



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

PROJECT NOTIFICATION

16 August 2013

1. **Project Code** 13-AG-29-GE-WSP-B
2. **Title** Workshop on Best Practices in Green Productivity in Agriculture
3. **Timing and Duration** 7–11 December 2013 (five days)
4. **Venue** Tehran, IR Iran
5. **Implementing Organizations**

National Iranian Productivity Organization
No. 15, Daneshsara St., Baharestan Sq., Tehran, Iran
Phone: 98 21 33276501-3
Fax: 98 21 77646271
e-Mail: nipo@mporg.ir

Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture
No. 12, Dr. Hesabi Building,
Rodaki and Navab St cross road, Azadi St., Tehran, Iran
Phone: 98 21 66430444,6
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e-Mail: tarvij-amozesh@areo.ir
6. **Number of Overseas Participants** Up to 18 participants from Bangladesh, Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. However, other member countries with special interest in this project may nominate candidates upon consultation with the APO Secretariat.
7. **Number of Local Participants** Up to six participants
8. **Closing Date for Nominations** 15 October 2013
9. **Objectives**
 - a) To enhance participants' understanding of the Green Productivity (GP) concepts, approaches, and technologies;
 - b) To share best practices in GP in agriculture; and
 - c) To formulate strategic action plans for raising awareness of the importance of GP in agriculture and publish case studies from the workshop in a booklet for wider dissemination.

10. Background

GP is a strategy for enhancing productivity and environmental performance for overall socioeconomic development. It involves the application of appropriate productivity and environmental management tools, techniques, and technologies to reduce the environmental impact of an organization's or enterprise's activities, goods, and services. It helps to increase profitability through improvements in productivity and environmental performance.

The APO has been promoting GP since 1994, and substantial effort has been made to disseminate the GP concepts and tools in the workplace, especially in the industry sector. Parallel efforts need to be pursued in the agriculture sector as agricultural activities also contribute to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and pollution. For example, input-intensive agriculture was successful in achieving the goals of food security through improving agricultural productivity, but led to widespread resource degradation. The efficiency of agricultural input (water, fertilizer, pesticides) use is low in most developing countries. The use of agrochemical inputs in high doses resulted in the production of food with high levels of chemical residues and pollution of soil, water resources, and the environment. In addition, expansion of agricultural land caused widespread deforestation, contributing to GHG emissions. Environmental concerns and increasing demand for green production for producing safe food, raising producers' incomes, and achieving sustainable agricultural development are among the several reasons for rising interest in GP technology applications in agriculture.

This workshop is being organized to enhance participants' understanding of the GP concepts, tools, and techniques, and share best practices of GP in agriculture.

11. Scope and Methodology

The tentative modules to be covered are:

- a) Sustainable development in agriculture and GP;
- b) GP concept, methodology, tools, and techniques for agriculture;
- c) Green agricultural production technologies for sustainable agriculture;
- d) Waste management in agriculture; and
- e) Best GP practices in agriculture/successful farming models adopting GP protocols.

The workshop modules will be conducted through interactive lectures, case studies, group assignments and exercises, and study tours of agricultural farms/enterprises/companies implementing GP protocols.

The tentative program of the workshop is given below.

Date/Time	Activity
Fri., 6 Dec. 2013	Arrival of participants at training course venue in Tehran
Sat., 7 Dec.	Opening session Conducting workshop modules by the resource persons
Sun., 8 Dec.	Conducting workshop modules by the resource persons
Mon., 9 Dec.	Conducting workshop modules by the resource persons/ Presentation and discussion of case studies by participants
Tues., 10 Dec. (Morning) (Afternoon)	Field/company visits Group exercise, Part 1
Wed., 11 Dec.	Group exercise, Part 2

Summing-up session
Program evaluation
Closing session

Thurs., 12 Dec.

Return of participants to home countries

12. Qualifications of Candidates

The participants in this workshop are expected to possess the following qualifications:

Present Position	Agricultural extension officers of government and NGOs, representatives of farmers' associations, academics, and GP practitioners and consultants from NPOs in charge of promoting environmentally friendly sustainable agricultural practices/farming systems.
Experience	At least three years of experience in the position described above.
Education	University degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized 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 should not apply.
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 refrain from nominating candidates likely to suffer from physical and mental stress.
Age	Preferably between 30 and 50 years.
APO certificate	Participants must attend all five days of the project to qualify for the certificate of attendance.

13. Financial Arrangements

To be borne by participants or participating countries

- a. Participants' insurance premiums: All participants should be fully insured against accident and illness (including hospitalization and death) for a principal sum equivalent to US\$10,000.00 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 organizations will be responsible for any eventuality arising from accident or illness.
- b. All expenses related to visa fees and airport taxes.
- c. Any expenses incurred by participants for stopovers on the way to and from the project venue as well as for extra stay at the project venue before and/or after the official project period because of early arrival or late departure, for example, due to either limited available flights or any other reason.

To be borne by the host country

- a. Per diem allowances and hotel accommodation for up to 18 overseas participants for up to six days at the rate to be specified later.
- b. All local implementation costs.

To be borne by the APO

- a. All assignment costs of overseas resource persons.
- b. Round-trip economy-class international airfare by the most direct route between the international airport nearest to the participant's place of work and Tehran. As far as practicable, all participants should purchase discount tickets. Please 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. It is also available on the APO website and from APO Liaison Officers in member countries.

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 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, the 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 workshop.
- l. NPOs should inform participants that they must attend all five days of the project to qualify for the certificate of attendance.

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 attached "Guidelines for Preparation of Country Papers."

17. 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 homepage (URL: www.apo-tokyo.org).



Ryuichiro Yamazaki
Secretary-General

13-AG-29-GE-WSP-B

Workshop on Best Practices in Green Productivity in Agriculture
7–11 December 2013, Tehran, IR Iran

Guidelines for Preparation of Country Papers

Each selected participant is required to submit a paper keeping in mind the scope and objectives of the workshop and topical outline provided below. The paper may be written in the personal capacity of the participant but must be substantiated and should reflect an accurate account of the adoption of Green Productivity (GP) practices in agriculture (e.g., resource conservation agricultural technologies, agricultural waste management technologies, and environmentally friendly farming systems such as organic farming, among others, or a model farm practicing GP concepts) in participants' countries. It must be supported by statistical data/information wherever appropriate.

The paper should be typewritten, single-spaced, on standard A4-size paper, and be between 5 and 7 pages in length, excluding tables/figures. A soft copy of the paper should reach the APO and Ministry of Agriculture no later than 22 November 2013.

Participants are encouraged to provide in their papers as much relevant, useful information as possible but they must avoid including unnecessary general information on agriculture as well as the profile of their country.

Participants are also required to prepare a summary of their papers ranging between 200 and 300 words. It should contain only the salient points of the paper. The summary will be used to prepare the highlights of the workshop.

The following topical outline is suggested as a guide. It is not meant to restrict the preparation of the paper but rather to encourage the inclusion of other equally relevant information to make it more substantial and meaningful.

Tentative Topical Outline

1. Briefly explain the trends in agricultural productivity over the past 15 years (for example for the period 1996–2012 or up to the latest year for which data are available) in your country.
2. Give a brief assessment of the environmental performance of the agriculture sector in your country. A quantitative assessment will be appreciated.
3. Describe the current status of and trends in adoption of GP practices in the agriculture sector in your country. For this purpose, please include, among others, trends over the past 15 years or so in the following: a) use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and animal drugs (total quantity and amount used per unit land area/animal); b) use of input-efficient technologies in crop, livestock, fishery and aquaculture (area, animal units); c) organic farming, natural farming for crops, livestock, fishery, and aquaculture (area/animal units, production per unit area/animal); and d) technologies for agricultural waste management, among others.

4. Does your country have regulations, policies, and programs for promoting the adoption of GP practices in agriculture? If so, please give a brief account of such regulations and policy measures, especially the policy incentives to encourage farmers/producers to adopt GP practices.
5. Narrate one or two case studies on the adoption of GP practices in agriculture, livestock, fishery, or aquaculture which you consider to be innovative and unique and could be interesting and useful for participants from other countries. For each selected case study (e.g., resource conservation agricultural technologies, agricultural waste management technologies, and environmentally friendly farming systems such as organic farming, among others, or a model farm practicing GP concepts), please give a brief background, process of development, key drivers, and issues and impediments experienced during the process and the way(s) they were resolved, among others.
6. What are the salient issues and challenges confronting your country in promoting the development and adoption of GP practices in agriculture? Please highlight the most important one or two issues on which you would like to receive guidance from the resource persons/fellow participants for resolution.
7. Give a list of references/bibliography to acknowledge the sources of information/data utilized in the preparation of the paper.
