PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 20-AG-12-GE-WSP-B-450

Date of Issue	2 September 2020
Project Code	20-AG-12-GE-WSP-B
Title	Workshop on Sustainable Productivity Models in Agriculture
Timing and Duration	16-18 November 2020 (three days)
Hosting Country	Bangladesh
Modality	Digital Multicountry (DMC)
Implementing Organization(s)	National Productivity Organization, Ministry of Industries, Bangladesh and the APO Secretariat
Participating Countries	Cambodia, Republic of China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, IR Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam
Overseas Participants	19
Local Participants	12
Closing Date for Nominations	8 October 2020 The closing date is for the replacement of selected candidates, when applicable. Participants were selected before the project was rescheduled and changed into a virtual session. This new selection allows changes in the participants' list if necessary.

Notes: This PN supersedes the PN issued on 7 November 2019 and PNR issued on 6 March 2020 and 8 May 2020.

1. Objectives

The primary objective of this workshop is for participants to adopt/promote innovative productivity models for enhancing the sustainability of agriculture in their countries. The other objectives are:

a. To review and assess innovative sustainable productivity models in agriculture and agribusiness;

b. To formulate strategic action plans for adopting/promoting successful models and best practices based on the socioeconomic and environmental dimensions of operations in member countries; and

c. To contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 2 of ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture.

2. Background

Although the percentage of people living below the poverty line worldwide is steadily declining, around 10% of the global population (736 million) still lives in extreme poverty. The majority of the poor live in rural areas. Agricultural growth remains central to poverty reduction, particularly in developing countries, where a large share of the population relies on agriculture for their livelihood. At the same time, global demand for major agricultural product groups is growing due to increasing populations, rising incomes, shifts in dietary habits, and greater demand for biofuels. In these circumstances, a steady increase in agricultural production driven by greater sustainability and higher productivity is needed.

Growth in agricultural productivity has, however, been stagnant in recent years. The main impediments are: degradation of the agricultural resource base, especially soil and water; dwindling water availability for agriculture; lack of access to quality inputs; and extreme weather disruptions. Aging farming communities and underinvestment in rural infrastructure and agricultural innovation are other important constraints. Climate change adds to the severe stress on the environment for agriculture. The development and adoption of innovative productivity models leading to breakthroughs in agricultural productivity on a sustained basis (from economic, social, and environmental aspects) and to improved performance of climate-smart agrifood value chains are therefore critical.

All players in agrifood value chains, including producers, agribusinesses, processors, marketers, food service companies, retailers, consumers, and waste management services along with supporting groups such as shippers, research groups, and input suppliers, can contribute to the enhanced productivity and sustainability of agrifood systems. Some APO member countries such as the ROC, Japan, and the ROK have adopted innovative models to increase agricultural and agribusiness productivity on a sustained basis. To achieve this, they have put in place modern policy and institutional frameworks focusing on building the capacity of small producers, agribusinesses, and food-processing SMEs. Such policies include the provision of financial support to small farmers and SMEs for the adoption of advanced technologies and innovations such as precision/digital agriculture. Other countries can learn a lot from that experience.

3. Modality of Implementation

a. This workshop will be conducted online using videoconference applications.

b. The resource speakers and participants will participate the workshop virtually using their own devices, applications, and Internet connections.

c. The duration of each day's session will be up to three hours.

d. The APO Secretariat will inform the resource speakers and participants of the applicable videoconference application and link to the virtual sessions.

e. The videoconference link will be provided exclusively to resource speakers and participants in this workshop and should not be shared.

4. Scope and Methodology

The workshop will consist of themed presentations, sharing of country experiences, and individual/ group exercises. The tentative program outline of the workshop is given below:

Date/Time	Activity
Monday, 16 November	Opening Session Presentations: • Key concepts in sustainable productivity in agriculture, and global and regional trends in agricultural productivity • Agroecology Systems in Asia • Enhancing investment in rural infrastructure and innovation for promoting sustainable agriculture • Organic Farming the Credible Means of Sustainable Crop Production: Perspective of Bangladesh
Tuesday, 17 November	Presentations: • Best practices on sustainable productivity in agriculture • Agroecology and the Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE): FAO experience • The use of alternate wetting and drying technology (AWD) for reducing water use and greenhouse gas emission - a collective approach for technology extension in Bangladesh • Ecological sustainable pest management model for selected key rice pests Sharing country cases
Wednesday, 18 November	Presentations: • Pursuing sustainable productivity growth among smallholder farmers • Home gardens models for food and nutritional security Group discussion/presentation/Action plan

5. Qualifications of Candidates

Present Position	Senior government officers, consultants, researchers, academics, extension officers, and representative of professional/farmers' associations in charge of planning, developing, and implementing innovative models for agricultural productivity improvement.
Work Experience	Three years of experience or more in the position described above.
Education	University degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized university/institution.
Computer Literacy	Familiarity and competency in connecting to virtual meetings, including independently undertaking troubleshooting in the event of poor or lost connections.
Language	Proficiency in English, both written and spoken. Participants will be required to make presentations and engage in discussions.

6. Requirements

a. Have necessary devices comprising a computer, web camera, microphone, and speaker or headphones.

b. Access to Internet connections suitable for videoconferencing. Stable, wired LAN connections are preferred.

c. Follow the instructions of the moderators/presenters in asking questions, joining discussions, and answering questions.

d. Participate in the entire workshop.

7. Financial Arrangements

a. The APO will meet the assignment costs for international resource persons.

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

8. Actions by Member Countries

a. Each participating country will nominate three or more candidates in order of preference.

b. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

c. All nominations must be endorsed by an APO Director or Alternative Director and submitted by a Liaison Officer or designated officer.

d. Each nomination must be accompanied by the APO biodata form and uploaded to the APO Document Management System (DMS)/Fleekdrive by the NPO. The biodata form is available on the APO website.

e. Late nominations will not be accepted. When a nomination requires the approval of higher authorities and requires a longer time, the member country concerned should send the name(s) of the nominee(s) before or by the deadline, indicating that approval will follow.

f. If a selected participant becomes unable to participate, the NPO concerned should inform the APO Secretariat and the host country promptly.

9. Actions by the APO Secretariat

a. Selection of candidates will be at the discretion of the Participant Selection Committee of the APO Secretariat.

b. Selection of candidates will be completed and announced three weeks prior to the start of the project.

c. Slots that become available due to withdrawal of a selected candidate(s) or lack of nominations by a member country may be filled by alternates to be selected on a merit basis.

d. The APO Secretariat will inform NPOs of the final program, platform, and link of the virtual meeting, as well as the schedule for technical coordination when applicable, two weeks prior to commencement of the workshop.

10. Dress Code

Participants are required to wear appropriate business attire during the workshop.

Dr. AKP Mochtan
Secretary-General