



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ADDENDUM

2 December 2015

1. **Project Code** 14-AG-23-GE-TRC-A
2. **Project Title** Self-learning e-Course on Organic Agriculture and Organic Agribusiness
3. **Timing** 1 December 2015–30 April 2016 (five months)
4. **Implementing Organizations** APO Secretariat and National Productivity Organizations (NPOs)
5. **Addendum No.** 1
6. **Reference** APO Project Notification 14-AG-23-GE-TRC-A dated 30 May 2014; and APO Project Implementation Plan 14-AG-23-GE-TRC-A dated 7 July 2015
7. **Details** Changes in Project Implementation Plan Item No. 4 “Timing”

7-1 Change in Item No. 4 “Timing”

The timing of the Self-learning e-Course on Organic Agriculture and Organic Agribusiness has been changed to **1 February 2016–30 June 2016** (five months).

Unless otherwise modified by the APO in writing, the provisions of the Project Notification dated 30 May 2014 and Project Implementation Plan dated 7 July 2015 pertaining to this course remain valid.

Mari Amano
Secretary-General



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7 July 2015

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3. **Reference** Project Notification 14-AG-23-GE-TRC-A dated 30 May 2014
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5. **Implementing Organization(s)** APO Secretariat and National Productivity Organizations (NPOs)
6. **Number of Participants** Minimum of 400 participants
7. **Self-registration** Self-registration opens from 10:00 AM Japan Standard Time on 1 December 2015 on the APO's e-learning web portal: <http://www.apo-elearning.org/Moodle--/>.

Note: Participants can register directly from this portal on the APO website. Those who are already registered can access the course by using the assigned username and password. If you have forgotten your username and password, please refer to the FAQs on the home page of the portal.

8. Objectives

To provide basic knowledge, skills, tools, and techniques of production, processing, certification, labeling, and marketing of organic agricultural and food products.

9. Background

Organic agriculture performs multiple functions such as reducing the cost of cultivation, accessing premium organic markets, improving human health, and conserving natural resources and the environment. It relies primarily on local, renewable resources in preference to off-farm inputs such as synthetic agrochemicals and genetically modified organisms. The use of scientific and indigenous knowledge together is needed to ensure that organic agriculture is healthy, safe, and ecologically sound.

Driven by growing consumer concerns about food safety and the need for healthier lifestyles, the global market for organic products is expanding fast, resulting in greater opportunities for

Asian producers. Organic agricultural and food products, however, remain niche products, although they command premium prices. Marketability at a premium depends on consumer confidence in the authenticity of organic products. Therefore, producers need a way of assuring consumers that a product has been grown using organic methods. This requires a credible system of organic standards, certification, and traceability in place.

Organic agriculture is not just for more affluent countries but can be applied in other situations. In less developed countries especially, it can contribute to Green Productivity (GP) as well as sustainable socioeconomic development. The APO promotes GP for sustainable development. Organic agriculture is one of the tools for achieving GP in agriculture. This course is organized to acquaint participants with the key concepts as well as the basic principles, skills, tools, and techniques of organic production, processing, certification, labeling, and marketing.

10. Scope and Methodology

Scope

The tentative course structure is as follow:

Module 1: Introduction [definition(s), scope and benefits, principles, status of organic agriculture in Asian countries in the global context, and trends]

Module 2: Soil fertility management

Module 3: Insect pest, disease, and weed management

Quiz 1 (for self-assessment based on questions from Modules 1, 2, and 3)

Module 4: Organic waste management and natural resource management

Module 5: Organic plant, animal, and aquaculture production

Module 6: Organic food processing

Quiz 2 (for self-assessment based on questions from Modules 4, 5, and 6)

Module 7: Organic standards and regulations

Module 8: Organic guarantee systems

Module 9: Organic marketing and trade

Quiz 3 (for self-assessment based on questions from Modules 7, 8, and 9)

Module 10: FAQs

Final Examination

Methodology

Self-learning e-modules, additional study materials for participants, intermittent quizzes for self-assessment, and a final examination to qualify for the APO e-certificate.

11. Qualifications of Candidates

The target participants include government officers, agricultural extension workers, producers, entrepreneurs, academics, professional staff of regulatory bodies/certification bodies, and consultants, involved in training, and/or promotion of organic agriculture and organic agribusiness; and other technical personnel with particular interest in the subject.

12. Eligibility for e-Certificate

A minimum score of 70% on the final examination is required to qualify for the APO e-certificate.

Note: Participants from nonmember countries are welcome to take the course for self-development, although APO e-certificates will not be provided.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mari Amano', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mari Amano
Secretary-General