



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 19-AG-08-GE-WSP-B-471

Date of Issue	10 September 2020
Project Code	19-AG-08-GE-WSP-B
Title	Workshop on Advanced Postharvest Technologies for Horticultural Crops
Timing and Duration	1-3 December 2020 (three days)
Hosting Country	Pakistan
Modality	Digital Multicountry (DMC)
Implementing Organization(s)	National Productivity Organization, Pakistan and the APO Secretariat
Participating Countries	Bangladesh, Cambodia, Republic of China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, IR Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam
Overseas Participants	19
Local Participants	12
Closing Date for Nominations	20 October 2020 The closing date is for the replacement of selected candidates, when applicable. Participants were selected before the project was rescheduled and changed into a virtual session. This new selection allows changes in the participants' list if necessary.

Notes: This PN supersedes the PN issued on 13 August 2019 and PNR issued on 5 March 2020.

1. Objectives

The primary objective of this project is for participants to adopt/promote successful advanced postharvest technologies for horticultural crops in their countries. The other objectives are to:

- a. Review emerging postharvest technologies for horticultural products, especially perishables like fruit, vegetables, flowers, and ornamental plants, and share examples of the successful adoption of those technologies;
- b. Enhance participants' knowledge and understanding of advanced digital technologies and their applications in postharvest management (PHM) for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of horticultural operations; and
- c. Formulate strategic action plans and roadmaps for participants to adopt/promote appropriate advanced technologies in their countries to improve PHM.

2. Background

Postharvest food losses and wastage are global concerns due to their socioeconomic and environmental implications. They reduce farmers' and traders' incomes and the actual volume of food that reaches consumers. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization estimated that one-third of all food produced or about 1.3 billion tons is wasted annually, causing major economic losses and significant damage to natural resources and the environment. Postharvest losses (PHLs) of horticultural crops are greater in developing countries and regions with warm climates. Reducing PHLs could be a sustainable solution to increase food availability, reduce pressure on land and water resources, decrease production costs, and minimize hunger. Major causes of PHLs of horticultural crops in developing countries are inappropriate postharvest practices and poor infrastructure for transportation, storage, cooling, processing, and marketing. Many small-scale farmers lack access to postharvest cooling equipment; covered, cooled grading, sorting, and packing areas; refrigerated short-term storage; and packing and loading facilities. Insufficient R&D on PHM and lack of knowledge and understanding of advanced postharvest technologies are other impediments.

Reducing PHLs could help member countries achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In addition to the above benefits, reductions in PHLs can improve farmers' livelihoods and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. 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. A well-designed PHM strategy, including cold chain systems and associated logistics, can increase farm profitability, maintain product quality and safety, and ensure product traceability. It can also help stabilize the supply of horticultural products to meet market demand, especially during lean seasons, and thereby increase the supply of products to consumers.

This workshop is being organized to share advanced postharvest skills, techniques, and technologies for horticultural products and identify ways to promote the adoption and scaling up of such technologies in APO member countries.

3. Modality of Implementation

- a. This workshop will be conducted online using videoconference applications.
- b. The resource speakers and participants will participate the workshop virtually using their own devices, applications, and Internet connections.
- c. The duration of each day's session will be up to three hours.
- d. The APO Secretariat will inform the resource speakers and participants of the applicable videoconference application and link to the virtual sessions.
- e. The videoconference link will be provided exclusively to resource speakers and participants in this workshop and should not be shared.

4. Scope and Methodology

The workshop will consist of themed presentations, sharing of country experiences, group exercises, and field/company visits. The tentative program outline of the workshop is given below:

Date/Time	Activity
Tuesday, 1 December	Opening Session Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global trends in postharvest management of horticultural products • Postharvest losses and wastage in the horticultural sector • Modern logistics management in horticultural supply chains • Innovative cost-effective postharvest technologies for small and medium farms and enterprises
Wednesday, 2 December	Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications of digital technology in postharvest handling (transport, storage, supply chain operations, logistics) • Cold Chain and logistics services for small farmers to reduce postharvest loss • Policies and institutional settings for promoting the adoption of advanced postharvest technologies Sharing country cases
Thursday, 3 December	Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative zero energy cold chamber for small-scale farm households Group discussion/presentation/Action plan

5. Qualifications of Candidates

Present Position	Senior government officials, policymakers, consultants, executives of farmers' associations, senior managers of agrifood enterprises, and researchers and academics in charge of developing and promoting the PHM of horticultural crops.
Work Experience	Three years of experience or more in the position described above.
Education	University degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized university/institution.
Computer Literacy	Familiarity and competency in connecting to virtual meetings, including independently undertaking troubleshooting in the event of poor or lost connections.
Language	Proficiency in English, both written and spoken. Participants will be required to make presentations and engage in discussions.

6. Requirements

- a. Have necessary devices comprising a computer, web camera, microphone, and speaker or headphones.
- b. Access to Internet connections suitable for videoconferencing. Stable, wired LAN connections are preferred.

- c. Follow the instructions of the moderators/presenters in asking questions, joining discussions, and answering questions.
- d. Participate in the entire workshop.

7. Financial Arrangements

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

8. Actions by Member Countries

- a. Each participating country will nominate three or more candidates in order of preference.
- b. Self-nominations will not be accepted.
- c. All nominations must be endorsed by an APO Director or Alternate Director and submitted by a Liaison Officer or designated officer.
- d. Each nomination must be accompanied by the APO biodata form and uploaded to the APO Document Management System (DMS)/Fleekdrive by the NPO. The biodata form is available on the APO website.
- e. Late nominations will not be accepted. When a nomination requires the approval of higher authorities and requires a longer time, the member country concerned should send the name(s) of the nominee(s) before or by the deadline, indicating that approval will follow.
- f. If a selected participant becomes unable to participate, the NPO concerned should inform the APO Secretariat and the host country promptly.

9. Actions by the APO Secretariat

- a. Selection of candidates will be at the discretion of the Participant Selection Committee of the APO Secretariat.
- b. Selection of candidates will be completed and announced three weeks prior to the start of the project.
- c. Slots that become available due to withdrawal of a selected candidate(s) or lack of nominations by a member country may be filled by alternates to be selected on a merit basis.
- d. The APO Secretariat will inform NPOs of the final program, platform, and link of the virtual meeting, as well as the schedule for technical coordination when applicable, two weeks prior to commencement of the workshop.

10. Dress Code

Participants are required to wear appropriate business attire during the workshop.



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Secretary-General