



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.:20-AG-33-SP-DON-C-PN2000043-003(R)

Date of Issue	14 October 2021
Project Code	20-AG-33-SP-DON-C
Title	Special Program for Capacity Building of Sustainable Food Value Chains for Enhanced Food Safety and Quality in Asian Countries: Third Year
Timing and Duration	1 November 2020–31 August 2022 (22 months)
Hosting Country(ies)	Not Applicable
Modality	Virtual and/or face-to-face
Implementing Organization(s)	National Productivity Organizations (NPOs) or organizations designated by NPOs
Participating Country(ies)	Member Countries (to be selected)
Overseas Participants	Not Applicable
Local Participants	Not Applicable
Closing Date for Applications	Open to requests from member countries. The Secretariat will require a lead time of three months for arranging the pertinent activities.

Notes: This PN supersedes the PN issued on 22 October 2020 due to a change in timing and duration. The new schedule is from 1 November 2020 to 31 August 2022.

1. Objectives

- a. Assist targeted APO member countries in developing food safety, quality, and innovation (FSQI) frameworks to modernize food value chains (FVCs).
- b. Establish demonstration model companies/organizations to showcase modern food safety and quality (FSQ) processes and results of improvements in a tangible, practical manner, while assisting NPOs and key institutions in building the capacity to provide consultancy and training services through their complete involvement in such projects.
- c. Provide key stakeholders with firsthand exposure to advanced knowledge and technology, best practices, and successful models of enhancing FSQI in FVCs.
- d. Contribute to enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of agrifood sectors in targeted member countries through building reliable, safe, sustainable FVCs.

2. Background

An FVC is a network of stakeholders involved in growing, processing, and selling the food that consumers eat, i.e., from farm to fork. They include producers, processors, distributors, food service companies, consumers, and supporting groups such as shippers and suppliers as well as governments, NGOs, research groups, and regulators who monitor and regulate the entire FVC from producers to consumers.

Recently, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has hit food supply chains hard with restrictions on human contact such as lockdowns and isolation zones. On the other hand, new types of food delivery, as alternatives to eating in restaurants, are gaining in popularity. Therefore, FVCs are rapidly becoming more varied and dynamic.

Enhancing FVCs is a crucial global strategy to achieve food security by ensuring FSQ. FVCs also increase competitive advantage through collaboration in ventures that link all value chain stakeholders. In advanced FVCs, strategic partnerships are developed among interdependent businesses that collaborate in a sequence of value-adding stages, resulting in a collective competitive advantage. An FVC enables different business enterprises to work together to produce and market products and services effectively and efficiently. It also allows agrifood businesses to respond to the marketplace by linking production, processing, transportation, storage, and marketing activities to consumer demand.

FVCs are receiving increasing attention because the focus in developing Asian countries has shifted from the eradication of hunger and poverty to better, safer food to respond to the increasing demand of the expanding middle class for higher quality. Consumers are also more concerned about whether their food is produced and handled along the value chain in environmentally friendly and socially acceptable ways.

Advanced technologies play a crucial role in building reliable, safe, and sustainable FVCs. For example, digital technologies such as the cloud, Internet of Things (IoT), big data, and artificial intelligence (AI) can help in developing efficient, effective FVCs. Applications of blockchain technology to FVCs can help develop fool-proof, reliable food traceability systems.

This capacity-building project on promoting FSQ processes in FVCs in Asian countries is funded by a special cash grant from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan. The APO Secretariat has implemented six projects for five countries so far (September 2018–August 2021). Additional projects will be implemented in the current phase, from November 2021 to August 2022.

3. Modality of Implementation

National project activities will be conducted through the virtual and/or face-to-face modality, depending on the situation of the pandemic and travel restrictions that may be applicable at the time of implementation.

Virtual

National project activities will be delivered virtually as long as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to prevail.

Face-to-face

National project activities will be carried out in face-to-face modality if the COVID-19 situation permits.

4. Scope and Methodology

Specific projects will be organized in close consultation and coordination among participating member countries and the APO Secretariat.

Scope

Tentative topics to be covered in projects under this program are:

- a. Advanced food safety management and technology such as innovative FSQ management systems, successful FSQI models, and modern food traceability systems.
- b. Advanced farming technologies such as Good Agricultural Practices, Good Aquaculture Practices, responsible fisheries, precision agriculture, and organic agriculture.
- c. Modern food-manufacturing and -processing technologies such as food-processing facilities and quality control technologies.
- d. Advanced, convenient distribution systems such as high-end cold chains, temperature-controlled distribution centers, freshness-preserving technologies, and consumer data management.
- e. Applications of digital technologies for modernizing FVCs to enhance FSQ such as blockchains, the IoT, and AI with big data.

Methodology

The main activities of the program are national projects addressing specific issues related to FVCs in selected member countries. International experts selected by the APO Secretariat will be assigned as resource persons for the projects. The national projects may include follow-up activities such as:

- a. National conferences
- b. National workshops
- c. National training courses
- d. Consultancy services for developing national FSQI frameworks and establishing demonstration model companies/organizations
- e. Preparation of study materials such as e-learning courses, textbooks, and manuals

5. Implementation of National Projects

The implementation of a national project comprises three stages:

Stage 1: Application and Review

- a. The requesting country will prepare a project proposal using the form attached and submit it to the APO Secretariat. The proposal with estimated expenses should reach the APO Secretariat at least three months prior to the proposed project timing. The total amount of the estimated expenses should not exceed USD50,000.00.
- b. The details of the proposed project including financial arrangements will be reviewed by the APO Secretariat in consultation with the requesting country.
- c. Once confirmed, a Project Implementation Plan (PIP) will be issued by the APO Secretariat to the NPO of the requesting country.

Stage 2: Implementation

- a. An advance payment (50% of the total estimated cost) will be remitted to the requesting country if necessary.
- b. An overseas resource person(s) will be assigned by the APO Secretariat to conduct the project.
- c. The NPO will organize the project with the support of the APO Secretariat.

Stage 3: Completion

- a. The NPO will submit a project report and statement of financial expenses to the APO Secretariat.
- b. The APO Secretariat will transfer the full payment based on the applicable actual expenses incurred by the NPO.

Further detailed implementation procedures and financial arrangements for each project other than those stated above will be included in the PIP.

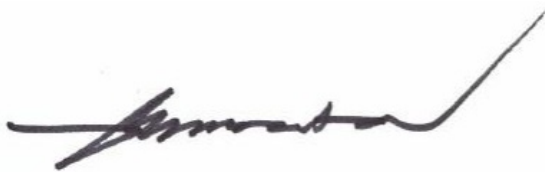
6. Financial Arrangements

To be met by the APO

- a. All assignment costs of the overseas resource person(s), if necessary.
- b. Appropriate per diem allowances to cover meals and incidental expenses of participants and hotel accommodations for participants from outside the project venue, if necessary.
- c. Local implementation costs such as conference rooms and honorarium for local resource persons, interpreters' fees, training material costs, local transportation costs for field visits, etc. The honorarium for local resource persons, where applicable, will follow the applicable rate and conditions for the APO's engagement with resource persons.
- d. The total amount of financial assistance from the APO Secretariat for the project should not exceed USD50,000.00. The APO Secretariat will appraise the estimated expenses attached to the proposal.

To be met by the requesting country

Other expenses not covered by the APO Secretariat.



Dr. AKP Mochtan
Secretary-General