



### URBAN FRINGE AGRICULTURE

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Urban fringe agriculture has become an important policy concern in light of the rapid growth of cities in many parts of Asia. The task of ensuring a stable supply of food for urban communities is expected to grow more challenging in the coming years.

Urban fringe agriculture involves the use of intensive methods to produce mainly vegetables, horticultural, and livestock products. Their proximity to markets means that farmers are able to provide their products fresh and to reduce post-harvest losses drastically through minimization of handling and transportation. Urban fringe agriculture also offers employment opportunities, particularly in the livestock sector.

However, urban fringe agriculture does pose certain risks to public health and the environment. For example, the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides can contaminate the soil and water and pollute the air. The improper disposal of animal waste can lead to public health problems. The sustainability of urban fringe agriculture therefore needs to be intensively studied for the formulation of appropriate policies.

The APO organized a seminar on “Urban Fringe Agriculture” in Japan in May 2000 to review the current situation of urban fringe agriculture in Asia and the Pacific, identify issues and constraints affecting its development, and suggest measures to enhance its contributions to the economy. This publication includes a summary of the findings of the seminar and the resource papers and country reports presented.



### MANAGERIAL AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN SUPPORTING INDUSTRY

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Recent economic developments have created both opportunities and challenges for local industries in developing countries to grow and develop. Most are small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the supporting industry. The growing presence of foreign

direct investments in developing countries is not matched by the development of local industries capable of providing them with the materials, parts, components, and services that they need. These multinationals thus turn to importing what they need or request their overseas suppliers to invest directly in the countries in which they operate.

To take advantage of the foreign capital inflows and business opportunities, the SMEs in the supporting industry in developing countries should endeavor to develop their entrepreneurial and managerial capabilities. To help in this process, the APO organized a workshop on “Managerial and Entrepreneurship Development for Supporting Industry” in the Philippines in November 2000.

This publication provides a summary of the proceedings of the workshop, the highlights of the presentations made by the resource persons, and the country reports prepared by the participants. It is a useful reference text for those engaged in developing the supporting industry.

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