



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 861

Date of Issue	4 August 2026
Project Code	26-INT-04-SP
Title	Development and Spread of Climate-resilient Agriculture and Low-carbon Food Systems in Asia
Timing	1 August 2026–30 April 2029
Hosting Country(ies)	Japan and Cambodia
Venue City(ies)	Tokyo and Phnom Penh
Modality	Hybrid
Implementing Organization(s)	APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	APO Member Countries
Overseas Participants	Not Applicable
Local Participants	Not Applicable
Closing Date	Not Applicable
Remarks	This project is funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) through the ASEAN Secretariat, with supplementary support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan, for dissemination activities to APO member economies. Hosting countries are Cambodia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Japan.

Objectives	The objectives of this project are to promote climate-resilient agriculture and low-carbon food systems, primarily in Cambodia, the Philippines, and Vietnam, with subsequent dissemination to the broader ASEAN region and other APO member economies. The project aims to identify challenges and barriers that hinder the introduction of innovative technologies in agriculture in the region, exploring possible solutions with a particular focus on a carbon-credit mechanism such as the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) established by Japan in accordance with Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement, and disseminating the outcomes.
Rationale	As many Asian countries and Japan have similar climate conditions and agricultural practices, Japan will be able to share its knowledge and experience in paddy field management with other countries. The project, focusing on paddy field management, has both direct and indirect benefits to all Southeast Asian countries and the entire region by reducing GHG emissions and correspondingly mitigating natural disasters such as floods and droughts. The Secretariat proposes this project as the topic is aligned with the APO's focus on Green Productivity in 2026. This collaboration will further strengthen the partnerships of the APO with ASEAN and MAFF Japan.
Background	In 2023, the ADB and MAFF Japan organized several informal meetings with institutions and governments interested in the project to explain its concept, and they agreed to serve as members of the Expert Committee (EC) for this project. In addition, at the first EC meeting held in January 2024, the members confirmed that they would implement the project, including collecting the data for GHG reductions in paddy fields from the Philippines and Vietnam, because the fields in these countries have high potential for GHG reductions from the project. After intensive discussions, the JCM methodology for alternate wetting and drying (AWD) in the Philippines was completed by the EC and published in June 2024, and it was approved by the Joint Committee between Japan and the Philippines on 3 February 2025. The EC continues to discuss the applications of innovative technologies such as water-level monitoring via satellite imaging to upgrade the JCM methodology for AWD. For Vietnam, the EC continues to discuss innovative approaches that reduce GHG emissions and improve agricultural productivity such as AWD. In February 2025, in addition to the Philippines and Vietnam, the Government of Cambodia agreed to participate in the EC because the country also has high potential for GHG reductions from the project. Due to some incompatibility of procedures between the JAIF and ADB, MAFF requested the APO Secretariat to take over the role of proponent/ implementing agency for the project in Cambodia.
Topics	Climate-resilient agriculture practices; Low-carbon food systems; Barriers and solutions for innovative agricultural technologies; Carbon-credit mechanisms, especially the JCM; and Advanced agricultural monitoring techniques, such as satellite imagery for AWD.
Outcome	GHG emission reductions from agricultural activities, especially rice cultivation; economic revitalization through improved productivity and increased farmers' incomes; and enhanced capacity and widespread adoption of advanced agricultural know-how, particularly in climate-smart practices and innovative rice cultivation techniques.
Qualifications	Not Applicable

Please refer to the implementation procedures circulated with this document for further details.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Indra Pradana Singawinata', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Indra Pradana Singawinata
Secretary-General