



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

PROJECT NOTIFICATION

31 May 2017

1. **Project Code** 17-AG-04-GE-CON-A
2. **Title** Asian Forum on Smart Agriculture: Futuristic Technologies for Sustainable Farming
3. **Timing and Duration** 6–9 November 2017 (four days)
4. **Venue** Bangkok and Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand
5. **Implementing Organization** Thailand Productivity Institute (FTPI)
12-15th Floor Yakult Building, 1025 Pahonyothin Road
Samsennai, Phayathai, Bangkok 10400, Thailand
Phone: 66-2-619-5500 (ext. 121)
Fax: 66-2-619-8099
Website: www.ftpi.or.th
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** 31 August 2017
9. **Objectives**
 - a. To provide a forum for senior policymakers, planners, professionals, and executives to deliberate on emerging/futuristic technologies with the potential to enhance sustainable productivity in agriculture; and
 - b. To foster rural development and inclusive growth through increasing agricultural productivity, farm profitability, and the competitiveness of agribusiness SMEs.

10. Background

Agriculture faces enormous challenges to feed more than nine billion people in 2050. This will require a 70% increase in food production in spite of the limited availability of arable land, unpredictable/shrinking water availability, aging farming communities, and shortage of farm labor. High temperatures and changes in seasonal events associated with climate change will also impact crops and livestock performance. The development of smart agriculture can be the solution.

Smart agriculture is driven by innovative changes and advanced technologies such as remote-sensing and digital automation of farming operations. In developed countries, farmers are already using smart technologies and devices like automated moisture sensors, drones, smart irrigation, self-driving GPS-enabled tractors, and robotics to produce food more conveniently

and sustainably. Farms are being “teched up” when it comes to growing food both sustainably and profitably.

The automation of farming and digital technology-enabled equipment make farming operations easier and more convenient, especially for the elderly and women. They can also attract youth to the agriculture sector and allow efficient use of agricultural inputs, conserve resources, and minimize natural resource degradation and carbon footprints. The use of smart technology also gives rural farmers and SMEs access to the latest information on agrifood markets, enhancing their profitability. Precision agriculture can contribute to building resilience to climate change. Thus, digital technology-enabled smart farming is important for promoting sustainable productivity in agriculture and inclusive growth.

11. Scope and Methodology

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

The tentative themes for the different sessions are:

- a. Smart agriculture and futuristic technologies—an overview;
- b. Role of digital technology in the development of sustainable, smart food production systems;
- c. Key drivers of smart agriculture development;
- d. Successful models of sustainable smart agriculture and digital farming; and
- e. Smart farming solutions to problems facing small farmers.

The tentative program of the conference is given below:

Date/Time	Activity
Sunday, 5 November 2017	Arrival of participants in Bangkok
Monday, 6 November	Travel to Nakhon Ratchasima Opening session Presentations and discussion
Tuesday, 7 November	Presentations and discussion
Wednesday, 8 November	Field/company visit(s)
Thursday, 9 November	Panel discussion Formulation of recommendations and summing up Program evaluation Closing session Depart for Bangkok
Friday, 10 November	Departure of participants from the host country

12. Qualifications of Candidates

The participants are expected to possess the following qualifications:

Present Position	Senior policymakers and planners, senior farm managers, senior executives/CEOs of agribusinesses senior representatives of farmers’ and agribusiness associations, and senior professionals and academics in charge of promoting the development and adoption of advanced technologies for sustainable agriculture. Preference will be given to those with specific plans to utilize and disseminate learning from the forum.
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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 organization 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 (Thailand)

- 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 of overseas participants by the most direct route between the international airport nearest to the participants' place of work and Bangkok, Thailand. 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 not covered by the host country.

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 forum.
- 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 amount 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 are 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 from the same country, they are encouraged to cooperate in preparing one paper on any of the themes of the forum. 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 concerned country.

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