



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

PROJECT NOTIFICATION

9 May 2017

1. **Project Code** 17-AG-40-GE-CON-A
2. **Title** 2nd International Conference on Biofertilizers and Biopesticides
3. **Timing and Duration** 8–11 August 2017 (four days)
4. **Venue** Taichung, Republic of China
5. **Implementing Organizations**
Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan
37 Nanhai Road, Taipei 10014, Republic of China
Phone: (886-2) 2381-2991
Website: <http://eng.coa.gov.tw/index.php>

China Productivity Center
2F, No. 79, Sec. 1, Xintai 5th Rd., Xizhi Dist.
New Taipei City 221, Republic of China
Phone: 886-2-2698-5881
Fax: 886-2-2698-2976
6. **Number of Overseas Participants** Up to 36 qualified participants
(See 12. Qualifications of Candidates)
7. **Number of Local Participants** Up to 18 qualified participants
(See 12. Qualifications of Candidates)
8. **Closing Date for Nominations** 3 July 2017

9. Objectives

This conference provides a platform for leaders from the public and private sectors, and NGOs, as well as senior academics, entrepreneurs, and consultants to present and discuss the latest scientific advances in and future prospects for the use of biofertilizers and biopesticides (B&B) in agriculture to deploy sustainable solutions and promote sustainable productivity in agriculture.

The specific objectives are:

- a. To share emerging technologies in the form of new microorganisms, new formulations, new application methods, and regulatory systems for the quality control of B&B;
- b. To deliberate on successful models of scaling up B&B applications; and
- c. To formulate strategic action plans to accelerate cooperation among Asian countries for the development of B&B.

10. Background

Green Revolution technologies, such as high-yielding crop varieties, chemical inputs, and modern technologies including irrigation, from 1960 to 2000 contributed immensely to enhancing the crop productivity and food security of developing Asian countries. The use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, however, has had negative impacts on human health, food safety, the environment, and natural resources.

Excessive or improper use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides can cause irreparable damage to ecosystems and food production systems including polluted water bodies, diminishing land fertility, and the chemical resistance of crops. Consumers and customers are increasingly concerned about the safety of the food they buy, the way food is produced, environmental impacts of agricultural practices, and the sustainability of agrifood production systems. Consumption of natural and organic products is on rise. It is essential to harness the best of scientific knowledge and technological breakthroughs that are crucial to meet the complex challenges of safe food production and environmental protection.

B&B can be important in meeting current challenges sustainably. B&B are environmentally friendly and important basic inputs for sustainable agriculture. The integrated use of biofertilizers and organic manure definitely lowers the overall environmental cost of crop cultivation in the long term and contributes to cleaner production by reducing the application of agrochemicals. B&B commercialization is, however, constrained due to: a lack of awareness of B&B benefits; limited investment in R&D; absence of appropriate regulatory and policy incentives for B&B production and use; problems in production, storage, and marketing; need for diverse application packages for different crops grown under varying agroclimatic conditions; and low organic matter contents of many soil types. Concerted efforts will be needed to promote R&D on and the use of B&B.

This conference is a follow-up to the 2016 conference on the subject.

11. Scope and Methodology

The four-day conference will consist of plenary thematic sessions with experts' presentations, sharing of country experiences, panel discussion, and field/company visit(s).

The tentative themes for different sessions are:

- a. Nonchemical plant nutrition and pest management in agriculture;
- b. Development of B&B: R&D, production, and field-level applications;
- c. Registration processes of B&B;
- d. Regulatory framework for the commercialization of B&B;
- e. Policy incentives for promoting B&B development and the commercialization of biologicals;
- f. Managing risks in applications of B&B in agriculture; and
- g. Successful cases of B&B commercialization.

The tentative program of the conference is given in the Appendix.

12. Qualifications of Candidates

The participants are expected to possess the following qualifications:

Present Position	Senior policymakers, government officers, academics, representatives of NGOs, and consultants of entrepreneurs in the B&B industry in charge of promoting clean, safe, environmentally friendly, sustainable agriculture. Preference will be given to those directly engaged in B&B R&D, commercialization, and/or regulation.
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Experience	At least three 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 55 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 USD10,000.00 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.
- d. Any cancellation charges for airfare and hotel arising from withdrawals after letters of acceptance have been issued by the APO.

To be borne by the host country (Republic of China)

- a. Per diem allowances and hotel accommodation for up to 18 overseas participants for up to five days at the rate to be specified later.
- b. Cost of transfers from the airport to hotel and vice versa for up to 18 overseas participants.
- c. All assignment costs of local resource persons.

- d. All other 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 the project venue, Republic of China. 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. Per diem allowances and hotel accommodation for up to 18 overseas participants not covered by the host country for up to five days at the rate to be specified later.
- d. Cost of transfers from the airport to hotel and vice versa for up to 18 overseas participants.

14. Actions by Member Countries

- a. Each participating country is requested to nominate four 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 project.
- l. NPOs should inform participants that they must attend all four days of the project to qualify for the certificate of attendance.
- m. NPOs should assist the APO and or host country in collecting the amounts corresponding to cancellation charges arising from withdrawal of a participant for under item 13. To be borne by participants or participating countries (d.).

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. If there are multiple participants, they are encouraged to cooperate in preparing one paper on any of the themes of the conference. In preparing the paper, they are expected to follow the "Guidelines for the Preparation of Country Papers" to be provided later to accepted participants.

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 project.

18. Evaluation of Participants

If the conduct/attendance/performance of a participant is not satisfactory, these will be

reported to the APO director of the country 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).



Santhi Kanoktanaporn
Secretary-General

2nd International Conference on Biofertilizers and Biopesticides

Taichung, Republic of China, 8–11 August 2017

Tentative Program of Activities

Themes for this year: R&D and Latest Regulations in APO Members

Day 0. Monday, 7 August 2017
Arrival of participants at the venue in the host country
Day 1. Tuesday, 8 August 2017
<p>Session 1: The Past, Present, and Future of R&D on Biofertilizers and Biopesticides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R&D Trends in Biofertilizers • R&D Trends in Biopesticides • Development and Applications of Biostimulants in Europe <p>Session 2: Scientific Techniques, Innovative Practices, and Field Extension for the Development of Biopesticides and Biofertilizers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilization of Molecular Techniques in the Development of Biopesticides and Biofertilizers • Combined Applications of Biopesticides and Chemical Pesticides in Integrated Pest Management Programs • Role of Industry in Conducting R&D and Commercializing Biopesticides and Biofertilizers
Day 2. Wednesday, 9 August 2017
<p>Session 3: Sharing Country Experiences in the Latest Regulations (i.e., Biofertilizer and Biopesticide Regulations, Registration Procedures, and Auxiliary Policies) and R&D Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Reports (15–20 min for each country) <p>Session 4: Regional and International Cooperation to Expedite Biofertilizer and Biopesticide Product Commercialization, Registration, and Application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful Cooperative Strategies in Employing Biopesticides and Biofertilizers to Promote Sustainable Agriculture by the Food and Fertilizer Technology Center • Biopesticide Development and Registration around the World • Possibility of Establishing an Asian Consortium on Biofertilizers and Biopesticides
Day 3. Thursday, 10 August 2017
<p>Session 5: Field visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation of Biofertilizers and Biopesticide Field Applications for Vegetables
Day 4. Friday, 11 August 2017
<p>APO Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel discussion • Formulation of recommendations and summing up • Program evaluation • Closing session
Day 5. Saturday, 12 August 2017
Departure of participants from the host country