



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

PROJECT NOTIFICATION

13 July 2015

1. **Project Code** 15-AG-06-GE-WSP-B
2. **Title** Workshop for Women on Productivity Tools and Techniques for Micro and Small Agrifood-processing Businesses
3. **Timing and Duration** 16-20 November 2015 (five days)
4. **Venue** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
5. **Implementing Organization**
Malaysia Productivity Corporation
P.O. Box 64, Off Jalan Sultan, Lorong Produktiviti 46904
Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia
Phone: 60-3-7951-2444
Fax: 60-3-7958-1697
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6. **Number of Overseas Participants** Up to 18 qualified participants from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Republic of China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, IR Iran, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal, 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 qualified participants
8. **Closing Date for Nominations** 28 September 2015
9. **Objectives**
 - a. To enhance the knowledge and skills of trainers working with women in the agrifood-processing industry on the concepts and applications of selected quality management and productivity tools and techniques;
 - b. To assess the training needs of women entrepreneurs in the food-processing business in APO member countries; and
 - c. To develop basic training modules and a manual to support trainers in conducting in-country training for women in micro and small agrifood enterprises.

10. Background

Women are emerging as key players in the development of micro and small enterprises in various countries. They engage in income-generating activities as the main or supplemental source of family incomes. Their activities range from handicraft making to retailing to food processing. Often, these women do not have formal training in business planning and management. Those in the food business generally have no training in basic food safety management. Thus, in many cases, their enterprises are not sustained or unable to expand. They also incur losses from the spoilage of highly perishable products. The lack of training of such entrepreneurs in basic food safety management also poses great health risks to consumers. It is important to support women operating micro and small enterprises, especially those in agrifood handling and processing, to sustain their businesses and protect consumers from food safety hazards. This can be achieved through coaching and/or provision of training. It is therefore necessary to develop the capacity and competency of those who conduct training for women entrepreneurs, especially in the use of different productivity and management tools.

11. Scope and Methodology

The tentative topics to be covered are:

- a. Emerging opportunities and challenges for women entrepreneurs in Asia;
- b. Trends in women's participation in rural enterprise development in APO member countries;
- c. Planning and starting micro and small agrifood-processing enterprises: key steps and considerations;
- d. Managing micro and small agrifood-processing enterprises: issues, challenges, and strategies;
- e. Food safety and quality management tools for micro and small agrifood-processing enterprises;
- f. Basic tools and techniques for productivity improvement: 5S (scope, straighten, shine, standardize, and sustain);
- g. Kaizen approach for productivity improvement in micro and small enterprises;
- h. Techniques for training need assessment of women in rural communities; and
- i. Designing basic course modules and a manual for women entrepreneurs in micro and small agrifood enterprises.

The workshop will consist of interactive sessions on theme presentations, sharing of country papers, individual/group exercises, and field visits.

The tentative program of the workshop is given below:

Date/Time	Activity
Sunday, 15 Nov.	Arrival of participants at project venue
Monday, 16 Nov.	Opening session Presentation of resource papers
Tuesday, 17 Nov.	Presentation of resource papers Presentation of country papers

Wednesday, 18 Nov.	Presentation of country papers Presentation of resource papers
Thursday, 19 Nov.	Field visits to relevant companies or organizations Group workshop/exercise
Friday, 20 Nov.	Group workshop/exercise Presentation of group discussion output Program evaluation by participants, resource persons, and implementing organization Summing-up session Closing session
Saturday, 21 Nov.	Departure of participants

12. Qualifications of Candidates

The participants are expected to possess the following qualifications:

Present Position	Women consultants, trainers, and/or extension officers of government and NGOs; or academics and representatives of industry associations involved in training women, especially in rural communities.
Experience	At least two years of experience in the position described above.
Education	University degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized university/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 will not be accepted.
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 do not nominate candidates likely to suffer from physical and mental stress.
Age	Candidates who fit the above profile are typically between 30 and 50 years of age.
APO Certificate	Participants are required to attend the entire program to receive the APO 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 participants' place of work and Kuala Lumpur. 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.
- c. The APO may select more than 18 overseas participants in anticipation of last-minute withdrawals or no-shows. If more than 18 overseas participants attend, per diem allowances and hotel accommodation costs will be borne by the APO for up to two additional overseas participants at the rate to be prescribed for up to six days.

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 “Guidelines for the Preparation of Country Papers” to be provided later.

17. Postproject Actions

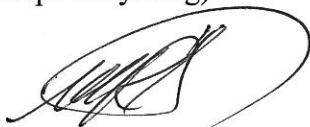
All participants are required to prepare action plans and share the plans with their NPOs. The APO will also request participants to submit progress reports six months after completion of the workshop.

18. Evaluation of Participants

If the conduct/attendance/performance of a participant is not satisfactory, these will be reported to the APO director concerned.

19. 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 website (www.apo-tokyo.org).



Mari Amano
Secretary-General