



Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)



Progress Report January – June 2016

C/o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
FAO Annex Building, 202/1, Larn Luang Road
Pomprab Sattrupai
Bangkok 10110, Thailand

PROGRESS REPORT ON APAARI ACTIVITIES

(January – June 2016)

The Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) is an apolitical, neutral, non-profit forum of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in the Asia-Pacific region and was established in 1990 at the initiative of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It has its headquarters at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok. The main mission of APAARI is to promote the development of NARS in the Asia-Pacific region through facilitation of intra-regional, inter-institutional, and international cooperation and partnership. APAARI has been active in fostering the overall agricultural development by addressing the concerns of hunger, poverty, environmental degradation and sustainability of agricultural production. It has completed 25 years of its existence with an impressive record of achievements.

APAARI organized and co-organized several activities comprising various meetings, workshops and conferences during January – June 2016. These included: i) GCARD 3; ii) A National Workshop on Forward Thinking for Agricultural Development in Western India; iii) Inception Meeting on APAARI Strategic Planning; iv) Advanced Consultation on APAARI Strategic Planning; v) Implementation of Dryland Cereals Scholarship Program; and vi) APAARI Meeting with Mahanakorn University of Technology, Bangkok

A brief account of the accomplishments is presented here for information and reference of APAARI members, partners and other stakeholders.

I. Meeting/Workshops/Conferences

1. Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD 3)

The 3rd Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD3), co-organized by the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and hosted by the Agricultural Research Council of South Africa (ARC), took place in Johannesburg, South Africa from 5-8 April 2016. More than 500 participants from 83 countries gathered to set a new agenda for agricultural research and jointly work towards the transformation of agriculture. GCARD3 is a global consultative process that aims to provide a common platform for the wide range of actors involved in generating, accessing and using knowledge on agricultural and agri-food system.

APAARI actively participated in the GCARD3 event by bringing over 25 year experience in strengthening agriculture and agri-food research and innovation systems from regional to the global level. Dr Raghunath Ghodake, Executive Secretary, APAARI made an interesting presentation on how agricultural research is contributing to the achievement of SDGs and focus areas for agricultural research in Asia-Pacific region. It highlighted the most relevant sustainable development goals (SDGs) related to: no poverty, zero hunger, gender equality, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, responsible consumption and production, climate action, and life on land. These SDGs will shape the next 15 years of agricultural research priorities, policies, programs and funding in the Asia-Pacific region, which requires the need for evolving and pragmatic research strategy.

Dr Ghodake made another important presentation on “Investing in Agricultural Research and Innovations for Impact at Scale in the Asia-Pacific Region”. It was based on the key outcomes of the high level policy dialogue (HLPD) on Investment in Agricultural Research for

Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific that was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 8-9 December 2015. He specifically highlighted the major constraints in investments in agricultural research for development (AR4D), purpose of the dialogue, key issues and opportunities for investment, outcomes and implications, major recommendations and way forward as well as APAARI expectations from GCARD3.

Through its contribution, APAARI informed GCARD3 on investments in agricultural research and innovation systems in Asia and the Pacific, and made a pledge for investments in agricultural research based on the way forward following the HLPD. The Working Group on Investment led by APAARI during the GCARD 3 helped refine the way forward for the Asia-Pacific region and APAARI was identified as a leader to develop the proposal on the mobilization of investment in agri-food research and innovations. One of the specific collective actions that participants committed to was to lobby for increased investment in research and innovation to achieve impact at scale. To achieve these commitments, participants agreed to work together to create effective partnerships at all levels including public-private-partnerships and innovative mechanisms to catalyze the necessary investments and capacities required.

The interactions with global stakeholders, including researchers, civil society, universities, policy makers, the private sector, youth, women's groups and development partners, helped strengthen APAARI's linkages between international, regional and national organizations to better support its members and partners on the pathway towards sustainable agricultural development.

2. A National Workshop on Forward Thinking for Agricultural Development in Western India

The Sardar Krushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University (SKDAU) in collaboration with the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), the Indian Association for Information Technology in Agriculture (IAITA), and the National Council for Climate Change, Sustainable Development (NCCSD) hosted a national workshop on "Forward Thinking Agricultural Development in Western India to Consider New Capacities Needed in Agricultural Research, Innovation, Extension, Education and Management" on 8-10 February 2015 at Sardarkrushinagar. GFAR and NAARM as co-organizers provided two resource-persons each for the facilitation of the workshop.

The Workshop aimed at identifying strategic elements based on forward thinking for agricultural development in Western India with emphasis on human capacity development needs for agricultural education and learning. Specific objectives included: (i) elaborating steps towards a vision for agricultural development by 2030 in Western India, (ii) identifying related needs for capacity development for the vision for agricultural development by 2030, and (iii) developing elements of a strategy for capacity development with the role of agricultural universities and related Institutes in this strategy. In all, 87 participants representing four Indian states, namely: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, from institutions from different fields of specialization, including the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutes, as well as farmers, and entrepreneurs attended the Workshop. The program of the workshop was organized around seven technical sessions besides inaugural and concluding sessions. Dr Ashok Patel, Vice Chancellor, SDAU inaugurated the workshop, deliberated in-depth on current scenario in agriculture in Western India and foresighted the role of future planning regarding production, processing, packaging and safety issues of agricultural products.

The back-casting session provided strategic elements with the questions of the new capacities needed to address the needs of the region for its agricultural development. Two working groups were organized to have in-depth discussion on back-casting. The participants highlighted several points with respect to different perspectives. The workshop offered most of the participants a first hands-on experience and practice with forward thinking.

The outputs of the workshop indicated the urgency to move towards transformed objectives of agricultural universities, from being centers for producing agricultural and related graduates, extension agents, researchers and teachers and doing research to being the fountainhead of 360°, economically, socially and environmentally sustainable agricultural development with capacity to effectively use new information, knowledge, skills and technology for mass innovation in institutions, community participation and technology use that meets the continuous challenges in agricultural development that Western India faces. In order to attain intensified sustainability, the objectives of these universities should become to contribute to: i) improved livelihoods and employment, ii) servicing agricultural and rural development, and iii) enabling learning and capacity development in human skills and infrastructure needed for new roles and activities that will emerge in Western India by 2030.

It was recommended that the five agricultural universities in Gujarat jointly take the lead in creating collaboration through a consortium of the 21 universities in Western India, ICAR institutes, including NAARM and related institutes such as Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA) and Indian Institute of Management, Ahmadabad (IIMA). It was also suggested that the Gujarat State leads and facilitates the establishment of a Center for Coordination and Supporting Capacity Development for Sustainable Agricultural Development in Western India.

3. National Inception Workshop of the CDAIS project under the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP)

Organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), the National Inception Workshop of the Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS) project took place from 8-9 February 2016 in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR). CDAIS is a four-year project funded by the European Union (EU) through a grant to AGRINATURA-EEIG – a consortium of European universities and research institutes – and jointly implemented with FAO. It aims at making agricultural innovation systems more efficient and sustainable in meeting the demands of farmers, agribusiness and consumers, taking into account the three dimensions of capacity development – individual, organization, and enabling environment, as well as functional and technical capacities. On 18 September 2015, APAARI and FAO signed a letter of agreement to collaborate on the TAP/CDAIS project. In particular, APAARI's role has been to raise awareness on TAP to promote CDAIS by sharing relevant information, showcase good practices, facilitate contacts and linkages, reproduce TAP-related communication and advocacy material and promote online communication.

Ms. Martina Spisiakova, Knowledge Management Coordinator, APAARI, participated in the meeting to learn about the project activities and explore current and future areas for collaboration between the FAO/TAP project, NAFRI and APAARI. TAP promotional material (brochures and flyers) was shared with the participants and the TAP poster, which was later given to NAFRI for future promotion of the project, was displayed. The meeting led to expediting the process of Lao PDR becoming the member of APAARI, involvement of NAFRI in GCARD 3, and discussions on APAARI's involvement in TAPipedia – an information sharing system designed to enhance knowledge exchange in support CDAIS in terms of sharing

good practices on capacity development, innovation outputs, success stories and lessons learned. It also provided an opportunity to discuss a way forward in the implementation of APAARI/FAO LoA and APAARI value added to NAFRI as a member organization.

4. Inception Meeting on APAARI Strategic Planning

An inception meeting for APAARI Strategic Planning was organized at Bangkok, Thailand on 21-22 March 2016, which was attended by nine participants including APAARI staff and the representations from Department of Agriculture (DOA), Thailand, and ACIAR, Australia and two consultants.

During the inception meeting, the discussion centered around i) strategic concepts and issues, ii) basis for developing the strategic plan, iii) process for developing the strategic plan, iv) stakeholders analysis, v) capacity development, and v) results and M&E framework and under each of these areas, the key points/actions to be taken were agreed.

The Following points/actions were agreed:

- APAARI strategic plan, including its impact pathway and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework must be aligned with the Vision, Mission and Goal at every level (activity, output, outcome and impact).
- APAARI's core values (visionary approach, devotion to merit and excellence, learning and growing, inclusiveness and accountability) need to be promoted and adhered to.
- The strategic plan is to be framed on the basis of APAARI's thematic thrusts and implementation focus areas as identified in the Vision document.
- APAARI's key areas that the strategic plan should focus on are knowledge management (KM), partnership and collaboration, capacity development and advocacy. These elements are part of both mission statement and implementation focus areas.

5. Advanced Consultation on APAARI Strategic Planning

Since APAARI Strategic Planning started in March 2016, the Strategic Planning Task Team has progressed with drafting of systematic framework of the plan, needs assessment and linking these to key strategies. The needs that APAARI pre-identified have been further canvassed through an online survey with primary stakeholders for their vetting, modifying and prioritization. On the basis of this progress, an advanced consultation was organized on 20-21 June 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand, to further refine the strategic approach, as well as the draft strategies, deliberate on the draft content/framework document, and discuss results and M&E frameworks. Based on the outcomes of the consultation, the content of the Strategic Plan will be drafted. Twenty five participants included key members of its Advisory Group (AG) and Core Consultation Group (CCG) attended the consultation.

The objectives of the Advanced Consultation were to: i) refine and agree on broad and specific strategies for thematic and functional areas (TAs, FAs); ii) prioritize the needs pre-assessed by APAARI and identify new needs to be considered in APAARI's final Strategic Plan; iii) discuss and develop expected results from broad and specific strategies; iv) discuss the results and M&E frameworks; v) agree on a framework for strategic plan for 2017-2022; vi) a comprehensive report of this consultation will be developed and circulated; vii) the comments from deliberations and results of various working groups will be assimilated and refined as

needed by the Task Team; viii) the thematic areas and broad and specific strategies will be reduced to a manageable level, while retaining most of the substantive and relevant materials; ix) prioritization of themes/strategies will be made by considering the development context and also ‘strengthening’ context, with due considerations to the APAARI added value and comparative advantage; x) a logical structure and content of the draft strategic plan as outlined in the contents of the strategic plan will be developed; xi) materials will be organized as per the refined content of the strategic plan; xii) additional work will be done on the inclusion of mapping work for potential partnership/networking, inclusion of women and youth, and avoiding any ambiguities/duplications, to ensure logical and rationalized flow of the strategic plan document; xiii) efforts will also be made to estimate and present results from such strategies and provide an M&E framework for transparency and follow up. xiv) the first draft of the strategic plan will be developed and is likely to be available by the end of July or early August; xv) this draft will be circulated to the participants of the consultation with expectation to receive their comments/ responses within a week in order to have advanced draft in place by 15 August 2016; xvi) the advanced draft will be presented for approval / endorsement by the APAARI Executive Committee (EC) Meeting to be held in the week beginning 22 August 2016; xvii) after the approval/endorsement by the EC, the advanced draft will be further refined and shared with APAARI membership, partners and other key stakeholders; xviii) any comments received will be considered and reflected as needed in the final draft for presentation to the APAARI General Assembly Meeting (GAM), to be held on 3 November 2016; xix) on final approval/endorsement, this document will go through further refinements, including layout and artwork before being printed by the end of December 2016 xx) the Strategic Plan will be available for consultation and implementation beginning January 2017

6. Implementation of Dryland Cereals Scholarship Program

Under the MoU between APAARI and ICRISAT, APAARI is implementing CRP Dryland Cereals Scholarship Program. The objectives of the program are to: i) develop a new cadre of scientists with core competencies, knowledge and experience in advanced science and technologies that address productivity and quality enhancements, post-harvest processing and value addition, and policy interventions for the dryland cereals; ii) encourage and develop excellence in fundamental and practical research capabilities in women and early-career scientists in developing countries to address global challenges in agriculture, with a focus on dryland cereals; and iii) strengthen and enhance human resource capacities of national agricultural research institutions in the developing countries in Asia.

Adopting the selections process suggested by the CRP DC Scholarship Program and agreed with APAARI, six candidates were selected for their Ph.D. research work based on their combined scores and ranking. Out of the six candidates, two are working on sorghum, two on pearl millet and two on finger millet. Their research work is progressing well in their respective universities/institutions. The research progress report of these students along with financial report for the period from 1 October 2015-31 March 2016 had been submitted to CRP DC Program. The progress of research of these students is being well monitored by

7. APAARI Meeting with Mahanakorn University of Technology, Bangkok

APAARI collaborated with Mahanakorn University of Technology, Bangkok in a training program on “Technological Intervention and Best Practices for Rice and Vegetable Production in Thailand”. The training program was organized by the Department of Civil Engineering, Bilingual Program, Faculty of Engineering, Mahanakorn University of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand from 31 March - 6 April 2016. Eight senior government officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh participated in the training. Dr Raghunath Ghodake, Executive Secretary, APAARI was invited as a resource person and a keynote speaker in the training program. In his presentation, he highlighted on APAARI vision, mission, strategies and activities and also presented an overview of APAARI’S achievements and the role it could play as a vibrant, and neutral regional platform in putting towards the agenda of agricultural research and innovation for development (ARI4D) in collaboration with NARS and other stakeholders in Asia-Pacific region.

II. Information Dissemination and Publications

1. APAARI progress report

Six monthly progress report of APAARI for the period July – December 2015 was prepared and widely circulated to APAARI members, partners and stakeholders. It was also posted on APAARI website at <http://www.apaari.org/publications/apaari-progress-report-july-december-2015.html>

2. APAARI website

The APAARI website has been assessed as part of its revamping efforts to become an effective information sharing tool within the APAARI community and beyond. The recommendations made during the assessment have been systematically implemented in terms of re-structuring, re-organization of the content, updating the content, and improving the website layout and features. In addition to being regularly updated with APAARI’s news, events and activities, a new feature called ‘APAARI Network News’ has been added to share news and other resources (e.g. success stories, newsletters, highlights of events) of APAARI members, partners and other key stakeholders.

3. APAARI social media

In addition to the APAARI’s website, APAARI existing Facebook account has been renamed to APAARI Community to enable fast search by users. Efforts have been made to follow and connect with Facebook accounts of APAARI members and partners. The number of ‘likes’ have been growing, though the tool needs to be systematically monitored in terms of followers, users and the number of downloads of the content. As of 30 June 2016, APAARI Facebook page had 87 likes and 16 published posts between 1 January and 30 June 2016.

APAARI Twitter name has also been changed to enable to find APAARI quickly. Information from events e.g. GCARD 3, as well as articles posted on Facebook, have been promoted through Twitter to raise awareness of what is happening in the agri-food research and innovation systems. As of 30 June 2016, APAARI Twitter page had 19 followers and 27 tweet

posts between 1 January and 30 June 2016. APAARI has been following 42 institutions. The Twitter and Facebook statistics given in this report will serve as a baseline for comparison with the next reporting period.

APAARI Blog to share short articles from events has been created, though it still needs to be promoted among the members and partners. The upcoming expert consultation in Taiwan is a good opportunity to launch it.

3. Web-based Information

i) APAARI Web Space

The APAARI website is maintained under Wordpress content management system and hosted on a server with technical specification listed below:

Custom Dedicated Server - apaari.org

OS : Linux CentOS 64-Bit

CPU : Intel® Core™ i5 - 4 cores

RAM : 4 GB

Storage: 2 x 300 GB hard drives

Bandwidth: 10 TB per month

Service:- FULLY Managed

ii) APAARI Website Usage Statistics






















The table below shows the number of visits, hits and files available on the website. As the website is being renewed, more efforts will be made to share more diverse content (from the Network) and promote this information tool.

Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Jul 2016	11417	9463	2098	584	5117	14141870	10524	37780	170341	205508
Jun 2016	11217	8897	2161	655	9877	26366890	19655	64859	266935	336526
May 2016	12586	10248	2051	675	11701	30416255	20950	63591	317711	390186
Apr 2016	16313	14247	1972	596	10713	28256013	17900	59187	427415	489396
Mar 2016	9870	7685	2020	631	8169	32498487	19562	62627	238242	305993
Feb 2016	11467	8557	2325	666	8026	44495148	19315	67428	248167	332566
Jan 2016	12113	9810	1976	635	10300	34543414	19698	61272	304116	375529
Dec 2015	10412	8155	1944	638	9167	24618225	19787	60287	252815	322785
Nov 2015	11255	8866	1880	645	10566	26009859	19365	56415	265990	337651
Oct 2015	10744	8111	1949	677	14008	24860167	21005	60430	251465	333090
Sep 2015	11855	9379	1927	629	13390	23838628	18889	57819	281376	355667
Aug 2015	11329	8809	1980	655	9595	29890889	20329	61395	273104	351222
Totals						339935845	226979	713090	3297677	4136119

Source: apaari.org web panel

iii) Database Platforms

The APAARI website is currently running seven (7) MySQL database in its server.

Current Databases			
<input type="text" value="Search"/>	<input type="button" value="Go"/>		
Database	Size	Privileged Users	Actions
apaario_apaariweb	2.24 MB	apaario_apusr 	 Rename  Delete
apaario_aparis	1.02 MB	apaario_apusr 	 Rename  Delete
apaario_ard	0.75 MB	apaario_ard 	 Rename  Delete
apaario_contacts	0.68 MB	apaario_contact 	 Rename  Delete
apaario_db	0.68 MB	apaario_db 	 Rename  Delete
apaario_sitenev	48.93 MB	apaario_apusr 	 Rename  Delete
apaario_wrdp1	0.72 MB	apaario_wrdp1 	 Rename  Delete
Page: <input type="button" value="First"/> <input type="button" value="1"/> <input type="button" value="Last"/> Per Page: <input type="text" value="10"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>			

4. APCoAB Website

APCoAB website (www.apcoab.org) provides information on APCoAB organization, objectives, activities, and news and events on agricultural biotechnology. It provides access to APCoAB publications comprising success stories, status reports and proceedings of expert consultation and other group meetings. Databases of agricultural biotechnology institutions in Asia-Pacific and biosafety regulations of Asia-Pacific countries are also available at this website.

5. Publications

i) APAARI Newsletter (half yearly)

APAARI Newsletter, July – December, 2015 issue was published and widely circulated to its members and other stakeholders. It was also posted on the APAARI website at <http://www.apaari.org/publications/newsletter-december-2015.html>

ii) APAARI Vision 2030: Strengthened Research and Innovations for Sustainable Agricultural Development

The development of the APAARI Vision 2030 followed a structured process, review, e-consultations and brainstorming, and received invaluable contributions from the APAARI Executive Committee, members, partners and other stakeholders.

The document considers APAARI's core values and articulates the need for new ambitions and new competencies within the Association. It specifies vision, mission and goal statements as principal guiding elements. It further defines thematic thrusts and APAARI's core functional areas that provide strategic framework for developing medium-term strategic plans and short-term implementation plans as essential building blocks towards realising the vision by 2030.

iii) APAARI Flyer 2016

APAARI Flyer was revised to include updated information on membership status, proceedings of conferences/workshops/meetings, success stories, etc. The above publications have been shared with all the member organizations, participants of the respective meetings and other stakeholders. These are also available at <http://www.apaari.org/publications/apaari-flyer-2016.html>.

vi) Development of Communication Strategies for Adoption of Agri-Biotechnology in the Asia Pacific – A Framework for Engagement with Key Stakeholders about Agri-Biotechnology – A Paradigm Shift

This framework was designed for research agencies and partners to assist in developing strategies for communicating about Agri-Biotechnology. It is based on a workshop on 'Development of Communication Strategies for Adoption of Agri-Biotechnology in Asia', held in Chiang Rai, Thailand, from 28-29 September 2015. The workshop was jointly organized by APAARI, the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA), Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB) and the Malaysian Biotechnology Information Centre (MABIC), and was supported by the Council of Agriculture Executive, Yuan, R.O.C. The publication has been shared through the APAARI website and hard copies will be distributed in key APAARI-supported meetings.

vii) Development of Proceedings of the High Level Policy Dialogue

During the period under reporting, substantial time and efforts were devoted by the APAARI Secretariat in systematically refining and compiling all the relevant materials for developing two volumes of the high level policy dialogue proceedings; volume one on the proceeding and volume two on the papers presented at the dialogue. Both these volumes have been brought to the advanced stage of finalization.

III. Membership Drive

During the period January – June, 2016, seven new members in different categories joined APAARI. These included: Regular Member - National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI) from Lao PDR; Associate Members - Kamdhenu University, Gandhinagar, India; Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore; Uttarakhand University of Horticulture and Forestry, Bharsar and Affiliate Members - Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, Sardarkrushinagar and GODAN, Wallingford, UK.

Recently, three members upgraded their membership category: The IAC of New Caledonia and the CARP of Sri Lanka moved from Category III (USD 3000) to Category II (USD 6000), and PCAARRD, the Philippines moved from Category II (US\$ 6000) to Category I (US\$10,000).

IV. International/Regional Collaboration

During the period under report, APAARI had close collaboration with GFAR, CGIAR Centres, ACIAR, COA, CAPSA, ASEAN and FAO RAP and organized several activities/programs including organization of workshops/ conferences/ training programs with funding support from them. This included the programs on agro-biotechnology and research information systems.

V. Forthcoming APAARI-supported Meeting/Workshops

- APAARI Executive Committee (EC) Meeting at Bangkok in September t 2016
- APCoAB Steering Committee (SC) meeting in 2016
- APARIS Steering Committee (SC) Meeting in 2016
- FAO - ITU E-agriculture Solutions Forum at TOT Academy Nonthaburi, Thailand, 31 August 2016
- Training-of-Trainers Strategy Development at TOT Academy Nonthaburi, Thailand, 1-2 September 2016
- Expert Consultation on Successful Agri-Food Innovations in Asia and the Pacific in Taichung City, Chinese Taipei, 1-3 November 2016
- APAARI General Assembly Meeting in Chinese Taipei in November 2016
- 1st International Agrobiodiversity Congress: Science, Technology, Policy and Partnership at New Delhi, India, 6-9 November 2016

VI. APAARI Participation in the Meetings Organized by other Fora

Dr. Raghunath Ghodake, Executive Secretary, APAARI

- Forward Thinking Agricultural Development in Western India at Sardarkrushinagar, Gujarat, India, 8-10 February 2015
- 3rd Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD3) at Johannesburg, South Africa, 5-8 April 2016
- ASEAN Technical Working Group Meeting on Agricultural Research and Development (ATWGARD) in Brunei on 28-29 April 2016.

Ms. Martina Spisiakova, Knowledge Management Coordinator, APAARI

- Inception Meeting of the Tropical Agriculture Platform – Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems, in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, 8-9 February 2015
- 3rd Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD3) at Johannesburg, South Africa, 5-8 April 2016

Dr. Bhag Mal, Senior Consultant, APAARI

- Meeting of the Core Group on Coalition for Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (CARYA) held at NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi, India, 20 May 2016
- Technical Committee Meetings of 1st International Agro-biodiversity Congress held at NASC Complex, DPS Marg, New Delhi; 16 April 2016 and 7 June, 2016

Dr. J.L. Karihaloo, Senior Consultants, APAARI

- Strategy Workshop: Towards Self-sufficiency of Pulses held at NASC Complex, DPS Marg, New Delhi, 7-8 April 2016
- Technical Committee Meetings of 1st International Agro-biodiversity Congress held at NASC Complex, DPS Marg, New Delhi; 16 April 2016 and 7 June, 2016

VII. Other Items

APAARI Staff Changes

New APAARI Staff

Ms Celilu Bitong joined APAARI as Knowledge and Management Officer on 28 April 2016. She is a native of the Philippines and worked as a research and technical staff for the Philippine Statistics Authority and the Department of Trade and Industry. Later, she moved to Thailand and served as a Senior Web Programmer on an automotive media firm, Grand Prix International Public Company Limited prior to joining APAARI. She assists in the implementation of APAARI's Knowledge Management Programme and provides web and IT support. She obtained Bachelor's degree in Applied Statistics from Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

Outgoing APAARI Staff

Dr Vilasini Pillai, APCoAB Coordinator left APAARI on 15 January 2016. She provided a good support to APCoAB program during her short stay of nine and a half months in APAARI. Ms Urairat Rujirek left APAARI on 4 April 2016. She served APAARI for over 18 years as Secretary-cum-Accountant, Administrative Associate and later as Administrative Officer and provided invaluable services in administrative and finance-related activities and a good support in general administration. Ms Khatiya Ounjai left APAARI on 31 May 2016 for higher studies. As a Technical Assistant, she provided good technical help to the APCoAB Coordinator and later to the Knowledge Management Program.

VIII. Epilogue

As is evident from this report, APAARI activities are being expanded and effectively addressing the expectations of its members. This has been possible due to cooperation extended all by all APAARI members, partners and other stakeholders, which is duly acknowledged. APAARI looks forward to have more activities/collaboration with the partners in fulfilling its mandate after the Strategic Plan 2017-2022 is discussed in the Executive Committee meeting in August 2016 and approved by the General Assembly meeting in November, 2016. This will be followed by development of biennial work plan for 2017-18 with details of prioritized programs and activities to be undertaken.
