



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 21-IP-04-GE-CON-A-PN2100054-002

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| Date of Issue | 10 August 2021 |
| Project Code | 21-IP-04-GE-CON-A |
| Title | Conference on Organic Farming and Agroecology |
| Timing and Duration | 7 October 2021 (one day) |
| Hosting Country(ies) | Mongolia |
| Modality | Digital Multicountry |
| Implementing Organization(s) | Mongolian Productivity Organization and APO Secretariat |
| Participating Country(ies) | All Member Countries |
| Overseas Participants | 100 |
| Local Participants | 30 |
| Qualifications of Participants | Senior policymakers, government officials of agriculture-related agencies, agricultural professionals, CEOs or managers of agribusinesses, representatives of agribusiness and food industry associations, and researchers developing and promoting organic and agroecology farming practices |
| Nomination of Participants | All nominations must be submitted through National Productivity Organizations of member countries |
| Closing Date for Nominations | 17 September 2021 |

1. Objectives

- a. Sharing best practices of how organic farming and agroecology can produce sufficient, healthy, safe, and affordable food for a larger population worldwide during the pandemic and in the post-COVID-19.
- b. Explore opportunities and challenges in making healthy food available to all by promoting organic farming and agroecology practices in the context of global food productivity, security, and safety.

2. Background

Agriculture is essential to food security, employment, poverty elimination, conservation of natural resources, and sustaining rural life and land. However, increasing population, land degradation, loss of agrobiodiversity, and climate change are critical challenges in the current agriculture sector. Sustainable intensification through agroecology that emphasizes achieving greater ecoefficiency and maximizing agricultural output per unit of inputs is the key option for overcoming this pressure on the sector.

Agroecology is the application of ecological principles to agricultural systems by incorporating environmental, economic, ethical, and social aspects. Organic farming is regarded as the main driver of the agroecology approach to sustainable farming, aiming at diversifying food systems, reducing external inputs, and maintaining or improving the natural environment and ecosystems. Both agroecology and organic practices were born from a rejection of industrial systems and both offer promising solutions for the environmental and social challenges faced today. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO's Work on Agroecology, 2018) views agroecology as a pathway to achieving Sustainable Development Goals. IFOAM-Organics International (formerly known as the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) refers to "organic" as a well-defined subset of agroecology, and in Europe, agroecology practices are mostly applied by organic farmers (www.organicseurope.bio).

The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened the need to strengthen awareness of food safety and hygiene. The World Health Organization advises that maintaining a healthy diet is critical in preventing, fighting, and recovering from infections and supporting a strong immune system (www.who.int/health-topics/nutrition). Several surveys by e-marketing food companies released in the COVID-19 era also revealed consumers' increasing interest in healthy, safe food for boosting immunity. While COVID-19 has had disastrous health and socioeconomic consequences, it has also had a positive impact on the number of consumers and policymakers considering the need for providing more nutritious, safer food from "farm to fork."

Challenges, however, remain in delivering safe, high-quality products to consumers, particularly in resource-constrained economies. This conference will discuss ways to meet global agrifood challenges through greater adoption of agroecology and organic farming approaches. It will discuss and explore the opportunities to intensify those approaches, make safe food available to all, and address the challenges in the context of food security and safety.

3. Scope, Methodology, and Certificate of Attendance

The duration of the session will be around four hours. The indicative topics of the presentations are:

- Global and regional trends, opportunities, and challenges in the agrifood industry
- Quality assurance, risk analysis, and management strategies for safe food supply chains
- Innovative organic and agroecology approaches for agribusiness and food security

The detailed program and list of speakers will be provided two weeks prior to the sessions with announcement of the names of the selected participants.

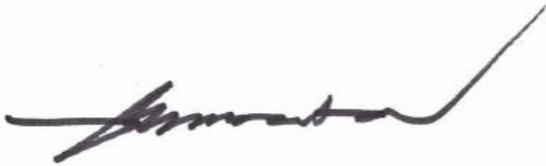
The participants are required to attend all sessions. This full participation is a prerequisite for receiving the APO certificate of attendance.

4. Financial Arrangements

- a. The APO will meet the assignment costs of overseas resource persons and honorarium for up to two local resource persons.
- b. The host country will meet the costs for a virtual site visit(s), either broadcast live or recorded as applicable.

5. Implementation Procedures

Please refer to the implementation procedures for APO digital multicountry projects circulated with this document.

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