PROJECT NOTIFICATION

27 November 2018

1.	**Project Code**	19-AG-17-GE-DLN-A
2.	**Project Title**	Self-learning e-Course for the Agriculture and Food Sectors
3.	**Timing**	Throughout 2019
4.	**Implementing Organizations**	APO Secretariat and National Productivity Organizations (NPOs)
5.	**Number of Participants**	Minimum 400 participants per course
6.	**Registration**	APO e-learning web portal: http://www.eapo-tokyo.org (Participants can register directly from this portal on the APO website.)

7. Objectives

To provide online training to participants in key productivity tools, techniques, and technologies in selected subject areas related to the agriculture and food sectors; familiarize them with the concepts of smart agriculture and future food systems; create a mass of productivity professionals with the aim of strengthening agriculture, agribusiness, and food industry SMEs and revitalizing local communities for promoting smart agriculture and innovative food systems; and foster rural development. These will promote sustainable productivity and inclusive growth in member countries, while expanding global networks.

8. Background

Depending upon the needs of APO members and relevance of subject areas, the APO develops self-learning e-courses and offers them on its e-learning portal. These courses are developed based on the APO's experience and knowledge accumulated over years of organizing capacity-building projects in its focus areas. Based on the huge success of the self-learning e-courses over the past years, the APO plans to organize similar or upgraded ones relating to the agriculture and food sectors in 2019. The courses will focus on the subjects of agriculture transformation, organic inspection and certification, innovative cost-effective technologies for sustainable agriculture, future aquaculture farming, modern food distribution systems, and innovations in agroforestry systems.

For each course, a separate project implementation plan (PIP) containing specific information on the course and subject will be issued. NPOs are requested to start promoting the courses after receiving the PIPs.

9. Scope and Methodology

Scope

The scope of each course will be decided based on the subject and will be detailed in the PIP issued later for each course.

Methodology

Each course will consist of self-learning e-modules, additional study materials for participants, intermittent quizzes for self-assessment, and a final examination to qualify for the APO certificate. All learning modules, carefully prepared by internationally recognized experts, will be uploaded to the course site on the e-learning portal.

10. Modality of Implementation

Courses will be offered through the APO's dedicated e-learning portal: http://www.apo-elearning.org/moodle19/. Participants can register on this portal and create their own user accounts.

Registered participants are required to complete all learning modules and self-assessment quizzes before taking the final examination. Based on the results of the final examination, successful participants from member countries will be awarded APO e-certificates.

11. Special Features

a. Participants can register on the APO e-learning portal and create accounts by themselves.
b. Registered participants' progress will be tracked and monitored by the APO Secretariat throughout the course.
c. Participants can complete the course at their own pace within the prescribed official duration of the course.
d. Completion of all modules and quizzes is compulsory before taking the final examination.
e. A minimum score of 70% on the final examination is required to qualify for the APO e-certificate. The e-certificates will be sent to participants' registered e-mail addresses one day after completion of the final examination.
f. Successful participants may be given preference based on merit for selection to attend future APO multicountry face-to-face projects on the same subject in consultation with NPOs.

12. Qualifications of Candidates

The target groups are productivity practitioners, consultants, managers, academics, extension service providers, representatives of cooperatives and industry associations, producers, and all professionals working in the subject area from agriculture, agribusinesses, food industries, NPOs, government agencies, universities, and consultancy firms who wish to acquire a working knowledge of the subject.

13. Financial Arrangements

To be borne by NPOs

a. Coordination, communication, and promotion support for the courses.

b.   Any other local costs.

To be borne by the APO

a.   All costs related to development of the self-study modules, additional study materials pertaining to the courses, self-assessment quizzes, and examination.

b.   Cost of hosting the courses on the APO's e-learning portal and operating it from the APO Secretariat.

14. Actions by Member Countries/NPOs

Member countries/NPOs are requested to:

a.   Promote and market the courses by sending the project notifications and PIPs to as many relevant organizations as possible and encouraging all interested individuals to participate.

b.   Upload the course announcements on the NPO's website and/or provide a link to the APO's e-learning portal.

c.   Interact with registered participants and provide them with necessary inputs and guidance, if necessary.

d.   Provide all necessary support and cooperation proactively to the APO Secretariat for successful implementation of the courses.

15. Participation of Individuals from Nonmember Countries

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

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