



COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE  
EXECUTIVE YUAN, R.O.C.

## **Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions**

and

## **Council of Agriculture, Taiwan**

Collaborative Program

## **Progress Report**

(January 2017-December 2017)



## **Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology and Bioresources (APCoAB)**

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Bangkok 10100, Thailand

## Progress Report

(January 2017-December 2017)

APAARI-COA collaborative program on biotechnology has been in operation since 2008 in form of Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB). Initially approved for three years (2008-2010) with a funding support of USD 35,000 per annum, the program was extended twice (2011-2013, 2014-2016) and funding raised to USD 50,000 per annum. In view of the excellent performance of this APAARI-COA collaboration in terms of the number and range of activities conducted and benefits brought to APAARI members and other participants by way of knowledge enhancement, development of practical experience, networking and opportunities for partnership development, it was decided by both APAARI and COA to continue the APCoAB program for another term. Therefore, program was extended for 4 years i.e. from 2017 to 2020 with a total budget of USD 560,000 is to be shared equally (USD 280,000) by COA and APAARI and other partners. The commitment of COA to continue supporting this program was conveyed during the XVIII APCoAB Steering Committee Meeting, held on 31 October 2016 at Taichung City, Taiwan.

During the year 2017, following activities were carried out:

### 1. 2017 Workshop on e-Business Modelling for Women Entrepreneurs

APAARI, under its APCoAB programme of APCoAB in collaboration with The Council of Agriculture of Taiwan, in cooperation with Asian Productivity Organization (APO), co-organized the “2017 Workshop on e-Business Modeling for Women Entrepreneurs” on June 19, 2017 in Taipei, Taiwan. The participants came from 16 countries: Afghanistan, Cambodia, India, Iran, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, and Taiwan. 40 professionals, including 21 representatives from APO member countries, one APO program officer, 8 resource persons, and 9 representatives from APAARI member countries, attended the workshop to discuss the successful models and share their experiences in the fields of agricultural e-commerce. As the society and environment become more open and the economic knowledge rapidly develops, the e-commerce modeling provides a more efficient platform for commercial activities. The purpose of this workshop was to examine the development of agricultural e-commerce and the trends in e-business, and to share the successful e-business modeling, strategies and regulations with women entrepreneurs in Asia.



*Participants of Workshop on e-Business Modelling*

To help participating representatives have better understanding about the operation modeling in e-commerce, domestic and international experts were invited to deliver speeches and join the discussion at the workshop. Moreover, a field visit was arranged to the stores of Taiwan’s e-business and Food Taipei 2017 to inspire participants with more innovative e-commerce management. The workshop also established a network between women entrepreneurs from Asian countries to build a new chapter for agricultural e-commerce development in the region.

## 2. Appointment of Coordinator, APCoAB

The interview for post of Coordinator, APCoAB was held on May 31, 2017. Dr Rishi Tyagi was selected and he joined APAARI on August 11, 2017.

## 3. Regional Expert Consultation on Underutilized Crops for Food and Nutrition Security in Asia and the Pacific

As per approved work plan for the year 2017, a multi-stakeholder "Regional Expert Consultation on Underutilized Crops for Food and Nutrition Security in Asia and the Pacific" was organized by the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB) and the Council of Agriculture (COA), Taiwan, in collaboration World Vegetable Centre – AVRDC, Crops for Future (CFF), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), and Bioversity International, during November 13-15, 2017 at Bangkok, Thailand. The purpose of the Expert Consultation was (i) to create awareness on the role and value of underutilized crops which have potential for diversification of food basket to ensure better food and nutritional security in Asia-Pacific region; (ii) to share experiences to accelerate the use of underutilized plants as crops for future and (iii) to assess R&D status on priority crops, and policies that are needed to promote the use of these potential crops for future use in Asia and the Pacific.

Dr Hiroyuki Konuma, Professor and the Director of ASEAN Center, Meiji University, Japan and former ADG FAO and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific) inaugurated the Expert Consultation Meeting. He mentioned that agriculture research is the key to attain food security and meet the requirement of 60% more food production by 2050. He concluded that it became clearer that the world is facing greater uncertainties in coming decades in achieving food security and nutrition. Role of underutilized crops which were adopted socially and environmentally in local conditions, survived for centuries under changing climate conditions, and contributed to

poor rural communities should be fully promoted as a contributor to food security and nutrition. It would require a strong advocacy, policy support, research and development effort, and resource allocation.



*Dr Hiroyuki Konuma inaugurated the Expert Consultation on Underutilized Crops*

The technical sessions of Expert Consultation comprised: (i) Thematic Technical Presentations; (ii) Strategies on Underutilized Crops for Food and Nutritional Security. (iii) Country Status Reports on Underutilized Crops; (iv). Working Group Discussion and Recommendations; (v) Panel Discussion on Policy Support for Underutilized Crops to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

*Participants of the Regional Expert Consultation on Underutilized Crop*



A total of 55 participants from 18 countries [Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji (2), Germany, India (13), Iran, Japan, Lao, Malaysia, Nepal (2), Pakistan (2), Philippines, PNG Samoa, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (3), Thailand (22), Vietnam] deliberated on the above issues. The participants comprised Senior Officials, researchers from National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), Consultative Group (CG) Centers, experts on underutilized crops, representatives-of research institutions, donors, private sector, NGOs and farmers. The meeting



*Mr Vincent Lin, COA, delivering speech during Regional Expert Consultation on Underutilized Crops*

was structured to include inaugural, technical, special and plenary sessions. The technical sessions comprised: (i) Thematic Technical Presentations (9 speakers); (ii) Strategies on Underutilized Crops (9 speakers); (iii) Country Status Reports; for Food and Underutilized Crops (16 countries); (iv) Working Group Discussion and Recommendations (4 groups); (v) Panel Discussion on Policy Support for Underutilized Crops to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (8 Panellists).

The deliberations held during the 3-day Expert Consultation brought forth many important issues that need immediate attention, and participants gave several suggestions and recommendations which are as follows:

- (i) It was unanimously agreed that working with underutilized plants/crops would address SDG goals on poverty alleviation (SDG#1), ending hunger (SDG#2), good health and well-being (SDG#3), besides attaining sustainable production and consumption (SDG#12), climate change and sustainable use of ecosystems (SDG#13) and partnership (SDG#17).
- (ii) There was also unanimous agreement for 'functional definition' of underutilized plants/crops at global and national levels.
- (iii) A holistic rather than reductionist approach to mainstream underutilized plants/crops with major crop, cropping patterns, seed production etc. should be adopted.
- (iv) Consensus emerged that policy makers should be approached to give due attention, generate political will and mobilize funding and subsidies, to promote greater use of these plants. Of course, this would require a comprehensive knowledge sharing system on crops, experts, centres of excellence for capacity building, networking and multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- (v) Another requirement would be facilitation of germplasm exchange, along with collecting, characterization and evaluation with assured funding at global, regional, national levels.
- (vi) A global funding system should be developed for scholarships, exchange, projects and awareness generation programs about the importance and potential of underutilized crops.

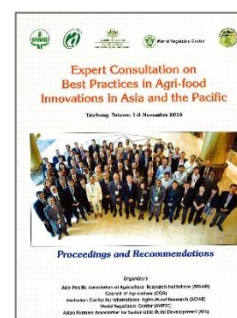
The participants lauded the role of APAARI-APCoAB, not only in taking the initiative to hold the expert consultation, but also posed their confidence in APAARI-APCoAB to play a pro-active role in networking and liaising programs related to promotion of use of underutilized plants/crops in Asia Pacific region.

#### 4. APAARI Biotechnology Communication Strategy and its Potential for Adoption

An elaborated but simple questionnaire was developed and distributed to the participants of workshop on "Development of Communication Strategies for Adoption of Agri-Biotechnology in the Asia-Pacific Region", organized by APAARI-APCoAB on September 28-29, 2015. Some participants have sent their feedback about the adoption of the APAARI biotechnology communication strategy developed during 2015. After receiving the response from all, data will be subjected to analysis to study the impact.

#### 5. Publication of Expert Consultation Proceedings

(i) **Proceedings and Recommendations of Expert Consultation on Best Practices in Agri-food Innovations in Asia and the Pacific (2017)**. The publication reports the Proceedings of Expert Consultation on Best Practices in Agri-food Innovations in Asia and the Pacific, held on November 1-3, 2016 at Taichung, Taiwan. It included the proceedings of



6 Technical Sessions, 2 working groups, 1 plenary Session and Extended Summaries of 14 presentations.

This publication can be found in APAARI's website: <http://www.apaari.org/web/latest-publications/> and all the presentations of Expert Consultation on UUC were shared by the respective participants and can be accessed here: <https://www.slideshare.net/apaari/presentations;>  
<https://www.slideshare.net/apaari/presentations/2>

## **6. Success Story/ Status Paper**

- (i) Dr Rafiqul Islam Mondal, Former Director General, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), who was involved in development of Bt brinjal, was contacted and agreed to write success story on Bt Brinjal in Bangladesh.
- (ii) Dr NK Singh, Director, National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi, India, was contacted and agreed to write a status paper on Rice biotechnology in Asia-Pacific region.

## **7. APCoAB Website**

- (i) APCoAB website is merged with main APAARI website; a provision of separate window for APCoAB is being created as per the suggestion of EC.
- (ii) Regular updates of News and Events on agricultural biotechnology development are being done.
- (iii) Institutional Database is being updated.

## **8. Organization of CryoSymp 2018**

APAARI-APCoAB are co-organizing the Third International Symposium on Plant Cryopreservation CryoSymp 2018 in collaboration with International Society of Horticultural Science and Mahidol University, Bangkok, on March 26-28, 2018 at Bangkok, Thailand. Dr Rishi Tyagi, Coordinator, APCoAB is the member of International Advisory and Scientific Committee of CryoSymp 2018.

## **9. Participation in Meetings Organized by Other Organizations**

- (i) Dr Rishi Tyagi, Coordinator, APCoAB, participated and acted as Facilitator of Session IV: Policy Dialogue Scaling Conservation Agriculture in Regional Policy Dialogue on Scaling Conservation Agriculture for Sustainable Intensification (CASI) in South Asia, organized by ACIAR and TAAS, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, September 8-9, 2017.
- (ii) Dr Rishi Tyagi, Coordinator, APCoAB, participated in FAO Regional Meeting on Agricultural Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition in Asia-Pacific, organized by FAO-RAP, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, September 11-13, 2017.

(iii) Dr Rishi Tyagi, Coordinator, APCoAB, participated in Sustainable Agro Food Business Forum (SABF), organized by ESCAP, AFMA, EBAC, held in Bangkok, September 26-27, 2017.



## 10. Expansion of activities under APCoAB program

A presentation by Coordinator, APCoAB was made about expanding the activities, additional requirements of funds and proposal of Steering Committee for APCoAB under the APAARI-COA collaborative program during the Executive Committee (EC) Meeting (2/2017), held on November 12, 2017 at Bangkok. It was proposed that (i) Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology should now onward be known as Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology and Bioresources with earlier acronym as APCoAB, (ii) activities on bioresources should be included in APAARI-COA workplan for 2018-2020. The COA, the main sponsor of APCoAB, also supported the new dimension of the activities to include bioresources in workplan of 2018-2020. A revised work plan for the year 2018 was also presented with additional activities including bioresources, subjected to availability of additional funding for the 2018.

The objectives of APCoAB have been revised as follows:

- To serve as a neutral forum for the key partners engaged in research, development, commercialization and education/learning of agricultural biotechnology as well as environmental safety in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Application of biotechnological tools for bioprospecting, conservation and sustainable use of bioresources.
- Facilitate and promote the process of greater public awareness and understanding relating to important issues of IPRs, *sui generis* systems, biosafety, risk assessment, harmonization of regulatory procedures, and access and benefit sharing in order to address various concerns relating to adoption of agricultural biotechnology and sustainable use of bioresources.
- Facilitate human resource development for meaningful application of agricultural biotechnology and sustainable use of bioresources to enhance sustainable agricultural productivity, as well as product quality, for the welfare of both farmers and consumers.

The logo of the APCoAB is also revised accordingly, mentioned as below:



**11. Constitution of Steering Committee for the year 2018-2019**

During the Executive Committee Meeting of APAARI, Steering Committee of APCoAB was re-constituted, which is as follows:

Chairman, APAARI	Chairman
Director General, International Affairs, COA, Taiwan	Vice Chairman
Representative of ACIAR	Member
Representative of NARS	Member
Representative of CG Centre (Bioversity International)	Member
Expert in Agriculture Biotechnology from Advanced University	Member
Representative from CropLife Asia	Member
Executive Secretary, APAARI	Member
Coordinator, APCoAB	Member Secretary



## 12. Revised Work Plan of APCoAB for 2018

Area	Activities
Expert Consultation/ High Level Policy Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Expert Consultation on Agricultural Biotechnology - Scoping Partnership to Improve Livelihoods of Farmers in Asia-Pacific (May 2018)</li> </ul>
Symposium/training/workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Third International Symposium on Plant Cryopreservation (CryoSymp 2018; in collaboration with Mahidol University, Bangkok (March 2018) *</li> <li>Adoption of APAARI biotechnology communication strategies by member organizations – a review (through email) (September 2018)</li> <li>South Asia Biosafety Conference (September 2018) *</li> <li>Underutilized animal resources of Asia-pacific and their amelioration (September- October 2018)</li> <li>In vitro conservation and cryopreservation of plant genetic resources (November-December 2018) *</li> </ul>
Steering Committee of APCoAB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steering Committee Meeting of APCoAB (May 2018)</li> </ul>
Publication of proceedings/status report/success story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proceedings and Recommendation of Regional Expert Consultation on Underutilized Crops for Food and Nutrition Security in Asia and the Pacific (April 2018)</li> <li>Country Status Reports on Underutilized Crops of Asia-Pacific (May 2018) *</li> <li>Proceedings of Regional Expert Consultation on Biotechnology - Scoping Partnership to Improve Livelihoods of Farmers in Asia-Pacific (August 2018)</li> <li>Country Status Reports on Agricultural Biotechnology in Asia-Pacific (September 2018) *</li> <li>Three Status report/success stories are targeted - (Bt brinjal in B'desh, GM Maize in Philippines, Rice Biotechnology in Asia-Pacific) (December 2018) *</li> <li>Revised APCoAB brochure (June 2018) *</li> </ul>
APCoAB website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-design and improvement of the website *</li> <li>Regular updates on agricultural biotechnology and bioresources developments, news and events of specific relevance to Asia-Pacific</li> <li>Update of existing databases. Regular updates of other content and additional databases</li> </ul>
One activity as suggested by COA	To be decided in consultation with COA (July-November 2018)

\*In view of expanded scope of APCoAB, two symposium/Conference, one training, 4 publications, 3 Success Stories/Status Paper are planned for 2018, in addition to already approved activities (under APAARI-COA), subjected to availability of resources

## SUMMARY ACCOUNT STATEMENT OF APAARI

01 January 2017 - 31 December 2017

(Amount in US Dollars)


ITEMS	RECEIVED		DISBURSEMENTS		BALANCE
	Budget	Actual Used	Budget	Actual Used	
Amount B/F					1,140,129.05
Carryover expenditure					
1. NARS Membership Fee & ACIAR Support		144,000.00			
2. Associate Membership Fee		110,000.00			
3. Affiliate Membership Fee		12,000.00			
4. Funds from (GFAR,FAO, Symposium Co-sponsor & etc.)		40,894.37			
4.1 Receipts and Refunds		(6,781.91)			
4.2 Profit and Loss on Bank Transfers		74,426.46			
5. Interest Income/Other Income			121,962.00		
6. APAARI Secretariat Support:				221,120.89	
6.1 Salary				10,344.24	
7. Operation cost			124,000.00		
7.1 Publications				5,223.03	
7.2 Office Stationery, Postage & Communication				39,218.92	
7.3 Miscellaneous				82,949.18	
9. Training/Selected Research Projects/Network Support				5,000.00	
10. Meetings				21,503.06	
10.1 Expenses for Strategic Planning Meeting				115,094.66	
10.2 Expenses for Executive Committee Meeting & Expert Consultation				18,804.04	
10.3 Expenses spent by APAARI on behalf of LoA					
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>374,538.92</b>	<b>245,962.00</b>	<b>519,258.02</b>	<b>995,409.95</b>

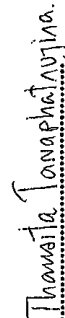
Exchange Rate: 1 US\$ = 35.92 Baht

Amount in Fixed Account ( U.S.Dollar )  
 Amount in Saving Account ( U.S.Dollars )  
 Amount in Current Account (Baht: 34,446.34)  
 Amount in Saving Account (Baht:514.04)  
 Cash in hand (Usd 784.29+Baht 9,477.44)

US\$ 991,741.57  
 US\$ 1,646.96  
 US\$ 958.97  
 US\$ 14.31  
 US\$ 1,048.14

**TOT:\$995,409.95**

  
 .....  
**Dr.Ravinder Kumar Khetarpal**  
 Executive Secretary APAARI

  
 .....  
**Ms.Thanista Tanaphatruijira**  
 Accountant APAARI

  
 .....  
**MR. Rattanachai Dumnernsawat**  
 External Auditor

Table 1. Summary of Account Statement of APCoAB (January 1, 2017-December 31, 2017)

	USD
<b>Receipts</b>	
<b>COA, Taiwan</b>	<b>70,000</b>
<b>APAARI contribution</b>	
Balance brought forward APAARI (APCoAB)	2394.27
ACIAR	15,000.00
APAARI	55,885.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>143,279.56</b>
<b>Payments</b>	
<b>Salary costs</b>	30,993.21
<b>Other direct costs</b>	
Meetings/Trainings/Workshop	56,535.88
Consultancy	14,750.00
Telephone and other communication	373.57
Travel	2175.75
Computer hardware and software - Laptop	1048.00
Interview APCoAB Coordinator	2804.19
Facilities from Secretariat	8820.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,500.87</b>

**Table 2. Summary of Expected Income and Expected Expenditure for the APCoAB activities during January 1, 2018-December 31, 2018**

	USD
<b>Receipts</b>	
COA, Taiwan	70,000
APAARI contribution	
<b>Balance brought Forward (APAARI/APCoAB)</b>	25778.69
ACIAR	15,000.00
APAARI	70,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>180,778.69</b>
<b>Payments</b>	
<b>Coordinator Salary costs</b>	76,400.00
<b>Other direct costs</b>	
Meetings/Trainings/Workshop	60,000.00
Publications	20,000.00
Consultancy and APCoAB technical staff salary	25,000.00
Telephone and other communication	500.00
Travel	10,000.00
Computer hardware and software - Laptop	1,000.00
Facilities from Secretariat	10,000.00
Miscellaneous	2,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>204,900.00</b>
Difference between Expected Income and Expected Expenditure (Additional budget required)	<b>-24,121.31</b>