



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

1 June 2015

## PROJECT NOTIFICATION

1. **Project Code** 15-AG-38-GE-RES-B
2. **Title** Research on Agricultural Policies in Asia
3. **Timing and Duration** July 2015–December 2016
4. **Venue** Participating member countries
5. **Implementing Organization** Asian Productivity Organization
6. **Number of Participating Countries** Up to eight national experts from Bangladesh, Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Thailand
7. **Closing Date for Nominations** 24 June 2015
8. **Objectives**
  - a. To analyze the systematic relationship between basic policies on agriculture and agricultural productivity based on the outcomes of APO research activities; and
  - b. To formulate practical recommendations for policy direction to enhance agricultural productivity.
9. **Background**

Agriculture tends to be subject to various policy interventions. The reasons vary: poverty reduction; food security; price stabilization; fund raising for industrial development; etc. Policy types and measures also vary: subsidies; taxation; price supports; etc. These policies and measures have a significant impact on the long-term performance and productivity of the agriculture sector. It is therefore important for government to pursue an appropriate policy mix that provides the right stimuli to stakeholders.

Asian countries are at different stages of structural transformation and hence have different concerns regarding the development of agriculture and the rural economy. However, many Asian countries have two common features: limited experience in policy analysis; and poor monitoring systems of policies employed to support farmers in the context of globalization and sustainable development.

For these reasons, policymakers must be adequately supported by reliable information, databases, and analytical tools. In addition, there should be experts and institutions fully able

to undertake policy and productivity analysis and monitoring with a view to raising agricultural productivity in the long-term.

In this context, the APO conducted a pilot study on basic agriculture policies and agricultural productivity in selected member countries starting in 2003. The APO selected the Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Thailand as pilot cases for this study and applied methodology developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), called producer support estimates (PSEs) to identify and analyze recent policy changes and draw policy implications. As a synthesis of the pilot study, *Agricultural Policies in Selected APO Member Countries: An Overview through Transfer Analysis* was published in 2013 to provide policymakers with a comprehensive overview of agricultural policies and analytical skills to formulate practical recommendations for policy directions to enhance agricultural productivity.

At the 55th Workshop Meeting (WSM) of Heads of National Productivity Organizations (NPOs) held in Sri Lanka in October 2014, it was recommended that research on agricultural policies should be conducted as a follow-up to the pilot study. Based on interest expressed, additional countries were included in this research project.

## **10. Scope and Methodology**

The project will be implemented in three phases:

### **Phase I: Coordination Meeting (22–24 July 2015)**

The objective of phase I of the project is to review, update, and agree on the refined analytical tools and database including basic assumptions, computation spreadsheet and manual to be used for PSE computations, and common criteria for data sources. The coordination meeting will involve presentations of lead papers by the chief and international experts and country reports by national experts. The coordination meeting will be held at the APO Secretariat, Tokyo, from 22 to 24 July 2015. Detailed information will be provided to the selected national experts later.

The tentative program of the workshop is given below:

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Tuesday, 21 July 2015	Arrival of experts in Japan
Wednesday, 22 July 2015	Opening session Lead paper presentations by chief/international experts
Thursday, 23 July 2015	Country report presentations by national experts
Friday, 24 July 2015	Group discussion and summing-up session
Saturday, 25 July 2015	Departure of experts

### **Phase II: Data Collection and PSE Computation (July 2015–June 2016)**

The specific objectives of phase II are to:

- a. Collect reliable data on agricultural production, consumption and trade, market prices and costs, and national/state budget expenses for agricultural policy measures;
- b. Compute the PSEs with the agreed methodological tools and available data set for each country; and

- c. Analyze agricultural policies with the preliminary computed PSEs.

Phase II will be conducted by each national expert. The chief and international experts will provide advisory services to national experts to maintain consistency among participating countries as well as with the OECD methodology.

### **Phase III: Data Compilation, Comparative Analysis, and Syntheses Report (July-December 2016)**

The chief expert with the assistance of the other international experts will compile the computed PSEs as well as various data collected during phase II by national experts and conduct comparative analyses of agricultural policies in participating countries for inclusion in the synthesis report. During phase III, national experts may be requested by the chief expert to provide additional data to complete the report.

Through cross referencing and discussions among experts, the final synthesis report and country reports will be completed for publication.

#### **11. Qualifications of National Experts**

The national experts should have the following qualifications:

- a. Experience in agricultural policy analysis within the government, academia, or national institutes in offices involved in national policy studies;
- b. Good knowledge and access to agricultural statistics and national budget statistics of the concerned ministries/agencies; and
- c. Be endorsed by the head of their offices/organizations to participate in this project and undertake related activities on official time.

To ensure continuity and maximize efficient knowledge accumulation for the research, and to take advantage of the expertise acquired, national experts who participated in the previous pilot study (Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand) will be given priority for this project. NPOs are requested to nominate the same experts, subject to their availability.

#### **12. Chief and International Experts**

The APO will appoint a chief expert and two international experts to lead this research project. The chief expert with the assistance of the international experts will be responsible for the design of the research framework and methodology, coordination, and advisory roles after the coordination meeting to ensure valid data and computations provided by national experts and completion of the synthesis report.

#### **13. Financial Arrangements**

**To be borne by the APO:**

- a. Honoraria for the chief expert, international and national experts upon completion of the project;

- b. All assignment costs of a chief, two international, and national experts for attending the coordination meeting; and
- c. All local implementation costs for the coordination meeting.

**To be borne by experts or participating countries:**

- a. Any expenses incurred by the experts for stopovers on the way to and from the venue of the coordination meeting, as well as for extra stay before and/or after the official meeting period because of early arrival or late departure, for example, due to either limited available flights or any other reason.

**14. Actions by Member Countries**

- a. Each participating country is requested to nominate a national expert. Please ensure that candidates nominated meet the qualifications specified under section 11 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. The selection of experts will be based strictly on professional qualifications, experience, academic background, and commitment to this project.
- d. Each nomination should be accompanied by the candidate's biodata on the APO biodata form together with a passport-sized photograph. The nomination documents should be sent to the Agriculture Department, APO Secretariat (e-mail: agr@apo-tokyo.org, fax: 81-3-5840-5324).
- e. 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.
- g. NPOs should inform national experts that they must attend all three days of the coordination meeting and should be committed to completing the follow-up research work.

**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 national experts are required to review the previous report and prepare a short paper on recent changes in agricultural policies in their own country prior to departure for the project venue. They are also expected to read the Draft Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Country Papers (to be provided later) and submit a list of questions and comments on basic methodologies, basic assumptions, and required data.



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