



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

6 April 2018

1. **Project Code** 18-AG-40-GE-CON-A
2. **Title** 3rd International Conference on Biofertilizers and Biopesticides: Novel Industry Techniques, Market Trends, and International Cooperation
3. **Timing and Duration** 7–10 August 2018 (four days)
4. **Venue** Taipei, Republic of China
5. **Implementing Organizations**
Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan
37 Nanhai Road, Taipei 10014, Republic of China
Phone: (886-2) 2381-2991
Website: <http://eng.coa.gov.tw/index.php>

China Productivity Center
2F, No. 79, Sec. 1, Xintai 5th Rd., Xizhi Dist.
New Taipei City 221, Republic of China
Phone: 886-2-2698-5881
Fax: 886-2-2698-2976
6. **Number of Overseas Participants** Up to 36 qualified participants
(See 12. Qualifications of Candidates)
7. **Number of Local Participants** Up to 18 qualified participants
(See 12. Qualifications of Candidates)
8. **Closing Date for Nominations** 15 June 2018
9. **Objectives**

This conference will provide a platform for leaders from the public and private sectors and NGOs as well as senior academics, entrepreneurs, and consultants to present and discuss the latest scientific knowledge and technological breakthroughs in and future prospects for the use of biofertilizers and biopesticides (B&B) in agriculture to identify sustainable solutions and promote productivity in agriculture.

The specific objectives are:

- a. To create awareness of global trends in B&B development and markets;
- b. To share recent advances in the B&B industry and novel techniques and technologies for B&B development and applications; and
- c. To promote international cooperation to enhance sustainable productivity in agriculture in Asia and the Pacific, particularly in APO member countries.

10. Background

The use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides is an integral part of today's agriculture. Such chemical inputs have helped increase food, feed, and fuel production and provided nutrition for the ever-expanding global population by enhancing crop productivity and averting crop failures. Their use is on the rise in Asian agriculture. The overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides is, however, associated with challenges to sustainability in agriculture and hazards to human health and the environment.

The inappropriate use of agricultural chemical inputs decreases soil fertility, pollutes air and water, and releases greenhouse gases. Chemical residues in agricultural products have serious implications for food safety, human and animal health, and food trade. It is therefore crucial to promote the use of environment-friendly methods of improving plant nutrition and protection. B&B are important alternatives to meet the challenges of increasing agricultural yields sustainably.

The integrated use of biofertilizers and organic manure lowers the overall environmental costs of crop cultivation in the long term and contributes to cleaner greener production by reducing the need for agrochemicals. Similarly, the judicious use of chemical and nonchemical pest management can help achieve safe, sustainable food production. Scaling up the use of B&B is, however, constrained due to a lack of awareness of their benefits; problems in production, storage, and marketing; and the need for diverse application packages for different crops grown under varying agroclimatic conditions. Other issues are the absence of appropriate regulatory and policy incentives for B&B domestic marketing as well as for regional and global trade.

Concerted efforts will be needed to promote international cooperation for greater exchanges of know-how on novel techniques and technologies for B&B development and successful models of marketing and international trade.

11. Scope and Methodology

Scope

Novel B&B industry techniques; market trends; challenges in B&B marketing; successful examples of B&B marketing; and international cooperation.

Methodology

The four-day conference will consist of plenary thematic sessions with expert presentations, sharing of country experiences, panel discussion, and field/company visit(s).

The tentative program of the conference is given below.

Date/Time	Activity
Mon., 6 August 2018	Arrival of participants in Taipei
Tues., 7 August	Opening session Session 1: Current Industrial Status, Market Trends, and Novel Techniques for B&B <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Global B&B Development Trends and Market Overview- Novel Techniques for the Application and International Marketing Promotion of B&B Session 2: Commercialization, Registration Issues, and International Cooperation in B&B <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Overview of Regulatory Challenges and Auxiliary Policies for B&B in Asia and the USA

- Progress in Regulations and Registration Systems in the EU
- Successful Case Study of International Cooperation and Promotion Strategy of B&B

Wed., 8 August

Session 3: Sharing Country Experiences in Industrial Development of B&B: Problems Encountered and Market Demand; R&D Trends and Evolution; Government Policies: Latest Regulations, Registration Procedures, and Auxiliary Policies

Presentation of country papers

Session 4: Quality Control Measures for Commercial Products and Examples of Successful Commercialization of B&B

- Quality Detection and Strain Preservation Management of Commercial B&B Products
- From Lab to Field: Successful Examples of Commercialization of B&B in Malaysia
- Successful Examples of Public-private Partnerships in Biopesticide Product Development: Case of Taiwan
- R&D Applications, Product Development, and Promotion of B&B: Case of Thailand

Thurs., 9 August

Session 5: Field visits

Observation of B&B field applications for vegetable and tea cultivation

Fri., 10 August

Panel discussion

Formulation of recommendations and summing up

Program evaluation by participants, resource persons, and implementing organizations

Formulation of follow-up action plans by individual participants

Closing session

Cultural tour for overseas participants

Sat., 11 August

Departure of participants

12. Qualifications of Candidates

The participants are expected to possess the following qualifications. Those who attended the 1st and 2nd APO Conferences on Biofertilizers and Biopesticides will not be accepted.

Present Position	Senior policymakers, government officers, consultants, academics, representatives of NGOs and enterprises associations, and managers and entrepreneurs of B&B companies in charge of promoting clean, safe, environment-friendly, sustainable agriculture.
Experience	At least three 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 fit the above profile are typically between 30 and 55 years of age.
Attendance	Participants are required to attend the entire program.

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 Taipei, ROC.

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 Taipei	No	Yes ¹	Yes ²
Per diem allowance in Taipei	No	Yes ¹	Yes ²
Transportation costs to and from hotel and airport in Taipei	No	Yes	No
Insurance coverage in the ROC (refer to paragraph 13b)	Yes	No	No
Any expenses related to visa fees and airport taxes	Yes	No	No
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 d. Transportation costs for field/company visits	NA	Yes	No
¹ Hotel accommodation and per diem allowances for 18 overseas participants for up to five days.			
² Hotel accommodation and per diem allowances for up to 18 overseas participants not covered by the host country for up to five days.			

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 conference.
- l. NPOs should inform participants that they must attend all four 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 conference.

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