



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

16 August 2018

1. **Project Code** 17-AG-23-GE-DLN-A-01
2. **Project Title** Self-learning e-Course on Organic Agriculture and Organic Agribusiness
3. **Reference** Project Notification 17-AG-23-GE-DLN-A dated 22 March 2017
4. **Timing** 1 September 2018–31 August 2019 (twelve months)
5. **Implementing Organizations** APO Secretariat and National Productivity Organizations (NPOs)
6. **Number of Participants** Minimum of 400 participants
7. **Self-registration** Self-registration opens from 10:00 AM Japan Standard Time on 1 September 2018 on the APO's e-learning web portal: <http://eAPO-tokyo.org>

Note: Participants can register directly from this portal on the APO website. Those who are already registered can access the course by using the assigned username and password. If you have forgotten your username and password, please refer to the FAQs on the home page of the portal.

8. Objectives

- a. To provide knowledge, skills, tools, and techniques of production, processing, certification, labeling, and marketing of organic agricultural and food products; and
- b. To promote organic agriculture and organic agribusiness as a tool to contribute to sustainable agriculture and inclusive rural development, and thereby to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

9. Background

Organic agriculture performs multiple functions such as reducing the cost of cultivation; accessing premium organic markets; improving human, animal, plant, and soil health; and conserving natural resources (land, water, and biodiversity) and the environment. It relies primarily on local, renewable resources in preference to off-farm inputs such as synthetic

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agrochemicals and genetically modified organisms. The use of scientific and indigenous knowledge together is needed to ensure that organic agriculture is healthy, safe, and ecologically sound.

Driven by growing consumer concerns about food safety and the need for healthier lifestyles, the global market for organic products is expanding fast, resulting in greater opportunities for Asian producers. Organic agricultural and food products, however, remain niche products, although they command premium prices. Marketability at a premium depends on consumer confidence in the authenticity of organic products. Therefore, producers need a way of assuring consumers that a product has been grown using organic methods. This requires a credible system of organic standards, certification, and traceability in place.

Organic agriculture is not just for more affluent countries but can be applied in other situations. In less developed countries especially, it can contribute to sustainable socioeconomic development through providing healthier food, conserving the agricultural resource base, mitigating the impact of agriculture on climate change, increasing farm profitability, and contributing to foreign exchange earnings by exporting organic items.

10. Scope and Methodology

Scope

This course consists of the 10 modules listed below:

Module 1. Overview

Module 2. Conversion to Organic Agriculture

Module 3. Soil Fertility Management

Module 4. Insect, Disease, and Weed Management

Quiz 1 for self-assessment based on questions from Modules 1, 2, 3, and 4

Module 5. Organic Biomass and Resource Management

Module 6. Organic Plant, Animal, and Aquaculture Production

Module 7. Food Processing

Quiz 2 for self-assessment based on questions from Modules 5, 6, and 7

Module 8. Organic Guarantee Systems

Module 9. Organic Marketing and Trade

Quiz 3 for self-assessment based on questions from Modules 8 and 9

Module 10. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Examination to qualify for the APO certificate

Methodology

Self-learning e-modules, additional study materials for participants, intermittent quizzes for self-assessment, and a final examination to qualify for the APO e-certificate.

11. Qualifications of Candidates

The target participants include government officers, agricultural extension workers, producers, entrepreneurs, academics, professional staff of regulatory/certification bodies, and consultants involved in training in and/or promotion of organic agriculture and organic agribusiness; and other technical personnel with particular interest in the subject.

12. Eligibility for e-Certificate

A minimum score of 70% on the final examination is required to qualify for the APO e-certificate.

Note: Participants from nonmember countries are welcome to take the course for self-development, although APO e-certificates will not be provided.



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Secretary-General

