



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 21-CP-12-GE-DLN-A-PN2100071-001

Date of Issue	04 September 2021
Project Code	21-CP-12-GE-DLN-A
Title	Self-learning e-Course on Modern Food Retail
Launch Date	1 December 2021
Hosting Country(ies)	APO Secretariat
Modality	Digital Learning
Implementing Organization(s)	APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	Open
Overseas Participants	Not Applicable
Local Participants	Not Applicable
Qualifications of Participants	Open
Nomination of Participants	Not Applicable
Closing Date for Nominations	Not Applicable

1. Objectives

- a. Understand consumers' current needs in food retailing.
- b. Introduce new technology and know-how for effective food retailing.
- c. Embed sustainable development principles in the food retail sector.

2. Background

Food consumption is changing along with consumers' income levels and lifestyles. Consumers today are more interested in food quality, freshness, and safety and prefer food that is more convenient to cook and eat. According to the Annual Report on Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas in Japan in 2020, the percentage of precooked items in total food purchases in Japan is increasing among all generations. Such changes in consumption patterns require changes in retail practices. To meet the need for fresh perishable food, suppliers must maintain the optimum temperatures from farm to shop, and retailers should follow hygiene control measures to prevent contamination and record traceability data throughout supply chains to ensure food safety.

Digital technologies such as the Internet of Things and AI have transformed the food retail sector, especially supermarkets and convenience stores. Sales data are collected and analyzed by AI for predicting changes in customer demand. The accuracy of predictions has improved, enabling retailers to offer the right quantities at the right times and right prices to maximize profits. In addition, self-checkout service, automated stores, and e-commerce are making retail more convenient with less human contact.

Current consumer preferences have also increased food and packaging waste. These are global environmental issues affecting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which call for responsible consumption and production. In response, some large supermarket chains are composting food waste for use on their own farms. In addition, many retailers no longer offer free plastic shopping bags and are reducing or recycling single-use food containers.

This course will enhance participants' understanding of consumer demand as well as modern technologies and know-how for effective management in the food retail industry. This will facilitate transformation of the food retail sector in member countries to provide better-quality, safer products to consumers, manage retail businesses more effectively, and contribute to meeting the SDGs.

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

Module 1:
Overview of food retailing

Module 2:
Preserving the quality of food products

Module 3:
Digital transformation of the food retail sector

Module 4:
Providing safety and reliability to consumers

Module 5:
Responsible consumption and production

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.



Dr. AKP Mochtan
Secretary-General