



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

## PROJECT NOTIFICATION

17 September 2013

1. **Project Code** 13-AG-10-GE-WSP-B
2. **Title** Workshop on Risk Management of Foodborne Pathogens
3. **Timing and Duration** 20–24 January 2014 (five days)
4. **Venue** Pakistan
5. **Implementing Organization**  
National Productivity Organization  
2nd Floor, Software Technology Park  
Constitution Avenue, F-5/1, Islamabad, Pakistan  
Phone: 92-51-2823304/5  
Fax: 92-51-2823309  
e-Mail: apo.npopakistan@gmail.com  
Website: <http://www.npo.gov.pk>
6. **Number of Overseas Participants** Up to 18 qualified participants from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Republic of China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, IR Iran, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Malaysia, Nepal, 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** 25 November 2013
9. **Objectives**
  - a. To review the public health implications and practical solutions related to the growing problems of foodborne pathogens;
  - b. To equip participants with knowledge of foodborne pathogens and approaches to contain them to ensure food safety;
  - c. To study the best practices in a food supply chain to minimize contamination by foodborne pathogens; and
  - d. To formulate strategic action plans for promoting such good practices.

## 10. Background

Foodborne illnesses have huge economic impact across the globe. For example, according to some estimates the total economic impact of foodborne illness in the USA is more than USD 150 billion annually. In developing countries, where the problem of diarrheal disease is far greater, the effect on socioeconomic development is even more severe. Foodborne illness can create serious long-term effects on society, particularly young children and the elderly.

Foodborne pathogens, i.e., microorganisms found in food such as bacteria, fungi, parasites, protozoans, and viruses, are the main causes of foodborne illness. Bacteria are generally the most important. The food chain has many stages where food is susceptible to contamination by foodborne pathogens. Food safety management systems and the safety of the entire food chain are thus of paramount importance to people and agrifood businesses across the world. Failures in these systems are often highly public and catastrophic.

While a number of countries in Asia and the Pacific region have achieved notable progress in strengthening food safety management systems, many are still struggling to tailor their traditional food control systems to meet current food safety challenges. Main impediments include inadequate food safety capacities, insufficient financial investments, weak foodborne disease surveillance, outdated food regulations and weak law enforcement, inability of small- and medium-sized producers to ensure the supply of safe food, fragmented food control systems, and lack of policy coherence among different sectors. Careful preventive measures must be established based on sufficient scientific knowledge of which types of food are contaminated by which types of pathogens under which conditions.

## 11. Scope and Methodology

The tentative topics to be covered in the workshop deliberations are:

- a. Emerging foodborne pathogens and characteristics of major ones;
- b. Methods and technology for rapid, accurate detection of foodborne pathogens;
- c. Risk analysis of major foodborne pathogens in each food supply chain;
- d. Measures to prevent/control foodborne pathogens and minimize risks; and
- e. Best practices of prevention/control of foodborne pathogens in various food supply chains.

The workshop will consist of thematic presentations, case study presentations, group exercises, and visits to selected enterprises/companies that are implementing preventive measures against foodborne pathogens and microorganisms.

The tentative program of the workshop is given below:

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Sun., 19 January 2014	Arrival of participants at the project venue
Mon., 20 January	Opening session Presentation of resource papers
Tues., 21 January	Presentation of resource papers Presentation of case studies
Wed., 22 January	Presentation of case studies Group exercise
Thurs., 23 January	Visits to relevant selected enterprises/companies

Fri., 24 January	Presentation of group exercise output Program evaluation by participants, resource persons, and implementing organization Summing-up session
Sat., 25 January	Closing session Departure of participants

## 12. Qualifications of Candidates

The participants are expected to possess the following qualifications:

Present Position	Food scientists; agricultural food safety experts; food preservation and processing specialists; leaders of food safety teams of food-processing companies and their associations; officials of public health and government agencies; or wholesalers, retailers, and logistic operators of food and agricultural products, among others, who are in charge of food safety management.
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	Preferably between 35 and 50 years.
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 the project venue in Pakistan. 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.

#### **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](http://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 informed 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 attached "Guidelines for the Preparation of Country Papers."

#### **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](http://www.apo-tokyo.org)).



Mari Amano  
Secretary-General

13-AG-10-GE-WSP-B

Workshop on Risk Management of Foodborne Pathogens  
20–24 January 2014, Pakistan

### **Guidelines for Preparation of Country Papers**

Each selected participant is required to submit a paper keeping in mind the scope and objectives of the workshop and topical outline provided below. The paper may be written in the personal capacity of the participant but must be substantiated and should reflect an accurate account of the current status of the “Risk Management of Foodborne Pathogens.” It must be supported by statistical data/information wherever appropriate.

The paper should be typewritten, single-spaced, on standard A4-size paper, and be between 5 and 7 pages in length, excluding tables/figures. A soft copy of the paper should reach the APO no later than 25 December 2013.

Participants are encouraged to provide in their papers as much relevant, useful information as possible but they must avoid including unnecessary general information on agriculture as well as the profile of their country.

Participants are also required to prepare a summary of their papers not exceeding 300 words. It should contain only the salient points of the paper. The summary will be used to prepare the highlights of the workshop.

The following topical outline is suggested as a guide. It is not meant to restrict the preparation of the paper but rather to encourage the inclusion of other equally relevant information to make it more substantial and meaningful.

#### **Topical Outline**

1. Describe briefly the status of food safety in your country. What are the main food safety concerns in the country? Give a brief account of the extent of foodborne diseases in your country and their economic implications such as impact on labor productivity, financial burden on national health systems, etc.
2. Does your country have a policy and regulations on food safety? If so, are the regulations comprehensive enough to address the risk management concerns in food supply chains, especially those due to foodborne pathogens?
3. What are the main tools, techniques, and approaches used for managing risks, especially those due to foodborne pathogens, in a few important food supply chains/food industry in your country?

4. Narrate a story or case study in which different stakeholders were able to join hands for managing risks in a food supply chain successfully. Mention briefly the roles of the main stakeholders in the food supply chain in managing risks .
5. Give a list of references/bibliography to acknowledge the sources of information/data utilized in the preparation of the paper.

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