

**Proceedings
of the
XIV APCoAB STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
12 March 2012
NASC Complex, New Delhi**



**Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology,
C/o ICRISAT Delhi Office,
National Agricultural Science Centre Complex
Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, Pusa Campus, New Delhi – 110 012, India**

**ASIA-PACIFIC CONSORTIUM ON AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY
(APCoAB)**

**XIV STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
12 MARCH 2012
NASC COMPLEX, ICAR, NEW DELHI**

PROCEEDINGS

The XIV Steering Committee Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB) was held on 12th March 2012 at the National Agricultural Science Center (NASC) Complex, New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Dr. S. Ayyappan, Chairman, APAARI and attended by twelve Steering Committee (SC) members/their representatives and special invitees (Annexure I). Dr. William Dar and Dr. Malcolm Hazelman were represented by Dr. Rajeev Varshney, Principal Scientist and Director (CEG), ICRISAT, and Dr. Peter Kenmore, FAO representative in India, New Delhi, respectively.

Agenda item 1: Welcome Remarks

Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI welcomed the participants and also congratulated Dr. Peter Kenmore on his new assignment as FAO Representative in India. Dr. Paroda expressed his thanks to Mr. Raju Barwale for Mahyco's continued and enhanced funding support to APCoAB. While welcoming Dr. Varshney, he thanked Dr. William Dar, DG, ICRISAT for hosting APCoAB secretariat and participating in several APAARI activities.

Agenda item 2: Address by the Chairman

Dr. S. Ayyappan, Chairman, APAARI in his address welcomed the members of SC and special invitees participating in this meeting. Dr. Ayyappan expressed regret that other members of SC, Dr. Su-San Chang, Director General, Department of International Affairs, COA, Dr. Malcolm Hazelman, FAO-RAP, and Dr. William Dar, Director General, ICRISAT could not attend, though FAO-RAP and ICRISAT had deputed their representatives.

Dr. Ayyappan reminded that APCoAB is reaching the tenth year of its existence; during this period it had contributed significantly towards its objective of promoting biotechnology for agricultural development in AP region. APCoAB has been expanding its activities in key areas of policy advocacy, capacity building, and information generation and dissemination. Dr. Ayyappan was happy to note that in 2011, APCoAB organized "Stakeholders' interface on GM food crops"; "Expert consultation on biotechnology, biosafety and biosecurity"; "International symposium on genetics and reproductive management for animal production"; and two training programs on "Rapid bioassay for pesticide residues" and "*In vitro* and cryopreservation techniques for conservation of plant genetic resources", and brought out two publications. Of these, ICAR was privileged to co-organize "Stakeholders' interface" and training program on "*In vitro* and cryopreservation".

Dr. Ayyappan conveyed APAARI's appreciation of Council of Agriculture, Chinese Taipei for continued funding support to APCoAB as well as for hosting a number of activities. He announced that during 2012, ICAR would coorganize with APAARI/APCoAB an expert consultation on transboundary diseases and pests in the Asia-Pacific.

Agenda item 3: Approval of minutes of XIII Steering Committee Meeting

The SC was informed that the proceedings of XIII SC had been circulated on 23rd March 2011 (Annexure II). Acknowledgements were received from two members while no comments were received. Chairman sought the concurrence of members for approval of minutes, which was granted unanimously. The members also adopted the agenda for the XIV Steering Committee meeting (Annexure III).

Agenda item 4: Brief Report

a) Action Taken Report

Dr J. L. Karihaloo, Coordinator, APCoAB presented a brief on the action taken on recommendations of XIII SC meeting.

Sl. No.	Recommendation	Action Taken
1	It was recommended to undertake policy advocacy and public awareness on GM Food crops.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized "Stakeholders' Interface on GM Food Crops" at New Delhi on 19 May 2011. • Another such meeting is proposed to be organized in collaboration with PCAARRD, Philippines during 2012.
2	Promoting Biosafety Develop biosafety capacity; Revision of APCoAB biosafety regulations publication; Collaboration with ICRISAT.	Proposal submitted to FAO for supporting revision of APCoAB publication and organization of stakeholders' meeting at ICRISAT on biosafety regulations.
3	Follow up on outcome of training courses conducted by APCoAB.	A questionnaire on the impact of training courses was circulated among the respective participants. The details of response received were presented in SC meeting.
4	Training material to be made available on APCoAB website.	Material for CD on all trainings conducted in 2011 has been compiled. CD will be produced soon.

b) Progress Report

Dr. J. L. Karihaloo, Coordinator, APCoAB presented a report on the activities carried out during the period under report.

- **Expert Consultation/Group Meeting/Symposium**

Stakeholders' Interface on GM Food Crops, NASC, New Delhi, 19 May, 2011

APCoAB in collaboration with Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) organized "Stakeholders' Interface on GM Food Crops" at National Agricultural Science Centre, New Delhi to deliberate on issues relating to adoption of GM food crops in India. The event, cosponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), was attended by 45 participants representing policy makers, technical experts, representatives of seed sector, NGOs and farmers. Important recommendations of the interface were: (i) increased investment in biotechnology; (ii) focused and mission mode approach for development of GM crops/other products; (iii) prioritization of crops and traits for which GM technology to be applied; (iv) biosafety regulatory systems to be science based and efficient; (v) information communication systems including public extension and awareness services need to be considerably improved; and (vi) focus on agri-business, including agri-business platform and technology parks.

International Symposium on Genetics and Reproductive Management for Animal Production, LRI, Tainan, 21-24 November, 2011

APCoAB in collaboration with Council of Agriculture, Chinese Taipei (COA) organized the symposium at Livestock Research Institute, Tainan. It was attended by 33 participants from eight countries, five of whom, from Vietnam, Iran and Philippines, were sponsored by APCoAB. The program comprised presentations on: i) genetics and reproductive management of cattle, deer, poultry, pigs and rabbit; ii) quarantine systems of different countries; and iii) advances in the use of farm animals for biomedical research. APCoAB Coordinator made a presentation on "Role of biotechnology in improving agricultural productivity and poverty alleviation in the Asia-Pacific region".

Expert Consultation on Agricultural Biotechnology, Biosafety and Biosecurity, TARI, Taichung, 27- 28 October, 2011

The expert consultation held at Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), Taichung was attended by 73 participants from 22 countries representing Asia, Australia, Pacific, Africa and North America. The program comprised presentation of status reports on biotechnology, biosafety and biosecurity R&D in Asia-Pacific countries, followed by regional status reports (Africa, Asia and the Pacific), expert lectures on advances in biotechnology and biosecurity for food security and group discussions.

The expert consultation recognized that agricultural biosecurity is essential for food security, food safety, protection of human health and biodiversity, and market access. Promoting adoption of biotechnological tools, facilitating biosafety systems and developing integrated legislative framework and capacity to address diverse agricultural biosecurity threats were recommended during group discussions.

- **Trainings**

Training Workshop on Rapid Bioassay for Pesticide Residues (RBPR) on Fruits and Vegetables for Market Inspection and Farm Education, TARI, Taichung, 27 June-1 July, 2011

The training workshop was organized in collaboration with COA at Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute (TARI). Six trainees from Malaysia, Vietnam, India, Sri Lanka and Philippines were sponsored by APCoAB, of whom four attended.

The program comprised lectures and laboratory demonstrations on qualitative and quantitative RBPR analysis. Visits to farmer cooperatives and vegetable markets provided first hand experience of the RBPR technology at field level. The participants also visited the museum of Miaoli District Agricultural Research and Extension Station where they had a glimpse of the history and development of agriculture in the country.

International Training Course on *In Vitro* and Cryopreservation Techniques for Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources: Current Methods and Techniques, NBPGR, New Delhi, 14-26 November, 2011

APCoAB collaborated with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Bioversity International in organizing this training course at National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi. Three trainees from Iran, Chinese Taipei and Sri Lanka were sponsored by APCoAB out of a total of 12 participants from eight countries.

The 13 day training program opened with introductory lectures on management of plant genetic resources (PGR), and details of national and international organizations involved in PGR collection and conservation. Lectures on principles and methods of *in vitro* conservation and cryopreservation, genetic stability testing and transboundary movement of vegetative germplasm were delivered by national and international experts. A significant portion of the training period was devoted to hands-on laboratory training on biotechnological techniques of conservation and molecular characterization of germplasm. The trainees were also provided opportunity to present their ongoing research programs and seek suggestions of experts on specific technical issues.

- **Publications**

“Stakeholders’ Interface on GM Food Crops: Recommendations”

This publication reports the proceedings and recommendations of the “Stakeholders’ Interface on GM Food Crops” held on 19 May 2011 at New Delhi. It stresses on the need for: use of GM technologies for quality and good nutrition; mission-mode approach to adopt appropriate GM technologies by strengthening public research system and enabling environment for private sector investments; developing protocols and IPR regimes for better investment and partnerships; need for a national mission on GM food crops; clearance of Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) Bill by the Parliament; transparent biosafety regulatory system for safe application of biotechnology; post-release monitoring mechanism; use of effective communication tools and extension to raise awareness about GM technologies; capacity building in the areas of biosafety, regulatory systems and IPR issues; and focus on agribusiness and agri-biotechnology in the 12th Five Year Plan.

“Expert Consultation Meeting on Postharvest and Value Addition of Horticultural Produce – Proceedings and Recommendations”

This publication reports the proceedings of expert consultation meeting held by APAARI in collaboration with Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) in Malaysia on 29 November – 2 December 2010. It includes details of presentations and discussion in five technical sessions, and recommendations. Strategies and action plans proposed to address key policy, technical and management issues on postharvest and value of fruits, vegetables, ornamentals, herbs and medicinal plants with special reference to strengthening linkages of farmers to markets in the Asia-Pacific region are also included.

APCoAB Website

APCoAB website is being regularly updated with new publications, reports on Expert Consultations, training programs and other activities and current news and events related to agricultural biotechnology. E-Newsletter is circulated at regular intervals. Members were pleased to see that APCoAB website is serving very good purpose.

Agenda item 5: Work Plan for 2012

The work plan for 2012 presented by Dr. Karihaloo was approved by the SC (Annexure IV)

Agenda item 6: Audited Accounts

Dr. Karihaloo presented the Audited Accounts for the period January-December 2011 (Annexure V) which were approved unanimously by the SC. The committee also approved the budget for 2012 (Annexure VI).

Agenda item 7: General Discussion on Activities

All the SC participants took part in the discussions on APCoAB activities, workplan for 2012 and funding resources. Following important recommendations were made:

- Dr. Peter Kenmore appreciated the plan to revise the publication on biosafety regulations and agreed to follow up the proposal for funding with FAO-RAP. He further suggested to organize the workshop on biosafety regulations side by side with COP-MOP meeting being held in Hyderabad during October 2012. Regarding expert consultation on transboundary diseases, Dr. Kenmore suggested to highlight the issues of animal-human and animal-plant diseases as is being addressed by the One Health approach formulated by FAO and other UN agencies.
- Dr. Abd. Shukor Abd Rahman highlighted the importance of biosensors in assessing the level of inoculum in an area and forecasting epidemic threats.
- Dr. Rajeev Varshney stressed the need for greater emphasis on capacity building in the area of marker assisted selection and publication of success stories on adoption of MAS. He emphasized that MAS was non-controversial and a number of improved varieties using this technology had been released in the developing countries. It was suggested that APCoAB and ICRISAT should join hand in organising a training course on MAS for crop improvement.

- Dr. Mark Holderness highlighted the concern of GFAR regarding CG principles on equitable access to GM technologies. He suggested that GFAR could consider supporting a training course on intellectual assets in biotechnology.
- Dr. Paroda articulated the dilemma of several developing countries which are unable to decide on adoption of GM technologies due to conflicting opinions about their potential benefits and environmental impacts. He desired CG and FAO to articulate a clear position on this issue so that the national organizations could develop a clear road map for R&D in agriculture.
- Elaborating FAO's position, Dr. Kenmore mentioned that FAO favours those GM technologies that benefit small and marginal farmers. If the benefits are not clear, FAO would prefer not to take any position.
- Dr. Simon Hearn endorsed GFAR's concerns regarding CG principles on intellectual assets. Regarding potential benefits of GM technology, he however, felt that it may not be possible to forecast that a particular technology will not benefit small holder farmers.
- Dr. Ayyappan emphasized that Bt cotton technology had been scale neutral in India with both large and small farmers have been benefitted from it.

Agenda item 8: Any other Business

No issue was discussed under this item.

Agenda item 9: Chairman's closing Remarks

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Ayyappan thanked the SC members for their participation and important recommendations. He hoped that besides policy advocacy, capacity development and information dissemination, in future APCoAB would facilitate transfer of new technologies for the benefit of developing countries. He also appreciated untiring efforts of Dr. J.L. Karihaloo, APCoAB, Coordinator.

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks by Executive Secretary, APAARI to the Chair, SC members and other participants, and staff of APAARI.

APCoAB XIV Steering Committee Meeting

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**ASIA-PACIFIC CONSORTIUM ON AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY
(APCoAB)**

**XIII STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
14 FEBRUARY 2011
NASC COMPLEX, ICAR, NEW DELHI**

PROCEEDINGS

The XIII Steering Committee Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB) was held on 14th February 2011 at the National Agricultural Science Center (NASC) Complex, New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Dr. S. Ayyappan, Chairman, APAARI, Co-chaired by Dr. Abd Shukor Abd Rahman and attended by nine Steering Committee (SC) members, representatives and special invitees (Annexure I). Dr. William Dar, Dr. Malcolm Hazelman and Dr. Randy Hautea were represented by Dr. Kiran Sharma, Principal Scientist, ICRISAT, Mr. Gopi Ghosh, FAO regional office for Asia-Pacific, New Delhi and Mr. Bhagirath Choudhary, National Coordinator, ISAAA, New Delhi, respectively.

Agenda item 1: Welcome Remarks

Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI welcomed the participants to the XIII SC meeting. He thanked Council of Agriculture (COA), Chinese Taipei, especially Dr. Su-San Chang for its funding support to APCoAB under APAARI-COA collaborative project, which has been extended by another term of three years. He also appreciated the continued funding commitment of Mahyco and support of FAO. While welcoming Dr. Kiran Sharma, he thanked ICRISAT for housing APCoAB secretariat and extending other facilities. Dr. Paroda appreciated the cooperation of MARDI and the whole hearted support provided by Dr. Abd Shukor for hosting two APAARI expert consultations during the past two years.

Dr. Paroda apprised the SC about the current status of agricultural biotechnology adoption in the Asia-Pacific region and issues with regard to regulatory approvals. While Bt cotton has been a great success in India and China and Bt maize is being cultivated in the Philippines for several years, issues have been raised about biosafety of Bt brinjal in India which need to be discussed and resolved. APCoAB, established to serve as a neutral forum has been organizing meetings and consultations on these issues. But more efforts would be needed at the national and regional levels to remove the misapprehensions and advocate appropriate policies.

Agenda item 2: Address by the Chairman

Dr. Abd Shukor read the Chairman's address on behalf of Dr. Ayyappan. While welcoming the participants, he expressed regret that other members of SC, Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive

Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Dr Malcolm Hazelman, FAO-RAP, Bangkok and Dr. Randy Hautea, Director ISAAA could not attend due to urgent engagements.

Dr. Abd Shukor highlighted the great opportunity provided by biotechnology for improving agricultural productivity of crops, farm animals and fishery resources. Some of the promised benefits have already been realized in India and China. However, he also emphasised the need to assess environmental and economic impact of biotechnology as well as building capacities so that all the stakeholders in the region could benefit from these powerful tools. He expressed happiness that APCoAB is making consistent progress as evident from the range of activities comprising expert consultations, training programs and publications carried out since last SC meeting. Dr. Abd Shukor was pleased that the expert consultation on post harvest of horticultural held in Malaysia was very well attended and it yielded valuable recommendations. He thanked COA for extension of the collaborative program on biotechnology as also MAHYCO for its continued funding support for APCoAB.

Agenda item 3: Approval of minutes of XII Steering Committee Meeting

The SC was informed that the proceedings of XII SC had been circulated on 3rd June 2010 (Annexure II). Comments received from Mr. Malcolm Hazelman with respect to decisions regarding FAO support to activities proposed for 2010 were put before the members. Chairman sought the concurrence of members for approval of minutes which was granted unanimously. The members also adopted the agenda for the XIII Steering Committee (Annexure III).

Agenda item 4: Brief Report

a) Action Taken Report

Dr J. L. Karihaloo, Coordinator, APCoAB presented a brief on the action taken on recommendations of XII SC meeting. The same are detailed below:

Sl. No.	Recommendation	Action Taken
1	It was recommended to request COA for extension of APAARI-COA collaborative project for another term of three years with enhanced funding support	COA has agreed to extend the project for another term of three years with funding of US\$ 50,000 per year
2	ICAR would consider favourably the request of APAARI to waive training fee for courses being organized in ICAR institutes	ICAR waived training fee for APAARI participants in the training held at NBPGR during 2010
3	The SC unanimously agreed to request ICAR funding support to APCoAB particularly in view of the observation that a large proportion of its activities relate to agricultural R&D in India. These include publication of status reports highlighting achievements of India agricultural research and organization of training programs in ICAR institutes	ICAR has been requested by Executive Secretary for such support

4	Mr. Gavin Wall, FAO representative in India offered to follow the pending proposals with respective departments in FAO, comprising TCP project and revision of publication on Biosafety Regulations. He suggested the possibility of Ms. Rosa Rolle, Senior Agro-Industry and Post-Harvest Officer, FAO-RAP getting associated with the APAARI Expert Consultation on Post-Harvest Technology being held in Malaysia.	Following feed back was received from Mr. Malcolm Hazelman: 1) TCP project could not make through the competitive process 2) To communicate with Ms. Rosa Rolle regarding her possible involvement with the Expert Consultation
5	Following detailed discussion on the proposal received from MARDI regarding organization of Expert Consultation on Post-Harvest Technology, it was suggested that the program should give due prominence to rural-based PH technologies that help in linking farmers with markets. It was suggested that IFAP could consider farmer participation in the meeting	1) The emphasis of the consultation was low cost rural based technologies for small farmers 2) IFAP nominated farmer representative was supported by APAARI for participation in the consultation
6	Based on specific needs, joint funding proposals for capacity building of stakeholders in the AP region would be formulated in collaboration with ICRISAT	Being done in collaboration with Dr. Kiran Sharma, Principal Scientist, ICRISAT
7	It was suggested that the APCoAB website news update releases should also be emailed to potential users	News mailers are being sent to all APAARI members and other potential users. Others interested are encouraged to register for the service

b) Progress Report

Dr. J. L. Karihaloo, Coordinator, APCoAB presented a report on the activities carried out during the period under report.

- **Expert Consultation Meeting on Postharvest and Value Addition of Horticultural Produce, Malaysia, 29 November – 2 December, 2010**

APAARI-APCoAB in collaboration with the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) organized the expert consultation with support of GFAR, FAO-RAP, HortCRSP and Malaysian Agricultural Corporation. Eighty six participants attended the meeting comprising international experts and experts from APAARI member countries, representatives of farmer organizations in the Asia-Pacific engaged in postharvest handling of horticultural produce and local participants from government agencies, traders, farmers and private sector. The four day event comprised two days of presentations and group discussions, and two days technical visits. The presentations were organized under four sessions followed by two sessions of Group Discussions, Plenary Discussion and Recommendations.

- **Training Workshop on Assisted Reproductive Technologies for Livestock Genetic Improvement, Livestock Research Institute (LRI), Chinese Taipei, 24-26 October, 2010**

APCoAB in collaboration with Livestock Research Institute, Tainan, Chinese Taipei (LRI) and International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) organized the Training Workshop which was attended by eight participants, five of whom (from Malaysia, Iran, Philippines, India and Oman) were nominated by APCoAB. The training comprised lectures by LRI and ILRI staff on principles and applications of artificial insemination (AI) in mammalian species, poultry, ducks and geese; embryo transfer and *in vitro* fertilization; nuclear transfer and somatic cell cloning; livestock and poultry genetic diversity; genomic breeding technology; and utilization of animal genetic resources for biomedical research. Demonstrations were held on AI, including equipment and procedures; preparation technology for frozen semen; *in vitro* fertilization; and somatic cell manipulation. The trainees visited local livestock and poultry cooperative farms for gaining first hand experience on practical application of improvement and rearing practices. APCoAB Coordinator made a presentation on the status, issues and options for biotechnology application in the developing countries.

- **Training Course on Edible Mushroom Production for Asian Farmers and Entrepreneurs, Taiwan Agriculture Research Institute (TARI), Taichung, Chinese Taipei, 21-27 November, 2010**

The training course was aimed to equip researchers, government officers and extension workers in the AP region with a working knowledge and share experiences on improved technologies for mushroom production. Fifteen participants undertook the course, of whom three (from Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam) were nominated by APCoAB. The course comprised lectures on edible and medicinal mushrooms, their cultivation technology, production, nutritional and medicinal value, and market prospects. Practical demonstrations were given on preparation of substrates, tissue isolation and sub-culture, and preservation of cultures. The participants were exposed to on-farm mushroom cultivation and management practices through visits to mushroom farms and interaction with large and small scale growers. The participants also observed cultivation of mushroom as value-added products.

- **International Training Course on *In Vitro* and Cryopreservation Techniques for Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi, 15-27 November, 2010**

The training course organised in collaboration with ICAR and Bioversity International was attended by 14 participants from eleven countries, four of whom (from Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei and Iran) were nominated by APCoAB. The faculty was drawn from NBPGR and other local organizations, Bioversity International, APCoAB and Royal Botanic Garden, Kew. The course was organized into 28 lectures and practicals on topics related to *in vitro* conservation and cryopreservation of germplasm of vegetatively propagated and non-orthodox seed species, and use of molecular tools for management and conservation of plant genetic resources. Hands-on training was provided on cryopreservation of non-orthodox seeds like citrus, mulberry buds and pollen.

- **Publication entitled “Micropropagation for Production of Quality Banana Planting Material in Asia-Pacific”**

This is third publication published in the series on micropropagation of vegetatively propagated horticultural crops brought out by APCoAB. The publication is compiled into five main chapters: 1) Introduction; 2) Banana Propagation; 3) Micropropagation for Quality Banana Planting Material; 4) Health Management in the production of Disease Free Planting Material Through Micropropagation; and 5) Prospects of Banana Micropropagation for Quality Planting Material Production in Asia-Pacific. Eight Annexures provide detailed tissue culture and disease indexing protocols and standards for establishment of micropropagation facilities.

- **New APCoAB Website**

A new website of APCoAB (www.apcoab.org) has been launched with user-friendly design, navigation and relevant information to all users. The website provides information on mandate, genesis, organizational strategy, supporters, composition of steering committee, and current activities in detail. It provides access to rich resources such as APCoAB publications, databases of institutions, biosafety regulations etc. The website provides links to several national, regional and global organizations and presents on regular basis global news and events on agricultural biotechnology.

As recommended by the XII SC, APCoAB news updates are being circulated to APAARI members and other potential users through email.

Agenda item 5: Work Plan for 2011

The work plan for 2011 was presented by Dr. Karihaloo and approved by the SC (Annexure IV)

Agenda item 6: Audited Accounts

Dr Karihaloo presented the Audited Accounts for the period January-December 2010 (Annexure V) which were approved unanimously by the SC. The committee also approved the budget for 2011-2012 (Annexure VI).

Agenda item 7: General Discussion on Activities and Resource Generation:

- All the members participated in the discussion following the presentation of progress reports. Following suggestions/remarks were made:
- The Steering Committee unanimously appreciated the progress made by APCoAB during the period under report. Particular mention was made about the high quality of expert consultations and the number of relevant training programs organized by APCoAB.
- Regarding the recommendation of the Expert Consultation on Post-harvest and Value Addition for Horticultural Produce, Dr Ayyappan offered to establish a Regional Center for South Asia on Post-harvest Technology in India. Dr. Abd Shukor offered to set up a center for South East Asia in Malaysia.

- Dr. Paroda highlighted the need for policy advocacy and public awareness on GM food crops in view of the current controversy and moratorium on release of Bt brinjal in India. He proposed ICAR and DBT to address these issues for which APCoAB could play a facilitation role.
- Dr Holderness highlighted the diverse perspectives about biotechnology and the need for APCoAB to project these views in a balanced manner. He also emphasized the importance of proper needs assessment before initiating biotechnology R&D projects.
- Dr Ayyappan informed the SC about the quarterly ICAR Agribiotechnology Newsletter to create awareness among the stakeholders in India. He suggested APCoAB to contribute articles to this newsletter.
- Dr. Hearn mentioned about the lack of institutional capacity in biosafety regulation in a number of AP countries and the need to address this issue to facilitate decision making process.
- Dr Su-San Chang suggested participation of APCoAB in high level policy dialogues on biotechnology conducted by APEC to create linkages and other organizations in South East Asia with similar objectives.
- It was proposed to follow up on outcomes of training courses conducted by APCoAB and find out how these are being utilized by the trainees in the respective organizations.
- It was suggested to make the training materials like lecture notes and laboratory protocols available on APCoAB website.
- In response to a suggestion to organize training program on Marker Aided selection, it was recommended that APCoAB should work as a facilitator for NARS members to gain access to such courses being organized by CG centers and some NARS.
- Regarding collaboration with ICRISAT, it was suggested that joint training programs on Agri-business Incubators could be held at ICRISAT with the support of World Bank and other funding organizations. Similarly, joint activities with ISAAA on public awareness and policy advocacy need to be identified.
- The proposal to revise the publication on biosafety regulations and organize a workshop of biosafety Focal Points was appreciated and it was recommended to pursue the proposal for funding by FAO. ICRISAT could be approached to host this workshop, as earlier one was also held in Hyderabad.

Agenda item 8: Any other Business

- Reconstitution of APCoAB Steering Committee

Since the present APCoAB SC had completed its term, a new SC was proposed and approved.

Chairman	Dr. S. Ayyappan, ICAR, India
Members	Dr. Simon Hearn, ACIAR, Australia Dr. Su-San Chang, COA, Chinese Taipei Dr. William D. Dar, ICRISAT, India Dr. Malcolm Hazelman, FAO RAP, Thailand Mr. Raju Barwale, MAHYCO, India Dr. Raj Paroda, APAARI
Secretary	Dr. J. L. Karihaloo, APCoAB

- The SC was informed that following the resignation of previous Office Secretary, a new Secretary had been appointed.
- The proposed recruitment of one Research Fellow was also approved.

Agenda item 9: Chairman’s closing Remarks

Dr. Ayyappan in his concluding remarks thanked the participants for attending the meeting and making important contributions. The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair and Co-chair.



ASIA-PACIFIC CONSORTIUM ON AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY (APCoAB)

**XIV STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
12 March 2012, NASC Complex, New Delhi
(16:30 – 18:00 hrs)**

TENTATIVE AGENDA

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|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Welcome Remarks | : Dr. Raj Paroda |
| 2. Address by the Chairman | : Dr. S. Ayyappan |
| 3. Approval of Minutes of XIII SC Meeting | : Dr. S. Ayyappan |
| 4. A Brief Report | : Dr. J. L. Karihaloo |
| 5. Work Plan 2012 | : Dr. J. L. Karihaloo |
| 6. Audited Accounts | : Dr. J. L. Karihaloo |
| 7. General Discussion | : Members |
| 8. Any other Business | : Members |
| 9. Chairman's Closing Remarks | : Dr. S. Ayyappan |

Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB)
XIV Steering Committee Meeting
12 March 2012, NASC, New Delhi

AGENDA NOTES

1. Welcome Remarks

Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI will welcome the members, special invitees and other participants of the Steering Committee meeting.

2. Address by the Chairman

Chairman APAARI, Dr. S. Ayyappan will deliver his Opening Address.

3. Approval of Minutes of XIII SC Meeting

Proceedings of the XIII Steering Committee meeting held on 14 February 2011 at NASC complex, New Delhi (**Annexure-I**) were circulated to all the participants on 23 March 2011. Acknowledgements of the receipt were received from two members whereas no comments are received. The proceedings will be placed before the steering committee for adoption.

4. A Brief Report

Dr. J. L. Karihaloo, Coordinator, APCoAB will brief the Steering Committee about the following activities carried out since the last SC meeting. Please see (**Annexure-II**) for full APAARI report.

- 1) Stakeholders' Interface on GM Food Crops, held at NASC Complex, New Delhi, 19th May 2011.
- 2) Training workshop on "Rapid Bioassay for Pesticide Residues (RBPR) on Fruits and Vegetables for Market Inspection and Farm Education" held at Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute, Chinese Taipei, 27 June-1 July 2011.
- 3) Expert Consultation Meeting on "Agricultural biotechnology, Biosafety and Biosecurity" held at Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute, Chinese Taipei, 27-28 October 2011.
- 4) International Training Course on "*In Vitro* and Cryopreservation Techniques for Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources", held at National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi, 14-26 November 2011.
- 5) International Symposium on "Genetics and Reproductive Management for Animal Production" held at Livestock Research Institute, Tainan, 21-24 November 2011.
- 6) Publications:
 - (i) Proceedings of Expert Consultation Meeting on Postharvest and Value Addition of Horticultural Produce;
 - (ii) Recommendations of Stakeholders' Interface on GM Food

crops; and (iii) Proceedings of Expert Consultation on Agricultural Biotechnology, Biosafety and Biosecurity (under preparation).

5. Work Plan 2012

Work plan for 2012 will be presented to the Steering Committee. The members may like to give their suggestions on the draft work plan attached as (Annexure- III).

6. Audited Accounts and Budget 2012

The Audited Accounts statement for January-December 2011 and Budget 2012 will be presented for perusal/scrutiny and approval of the Steering Committee.

7. General Discussion

Discussion on progress made, program for 2012 and budget will be held. Members are welcome to suggest new initiatives.

8. Any other Business

Any other item shall be taken up with the permission of Chair.

9. Chairman's Closing Remarks

The Chairman will deliver closing remarks and the Executive Secretary, APAARI will propose a Vote of Thanks.

APCoAB WORK PLAN FOR 2012

Expert Consultations /Symposia/Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expert Consultation on “Policy and Research Needs to Manage Trans-Boundary Diseases and Plants of Agricultural Importance” in collaboration with ICAR (10-12 October 2012)• Policy Dialogue on GM Food Crops in Philippines
Training Programs/workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two training programs on biotechnology related topics in collaboration with COA, Chinese Taipei• Workshop on Biosafety Regulations of Asia-Pacific Countries
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publication of Proceedings of Expert Consultation on Biotechnology, Biosafety and Biosecurity• Publication on Date Palm Micropropagation
APCoAB website	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular update of News and Events on agricultural biotechnology developments in AP region• Regular update of other contents and databases



SUMMARY ACCOUNT STATEMENT OF APCoAB
01 January – 31 December 2011
 (Amount in US Dollars)

ITEMS	RECEIVED	DISBURSEMENTS		BALANCE
		Budget	Actual Used	
Amount B/F				42,368.57
1. Contributions	10,015.63			
2. Interest Income	37.84			
3. Other Income:	93,000.00			
3.1 Refund	4,467.95			
4. Secretariat Support:		15,000.00		
4.1 Office Stationery & Office equipment			2,246.50	
4.2 Miscellaneous / Communication			1,552.18	
5. Publications		10,000.00	3,613.15	
6. Consultancy, Salary of Assistant		50,000.00	60,051.10	
7. Travel		10,000.00	5,006.43	
8. Training		20,000.00	2,326.02	
9. Meetings		20,000.00		
9.1 Expenses of Steering Com/General/High Level Meetings			3,870.74	
TOTAL	107,521.42	125,000.00	78,666.12	71,223.87

Remark: Expenditure on behalf of APAARI US\$ 7,247.77

Total amount in BKK office:

US\$ 44,999.83

Total amount in New Delhi office:

US\$ 18,976.27

Grand Total:

US\$ 63,976.10

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 Dr. Raj Paroda
 Executive Secretary, APAARI

.....
 Ms. Urairat Rujirek
 Accountant, APAARI

.....
 Mr. Wittaya Jenchotsuwan
 External Auditor

Budget 2012
Expected Income

1. CONTRIBUTORS	US\$
1.1 APAARI	28,000.00
1.2 ACIAR	15,000.00
1.3 MAHYCO	10,000.00
1.4 COA	50,000.00
2. B/F 2011 BALANCE	71,223.87
TOTAL	174,223.87

Budget 2012
Expected Expenditure

2.1. Consultancy	US\$ 55,000.00
2.2. Secretarial Support and miscellaneous	US\$ 15,000.00
2.3. Publications	US\$ 10,000.00
2.4. Travel	US\$ 10,000.00
2.5. Training	US\$ 20,000.00
2.6. Meetings Expenses	US\$ 20,000.00
TOTAL	US\$ 130,000.00