



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

10 November 2014

1. **Project Code:** 14-AG-23-GE-TRC-A
2. **Project Title:** Self-learning e-Course on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Increasing Farm Productivity, Safe Sustainable Production, and Market Access
3. **Reference:** Project Notification 14-AG-23-GE-TRC-A dated 30 May 2014
4. **Timing:** 1 December 2014–30 April 2015 (five months)
5. **Implementing Organizations:** APO Secretariat and National Productivity Organizations (NPOs)
6. **Number of Participants:** Minimum of 400 participants
7. **Self-registration:** Self-registration opens from 10:00 AM Japan Standard Time on 1 December 2014 on the APO's e-learning web portal: <http://www.apo-elearning.org/Moodle--/>.

Note: Participants can register directly from this portal on the APO website. Those who are already registered can access the course by using the assigned username and password. If you have forgotten your username and password, please refer to the FAQs on the home page of the portal.

8. Objectives

- a. To enable participants to understand the key concepts, as well as the basic principles, tools, and techniques for promoting and adoption of GAP.
- b. To provide opportunities for SME farm production units to understand and adopt GAP in their production processes independently.
- c. To provide farm extension officers with practical tools and training templates for the promotion and adoption of GAP by small and rural farmers.
- d. To promote direct linkages between small and rural farmers and the market as adoption of GAP increases farm productivity and assures safe, sustainable production.

9. Background

GAP refers to the approaches, principles, and standards to apply for on-farm production and postproduction processes to ensure the safety of food and nonfood agricultural products. These were established to encourage the production of high-quality, safe agricultural and food products produced in an environmentally and socially acceptable way, which meet retailers' and consumers' requirements. The GAP concept addresses two distinct issues: ensuring food safety during on-farm and postproduction processes to build consumer confidence in the products; and enhancing environmental sustainability for continued productive farm operations. The development and adoption of GAP have become increasingly important in light of increasing regional and international trade in agricultural and food products and growing consciousness of consumers of the quality and safety of the food products they buy.

Agricultural producers, particularly small farmers, need to have their farms certified as GAP compliant to enhance the acceptability of their products. Several countries have developed their own GAP standards and certification systems. However, the lack of harmonization between national GAP schemes among countries and scarcity of affordable certification systems have often led to increased confusion and higher certification costs for farmers and exporters. Those with contractual relations with several retailers also complain about multiple audits against different criteria set by different groups of retailers every year.

An understanding of the approaches, principles, and standards of GAP and benchmarking of national GAP schemes against globally recognized guidelines like the GLOBALGAP standard are essential so that stakeholders in various APO member countries can properly orient and guide small farmers in meeting established GAP standards. The course will assist agricultural producers, extension workers, and other technical personnel to understand, adopt, and maintain GAP approaches, principles, and systems to increase farm productivity, establish safe sustainable production systems, and enhance access to markets with GAP requirements.

10. Scope and Methodology

Scope

The course will cover the following modules:

Module 1: Introduction to GAP

The GAP agenda, GAP as a management tool, consumer/customer demand as a driver of GAP promotion, constraints of small and rural producers/farmers in implementing GAP, examples of national GAP schemes, and ASEANGAP.

Module 2: Development of GAP in Conventional Horticultural Production Practices

Background and development of GAP, changing landscape of consumers and producers in food production in the Asian context, concepts and guiding principles of GAP, GAP compliance and conformity, GLOBALGAP certification, and the harmonized global GAP system.

Quiz 1 (for self-assessment based on questions from Modules 1 and 2)

Module 3: Farm Management

Site history and site management, internal inspection and internal audit, record keeping, monitoring and farm management tools, traceability systems, recall and withdrawal procedures, and dealing with complaints.

Module 4: Food Safety

International food safety standards, food safety hazards, GAP for workers' health and safety, GAP safety aspects of farm sites and soil management, plant protection products, fertilizer application, irrigation and fertigation.

Quiz 2 (for self-assessment based on questions from Modules 3 and 4)

Module 5: Environmental Conservation

Impact of agricultural farming on the environment, the GAP environment and resource conservation program, integrated pest management, and integrated crop management.

Module 6: Workers' Health, Safety, and Welfare

Workers' safety, workers' hygiene, and workers' welfare.

Quiz 3 (for self-assessment based on questions from Modules 5 and 6)

Module 7: Quality Management Systems (QMS)

Developing a QMS for a cluster group, internal audit, training and technical advice, traceability, recall and withdrawal procedures, and complaint procedures.

Quiz 4 (for self-assessment based on questions from Module 7)

Final Examination

Methodology

Self-learning e-modules, additional study materials for participants, intermittent quizzes for self-assessment, and a final examination to qualify for the APO e-certificate.

11. Qualifications of Candidates

The target participants include government officers; agricultural extension workers; producers; academics; professional staff of regulatory bodies/certification bodies; consultants involved in training, auditing, and/or promotion of GAP; and other technical personnel with particular interest in the subject.

12. Eligibility for e-Certificate

A minimum score of 70% on the final examination is required to qualify for the APO e-certificate. The e-certificates will be provided after course completion on 30 April 2015.

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



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Secretary-General