



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Ref. No.: 20-IN-20-SP-TRC-C-VN01-PP2100003-002

Date of Issue	27 May 2021
Project Code	20-IN-20-SP-TRC-C-VN01
Title	Technical Cooperation Program for COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery: Capability Development on Cold Chain Systems in Agrifood SMEs
Timing and Duration	May–November 2021 (seven months)
Hosting Country(ies)	Vietnam
Modality	Virtual and/or face-to-face
Implementing Organization(s)	Vietnam National Productivity Institute (VNPI) and APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	Not Applicable
Overseas Participants	Not Applicable
Local Participants	Not Applicable
Closing Date for Nominations	Not Applicable

1. Objectives

- a. Increase the resilience of agrifood SMEs, particularly in the fresh food segment, to cope with supply chain disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- b. Provide relevant equipment to support cold chain management in Vietnam.
- c. Enhance agrifood SMEs' productivity in Vietnam by disseminating the learning and know-how acquired through the project.

2. Background

The COVID-19 pandemic is overwhelming food systems by limiting the movement of labor and products due to disrupted supply chains. It has put particular pressure on SMEs dealing in fresh food items that require timely harvest, storage, and delivery to consumers. Since agrifood SMEs are usually a major contributor to employment, especially in developing countries, support measures aimed at increasing their resilience are crucial. Assistance to reduce the negative economic impacts of the pandemic on agrifood SMEs will keep food systems in operation to meet the needs of consumers.

During the 62nd session of the APO Governing Body held virtually on 8 June 2020, the Government of Japan (GoJ) announced that it would provide a special cash grant under its Technical Cooperation Program to address those urgent challenges. The GoJ identified Vietnam as one of the recipients of the cash grant.

The grant will provide three cold storage containers and one ice machine developed by a Japanese SME to assist Vietnamese agrifood SMEs. The objective is to improve the end-to-end cold chain system (from farm to retail) using modern storage technologies. This is expected to be a pilot model for Vietnam, enabling the country to become more resilient to food chain disruptions.

VNPI will monitor the utilization of the equipment and report the progress in achieving the intended objectives of the grant. It will also develop training and dissemination programs for SMEs in cooperation with the APO Secretariat. The APO Secretariat will monitor the overall implementation and outcomes of the project through the reports provided by the VNPI.

3. Modality of Implementation

The activities will be conducted through the virtual and/or face-to-face modality, depending on the situation of the pandemic and travel restrictions that may be applicable at the time of implementation.

Virtual

- a. The sessions will be delivered virtually by using videoconference applications designated by the APO Secretariat as long as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to prevail.
- b. The resource persons and participants will participate in the sessions virtually by using their own devices, applications, and Internet connections.

Face-to-face

The sessions will be carried out in the face-to-face modality when the COVID-19 situation permits.

4. Scope, Methodology, and Schedule

Scope

- a. Provide three cold storage containers and one ice machine to assist Vietnamese agrifood SMEs.
- b. Monitor and report on the utilization of the equipment.
- c. Disseminate the outcome to increase agrifood SMEs' productivity in the country.

Methodology

The project will be divided into the following phases.

Phase 1

- The APO Secretariat will provide three cold storage containers and one ice machine to the VNPI, which will lease the equipment free of charge to the selected SMEs.
- In cooperation with local and international experts designated by the APO Secretariat and VNPI, an end-to-end cold chain system will be established in the agrifood SMEs by analyzing the current flow and bottlenecks, developing a more productive system, and implementing the improved system.

Phase 2

- The VNPI in collaboration with the APO Secretariat will monitor the usage of the equipment and progress of the cold chain system.
- The VNPI and APO Secretariat will disseminate the outcome to other agrifood SMEs in Vietnam by developing a cold chain manual and sharing the know-how through a conference and conducting training sessions.

5. Financial Arrangements

To be met from the GoJ special cash grant

- a. Cost of the equipment and associated expenses.
- b. Cost for transporting and delivering the equipment.
- c. Cost of training in operating the equipment for the selected SMEs and relevant individuals designated by the VNPI.

To be met by the VNPI

All locally incurred costs not covered by the special cash grant.

6. Actions by the VNPI

- a. Appoint one VNPI staff member to act as the focal contact point, who will be responsible for all necessary actions before and after the project as well as liaising with the APO Secretariat.
- b. Prepare a detailed plan for all local arrangements for the project.
- c. Propose a dissemination program with the APO Secretariat.
- d. Ensure smooth implementation of the project in the country.
- e. Monitor the utilization of the equipment and submit reports to the APO Secretariat upon request during the period of the Donation Agreement between the VNPI and APO Secretariat.

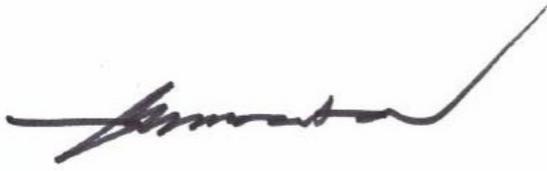
7. Actions by the APO Secretariat

- a. Design the approach/methodology of the project.
- b. Assign an overseas resource person(s) or a consultant(s) if required.
- c. Develop and implement training programs for the selected agrifood SMEs in cooperation with the VNPI and the equipment manufacturer.
- d. Monitor the utilization of the equipment and provide necessary support during the period of the Donation Agreement between the VNPI and APO Secretariat.

8. Final Project Output

The project is expected to increase the resilience of agrifood SMEs in Vietnam, particularly those involved in fresh food. The project outputs will be reported to the GoJ.

Follow-up activities related to the utilization of the equipment after completion of the project will be determined after consultation and agreement between the VNPI and APO Secretariat.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. AKP Mochtan', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Dr. AKP Mochtan
Secretary-General