



# FAO International Consultation on Policy Monitoring in Developing Countries



FAO Rome, December 11, 2013

## ► Concept note

Policy is a key component of successful agricultural development and improved food security. But how do governments assess if the policies they have implemented, and the funds they have allocated to agriculture, are having the desired effect on producers and consumers? What policy monitoring tools should be used? How can **policy dialogue** between the government and other agricultural stakeholders become more evidence-based? And how can policy monitoring help create a more conducive environment for private sector investment?

The need to better understand the effects of policies on producers and consumers was brought into focus during the 2007/08 **world food price crisis**. As food prices soared, governments tried to lessen the high cost to consumers, whilst maximizing possible benefits for producers, with a range of policy measures. Some governments tried to protect consumers by imposing temporary export bans and/or relaxing import duties on food security crops. Many governments also supported producers, particularly through inputs subsidies, to boost food supply. Some of the measures adopted were effective, others were not. A key lesson learnt was the importance of monitoring policy effects.

However, in developing countries, this is not always so easy. Effective **policy monitoring** requires capacity in terms of staff and know-how as well access to reliable data.

Building on its in-country presence in most developing countries, FAO is uniquely placed and committed to providing knowledge, facilitating policy dialogue and assisting governments

to develop their capacities so that they in turn can take better decisions to achieve food security and **economic development goals**.

As part of its mission to elevate the role of policy monitoring to achieve food security and agricultural growth, FAO will hold a **International Consultation on Policy Monitoring in Developing Countries** at its headquarters in **Rome on December 11, 2013**. This consultation will bring together high-level policy makers from developing countries and leading global experts to exchange views

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on the role of policy monitoring in supporting the economic and social development strategies of developing countries.

During the consultation, experts will explain the background and history of policy monitoring, why it is important for developing countries to monitor the effects of their policies, what has already been done in developing countries, the challenges that developing countries face to implement necessary policy reforms and what international institutions can do to support this effort.

The expected outcome of the International Consultation is to achieve **consensus** among decision-makers and experts on the need to further develop and sustain a policy monitoring agenda in developing countries, with FAO support.

