



## PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 21-CL-04-GE-WSP-A-PN2100077-002

<b>Date of Issue</b>	27 September 2021
<b>Project Code</b>	21-CL-04-GE-WSP-A
<b>Title</b>	Workshop on Innovations in Farmers' Cooperatives and Producers' Associations
<b>Timing and Duration</b>	9–11 November 2021 (three days)
<b>Hosting Country(ies)</b>	Japan
<b>Modality</b>	Digital Multicountry
<b>Implementing Organization(s)</b>	Japan Productivity Center and APO Secretariat
<b>Participating Country(ies)</b>	All Member Countries
<b>Overseas Participants</b>	38
<b>Local Participants</b>	12
<b>Qualifications of Participants</b>	Policymakers and government officials, executives of producers' associations including farmers' cooperatives, academics, and consultants involved in the agrifood industry
<b>Nomination of Participants</b>	All nominations must be submitted through National Productivity Organizations of member countries
<b>Closing Date for Nominations</b>	22 October 2021

## 1. Objectives

- a. Introduce the roles of farmers' cooperatives/producers' associations in supporting small and medium producers in the agrifood sector to improve their operations.
- b. Learn about innovations by farmers' cooperatives/producers' associations to make small and medium producers in the agrifood sector more competitive.
- c. Enhance the productivity and competitiveness of small and medium producers in the agrifood sector in member countries.

## 2. Background

Small and medium agrifood producers often face more constraints and challenges compared with large ones. While large producers have their own facilities and equipment, small and medium ones generally do not. In addition, large producers have greater bargaining power through their own market channels. To offset these disadvantages, small and medium agrifood producers organize cooperatives/associations for mutual assistance.

In Japan, 99% of agricultural members cooperatives are individual producers (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan, Agricultural Cooperatives Survey 2019). They make joint purchases of agricultural inputs such as fertilizer, share equipment and postharvest facilities, and combine harvest sales. Farmers' cooperatives/producers' associations offer other benefits for members such as sharing information on technology and markets.

Farmers' cooperatives/producers' associations recognize the need for innovation. Some Japanese agricultural cooperatives have developed assistance systems by providing information on farm management conditions, harvest traceability, soil analysis, and Good Agricultural Practice conformity. Smart machinery such as GPS-guided tractors, controlled-environment greenhouses, and livestock management robots are gradually being introduced by Japanese agricultural cooperatives. Some have established their own product brands, which can be sold to quality-conscious consumers at premium prices. In addition to introducing innovative technologies, some farmers' cooperatives/producers' associations in Asia also provide management techniques such as empowering women farmers and developing relationships with other cooperatives/associations domestically and internationally, making them more productive and competitive.

This workshop will discuss innovations and innovative practices by farmers' cooperatives/producers' associations across APO member countries in their quests to assist small and medium producers to become more productive and competitive. This is in line with the goal of contributing to inclusive engagement and shared prosperity under the APO Vision 2025.

## 3. Scope, Methodology, and Certificate of Attendance

The duration of each day's sessions will be around three hours comprising presentations by experts, group discussions, and other relevant learning methods. The indicative topics of the presentations are:

### Day 1:

- Role of farmers' cooperatives/producers' associations in supporting small and medium producers in the agrifood sector
- Innovations and improvements adopted by farmers' cooperatives/producers' associations in the agrifood sector

### Day 2:

- Strategies to strengthen the competitiveness of small and medium agrifood producers by farmers' cooperatives/producers' associations

### Day 3:

- Best practices of farmers' cooperatives/producers' associations

The detailed program and list of speakers will be provided two weeks prior to the sessions with announcement of the names of the selected participants.

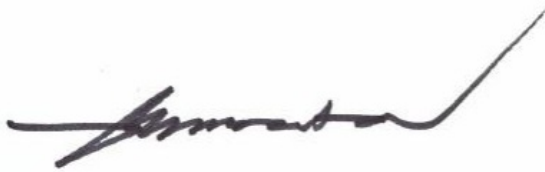
The participants are required to attend all sessions. This full participation is a prerequisite for receiving the APO certificate of attendance.

#### **4. Financial Arrangements**

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

#### **5. Implementation Procedures**

Please refer to the implementation procedures for APO digital multicountry projects circulated with this document.

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

Dr. AKP Mochtan  
Secretary-General