



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

9 May 2017

1. **Project Code** 13-AG-34-SPP-OSM-C-MYN
2. **Title** Observational Study Mission from Myanmar on Innovative Rice Industry in Japan
3. **Reference** APO Project Notification 13-AG-34-SPP-OSM/FNMP-97 /FNMA-97 (Observational Study Mission from Myanmar on Agricultural Innovations in Japan to Increase Productivity) dated 23 April 2014
4. **Timing and Duration** 12–16 June 2017 (five days)
5. **Venue** Tokyo, Japan
6. **Implementing Organization** Asian Productivity Organization
7. **Number of Participants** Up to 10 qualified participants from Myanmar
8. **Closing Date for Nominations** 15 May 2017
9. **Objectives**
 - a. To expose participants to innovations and technologies in the Japanese rice industry to increase its productivity and sustainability;
 - b. To study cost-effective state-of-the-art rice postharvest operations, value-adding strategies and processes, and technologies that reduce postharvest losses, improve rice quality, and produce diverse rice products;
 - c. To formulate action plans based on the learning from the experience of Japan to enhance productivity, profitability, and sustainability with the aim of developing a smart rice industry in Myanmar; and
 - d. To identify possible areas of future cooperation between relevant institutions in Japan and Myanmar to facilitate exchanges of knowledge and technologies for sustainable productivity growth.

10. Background

Agriculture and the food industry play an important role in the economies of most developing Asian countries. The sector provides food, feed, fiber, and biofuel. It creates employment and is the main source of income for the rural population. Thus development of the agriculture and food sector is indispensable for fostering rural development and promoting sustainable, inclusive socioeconomic development. To improve the performance of the sector and increase the incomes of the rural population, there is a need to promote more advanced technologies and innovations for productivity enhancement in agriculture and the food industry for Asian countries like Myanmar.

The economy of Myanmar relies heavily on agriculture and the food industry. These sectors provide employment to a major part of the labor force and are linked to various economic activities that provide livelihoods to rural areas. However, growth in production and exports of the sectors has remained low compared with that in other Southeast Asian countries. Since Myanmar's food exports are focused mainly on rice, improving productivity and value addition in the rice industry are critical to reducing poverty and raising its competitiveness.

The rice industry in Myanmar has, however, limited access to modern technology and information on value addition as well as the food value chains in rice. There is an urgent need to expose the key stakeholders in Myanmar to globally recognized advanced technologies and practices of rice farming, postharvest management, and processing. The Japanese rice industry is the world leader in agricultural innovation, resource conservation, sustainable production, high productivity, environmental protection, and workers' safety.

In view of the above, in 2014 the APO conducted the first observational study mission from Myanmar on agricultural innovation in Japan to increase productivity. The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) supported the mission with a special cash grant (13-AG-34-SPP-OSM/FNMP-97/FNMA-97). The APO in collaboration with MOFA is organizing a second study mission to cater to the increasing capacity-building needs of the rice industry in Myanmar as well as to review technological progress in following the recommendations of the first mission. It is expected that after attending this mission, participants will be able to contribute to strengthening the rice industry through the development of appropriate policies, strategies, and specific programs to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and insights gained.

11. Scope and Methodology

The tentative topics to be covered are:

- a. Innovative rice farming technology and practices
 - Development of new varieties with high productivity and resilience to climate change
 - Agronomic technology for rice farming from seedlings to harvest
- b. Digital technology, infrastructure and facilities for supporting smart rice farming
 - Precision farming
 - Irrigation systems
 - Application of fertilizers and plant protection materials
 - Modern farm machinery
 - Application of IT for efficient and effective agricultural extension services

- c. Cost-effective technologies for postharvest handling and processing of rice
 - Quality inspection
 - Drying, husking/milling, and storage
 - Processing
- d. Rice marketing in Japan: skills, strategies, tools, and techniques

The study mission will consist of site visits and presentations by experts.

The tentative program of the study mission is given below:

Date/Time	Activity
Sun., 11 June 2017	Arrival of participants in Tokyo
Mon., 12 June 2017	Opening session/presentations by resource speakers
Tues., 13 June 2017	Field visit
Wed., 14 June 2017	Field visit
Thurs., 15 June 2017	Field visit
Fri., 16 June 2017	Summing-up and concluding session
Sat., 17 June 2017	Return of participants/free time

12. Qualifications of Candidates

The participants are expected to possess the following qualifications:

Present Position	Senior government officers, business leaders, and senior academics in charge of strengthening agribusiness and food industry development in Myanmar.
Experience	At least three years of experience in the position described above.
Education	University degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized university/institution.
Language	All proceedings of the project are conducted in English or in Japanese with English interpretation, and participants are expected to participate in interactive discussions. They must therefore be proficient in spoken and written English. Those who are not proficient in English will not be accepted.
Health	Physically and mentally fit to attend an intensive project requiring participants to participate in group discussions and strenuous travel for site visits. It is therefore recommended that candidates likely to suffer from physical and mental stress not be nominated.
Age	Candidates who fit the above profile are typically between 40 and 60 years of age.
APO Certificate	Participants are required to attend the entire program to receive the

APO certificate of attendance.

13. Financial Arrangements

To be borne by the APO from the budget funded by MOFA

- a. All assignment costs of resource persons.
- b. Round-trip economy-class international airfare by the most direct route between the international airport nearest to the participants' place of work and Narita or Haneda Airport. As far as practicable, all participants are encouraged to purchase discount tickets. Please note that the arrangements for the purchase of air tickets should follow the "Guide on Purchases of Air Tickets for APO Participants," which will be sent to the selected participants and is available on the APO website at <http://www.apo-tokyo.org>. The APO will not be responsible for paying any additional per diem allowances and hotel accommodation costs due to early arrival, delayed departure, rerouting of tickets, or any other reason.
- c. Hotel accommodations and per diem allowances for participants for up to six days at the rate to be specified later.
- d. All local implementation costs.

To be borne by participants or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

- a. Participants should be fully insured in Japan, regardless of any insurance coverage obtained in their own country, against accident and illness (including hospitalization) for:

accidental death and dismemberment for up to JPY4,000,000
medical expenses for accident for up to JPY4,000,000
medical expenses for illness for up to JPY4,000,000

for the entire duration of the project and travel. The APO will secure this insurance on behalf of the participants in the host country from the day before project commencement until the day after project completion. Each participant must pay the premium himself/herself out of the per diem allowances provided. The APO will not be responsible for any eventuality arising from accident or illness.

- b. All expenses related to visa fees and airport taxes.
- c. Any expenses incurred by participants for stopovers on the way to and from the project venue as well as for extra stay at the project venue before and/or after the official project period on account of early arrival or late departure, for example, due to either limited available flights or any other reason.

14. Actions by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

- a. A relevant authority in Myanmar is requested to nominate candidates in the order of preference. Please ensure that candidates nominated meet the qualifications specified under section 11 above.

- b. No form of self-nomination will be accepted. All nominations must be endorsed and submitted by the relevant authority in Myanmar or its designated officer.
- c. Please note that nomination of a candidate does not necessarily guarantee that he/she will be selected. Selection is at the discretion of the APO Secretariat. A basic criterion for selection is the homogeneity of the participants in terms of qualifications and work experience. Nonselection therefore does not mean that the candidates concerned are not competent enough. Sometimes candidates are not selected because they are overqualified for a project.
- d. Each nomination should be accompanied by the necessary documents. A nomination lacking any of these documents may not be considered: two copies of the candidate's biodata on the APO biodata form together with a passport-sized photograph. The biodata form can be downloaded from the APO website (www.apo-tokyo.org). We encourage submitting the biodata form to the APO Secretariat in electronic form as an attachment to a cover e-mail message from the relevant authority in Myanmar. The nomination documents should be sent to the Agriculture Department, APO Secretariat (e-mail: agr@apo-tokyo.org, fax: 81-3-5840-5324).
- e. The APO Medical and Insurance Declaration/Certification Form. Every candidate must complete and submit a copy of the APO Medical and Insurance Declaration/Certification Form with his/her biodata at the time of nomination. Please note that self-declaration is sufficient for candidates without any of health conditions or illnesses listed on the reverse side of the medical form. However, for all others, medical certification by a licensed physician on the reverse side of the medical form is required.
- f. Necessary documents are to be submitted electronically. In that case, there is no need to send a hard copy by postal mail. However, if the documents are submitted by fax, the relevant authority in Myanmar is requested to mail the originals of the documents to the APO Secretariat as well. If a digital photograph of a nominee is not attached to the electronic biodata form, a hard-copy photograph should be sent to the APO Secretariat by postal mail. Please give the candidate's name and the project code on the reverse side of the photograph.
- g. Please adhere to the nomination deadline given on page 1. The APO Secretariat may not consider late nominations as they have in the past resulted in considerable difficulties to the implementing organization in its preparatory work for the project.
- h. Where nominations are required to be approved by higher government authorities and require a longer time, the relevant authority in Myanmar is urged to send the names of nominees on or before the deadline, indicating that government approval will follow.
- i. If a selected participant becomes unable to attend, he/she should inform the APO Secretariat immediately and give the reason for withdrawal.
- j. Selected participants should be informed that they are not to bring family members or to engage in any private business activities during the entire duration of the project.
- k. Each selected participant should be instructed to arrive at the venue one day before the

start of the official project. Also, he/she is expected to return home upon completion of the official project because he/she is visiting the host country for the specific purpose of attending this APO study mission.

1. Participants should be informed by the relevant authority in Myanmar that they must attend all five days of the project to qualify for the certificate of attendance.

15. Actions by the APO Secretariat

Under normal circumstances, candidates who are selected will be informed of their acceptance at least four weeks prior to the start of the project.

16. Postproject Actions

All participants are required to prepare action plans and share the plans with their organizations. The APO will also request participants to submit progress reports six months after completion of the project.

17. Evaluation of Participants

If the conduct/attendance/performance of a participant is not satisfactory, these will be reported to the relevant authority in Myanmar.

18. Guide for Participants

Other conditions for participation are given in the *APO Guide for Participants*, which is available on the APO website (www.apo-tokyo.org) and will also be sent to the selected participants.



Santhi Kanoktanaporn
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