



## PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 20-AG-17-GE-DLN-A-AP03-PP2100006-001

<b>Date of Issue</b>	31 August 2021
<b>Project Code</b>	20-AG-17-GE-DLN-A-AP03
<b>Title</b>	Self-learning e-Course on Development of Social Enterprises for Agribusiness
<b>Launch Date</b>	1 November 2021
<b>Hosting Country(ies)</b>	APO Secretariat
<b>Modality</b>	Digital Learning
<b>Implementing Organization(s)</b>	APO Secretariat
<b>Participating Country(ies)</b>	Open
<b>Overseas Participants</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Local Participants</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Qualifications of Participants</b>	Open
<b>Nominations of Participants</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Closing Date for Nominations</b>	Not Applicable

## 1. Objectives

- a. Understand the concepts and principles of social agribusiness enterprises.
- b. Learn about key steps in establishing, managing, and sustaining social agribusiness enterprises.
- c. Examine key success factors in social agribusiness enterprises including finance, technologies, and business models.

## 2. Background

Social enterprises are organizations with multiple objectives of achieving financial, social, and environmental goals. They may take the form of private for-profit, nonprofit, or hybrid organizations that apply business methods to advance their social missions. Through their multifaceted operations, social enterprises contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals that are linked to food security, inclusiveness, and environmental sustainability. A report by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) estimated there are potentially up to a million social enterprises involved in all sectors of the economy in the Asia-Pacific region, including agriculture, food, health, and manufacturing (ESCAP, 2021).

Social enterprises serve as enablers in strengthening smallholder farmers (SHFs) in the Asia-Pacific region. SHFs in developing countries face challenges to their productivity, growth, and sustainability due to the lack of access to affordable financial products, limited knowledge of high-quality inputs, low usage of technology and market data, and poor market links across value chains. Social enterprises can offer innovative solutions to close these gaps and help SHFs prosper and be more productive.

This e-learning course will introduce social enterprises as an enabler to support agribusiness in the Asia-Pacific region. It will discuss the concepts and principles of social agribusiness enterprises, learn the steps to prepare, establish, and maintain social agribusiness enterprises, and draw practical lessons from case studies. The focus will be on accessing finance, improving productivity, increasing postharvest value, and creating value chain and market linkages.

## 3. Modality of Implementation

- a. The course is offered through the APO e-learning platform: <http://eAPO-tokyo.org>
- b. Participants should register on this portal and create their own accounts.
- c. Certificates of completion will be provided for those who satisfactorily complete all the modules of the course, including quizzes and a final examination.

## 4. Scope and Methodology

The course will comprise five modules:

Module 1:  
Concepts and principles of social enterprises

Module 2:  
Establishing social enterprises across agricultural value chains

Module 3:  
Fund raising and accessing finance as a social enterprise

Module 4:  
Sustaining, scaling up, and managing social enterprises

Module 5:  
Productivity enhancement and future-readiness

Final examination

### **Methodology**

Module study, additional study material for participants, quizzes for self-assessment, and a final examination.

### **5. Requirements**

- a. Have necessary devices and software comprising a computer/smartphone, updated browser, microphone, and speaker or headphones.
- b. Access to internet connections.
- c. Completion of all the modules, quizzes, and final examination.
- d. The APO e-certificate will be given to participants who score a minimum of 70% on the final examination.

### **6. Financial Arrangements**


The APO will meet the assignment costs for resource persons to develop the course modules including quizzes and a final examination.

### **7. Actions by Member Countries**

- a. Promote the courses nationwide.
- b. Provide the link to the APO e-learning platform on the NPO's website and social network services.

### **8. Actions by the APO Secretariat**

- a. Identify and assign the resource person(s) to develop the course.
- b. Announce course commencement on the APO website and social network services.



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Secretary-General