



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 423

Date of Issue	5 July 2024
Project Code	24-RC-18-GE-RES-A
Title	Research on the Women's Empowerment Index in the Agriculture Sector
Timing	8 July 2024–31 December 2024
Hosting Country(ies)	Not Applicable
Venue City(ies)	Not Applicable
Modality	Online
Implementing Organization(s)	APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	Not applicable
Local Participants	Not applicable
Closing Date	2 September 2024
Remarks	The above deadline is for nomination of national experts.

Objectives	Study the roles and involvement of women in the agriculture sector among APO members including productivity performance; identify structural, social, and economic barriers women in the agriculture sector face; and examine ways to increase women's engagement, contributions, and well-being while promoting gender equality in the agriculture sector.
Rationale	Agriculture in the Asia-Pacific faces challenges in increasing output with land-, climate-, and labor-related constraints. Women in the agriculture sector also face barriers against full participation. Empowering women in the sector can help to achieve the APO goal of inclusive productivity by catalyzing agricultural productivity.
Background	<p>Women make up 40–50% of the agricultural labor force in East and Southeast Asia and around 30% in South Asia, with 70% of working women in South Asia employed in the agriculture sector (FAO, 2022). However, women's contributions to food production, processing, and marketing as informal or unpaid family workers are often underestimated. Rural communities often do not facilitate full economic and social participation of women based on traditional social customs. However, technological and economic advances enable and require the full participation of women in agricultural activities.</p> <p>Studies have shown that empowering women in agriculture in developing economies by improving their access to resources, information, and finances and recognizing their decision-making capability can increase national agricultural productivity. Further, it has ripple effects on women's and children's welfare.</p>
Topics	Analysis of women's roles in agriculture and food systems; Educational and health standards; Access to agricultural resources and inputs, land ownership, extension services, social security, credit, and markets; Use of digital technology; Decision-making, participation, and leadership in organizations; Areas for improvement; and Recommendations.
Outcome	Country-specific and broad-based analysis report covering the current status of women in agriculture, areas for improvement, and recommended strategies and policy interventions for empowering women in the agriculture sector.
Qualifications	Researchers or policy analysts with research or work experience in gender-related issues, agriculture-sector issues, and/or farmers' organizations, and publications in English on related topics.

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



Dr. Indra Pradana Singawinata
Secretary-General

IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES FOR APO RESEARCH PROJECTS (DIGITAL MULTICOUNTRY)

1. Methodology

- a. The first coordination meeting of experts: A coordination meeting to launch the project in which the research methodology and framework will be introduced by the chief expert to national experts. National experts will give brief presentations on their national situations based on the guidelines provided. The virtual session will be around three hours on one day.
- b. In-country research: Each national expert will collect and analyze information and data and write a preliminary report based on the first coordination meeting. The reports will be finalized after the second coordination meeting.
- c. The second coordination meeting of experts: 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 for two days.

2. Qualifications of Experts

Chief expert

Extensive experience in undertaking international research projects on the empowerment of women, especially in the agriculture sector, including effects on productivity performance; excellent English writing and presentation skills; and a track record of experience in publishing reports in English on the topics covered in this research.

National experts

Researchers and policy analysts with research or work exposure to women's issues, agricultural productivity, and farmers' organizations; ability to conduct interviews and surveys locally; and ability to prepare a research report and make presentations in English.

3. Tasks of Experts

Chief expert

- a. Develop the overall framework and guidelines for the research.
- b. Present the research framework, methodology, and report structure to national experts during the initial coordination meeting.
- c. Discuss the findings of national reports in the second coordination meeting in which national experts make their presentations.
- d. Review the drafts submitted by national experts and provide feedback to ensure the quality of the work.
- e. Provide support and advice to national experts in conducting the research.
- f. Prepare the final report and submit it to the APO Secretariat by the deadline.

National experts

- a. Attend the initial coordination meeting.
- b. Collect information and data at national level closely following the methodology and framework provided.
- c. Conduct the analyses and write country reports based on the guidance provided.
- d. Present the preliminary reports during the second coordination meeting.
- e. Revise the reports based on the agreement arrived at during the coordination meeting reflecting the comments of the chief expert and APO Secretariat.
- f. Cooperate with the chief expert and make comments on a draft synthesis report to ensure the quality and consistency of the report.

- g. Submit the reports following the agreed format to the chief expert and APO Secretariat by the deadline.

4. Financial Arrangements

To be met by the APO

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

To be met by experts or participating APO member economies

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

5. Actions by Participating APO Member Economies

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

6. 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.