

**Volume 26**  
**Number 1**  
**April**  
**2009**

## In this issue:

- 1 **Article 1** The Achievement and Impact of the Special Programme for Food Security in Banjar's District, West Java, Indonesia  
By Saptana, Wahyuning K. Sejati and I Wayan Rusastra
- 3 **Message from the Director**
- 5 **Article 2** High-level Regional Policy Dialogue on "The Food-fuel Crisis and Climate Change: Reshaping the Development Agenda"
- 8 **CAPSA News & Activities**

## Article 1

### The Achievement and Impact of the Special Programme for Food Security in Banjar's District, West Java, Indonesia

By Saptana, Wahyuning K. Sejati\* and I Wayan Rusastra\*\*

\*Researchers of ICASEPS in Bogor. \*\*Senior Researcher of ICASEPS and Programme Leader of CAPSA (2006-2008).

#### Introduction

The empowerment of poor and food-insecure people in rural areas has a strategic value in enhancing food security and developing the Indonesian society. The increase in the number of poor people by 11.25 per cent (during the period of February 2005 to March 2006), and the high number of poor people (39.05 million) in Indonesia for 2006 require special attention. The Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) aimed at increasing food security at household and national level through the improvement of agricultural production, employment and income which together would have an impact on the access to food.

With regard to this particular programme, it is possible to identify four factors that would stimulate development (Johnson, 1986), namely: (a) control over and access to resources, particularly land and water; (b) capacity and competency of human resources; (c) technological know-how (seedlings, culture, harvest, post-harvest and product processing technology); and (d) local institutions such as farmers' groups, rural credit and rural government.

In addition, it is important to distinguish five elements that constitute the rural social system i.e. (a) education to train and improve the capacity of the people through human resources development; (b) economic activities for survival and development; (c) power applied in management, supervision and social dynamics; (d) social structure represented by stakeholders as players or recipients of the costs and benefits of the said programme; and (e) religion to

<sup>1</sup> The result of a research collaboration between the Food Security Agency (FSA), the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops' Development in Asia and the Pacific (CAPSA) and the Indonesian Centre for Agriculture Socio-Economic and Policy Studies (ICASEPS).



“ The objective of the programme was the empowerment of poor people, using a multi-sectoral and participatory approach. ”

enhance moral standards and ethics to live as a group that can generate a spirit of togetherness (Slamet, 2008).

The Food Security Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) implemented a Special Programme for Food Security. The objective of the programme was the empowerment of poor people, using a multi-sectoral and participatory approach. The programme has been relatively successful, but it needs further improvements to accelerate sustainable rural development. There is also a possibility to replicate this programme in other regions either through government intervention or through a normal diffusion process.

The objectives of this articles are: (1) to review the implementation of the SPFS programme in the field; (2) to analyse the results and impact of the SPFS programme; and (3) to formulate policy recommendations to improve the programme for the benefit of food security and poverty alleviation in rural areas.

### Research methodology

The research of the SPFS programme was conducted in Banjar, West Java, and included four sample villages: Muktisari, Bojongkatong, Kujangsari and Waringinsari, all in Langensari sub-district. The villages are known for their success in the development of farming, livestock and fisheries. The respondents in the research were concerned institutions, key informants and programme recipients. Data and information were collected through a review of implementation reports, discussions with the programme planner and implementer and focus group discussions.

### The SPFS programme implementation

For five years since 2002, Government of Indonesia allocated a total of US\$ 2.5 million to the SPFS programme, in addition to in-kind contributions worth US\$

0.8 million. Activities were conducted through people's empowerment, particularly in the food-insecure areas. People were encouraged to better understand the fundamental problems behind their food security and the means to solve the problem. The SPFS played the role of facilitator in this search for solutions.

SPFS activities undertaken in the villages of Banjar were:

- maintenance and repair of the irrigation infrastructure as well as supplementation of the water supply through a pumping system to expand the irrigated farm land and thereby increase the rice productivity;
- to accelerate the growth in food production (paddy), livestock (*Etawah*-Crossbreed goats, cows' fattening) and fisheries (freshwater fish: *gurame*, *nila* and *lele*) through technical and management support;
- the identification of socio-economic constraints on the production, marketing and processing of farm produce;
- the development of a production system that can be accepted technically, economically and socially in each region;
- the development of an agriculture investment programmes that can ensure food security and nutrition.

The perception of member farmers and non-member farmers of the introduction and implementation of the programme was positive. The level of participation from the initial stage until the end of the programme was very high, although some farmers left the programme, mostly during introduction phase. The activity that had a significant impact on the success of SPFS programme was the 'Field School' which provides knowledge and skills to farmers for on-farm, off-farm and non-farm activities.

The review of the implementation of Field School led to the following conclusions:

- the activities covered by the Field School were quite comprehensive and included micro credit, livestock, irrigation, fisheries, farm diversification, health and nutrition;
- the activities of the Field School considered not yet successful were horticulture, post-harvest management and processing, product marketing, entrepreneurship and partnership;
- the trainers were competent and had experience and good communication and interaction skills;
- the non-poor households in the target group gave

In the last issue of Palawija News, I announced that we would be organizing the 5th session of the Governing Council of CAPSA. I can now report that the session was held on 4 March 2009 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand. You can read more about it in the CAPSA News and Activities section of this newsletter. What I would like to add is that we at the Centre were encouraged by the presence and the active participation of the Executive Secretary, Ms Noeleen Heyzer, and delegates from 13 member states of ESCAP at the session.

The main theme of the discussion was the strengthening of the ownership of CAPSA and its work by the member countries. Unless that happens, there is the risk that the Centre will be starved of resources, resulting in less work and less relevance for the member countries, in turn leading to a decline in contributions. Many delegates pointed out that the focus areas of CAPSA (poverty alleviation and secondary crops) are extremely important for their countries, but they felt that the actual work had been too much CAPSA-driven. The work programme has to become more member country-driven and to respond to the needs and priorities of the member countries.

Encouraged by the commitment of the member countries, the Executive Secretary promised to

redeploy resources from ESCAP to the Centre. She also told the Council that she wants to make CAPSA a centre of excellence for policy research in the region that can play a major role, in collaboration with national agricultural research centres, in the development of policy recommendations on secondary crops and poverty alleviation, food security and sustainable agriculture.

In this respect, she also highlighted the outcomes of the High-Level Policy Dialogue on the Food-Fuel Crisis and Climate Change, which ESCAP and the Government of Indonesia organized in Bali in December 2008 (see elsewhere in this issue of Palawija News), and the discussion on food security and sustainable agriculture at the 65th session of the ESCAP in April 2009. The recommendations of these two events can form a framework for activities by CAPSA.

As you may have noticed, we are now inserting *CAPSA Flash* in *Palawija News*. The reason is that we want to reach more readers and at the same time reduce costs. Let us know what you think. Send your comments to: [library@uncapsa.org](mailto:library@uncapsa.org).

**Yap Kioe Sheng**  
**Officer-in-Charge**  
**CAPSA**

- support by serving as initiators and motivators;
- the training method used by the Field School system was considered appropriate and acceptable for adults;
- the most useful and positive impact of SPFS programme was the development of a productive economy in rural areas that could increase the availability of and the access to food for the people.

The management of farmers' group was essential in empowering the poor and food-insecure people. From consolidation perspective, the vertical integration of farmers group with respect to input market and output market need to be improved. The formation of the group and the capacity development was based on existing local

institutions and the election for administrative positions was done in a democratic way with high competency and professionalism.

Group management was conducted transparently with good accountability. Group administration showed high cohesiveness and solidarity among members and the respective group had adequate experience and knowledge on agribusiness activities. Farmers group were formed according to their place of residence, and members had the freedom to decide the business they would like to run. The objectives and priorities of the activities were determined in a participatory way, based on principles of efficiency and equality.

## Field School and institutional enhancement

Activities of the Field School to empower the group and its members included:

- the improvement of human resources in technical and management skills needed to run a business;
- the strengthening of the motivation of individual members to escape from poverty and food-insecurity;
- the generation of confidence in their ability to help themselves out of poverty and food-insecurity;
- the generation of awareness on the importance of a diversified, balanced, nutritious and safe food consumption pattern;
- the change of mindset for different aspects of life, particularly in decision making, social togetherness and running a business.

“ The activity that had a significant impact on the success of SPFS programme was the ‘Field School’... ”

There were several institutional enhancements under the SPFS programme. These included: the empowerment of farmers' group, improvement of the rural financial institution, the food barn and the co-operative unit. The group met regularly and there was a transparency and accountability in group management. Other positive impacts included the establishment of a participatory mutual assistance programme and other social activities. In addition, there was a saving and loan scheme meant to generate productive economic activity.

### The result and impact of SPFS programme

During the period 2002-2007, the household income of SPFS participants increased by 7.0 per cent per year, from IDR 3.77 millions to IDR 5.81 millions, because of the successful implementation of several activities by farmer groups such as the improvement of the irrigation system, the input factor aid support, the use of hand tractors, and related programmes to improve on-farm activities.

As a result of the improvement of the irrigation system and the water pump, farmers could cultivate 137 hectares of farmland in phase 1 and 153 hectares of farmland in phase

2. On this land, they could harvest paddy twice and secondary crops once, while previously this was only once for both crops. There was also an increase in the productivity of dried unhusked paddy from 4.4 tons to 5.5 tons per hectare, and of major secondary crops (maize, soybean, ground-nut and mungbean); Furthermore, there was an increase in crop intensification of paddy and farm diversification that began to include horticulture products. The members of the groups contributed to an intensification of the maintenance of irrigation system. Finally, water pumping became available for areas that had frequently suffered from drought in the past, especially during dry season.

The input factor aid increased the adoption of new agricultural technology, and as a result farmers could avoid pre-harvest selling (*ijon*), while primary input factors (seeds and fertilizers) became available in the correct type, amount, time, place and price. The price was similar to the highest retail price of subsidized fertilizers. Loans were repaid after harvesting at an interest rate of 1 per cent per month. The final impact of all these measures was an increase in the productivity of paddy from 4.6 tons to 5.5 tons per hectare.

The use of hand tractor had a positive impact, as it accelerated and improved land preparation. This enabled farmers to do the planting on time. Another positive impact was that farmers could start planting, while at the same time reduce pests and plant diseases. This lowered cultivation costs. With a tractor rotation system for 14 planting seasons, the number and availability of tractors increased over time.

The introduction of the *Etawah* Goat Crossbreed (PE's goat or high breed goat) resulted in an increase of the goat population from 360 to 737. The supply of organic fertilizers for farmers and farmland fertility was improved substantially. This form of livestock development can increase the economic scale of goat farming, increase milk production to meet consumption needs and concurrently raise the household income. All of those were strengthening and widening household and rural economy.

The impact of cow fattening can be shown by the following indicators: (a) the additional weight gain of 0.7 kg per head per day; (b) availability of organic fertilizer for farmers; (c) profit for breeders from cow fattening and trade; (d) increased farm size due to population gain of 46 cows; (e) increased household participation in cow raising; (f) the growth of the farmers saving group; (g) diffusion in

the fattening technology outside the farmers group; and (h) savings from profit to strengthen the farmers group. Besides livestock, the carp fish culture was a promising business that could promote farm and agricultural diversification.

### **The general achievement of SPFS programme**

Overall, the SPFS programme raised household income from IDR 3.77 million per year at the beginning of the programme in 2002, to IDR 5.81 million per year at the end of the programme in 2007. This improved food security and alleviated poverty in the rural areas. The household income structure was dominated by the agricultural sector (59.2 per cent), while off-farm income amounts to 7.4 per cent and non-farm activities contributes 33.4 per cent of the household income. Within the agricultural sector, the contribution from rice farming reached 55-60 per cent. The non-farm activities commonly practiced were farm produce processing, handicraft, trade and transportation services. There are good business prospects for high-value commodities and agribusiness, using local raw material.

The positive impact provided by the SPFS programme included (a) the ability of individual members to apply the guidance on technical and farm management; (b) the improvements in livelihood and mindset; (c) the increase in productivity of on-farm, off-farm and non-farm activities; (d) the increase in income and expenditure on food and non-food items (education, health); and (f) the replication of the SPFS programme in another villages, especially rice intensification, PE goat raising and carp fish culture.

### **Conclusions and policy implications**

The increase in household income is basically due to the improvement of the capacity and better employment opportunities of the programme beneficiaries. Of the five components of the social system of rural communities, the

most deficient components were education and economic activity. The Field School for poor and food-insecure people was able to improve productivity (farm, off-farm and non-farm) through education. The supply of capital contributed to the development of various productive economic activities.

The SPFS programme applied two approaches for people's empowerment: the introduction of new technology and institutional arrangements related to farm and agribusiness. However, the impact of the introduction of new technology through technical guidance was rather weak in the implementation stage. The establishment of a vertical business network was not successful and as a result the added value received by farmers remained low and unstable.

In addition, the programme should avoid a 'one-policy-fit-all' approach when replicating the programme. It is essential that the programme is adjusted for different conditions of natural and human resources, of technological know-how, of physical infrastructure and of regional institutions.

Based on the field experience, improvements need to be made to the SPFS programme to alleviate poverty and improve food security. These improvements include: (a) a re-orientation of Field School from a commodity orientation to an agribusiness orientation; (b) the adoption of knowledge and technology-based innovation based on recent research outcomes; (c) the development of high-value agricultural products; (d) capacity enhancement of qualified human resources with managerial skill; (e) enhancement of entrepreneurship; (f) development of leadership from local traditional to a modern one; (g) the comprehensive improvement of agribusiness institutional arrangement; (h) improvement of local agro-ecosystem for sustainable agricultural development. ■

(References available upon request)

## High-level Regional Policy Dialogue on “The Food-fuel Crisis and Climate Change: Reshaping the Development Agenda” 9-10 December 2008, Bali, Indonesia

### Introduction

On 9 and 10 December 2008, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia jointly organized a High-level Regional Policy Dialogue on “The Food-fuel Crisis and Climate Change: Reshaping the Development Agenda” in Bali, Indonesia. The main objective of the Dialogue was the identification of strategies to deal with the impact of the food, fuel and financial crises within the context of climate change in a comprehensive and integrated manner and to prevent those crises from becoming a development emergency.

The High-level Policy Dialogue was attended by more than 100 policymakers, economists, climate change specialists, food and energy security experts, agricultural innovators, private sector entrepreneurs and civil society representatives from the Asia-Pacific region. Government representatives from twenty-two ESCAP member states were present, as were several United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other organizations.

The Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Ms Noeleen Heyzer, delivered the welcome address at the opening session. The event's keynote address, by the President of Indonesia, Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, was delivered by Indonesia's Co-ordinating Minister of People's Welfare, Mr. Aburizal Bakri. The Executive Secretary also moderated a round table on “Threats to Development: Addressing Financial and Food-fuel Crisis and Climate Change in Volatile Times”.



Photo: UNESCAP

The sections that follow have been derived from the Bali Outcome Document which contains recommendations to be used as a framework for regional action in handling the triple crises.

### The convergence of crises

The recent volatility in food and fuel prices pose a grave challenge for the Asia-Pacific region, while the increasing spillover effects of the global financial crisis threaten to inflict untold damage on human lives. The convergence of these interrelated and mutually exacerbating crises, together with climate change challenge, threaten to undermine the development gains achieved in the region and negatively affect its future prospects.

Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in the region in particular could be significantly reversed. All indications suggest that the number of people living below the poverty line, as well as those vulnerable to poverty, could increase dramatically. The crises have disrupted trade and investment and are causing difficulties in securing cost-effective financing for development.

## The financial crisis

The currency markets in the region have shown increasingly disorderly behaviour in recent months, generating large and erratic shifts in the exchange rates of the currencies of the countries in the region, thereby threatening to disrupt intraregional economic stability. There is thus a need for more intense consultation among countries regarding exchange rate policies and related actions.

The current financial crisis is also threatening to disrupt trade by generating a significant gap in trade finance, mainly because of tightened credit conditions in the United States of America and Europe. There is a need to focus more on regional mechanisms. A number of banks in the region with an excellent track record could play important roles in filling the gap. However, this needs to be supplemented by increased government support to export credit agencies.

Longer term, durable stability in the region calls for greater co-operation. Consideration should be given to the establishment of formal interregional exchange rate arrangements, supported by an adequate intraregional stabilization fund and mechanisms for effective surveillance of financial markets to provide early warning of fragilities, vulnerabilities to financial shocks and contagion.

Against that backdrop, participants called for greater international and regional co-operation among governments in monetary and financial matters to cope with the crises. This included:

- (a) the strengthening of existing mechanisms as well as the establishment of new mechanisms to support countries with balance of payment difficulties;
- (b) the provision of a channel for countries affected by the crises to receive budget financing assistance specifically for Millennium Development Goal-related activities;
- (c) the improvement of surveillance of financial markets to provide early warnings of fragilities, vulnerabilities to financial shocks and contagion; and (d) the removal of regulatory deficiencies to curb speculation in commodity markets.

The meeting recommended that ESCAP provide a forum for fostering a common understanding of the crises, for harnessing greater regional collaboration and exchange of information through high-level policy dialogues, and for the identification of policy options and the adoption of

suitable approaches in response to the global financial crisis. The platform could focus on the formulation and implementation of effective measures for the social protection of the poor and other vulnerable groups, particularly smallholder farmers, women and children.

## The food crisis

Increased speculation in commodity markets has been a major factor in recent gyrations in the markets for fuel and food, threatening energy and food security. An additional 41 million people in the Asia-Pacific region had been pushed into undernourishment in 2007 due to the food crisis. They joined the 923 million people who were already chronically food insecure, and of whom 95 million are malnourished children under the age of five.

This makes it necessary to strengthen food security in the region within a comprehensive framework encompassing sustainable agriculture and forestry, climate change anticipation, adaptation and mitigation, social protection, including hunger-based safety nets, and well-functioning markets. Tighter regulations to curb commodity speculation needed urgent attention in the reform of the international financial architecture.

The meeting identified several priority areas for action:

- Technical co-operation to support capacity building to strengthen national food security programmes, including the management of food stockpiles, the planning of potential land use for agriculture and effective food information systems.
- Research and development on sustainable agriculture, including its climate adaptation and mitigation potentials, along with the necessary financial resources.

Regional co-operation can play a pivotal role in preventing and coping with the food crisis and ensuring that all people have access to food. It can be highly effective when dealing with the impacts of natural disasters, including floods, drought and other events that contribute to food insecurity. Effective regional early warning systems could enhance food security by co-ordinating agricultural information from member States on matters such as expected crop yields, floods and drought.

Regional and sub-regional action might also involve investments in effective food storage facilities/food banks and transport logistics, as well as capacity development in establishing national agricultural insurance schemes, while ensuring that social dimensions are also included in

those schemes. Arrangements should be made for the sharing of experiences and the transfer of best practices in that regard.

### **The fuel crisis**

In light of the fuel crisis, there is an urgency of moving towards a new sustainable energy paradigm in creating a virtuous cycle of sustainable energy development that would include three elements: (a) quality of economic growth, (b) reliance on greater energy efficiency and renewable energy, and (c) strengthened efforts to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

While indigenous technologies have definite benefits, there is a need to find ways to expand access to modern energy services to the poor. One of the mechanisms highlighted was a provision of transition technologies (including solar photovoltaic lanterns and gasification systems for household use) as compared to large technology initiatives. Public-private co-operation should be a key element in any strategy to increase financing and investment in energy infrastructure and widen energy services.

Regional co-operation to address the energy crisis should include joint research, capacity building and new financial resources to promote best practices and

exchange of information in technology development and transfer. The aim would be to move towards a low-carbon economy, reliable and sustainable energy supplies, and energy efficiency by increasing the share of renewable energy and natural gas in the energy supply.

The member states of ESCAP should co-operate proactively in order to implement an Asia-Pacific sustainable energy security framework. This would require countries in the region to work together to integrate their energy systems. Developed countries, should share experiences in the development of new and renewable energy technologies with developing countries, and transfer clean energy technologies to developing countries.

This could be achieved through the reduction of technical and licensing costs, the removal of barriers to technology transfer and the strengthening of national technical capacity and the promotion of South-South and triangular co-operation. To make this possible, the developed countries should provide adequate, timely and sustainable financial assistance to enable the developing countries to address the impact of climate change. ■

## Workshop on “Adding Value to Fresh and Processed Produce through Product Certification”

17-18 December 2008, Manila, the Philippines

The current trends in the global trade of agro-food, and the changes in the consumers demand patterns for food and agricultural products have led to a rapid growth of multi-national chains of retail stores in major cities of developing countries and a growth in domestic retail stores. Many products in these stores come from overseas, but many can also be supplied by local farmers or farmers' co-operatives or associations, provided that they meet the quality and supply standard required by the store.

In 2007, CAPSA initiated a project on agricultural product certification with the aim to study and identify specific

was the presentation of the results of the studies conducted in the Philippines and Indonesia. The workshop provided the participants with an idea of the present scenario of the agricultural products supply chain and how product certification is being practiced in the two countries (BAR Online, 2008).

The workshop was attended by 26 participants. Participants were grouped into two categories: 1) policy and implementation, 2) users and stakeholders of certification.



Photo: CAPSA

benefit that can be tapped by secondary-crop farmers from these global trends. The project was funded by the Government of France and involved research in two countries: Indonesia and the Philippines. The project ended in March 2009.

As part of the project, CAPSA organized two workshops in 2008. The first one was held in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia, on 17-18 November 2008. We reported on the outcome of this workshop in the December 2008 issue of Palawija News.

CAPSA and the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) conducted the second workshop, "Adding Value to Fresh and Processed Produce through Product Certification", on 17-18 December 2008 in Manila, the Philippines. One of the highlights of the event

### Summary of group discussion

Below are the six major issues and concerns which emerged during the discussions and the recommendations:

#### 1. The certification process is tedious and expensive.

Recommendations:

- Establish a protocol for an alternative guarantee system wherein the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards of the Department of Agriculture (for good agricultural practices) will provide full subsidy for the first three years of certification and certification renewals to be shouldered by the farmers. For organic agriculture, certification which lasts for two years

to be subsidized by the government while subsequent certifications will likewise be shouldered by the farmers.

- Provide continuous capacity development on good agricultural practices and organic agriculture for stakeholders, and establish a programme of advocacy on agricultural guarantee system for consumers.

**2. There is a need for an information campaign on good agricultural practices and organic agriculture, including their costs and benefits to both the producers and consumers, and to the agencies involved in the certification.**

Recommendations:

- Allocate funds for Information Education Programmes and related activities to promote good agricultural practices and organic agriculture;
- Organize information campaigns to educate policymakers and consumers on the importance of healthy and safe food;
- Enhance assistance to establish focal points on organic farming to assist farmers on proper networking in the region/province;
- Develop and disseminate a booklet or manual with a complete list of all laws and policies regarding certification with all the necessary and specific information distinguishing each of them, as well as the agencies and institutions responsible;
- Develop and prepare IEC materials in different dialects to cater to the local people, particularly the farmers in the rural areas. This may come in the form of broadcast media to promote good agricultural practices and organic agriculture and a booklet that is specific on the certification fees and the duration of the process.

**3. The incentive package on the part of the government to support the programmes of the Department of Agriculture (DA) on good agricultural practices and organic agriculture is inadequate.**

Recommendations:

- Revisit the strategic plan of DA, specifically the parts on good agricultural practices and organic agriculture, with the goal of strengthening them;
- Separate the funds for research and development, extension and training, and regulatory functions;
- Provide capacity building for farmers who are

interested in introducing good agricultural practices and organic agriculture.

**4. Certification is demand driven. Economies of scale are important in applying for certification where the average size of the farm should not be less than one hectare. How this can be resolved?**

Recommendations:

- Organize co-operatives and groups (clusters of farmers) of those who are engaged in good agricultural practices and want to practice organic agriculture;
- Professionalize farming by developing a mindset of the 'real farmer' who is responsive to the global demand, given the proper technologies and support at hand.

**5. There is a low level of participation in the certification programme of the government. Since its inception in 2005, only one farm has been certified for good agricultural practices.**

Recommendations:

- Create a model farm that practices organic farming successfully;
- Promote the use of good agricultural practices and organic agriculture through the provision of incentives for farmers engaged in the appropriate farming activity;
- Emphasize the financial benefits of organic and certified agriculture, including low costs, domestic and international demand, new livelihoods for support services and inputs, and employment;
- Strengthen programmes on organic agriculture down to the *barangay* (community) level, in strong partnership with local government units and regional DA units

**6. There is a private monopoly for the certification of organic agriculture.**

Recommendations:

- Create other validating and evaluating agencies that follow the protocol and procedure for the certification of good agricultural practices and organic agriculture;
- Rationalize and lower the certification fees to increase participation. ■

## **The Fifth Session of the Governing Council of CAPSA**

The fifth session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops' Development in Asia and the Pacific (CAPSA) was held in Bangkok on 4 March 2009.

The session was attended by the following members of the Governing Council: Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Pakistan and Thailand. Representatives of Cambodia, China, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines and the Food and Agriculture Organization also attended the session.

The Governing Council elected Tengku Mohd Ariff Tengku Ahmad, the representative of Malaysia as Chairman, Mr. Sumardjo Gatot Irianto, the representative of Indonesia as Vice-Chairman and Mr. Teodoro S. Solsoloy, the representative of the Philippines as Rapporteur.

During the meeting, the Executive Secretary of UN-ESCAP, Ms Noeleen Heyzer expressed her commitment to the strengthening of CAPSA to make it a centre of excellence. She stressed that CAPSA should serve as a regional knowledge centre for policy and action research on the promotion of sustainable agriculture and the alleviation of rural poverty and hunger. ■

## **Impact Analysis of Economic Integration on Agriculture and Policy Proposals toward Poverty Alleviation in Rural East Asia (ECOIN)**

A tentative analysis of the rural survey data in Cirebon, West Java, Indonesia during November to December 2008, was completed. The data were through interviews with nearly 200 households in a hamlet and 47 overseas migrant workers in the study village. The analysis identified both positive and negative impacts of overseas migrant work such as the positive contribution to the household income, improved education of family members, additional investments in agriculture and small businesses, but also problems experienced by migrant workers, and labour shortages during the planting season. The results of the study will be presented at a project meeting which will be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, during 22 to 24 April 2009. The overall outcome of the project will be presented in a regional workshop, which is tentatively scheduled for November 2009. ■

## Palawija News

CAPSA's research newsletter is published three times a year and is distributed free of charge to interested individuals. To have Palawija News delivered by email please contact [library@uncapsa.org](mailto:library@uncapsa.org), or to download, please visit [www.uncapsa.org](http://www.uncapsa.org).

Authors are invited to contribute articles on socio-economic aspects of recent good practice in research and development related to secondary crops, food security, rural poverty alleviation and the agricultural sector in Asia and the Pacific.

The word limit for articles is 2500. Contributors are asked to first submit a concise summary of their article by email to [library@uncapsa.org](mailto:library@uncapsa.org).

**Palawija** – derived from Sanskrit, this is the common term for secondary crops in Indonesian and traditional Malay languages.

## CAPSA

The Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops' Development in Asia and the Pacific (CAPSA) is a subsidiary body of UNESCAP. It was established as the Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (CGPRT Centre) in 1981 and was renamed CAPSA in 2004.

## Objective

CAPSA promotes a supportive policy environment in member countries to enhance the living conditions of rural poor populations in disadvantaged areas, particularly those who rely on secondary crop agriculture for their livelihood, and to promote research and development related to agriculture to alleviate poverty in the Asia and Pacific region.

## UNESCAP-CAPSA

Jl. Merdeka 145  
Bogor 16111  
Indonesia

**Phone** (62-251) 8343277  
8356813

**Fax** (62-251) 8336290  
[capsa@uncapsa.org](mailto:capsa@uncapsa.org)  
[www.uncapsa.org](http://www.uncapsa.org)

**By Airmail**