



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 21-IP-03-GE-CON-B-PN2100032-001

Date of Issue	03 June 2021
Project Code	21-IP-03-GE-CON-B
Title	Conference on Enabling Regulations to Accelerate Agricultural Innovations
Timing and Duration	22 July 2021 (one day)
Hosting Country(ies)	APO Secretariat
Modality	Digital Multicountry
Implementing Organization(s)	APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	130
Local Participants	Not Applicable
Qualifications of Participants	Policymakers, government officials, and academics involved in regulations on agricultural innovations; and researchers, managers, and CEOs in the public and private sectors involved in developing and introducing agricultural innovations
Nomination of Participants	All nominations must be submitted through National Productivity Organizations of member countries
Closing Date for Nominations	8 July 2021

1. Objectives

- a. Share recent and future agricultural innovations.
- b. Introduce good regulatory practices to accelerate innovations in agriculture.
- c. Discuss frameworks to support regulatory implementation to accelerate innovation.

2. Background

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, agriculture faces enormous challenges to feed more than nine billion people by 2050, which will require 70% more food production, with shrinking land and water resources for agriculture, aging farming communities, and shortages of productive farm labor. Small farmers in the Asia-Pacific are playing a key role in achieving sustainable productivity because 80% of the total 500 million small farms worldwide are managed by them, and most (around 87%) are located in Asia.

Innovation allows small farmers to produce more food productively, profitably, and sustainably. Smart agriculture is a management concept to increase the quantity and quality of agricultural production by using advanced technologies for tracking, monitoring, automating, and analyzing operations. Technologies like the Internet of Things, sensors, GPS, robots, AI, big data, and analytics are important components of smart agriculture. Other innovative components are plant-based technologies such as genetically modified crops and genome editing to increase crop value and yields.

Several enabling factors are involved in the adoption of these innovations including policies, regulations, public and private investment, capacity development, and making them affordable to small farmers. Developing flexible regulatory frameworks is important to support and accelerate innovation in agriculture, and governments should ensure that the regulatory environment is conducive to private-sector investment. Japan is a good example of developing regulations on innovations like drone applications, unmanned equipment operations, data protection, and plant genome editing. The main goals in the APO Vision 2025 include sustained productivity growth and robust innovation systems, with a commitment to supporting regulatory development in member countries for growth through innovation.

This conference will discuss recent and future agricultural innovations focusing on smart agriculture and plant-based technologies, along with opportunities and challenges for regulatory frameworks to contribute to their adoption. Best practices under current regulatory frameworks to accelerate the adoption of innovations will also be shared.

3. Scope, Methodology, and Certificate of Attendance

The duration of the sessions will be around four hours. The indicative topics of the presentations are:

- Introduction of innovative agricultural technologies.
- Opportunities and challenges in adopting innovative technologies.
- Case studies of regulatory frameworks to accelerate innovation.
- Discussion of specific regulatory framework components to support the spread of agricultural innovations.

The detailed program and list of speakers will be provided two weeks prior to the sessions with announcement of the names of the selected participants.

The participants are required to attend all sessions. This full participation is a prerequisite for receiving the APO certificate of attendance.

4. Financial Arrangements

The APO will meet the assignment costs for overseas and local resource persons, and for a virtual site visit(s), either broadcast live or recorded as applicable.

5. Implementation Procedures

Please refer to the implementation procedures for APO digital multicountry projects circulated with this document.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mochtan', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. AKP Mochtan
Secretary-General