



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 21-CP-06-GE-WSP-A-PN2100084-001

Date of Issue	01 October 2021
Project Code	21-CP-06-GE-WSP-A
Title	Workshop on Modern Mechanization Technologies for Increasing Rice Productivity
Timing and Duration	24–26 November 2021 (three days)
Hosting Country(ies)	Thailand
Modality	Digital Multicountry
Implementing Organization(s)	Thailand Productivity Institute and APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	38
Local Participants	12
Qualifications of Participants	Government officials, policymakers, executives of farmers'/agribusiness associations, academics, and consultants involved in rice production and mechanization
Nomination of Participants	All nominations must be submitted through National Productivity Organizations of member countries
Closing Date for Nominations	5 November 2021

1. Objectives

- a. Share the latest, innovative mechanization methods in rice production.
- b. Learn good practices from case studies.
- c. Discuss strategies and actions for promoting mechanization of rice cultivation in member countries.

2. Background

Rice is consumed by over 50% of the world's population and is the staple food in the Asia-Pacific, where 94% of the world's rice was produced in 2018 (FAOSTAT). To feed the growing population, rice productivity must be continuously improved. Mechanization is essential to enhancing agricultural productivity by saving labor, optimizing inputs, maximizing outputs, and expanding operational size. Mechanization also contributes to environmental sustainability by supporting the efficient use of natural resources such as water and land. Moreover, mechanization contributes to the quality of life of people involved in rice farming by providing safety, ease, and comfort in work including for women and the elderly.

The level of mechanization in rice varies by country. Advanced countries such as the Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea have successfully adopted mechanization in the last decades and continue embracing innovations including digital technologies. Their aim is not only to reduce costs but to manage labor shortages and aging population issues. In other countries in the Asia-Pacific, rice mechanization needs to be promoted, including the adoption of basic equipment such as tractors, transplanters, and harvesters. The lower machinery utilization rates are primarily due to financial constraints, but other factors are involved such as the environment (i.e., soil and weather) and operational size (Japanese Society of Agricultural Machinery and Food Engineers, 2015).

Efforts have been made by the farm machinery industry to address those constraints and needs. Governments, institutes, and communities also play important roles in supporting mechanization, particularly for smallholder farmers who are not financially able to purchase equipment. Recent progress in digitalization offers innovative solutions such as connecting farm service providers to small farmers via apps.

This workshop will discuss recent developments in machinery, policies, and business models to increase the productivity of rice farming through mechanization and promote its greater utilization in the region.

3. Scope, Methodology, and Certificate of Attendance

The duration of each day's sessions will be around three hours comprising presentations by experts, group discussions, and other relevant learning methods. The indicative topics of the presentations are:

Day 1:

- Overview of rice mechanization
- Case study

Day 2:

- Modern rice farming equipment for developing countries
- Case study

Day 3:

- Policies and initiatives to promote mechanization
- Group discussions on how to promote rice mechanization in APO member countries

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.

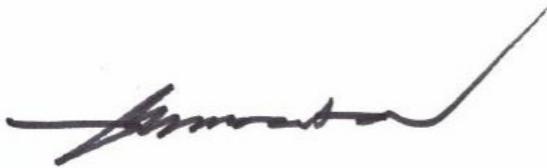
The participants are required to attend all sessions. This full participation is a prerequisite for receiving the APO certificate of attendance.

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 upwards and to the right.

Dr. AKP Mochtan
Secretary-General