



Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions

Annex.4

Action Taken Report **of** **Recommendations** **of** **EC 1 /2017**

Agenda Item 5: APAARI Progress Report: November 2016- June 2017

Recommendation	Action Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The resource mobilization plan for 2017-2018 is an important area APAARI needs to focus on. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed and being taken up with IFAD, FAO, ACIAR, and others.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APAARI’s reserve funds could be used strategically and in line with international standards of keeping a four -month (120 days) reserve to fund critical areas of work that will improve APAARI’s efficiency and effectiveness and fund raising ability.’ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed and will be followed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APAARI needs to consider integrating the innovation framework into its operations. The framework was presented at the Expert Consultation in Taiwan and has been tested by ACIAR. It is based on three innovation approaches: (i) incremental, (ii) breakthrough, and (iii) transformational. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is being considered in on-going activities where innovation is involved, and also for all success stories that will be published eventually.

Agenda Item 5: APAARI Progress Report: November 2016- June 2017



Recommendation	Action Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• APAARI needs to actively promote women’s participation and engagement as they are key contributors to farming and other agricultural activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• APAARI will take every opportunity to promote women’s participation and engagement in APAARI-supported activities e.g. it will identify gender champions in its work on the development of functional capacities in higher education institutions and all development areas of focus in 2018.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EC members should be considered to represent APAARI in key meetings of partners in case APAARI is unable to participate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agreed, and will be done as and when the opportunity arises.

Agenda Item 6: Membership and Fee Payment Status

(as on 31 October 2017)

Recommendation	Action Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAR from the Philippines, and AREEO from Iran, have not paid their membership fee for the last 3 or more years. • EC to review and develop guidelines to take decision whether to cancel membership of those organizations that have not paid their membership fee contribution to APAARI for more than 3 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AREEO has assured to send membership fee through the delegate participating in Regional Expert Consultation. BAR has arrears, but did not get invoice from APAARI. The invoice sent and authorities are chased. • EC to review such cases.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Jintawee Thaingam, Director of International Agriculture Affairs Group, Department of Agriculture (DOA), Thailand, conveyed the advice of DOA to use the correct title for the King of Thailand as “His Majesty” and not “His Excellency”. This needs to be changed in the GAM report and followed in all future APAARI communications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed and will be followed for all forthcoming events.

Agenda Item 8: Work Plan for the Biennium 2017-2018



Recommendation

Action Taken

• Collaborative research activity between all sub-regions – South Asia, South-east Asia and the Pacific needs to be included in the plan.

- A research project on ASTI is being launched for ten countries in Southeast Asia
- This is to be reviewed further on availability of resources and fund mobilization.

• Working with partners who are monitoring the implementation of the Paris commitment on mitigating the effects of climate change needs to be considered in APAARI's knowledge dissemination activities.

- Being incorporated in the KM program and APAARI KM and Communication Strategy

• APAARI needs to consider dissemination of new and attractive knowledge products such as op-eds.

- Being incorporated in the KM program and APAARI KM and Communication Strategy.
- The APAARI Blog will serve as the main platform for the dissemination of op-eds.

• The women and youth program needs to be addressed more proactively and can potentially attract more funding from donors. Gender champions have been identified in different countries, APAARI can take the lead in identifying such champions in the Asia and Pacific region and facilitate capacity development.

- APAARI will take every opportunity to identify gender champions in APR and involve them in various capacity development activities e.g. it will identify gender champions in its work on the development of functional capacities in higher education institutions.

Agenda Item 8: Work Plan for the Biennium 2017-2018

Recommendation	Action Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different stakeholders possess different knowledge sets and require different communication channels to share this knowledge. The knowledge sharing strategies of different stakeholders need to be reflected in the stakeholder mapping and the KM and Communication Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The knowledge needs have been included in the stakeholder mapping based on the responses received. Respective strategies will be included in the KM and its Communication Strategy once the new KMC joins.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APAARI needs to learn from existing KM platforms, such as the Science-dev.net, SciDev.net on how to make its stories of agricultural research more attractive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed read (three bullets) or a short paragraph summarizing each network news item placed on the APAARI website will be included followed by the link to the respective article.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal science, particularly livestock, has been advancing as its contribution to the GDP increases. APAARI needs to integrate animal science into its programme in addition to focusing on crops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the list of work plan activities and their budgeting, it is important to show the respective APAARI partners, the source of budget, and the likely beneficiaries of outputs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed and being done for EC Meeting of November 2017

Agenda Item 8: Work Plan for the Biennium 2017-2018

Recommendation

Action Taken

- Agriculture faces a serious issue in developing KM models. APAARI needs to assess different KM models and determine whether and how they can fit in members' organizations. Development of such KM model and digitization of agriculture could also be pursued in partnership with members and partners to better manage agricultural knowledge.

- Will be looked at by the new KMC

- Establishing a community of KM and communication focal points from different member and partner organizations is a very good initiative by APAARI. An action plan or a road map should be provided in the KM and Communication Strategy on how these focal points can help enhance KM within AFRIS.

- Will be done with the new KMC

For APCoAB – specific activities included:



Recommendation

- The next expert consultation planned by APCoAB needs to be linked to the regional consultation on biotechnology to be organized by FAO and supported by ACIAR.

- Many communication strategies on promoting agri-biotechnology exist but whether they are effective is questionable. APAARI needs to take into consideration communication capacities of targeted stakeholders and learn about local contexts in which biotechnology is promoted.

Action Taken

- Coordinator, APCoAB joined the ~~the~~ Bangkok office on 1 August ~~1,~~ 2017 and participated in Regional Meeting on Agricultural Biotechnologies held at KL on 11-13 September 2017.
- Expert Consultation on Underutilized Crops is being organized on 13-15 November 2017 under APAARI-COA program.
- A review of the adoption of the biotechnology communication strategies developed by APAARI is planned during 2018. Questionnaires will be the means of getting responses.

For APCoAB – specific activities included:



Recommendation

Action Taken

- KM platforms are important but not all are effective. APAARI needs to pick up emerging issues in biotechnology and document lessons learned and success stories. For example, this includes documenting the adoption of genetically-modified (GM) and non-GM crops, and the reasons why Bt. Brinjal is adopted in Bangladesh but not in India.

- Status of Bt brinjal in Bangladesh and rice biotechnology in Asia-Pacific are included in 2018 work plan.

- Agri-biotechnology program needs to put more focus on bio-prospecting of bio resources.

- Expert Consultation on UUC is being organized in 2017
- A workshop on Amelioration of UUC of AP and a symposium on Biotechnology of Bioresources for bioeconomy to achieve SDGs are scheduled in 2018
- Workshop on amelioration of underutilized fish and marine resources is scheduled in 2019
- Symposium on emerging trends in sustainable bioprospecting of bioresources is planned in 2020.

Agenda Item 9: Project Ideas for APAARI Governance and Development



Recommendation	Action Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APAARI is now becoming action-oriented. • Through its M&E system, it needs to track impact by looking at intermediary outcomes of member and partner activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed. • ACIAR recently provided a list of M&E consultants from Australia for considerations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The operational plan is subject to change. • The new management will need to look at what is feasible with what partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational plan revised for presentation in EC meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APAARI governance is the General Assembly that needs to consider external panel reviews. • Mid-term reviews of APAARI have been indicated in the Strategic Plan 2017-2022, but they should be undertaken only after reaching some point in the achievement of the goals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed, and will be done in 2019, if agreed by EC members.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human resources management improvement is needed for the member organizations, the APAARI Secretariat and all others involved in collective actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management standards and policies are being developed for the APAARI Secretariat. • More Needs more discussions are needed with as regards to the member organizations

Agenda Item 9: Project Ideas for APAARI Governance and Development

Recommendation	Action Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recognizing the activities for improving APAARI governance and development in terms of needed funds and efforts, HR development can be straightforward while PM&E can be extremely complicated. It is recommended to recruit an M&E officer to focus on PM&E since indicators in the Strategic Plan 2017-2022 require more work to make them practical and realistic. ACIAR could assist APAARI to find an appropriate M&E consultant to help in this work as ACIAR is currently undertaking similar work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ACIAR has been approached and the matter is being discussed.

Agenda Item 10: Income and Expenditure Plan for the Biennium 2017-2018

Recommendation	Action Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution of members, partners and donors is incorporated in the Income and Expenditure Statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed. • Financial management reforms initiated.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The regional Expert Consultation Underutilized Crops is to be organized back-to-back with APCoAB Steering Committee and APARIS Steering Committee Meetings which will take place in Bangkok in November 2017. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being done for APCoAB. • APARIS has been transformed into 'APAARI KM program' (hence the reference to 'APARIS' is no longer used). KM activities are being reviewed on regular basis by EC.

Agenda Item 11: Launch of APAARI New Website

Recommendation	Action Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The link on “How to become an APAARI member” needs to be integrated to each page and sub-page for easy reference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TAP is a platform supported by the CDAIS project, financed by the European Union and implemented by Agrinatura and FAO. This needs to be reflected in the text and inclusion of the organizations’ logos. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main programme need to be placed on the home page. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APAARI needs to make use of its Blog. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The KM/Communication Community to review the website and provide critical feedback to ensure linkages with member and partner organizations of APAARI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Links have been made to member/partner resources as indicated by the CoP. Two CoP members provided critical feedback.



Agenda Item 12: Membership and Representation of NGOs, FO's and Private Sector on APAARI

Recommendation	Action Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APAARI should focus on mobilizing membership from umbrella organizations that work with NGOs, FOs and the private sector, and not the individuals, to secure seats on APAARI EC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This has been reflected in the stakeholder mapping where such organizations have been mapped/indicated as 'potential members'. • Their engagement will initiate more intensively in 2018.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs and other organizations to be considered for representation on EC should first become members of APAARI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership fee for these groups of stakeholders needs to be lower than that of affiliate members to attract them to join APAARI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be proposed in the new membership strategy during the first EC meeting of 2018.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The profile of targeted institutions needs to be studied for their suitability for APAARI membership and representation on EC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done in stakeholder mapping wherein potential members of APAARI have been assessed and indicated in the mapping table.

Agenda Item 12: Membership and Representation of NGOs, FO's and Private Sector on APAARI

Recommendation	Action Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding the APAARI partnership by targeting more organizations and institutions should be a priority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed, and will be taken up now as the Stakeholder mapping task is completed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The constitutional change which may be required for the above purposes should be undertaken in a progressive manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The constitutional changes will be made in phasic manner and will be presented in next i.e. the first EC meeting of 2018.

Agenda Item 13: Tenure of Executive Secretary

Recommendation	Action Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The EC further considered the practical reality of the need to have three-year tenure and decided to issue a revised appointment letter with three-year term to the new Executive Secretary, subject to the above referred change in the APAARI Constitution by the General Assembly by the end of 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The members have agreed by e-mail for the three-year term for the Executive Secretary. Of the 29 responses received, 28 were positive and one did have queries and was suitably responded by the Chairman, APAARI. This will be put up to GAM in 2018 for a suitable amendment to the Constitution.

Agenda Item 15: Expanding the APAARI Networks to Pacific Island Countries

Recommendation	Action Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following suggestions were made to extend the APAARI network to the Pacific: i) special emphasis to be given to Pacific research priorities; ii) effective and meaningful engagement through collaborative research to be facilitated; iii) invitation for membership and increased participation to be made; and iv) technical personnel from the Pacific to join the APAARI secretariat and R4D programme. The EC appreciated the suggestions and advised that APAARI should make necessary efforts to expand its activities in the Pacific region. 	<p>Efforts initiated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scope for activities in the Pacific and discussions initiated with FAO sub-regional office at Samoa. To get LDCs from the Pacific on Board with the office of Enhanced Integration Framework at Geneva. A Technical person has been appointed from Papua New Guinea as ASTI Coordinator in APAARI.



Thank you