



## PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.:20-AG-10-GE-CON-A-PN2100005-001

<b>Date of Issue</b>	02 February 2021
<b>Project Code</b>	20-AG-10-GE-CON-A
<b>Title</b>	Conference on Smart Agriculture
<b>Timing and Duration</b>	19 April 2021 (one day)
<b>Hosting Country(ies)</b>	Republic of China
<b>Modality</b>	Digital Multicountry (DMC)
<b>Implementing Organization(s)</b>	Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan, R.O.C., China Productivity Center, and APO Secretariat
<b>Participating Country(ies)</b>	All Member Countries
<b>Overseas Participants</b>	100
<b>Local Participants</b>	30
<b>Closing Date for Nominations</b>	21 March 2021

## **1. Objectives**

- a. Deliberate on practical applications of smart agriculture technologies focusing on recent developments to contribute to producers' appropriate choices of smart farming methods;
- b. Raise agricultural productivity by expanding smart technology adoption in APO member countries; and
- c. Meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, Goal 2 of ending hunger, achieving food security, and promoting sustainable agriculture.

## **2. Background**

In the food and agriculture sector, smart technologies are rapidly transforming how people, businesses, and governments work, and they already generated significant benefits by reducing the costs of information, transactions, and supervision. Many countries are developing smart agricultural strategies to design, develop, and apply innovative ways to use smart technologies such as information and communication technology (ICT), global positioning systems (GPS), and artificial intelligence (AI). For example, remote-sensing technology is an important element of smart agriculture. Drones with multispectrum cameras transmit images of crop growth to cloud-based computer systems to allow analyses of where additional fertilizer and other inputs are needed. Other drones then transport the inputs for pinpoint applications. Optimum conditions can thus be maintained throughout the growing period, resulting in maximum yields of high-quality crops. Such farming is known as precision agriculture and it is being carried out gradually. Another example is driverless robotic tractors that depend on GPS technology for directions and sensors to detect obstacles in their paths, decreasing farmers' labor. Such tractors are already commercially available in Japan.

Although smart technologies benefit the food and agriculture sector, they also require relatively high initial investments, a thorough understanding of how they function, and access to sound ICT infrastructure and knowledge. Agricultural producers need to be aware of these requirements and the associated risks, and then introduce adaptable, affordable smart technologies that will increase profits while avoiding overinvestment.

The APO has promoted agricultural transformation in member countries and implemented various smart agricultural projects over the years. Smart transformation remains a core program and it is included as one of the key result areas in the APO's newly launched Vision 2025. This Conference will introduce practical smart agriculture approaches to assist farmers and other stakeholders in their adoption, with the aim of raising agricultural productivity among APO members by optimizing the use of inputs for greater sustainability.

## **3. Modality of Implementation**

- a. The sessions will be conducted virtually.
- b. The duration of the sessions will be around three hours.
- c. The APO Secretariat will inform the resource persons and participants of the link to the virtual sessions.
- d. The link will be exclusive to resource persons and participants and should not be shared.

## **4. Scope and Methodology**

The sessions will consist of the following:

Day/Date	Activity
Monday, 19 April 2021	Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AI for Research and Development (R&amp;D) and Applications of Intelligent Image Recognition</li> <li>• Development and Application of Assistive Devices and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in Agriculture</li> <li>• Best Practices of Smart Agricultural Application and Promotion Methods</li> </ul>

## 5. Qualifications of Candidates

Participants must be competent in connecting to virtual meetings, including independently undertaking troubleshooting in the event of poor or lost connections. They must also be proficient in English, both written and spoken. Specific requirements are as follows:

- a. Government officials, policymakers, farmers, representatives of agribusinesses, academics, and consultants on smart agriculture.
- b. Two years of experience or more in the position described above.

## 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 all sessions.

## 7. Financial Arrangements

- a. The APO will meet the assignment costs for overseas 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 five 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 two weeks prior to the start of the sessions.
- 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 and link of the virtual sessions one week prior to commencement.

## 10. Dress Code

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. AKP Mochtan', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Dr. AKP Mochtan  
Secretary-General