



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 22-RC-12-GE-RES-B-PN2200043-002

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of Issue | 22 April 2022 |
| Project Code | 22-RC-12-GE-RES-B |
| Title | Review of Productivity Assessment Tool for the Agriculture Sector |
| Timing and Duration | June–December 2022 (seven months) |
| Hosting Country(ies) | Not Applicable |
| Modality | Digital Multicountry |
| Implementing Organization(s) | APO Secretariat |
| Participating Country(ies) | India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam |
| Qualifications of National Experts | Agricultural policy analysts, agricultural economists, and academic researchers specializing in productivity enhancement for the agriculture and rural development sector with a track record of experience, three or more years in the position, and excellent English writing and presentation skills |
| Qualifications of Chief Expert | Extensive experience in undertaking international research projects on productivity enhancement for the agriculture and rural sector, conducting national-level analysis, and publishing reports in English on those topics |
| Nomination of National Experts | All nominations must be submitted through National Productivity Organizations of member countries |
| Closing Date for Nominations of National Experts | 23 May 2022 |

1. Objectives

- a. Review existing agricultural productivity indicators and develop a new assessment tool for agricultural productivity to facilitate sustainable modernization of the sector.
- b. Promote understanding and adoption of agriculture productivity assessment tools and indicators for farmers, the private sector, and policymakers in APO members.
- c. Formulate sustainable agricultural modernization business strategies and policies based on the latest productivity assessment tools.

2. Background

The agriculture sector in Asian countries is continuously evolving. This includes the transition from traditional low-intensity systems to more modern, higher-intensity ones, with greater capital investment characterized by mechanization and larger-scale farms. At the same time, the agriculture sector has remained heterogeneous, with farms at different modernization levels and scales coexisting. Considering the growing scarcity of natural resources such as water and energy/fuel, declining biodiversity, and urgent imperative to minimize environmental and health costs from agricultural activities, e.g., overuse of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, agricultural modernization in Asia must be accelerated.

Agricultural productivity indicators are an important tool to facilitate sustainable modernization. Their adoption by farmers, agroindustry, and agricultural policymakers is critical for sustained modernization initiatives and requires three prerequisites: first, understanding the different sets of productivity indicators available, i.e., total factor productivity to assess overall productivity growth and partial factor productivity to assess land productivity (e.g., yield) and labor productivity; second, managing and utilizing various types of data to develop productivity indicators; and, third, linking productivity indicators to policies that promote sustainable agricultural modernization.

This research will focus on five APO members, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, due to their similarities in the need for continuous agricultural modernization and the challenges involved, including water resource degradation, salinization, reduced biodiversity, and deforestation. Productivity tools that consider sustainability aspects are therefore urgent for them. This research will formulate a new assessment tool based on the experiences of this group of countries for dissemination to and replication in other APO members.

3. Scope and Methodology

Scope

- a. Agricultural productivity indicators
- b. Agribusiness modernization
- c. Agricultural modernization policies
- d. Agribusiness innovation
- e. Sustainable agricultural modernization

Methodology

- a. In-country research: Each national expert will compile and analyze data and relevant information (e.g., literature, policy documents, etc.) and write a preliminary report based on the research framework circulated prior to the coordination meeting. The reports will be finalized after the coordination meeting.
- b. Coordination meeting of experts: A coordination meeting to finalize the research methodology and framework will be organized. The preliminary reports detailing country-specific situations will be presented in this meeting for feedback from other experts. The virtual sessions will be around three hours each day. The indicative agenda items are:

Day 1:

- Research overview
- Research framework
- Methodology and scope
- Data availability and sources
- Preliminary research findings

Day 2:

- Agreement on the research framework, format of the final report, and timeline
- Final publication requirements

4. Tasks of Experts

Chief Expert

- a. Develop the overall framework and guidelines for the research.
- b. Present the research framework, methodology, and expected outcome of the research report structure during the coordination meeting.
- c. Review the drafts and provide feedback to the national experts to ensure the quality of the work.
- d. Provide support and advice to the national experts in conducting the research.
- e. Prepare the assessment tool and submit it to the APO Secretariat by the deadline.

National Experts

- a. Collect data and/or information at national/subnational levels related to the questions in the background section following the methodology and framework provided.
- b. Write country reports on the analyses and findings based on the data and information collected.
- c. Present the preliminary analysis during the coordination meeting.
- d. Revise the reports following the agreement during the coordination meeting and reflect the comments of the chief expert and APO Secretariat.
- e. Cooperate with the chief expert to ensure the quality and consistency of the final report.
- f. Submit the reports following the agreed format to the chief expert and APO Secretariat by the deadline.

5. Financial Arrangements

To be met by the APO

- a. Honoraria for the chief and national experts.
- b. All assignment and relevant research costs.

To be met by experts or participating members

All local implementation costs incurred by the national experts when collecting data at the national level.

6. Actions by Participating Members

- a. Participating members are requested to nominate candidate national experts before the deadline.
- b. Each nomination must be accompanied by the APO biodata form and uploaded to the APO Document Management System (DMS)/Fleekdrive by the NPO.

7. Actions by the APO Secretariat

- a. Identify and invite a chief expert to lead the research until its completion.
- b. Coordinate all arrangements related to the research activities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mochtan', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Dr. AKP Mochtan
Secretary-General