



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

21 February 2018

- 1. Project Code** 18-AG-45-GE-WSP-B
- 2. Title** Workshop on Innovations in Postharvest Handling of Perishables
- 3. Timing and Duration** 20–24 May 2018 (five days)
- 4. Venue** Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 5. Implementing Organization** National Productivity Organisation
Ministry of Industries
Shilpa Bhaban (1st Floor) 91, Motijheel Commercial Area
Dhaka-1000
Tel: 880-2-9587501, 880-2-01720-107032
Fax: 880-2-9563553
e-Mail: npobangla@yahoo.com
- 6. Number of Overseas Participants** Up to 18 qualified participants from Cambodia, Republic of China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, IR Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam

However, other member countries with special interest in this project may nominate candidates upon consultation with the APO Secretariat.
- 7. Number of Local Participants** Up to six qualified participants
- 8. Closing Date for Nominations** 22 April 2018
- 9. Objectives**
 - a. To review emerging trends in postharvest handling of perishable agricultural and food products and share successful models of postharvest handling of perishables;
 - b. To learn about applications of digital technology in postharvest operations to enhance their efficiency and effectiveness;
 - c. To develop action plans for participants to promote the adoption and scaling up of successful models of operations to minimize postharvest losses (PHLs) of perishables in their countries; and
 - d. To contribute to increasing farm productivity and profitability while promoting sustainability in agriculture in member countries.

10. Background

Meeting the food demand of a rapidly growing population remains a major global concern. However, more than one-third of food produced is lost or wasted annually. The magnitude of

PHLs of perishable commodities is greater in developing countries and in regions with warm climates. Reducing PHLs could be a sustainable solution to increase food availability, reduce pressure on natural resources, decrease production costs, and minimize hunger. It could also save agricultural inputs, improve farmers' livelihoods, and contribute to mitigating climate change. Reducing PHLs is increasingly recognized as part of an integrated approach to realizing agriculture's full potential to meet the world's increasing food and energy needs.

Major causes of PHLs in developing countries are inappropriate practices of crop harvesting and postharvest handling and poor infrastructure for transportation, storage, cooling, processing, and marketing. Many small-scale farmers lack sufficient access to postharvest cooling equipment; covered, cooled grading, sorting, and packing areas; refrigerated short-term storage; and appropriate packing and loading facilities. Insufficient R&D on postharvest management and lack of knowledge of new postharvest handling skills, techniques, and technologies are other important impediments.

This workshop is being organized to share new cost-effective postharvest handling skills, techniques, technologies, and models for perishables and identify ways to promote the adoption and scaling up of such technologies and models in APO member countries.

11. Scope and Methodology

The tentative topics to be covered are:

- a. Emerging trends in postharvest handling of perishables in Asia and the Pacific;
- b. Smart technologies for improving postharvest management;
- c. Cost-effective new postharvest technologies for SMEs;
- d. Applications of digital technology in postharvest operations to enhance their efficiency and effectiveness;
- e. Public-private partnerships for developing and promoting innovative postharvest technologies; and
- f. Successful models and best practices of postharvest handling of perishables.

The workshop will consist of themed presentations, sharing of country experiences, individual/group exercises, and field visits.

The tentative program of the workshop is given below:

Date/Time	Activity
Saturday, 19 May	Arrival of participants in Dhaka
Sunday, 20 May	<p>Opening session</p> <p>Technical session: Current Issues & Fostering Advances in Postharvest Management</p> <p>Presentation i: Postharvest management and impact of postharvest food loss and waste of perishables in the Asia-Pacific Region</p> <p>Presentation ii: Novel postharvest handling tools, techniques, technologies, and best practices</p> <p>Presentation iii: Postcatch losses reduction in fisheries in Bangladesh</p> <p>Presentation iv: Public-private partnerships in cold chain development for perishable products</p>
Monday, 21 May	Technical session: Innovative postharvest handling technologies for

perishables

Presentation i: Postharvest management for fruits and vegetables for better quality, safety and nutrition

Presentation ii: Innovative cost-effective postharvest technologies for SMEs and producers

Presentation iii: Reducing postharvest losses with ethylene management during storage

Presentation iv: Applications of digital technology in postharvest operations

Technical Session: Sharing Country Case Studies on Postharvest Management

Tuesday, 22 May Field/company visits

Wednesday, 23 May Technical Session: Sharing Country Case Studies on Postharvest Management

Group workshop/exercise

Thursday, 24 May Presentation of group workshop output
Program evaluation by participants, resource persons, and implementing organization
Formulation of follow-up action plans by individual participants
Summing-up session
Closing session

Friday, 25 May Departure of participants

12. Qualifications of Candidates

The participants are expected to possess the following qualifications:

Present Position	Senior government officers, NPO consultants, and researchers and academics in charge of developing and promoting postharvest management of perishables.
Experience	At least two years of experience in the position described above.
Education	University degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized university/institution.
Language	All proceedings of the project are conducted in English, and participants are frequently required to make oral and written presentations. They must therefore be proficient in spoken and written English. Those who are not proficient in English will not be accepted.
Health	Physically and mentally fit to attend an intensive project requiring participants to complete a number of individual and group activities and strenuous fieldwork. It is therefore recommended that member countries do not nominate candidates likely to suffer from physical and mental stress.
Age	Candidates who meet the qualifications above are generally between 30 and 50 years of age.

13. Financial Arrangements

a. Airfare

The APO will bear the cost of round-trip economy-class international airfare between the international airport nearest to the participants' place of work and Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The APO will only reimburse discount air tickets for the most direct route. Participants should note that the arrangements for the purchase of air tickets should follow the "Guide on Purchases of Air Tickets for APO Participants," which will be sent to the selected participants and is also available on the APO website and from APO Liaison Officers in member countries.

b. Insurance Coverage

Participants' insurance premiums: All participants should be fully insured against accident and illness (including hospitalization and death) for a principal sum equivalent to USD10,000.00 for the entire duration of the project and travel and must submit to the APO Secretariat a copy of the comprehensive travel insurance certificate before participation. Such insurance should be valid in the host country. This insurance requirement is in addition to existing government insurance coverage in some member countries. If any participant is unable to insure himself/herself as stipulated above, he/she should secure this insurance in the host country at the commencement of the project and pay the premium himself/herself, if necessary, from the per diem allowance provided. Neither the APO nor the implementing organization will be responsible for any eventuality arising from accident, illness, acts of war, force majeure, or any unexpected events beyond human control such as those related to natural disasters.

c. Cost Sharing

Subject to the conditions stated in the Financial Arrangements section, the following table shows the cost-sharing arrangements between the APO, host country, and participants or participating countries.

Cost item	Cost to be borne by		
	Participants or participating countries	Host country	APO
Round-trip economy-class international airfare (refer to paragraph 13a)	No	No	Yes
Participating Country Expenses (PCEs)	NA	NA	NA
Hotel accommodation in Dhaka	No	Yes	No
Per diem allowance in Dhaka	No	Yes	No
Transportation costs to and from hotel and airport in Dhaka	No	Yes	No
Insurance coverage in Bangladesh (refer to paragraph 13b)	Yes	No	No
Any expenses related to visa fees and airport	Yes	No	No

Cost item	Cost to be borne by		
	Participants or participating countries	Host country	APO
taxes			
All expenses incurred by participants for any reason including but not limited to: a. Stopovers b. Extension of stay c. Early arrival or late departure d. Flight cancellation	Yes	No	No
Any cancellation charges for expenses such as airfare and accommodations incurred by the APO or host country after issuance of Letters of Acceptance	Yes	No	No
Assignment costs of international resource persons	NA	No	Yes
Assignment costs of local resource persons	NA	Yes	No
All local implementation costs including but not limited to: a. Meeting rooms b. Documentation c. Preparatory costs	NA	Yes	No

14. Actions by Member Countries

- a. Each participating country is requested to nominate three or more candidates in the order of preference. Please ensure that candidates nominated meet the qualifications specified under section 12 above.
- b. No form of self-nomination will be accepted. All nominations must be endorsed and submitted by an APO Director, Alternative Director, Liaison Officer, or their designated officer.
- c. Please note that nomination of a candidate does not necessarily guarantee that he/she will be selected. Selection is at the discretion of the selection committee of the APO Secretariat. A basic criterion for selection is the homogeneity of the participants in terms of qualifications and work experience. Nonselection therefore does not mean that the candidates concerned are not competent enough. Sometimes candidates are not selected because they are overqualified for a project.
- d. Each nomination should be accompanied by the necessary documents. A nomination lacking any of these documents may not be considered: two copies of the candidate's biodata on the APO biodata form together with a passport-sized photograph. The biodata form can be downloaded from the APO website (www.apo-tokyo.org). We encourage submitting the biodata form to the APO Secretariat in electronic form as an attachment to a cover e-mail message from the APO Director, Alternate Director, or Liaison Officer. The nomination documents should be sent to the Agriculture Department, APO Secretariat (e-mail: agr@apo-tokyo.org, fax: 81-3-5840-5324).

- e. The APO Medical and Insurance Declaration/Certification Form. Every candidate must complete and submit a copy of the APO Medical and Insurance Declaration/Certification Form with his/her biodata at the time of nomination. Please note that self-declaration is sufficient for candidates without any of health conditions or illnesses listed on the reverse side of the medical form. However, for all others, medical certification by a licensed physician on the reverse side of the medical form is required.
- f. Necessary documents are to be submitted electronically. In that case, there is no need to send a hard copy by postal mail. However, if the documents are submitted by fax, member countries are requested to mail the originals of the documents to the APO Secretariat as well. If a digital photograph of a nominee is not attached to the electronic biodata form, a hard-copy photograph should be sent to the APO Secretariat by postal mail. Please give the candidate's name and the project code on the reverse side of the photograph.
- g. Member countries are requested to adhere to the nomination deadline given on page 1. The APO Secretariat may not consider late nominations as they have in the past resulted in considerable difficulties to the implementing organization in its preparatory work for the project.
- h. For member countries where nominations are required to be approved by higher government authorities and require a longer time, APO Liaison Officers/NPOs are urged to send the names of nominees on or before the deadline, indicating that government approval will follow.
- i. If a selected participant becomes unable to attend, he/she should inform the APO Liaison Officer/NPO in his/her country immediately and give the reason for withdrawal. The NPO concerned is requested to transmit that information to the APO Secretariat and the host country promptly.
- j. NPOs are requested to inform the selected participants that they are not to bring family members or to engage in any private business activities during the entire duration of the project.
- k. Each selected participant should be instructed to arrive at the venue one day before the start of the official project. Also, he/she is expected to return home upon completion of the official project because he/she is visiting the host country for the specific purpose of attending this APO workshop.
- l. NPOs should inform participants that they must attend all five days of the project.
- m. NPOs should assist the APO and/or host country in collecting amounts corresponding to cancellation charges arising from withdrawal of participants as provided for under item 13c.

15. Actions by the APO Secretariat

- a. Under normal circumstances, candidates who are selected will be informed of their acceptance at least four weeks prior to the start of the project.

- b. If some candidates fail to qualify or be unable to participate after selection, or if some member countries fail to nominate any candidate, their slots may be filled by alternates from the same or another member country on a merit basis.

16. Project Preparation

The participants are required to prepare a paper prior to departure for the project venue. In preparing the paper, they are expected to follow the “Guidelines for the Preparation of Country Papers” to be provided later.

17. Postproject Actions

All participants are required to prepare action plans and share the plans with their NPOs. The APO will also request participants to submit progress reports six months after completion of the workshop.

18. Evaluation of Participants

If the conduct/attendance/performance of a participant is not satisfactory, these will be reported to the APO director concerned.

19. Guide for Participants

Other conditions for participation are given in the *APO Guide for Participants*, which is available from APO Liaison Officers/NPOs in member countries and on the APO website (www.apo-tokyo.org).

20. Dress Code

Participants are required to wear business attire during the project. Other guidance will be provided in the circular for participants.



Santhi Kanoktanaporn
Secretary-General

