etc. which are necessary for the study and run the model to estimate crop production under unfavorable climate scenario.
- 3 Policy formulation to mitigate the crop failure.
- 4 Prepare the final report.
- 5 Participate in a workshop to discuss the results and share policy options to ensure food security.
- 6 Any other activity related to the project.

Duration: One year

Time frame:

May – November 2009: preparation of the guidelines, data collection and conducting the analysis.

End of December 2009: Submission of the first draft report in English.

Mars-April 2010: the consultant will participate in a workshop, to be held in Vietnam or Malaysia (to be confirmed)

End of May 2010: Submitting the final draft report in English.

Remuneration: The consultant will be paid 4500 USD for the research and related costs (data collection for example). But it does not include the fee related to the workshop.

Reporting:

The national consultants will report to the project officer and the head of UNCAPSA.

Qualifications:

Advanced university degree in agricultural economics or related fields, preferably a Ph.D level.

A minimum of 10 years working experience in related fields.

Proficient in English.

Familiarity with agricultural conditions and policies in Asia and the Pacific region to ensure food security.

Proven ability to work with cultural diverse international staff

Proven skills in communication and organization.

Application:

A CV to be sent to: capsa@uncapsa.org.

Closing date: 20th February 2009.

For any further information, contact Dr. Agbessi AMEWOA at: amewoa@uncapsa.org

Our website: www.uncapsa.org