



**ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
(APAARI)**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Best Western Hotel, Islamabad, Pakistan

**24 October, 2013
(10:00 – 13:30 hrs)**

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Welcome : Dr. Raj Paroda
2. Chairman's Opening Remarks : Dr. Simon Hearn
3. Brief Report : Dr. Raj Paroda
4. Membership Status : Dr. Raj Paroda
5. Audited Accounts and Budget : Executive Secretary/
Administrative Associate
6. Status of Fund Investments : Executive Secretary/
Administrative Associate
7. Work Plan 2014 : Dr Raj Paroda
8. Any Other Matter
a) Theme and Dates for Next Meeting : Members
b) Appointment of External Auditor
c) Policy for Investment
d) Filling of Vacant Seats
e) Implementation of GCARD2
Recommendations : Dr Ajit Maru (through Skype)
f) Progress on the Development of
Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP)
g) Legal Status of APAARI
9. Chairman's Concluding Remarks : Dr. Simon Hearn
10. Vote of Thanks : Dr. Raj Paroda

**ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
(APAARI)**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Best Western Hotel, Islamabad, Pakistan

24 October, 2013

(9:00 – 13:00 hrs)

AGENDA NOTES

1. Welcome

Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, will welcome the Chairman, members and the special invitees.

2. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Dr. Simon Hearn, Chairman, APAARI will deliver his opening remarks and highlight the key issues to be addressed by APAARI for meeting the AR4D challenges in the Asia-Pacific region.

3. Brief Report on Activities

Dr. Raj Paroda will present a brief report on the progress made since last Executive Committee meeting held on 15 April, 2013. He will provide specific details of the activities undertaken with respect to approved work plan by the Executive Committee.

A brief report on activities undertaken during the first half of 2013 is attached (Annexure I) for kind perusal of the members.

4. Membership Status

The Executive Secretary will apprise the members on current APAARI membership in different categories (Regular, Associate, Affiliate and Reciprocal members). Members may kindly advise on specific actions as well as strategy to increase membership of APAARI.

A statement providing the current status of membership is given in Annexure II.

5. Audited Accounts and Budget

The APAARI Accounts for the period 1 January- 31 August 2013 were got audited recently and hence put up with audited statement and details of funds received during the period (Annexure III). The Administrative Associate will also put up the Statement of Bank Accounts and details of Assets and Liabilities for consideration of approval of the same by the members.

6. Status of Fund Investment

Members are requested to advise on any new investment plan for the APAARI Fixed Deposit currently with the Siam Commercial Bank, Bangkok.

7. Work Plan 2014

Work Plan for the year 2014 will be presented to members for discussion and additional suggestions, if any. The Work Plan (Annexure IV) will cover prioritized activities such as: (i) Publications, (ii) Meetings/Expert Consultations/Symposia etc., (iii) APARIS activities, (iv) APCoAB activities, (v) Initiatives concerning inter-regional cooperation/linkages, and (vi) Required action plan to implement recommendations of GCARD2.

Members may consider suggesting additional activities to be undertaken by APAARI during 2014. Also suggestions for bringing out some success stories will be appreciated.

8. Any Other Matter

a) Venue, Dates and Theme of Regional Workshop for the Next GAM: The venue for holding next APAARI General Assembly meeting was discussed during the last General Assembly meeting and it was agreed to have it organized in Vietnam, based on formal invitation received from the Ministry of Agriculture through Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS). We need to decide the dates and theme of the regional consultation. Dr. Nguyen Van Bo, President VAAS, Vietnam has nominated Dr. Nguyen Hong Son to participate in the Executive Committee meeting. He will brief the Executive Committee members on various logistics and relevant details concerning proposed APAARI General Assembly meeting to be held in at Hanoi in October 2014.

One of the themes for organizing a regional consultation could be “Improving Maize Production and Productivity for Nutrition Security in Asia”. Any other topic could also be considered based on suggestions received from the members.

b) Appointment of External Auditor: In the last Executive Committee, the tenure of the current Auditor was extended for the biennium 2013-2014. Hence, new Auditor will have to be appointed in the next General Assembly for the biennium 2015-2016. General guidelines for the appointment of External Auditor are given in Annexure V, which members may like to consider for further improvement and approval.

c) Policy for Investment: It was agreed in the last Executive Committee meeting that Dr. Raghunath Ghodake and Dr. Masa Iwanaga under the chairmanship of Dr. Simon Hearn would develop a long term policy for investment, utilization of reserve funds and appointment of external auditor based on the existing principles and practices. Till the report on policy for investment is made available, it is suggested that the present arrangement for keeping the funds in Siam Commercial Bank, Bangkok, Thailand may continue so as to take care of market fluctuations occurring at present.

d) Filling of Vacant Seats: Two seats (one each for Farmer Organization (FOs) and Non-Govt. Organizations (NGOs) are currently vacant. In the last GAM, it was decided that next Executive Committee may deliberate and take appropriate decision as to who should be requested to serve on the Executive Committee for these categories. Accordingly, Executive Committee in its last meeting discussed the matter and felt that both AFA and BRAC be invited to attend as special invitees. Since both organizations have become Reciprocal Members of APAARI, Executive Committee may consider admitting them as members of Executive against vacant seats.

e) Implementation of GCARD2 Recommendations: Dr. Mark Holderness has informed that Dr. Ajit Maru will attend the meeting and present proposed strategy and action plan for implementing specific recommendations. However, Dr. Ajit Maru has expressed his inability to attend. However, he has informed that he will be available to make brief statement on this subject through Skype during the meeting.

f) Progress on the Development of Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP): Dr Raghunath Ghodake, as representative of APPARI on the Interim Steering Committee of TAP and TAP Partner Assembly, has provided a brief on the progress on the development of TAP, as emerging from the activities over the last 10 months, culminating into the recently held TAP Inception Workshop and Partner Assembly. The brief is given below:

The establishment of Tropical Agriculture Platform(TAP) was approved by the G20 Agriculture Ministers' meeting in June 2011 and was launched at the G20 Meeting of Agriculture Chief Scientists in September 2012.

TAP is to contribute to greater impact and better coherence of capacity development (CD) interventions, in support of agricultural innovation systems (AIS), so as to improve agricultural production and productivity of smallholder farmers, especially in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) of the tropics. More than 40 international, regional and national organizations, including APAARI are the founding organizations of TAP.

Major developments during the inception phase (beginning with the first meeting of partners in October 2012 and culminating into the Partner Assembly in September 2013) include development of TAP Theory of Change, receiving political support for TAP, acquiring limited financial support for the inception phase, and finalization of TAP Charter based on operational plan. The regional assessment studies for Africa, Central America, and South East Asia, conducted by FARA, CIAT and SEARCA, respectively, identified the weak to very weak capacities in these regions and the need to develop capacities at all levels (from individual to institutional). Based on synthesis report of the regional assessment studies, TAP Action Plan for 2013-2017 was developed and adopted by the Partner Assembly. Major issue identified is the mobilization of adequate financial resources (USD 6.0 million) to implement the Action Plan. While substantive Steering Committee of TAP was formed to provide fair representations to various organizations and regions, APAARI continues to be an active member of the Partner Assembly, promoting TAP in the Asia-Pacific region. Brief report on the TAP development so far and future plans is available separately, while detailed information on these can be found on <http://www.tropagplatform.org>

Specific actions/APAARI contributions in the areas of facilitation, co-ordination, representations (GTF,RTF, TAP Membership) and exchange of information, which may not need much funding support but would require substantial time and efforts by the Secretariat. At the same time, the TAP Secretariat is planning to raise funds to implement the Action Plan and some portion of these funds is expected to be available for APAARI activities. As such, activities requiring financial outlay will obviously be the TAP's responsibility.

g) Legal Status of APAARI : A committee comprising Dr. Simon Hearn, Dr. Masa Iwanaga and Dr. Raghunath Ghodake was constituted in the last APAARI Executive Committee meeting to suggest actions for obtaining legal status of APAARI. The committee however, could not meet. However, Dr. Raghunath Ghodake has given in Annexure VI some of his views on the subject, which may be considered for discussion by the Executive Committee.

9. Chairman's Concluding Remarks

The Chairman will give his closing remarks.

10. Vote of Thanks

The Executive Secretary will propose a Vote of Thanks.