



ASIA-PACIFIC CONSORTIUM ON AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY (APCoAB)

XVII STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING Rama Gardens Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand 10th December 2015

PROCEEDINGS

The XVII Steering Committee (SC) Meeting of Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB) was held at the Rama Gardens Hotel, Bangkok on the 10th of December 2015. The meeting began with brief introductory remarks by APAARI Chairman, Mr. Somchai Charnarongkul, Director General (DG), Department of Agriculture, Thailand after which he handed the Chairmanship to his Deputy Director General (DDG), Dr. Surmsuk Salakpetch. It was attended by 8 members comprising SC members or their representatives and 1 invitee and 4 observers (Annex 1). Dr. Rose, Dong-chong Hsiou, DDG, Department of International Affairs, Council of Agriculture, Chinese Taipei (COA) was represented by Dr. Junne-Jih Chen, DG of Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute, COA and Dr. Abdul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC) was represented by Mr. Md. Abdul Awal, Chief Scientific Officer, BARC.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introduction

Dr. Raghunath Ghodake, Executive Secretary, APAARI welcomed all the participants and expressed appreciation of their continued support to the biotechnology activities of APAARI. APCoAB is an important program of APAARI and with the funding support of COA and ACIAR, it has been making significant contributions on agricultural biotechnology.

Agenda Item 2: Opening Remarks by Chairman

Mr. Somchai Charnnarongkul welcomed all the members to the SC meeting. In his brief opening remarks, he announced that Thailand was in the process of getting their Biosafety Law to be presented to Parliament after Cabinet approval. He further went on to say that it is a milestone in Agriculture Biotechnology for Thailand. Mr. Somchai stressed the importance of biotechnology as a tool for the improvement of agriculture productivity although there are various challenges of adopting biotechnology in agriculture. He then handed the chairmanship to his DDG as he had another meeting to attend.

Dr. Surmsuk Salakpetch, DDG of DOA, Thailand, welcomed again all the members to the meeting and reiterated the importance of biotechnology to agriculture in the Asia-Pacific region. She stated that agricultural biotechnology enhances breeders' ability to make improvements in crops and livestock that are not possible with traditional crossing of related

species alone. As biotechnology continues to evolve, public awareness and effective communication is essential for its wider adoption and acceptance.

Developing countries in the Asia-pacific region can benefit tremendously by adopting agricultural biotechnology to enhance their socio economic development. Thus the role of APAARI together with APCoAB is very important to assist the Asia Pacific region in achieving sustainably agricultural developmental goals through the implementation of activities for knowledge enhancement, capacity building, collaboration, cooperation and technology adoption.

She called upon all the members present today to give their comments and suggestions for the improvement of this program to achieve its mandate.

Agenda Item 3: Final Approval of Minutes of XVI SC Meeting

The committee was informed that the Proceedings of the XVI Steering Committee held on 22 April 2014 were circulated to all the members and no comments were received. The minutes were presented for final approval. Then the chairman presented the agenda (Annex II) which was then adopted.

Agenda Item 4: APCoAB Progress Report: May 2014- November 2015

Dr. Vilasini Pillai, Coordinator, APCoAB presented the APCoAB Progress Report: May 2014- November 2015 covering the period under Dr. JL Karihaloo (May 2014-December 2014) as well as the period under Dr. Vilasini Pillai (April 2015- November 2015).

The report covered the following items:

I. Expert Consultations/Symposia/Meetings/ Training Programs/Workshops

- APCoAB Steering Committee Meeting held in Bangkok on 22 April, 2014;
- Expert Consultation on Assuring Food Safety in Asia-Pacific at JIRCAS, Tsukuba on 4-5 August, 2014;
- International Conference on Avian Influenza Prevention and Control' on 18-19 November, 2014 at Animal Health Research Institute, New Taipei City;
- Analytical Techniques in Nutrition, Food Safety and Biosafety at ICRISAT, Patancheru, India on 1-14 September, 2014;
- Executive Committee Meeting, 12th May 2015, APCoAB work plan for 2015 was presented for endorsement and approval;
- Multicounty Observational Study Mission on Revitalizing Rural Economies for More Inclusive Development from the 14-18th September 2015 with COA in Chinese Taipei;

- Workshop on Development of Communication Strategies for Adoption of Agri-Biotechnology in the Asia-Pacific region, Dusit Island Resort, Chiang Rai, Thailand, 28-29th September 2015;
- International Symposium on Bio pesticides & Bio fertilizers for Sustainable Agriculture from the 13-15th October, 2015 in Chinese Taipei; and
- International Conference on Prevention and Control of Avian Influenza from the 21-22nd October, 2015 in Chinese Taipei.

II. Publications

- Biosafety Regulations for GM Crops in Asia-Pacific;
- Asia-Pacific Symposium on Molecular Breeding-Proceedings;
- Expert Consultation on Assuring Food Safety in Asia-Pacific – Proceedings and Recommendations; and
- Development of Communication Strategies for Adoption of Agri-Biotechnology in the Asia-Pacific region- Proceedings and Recommendations.

III. APCoAB Website

- Regular update of News and Events on agricultural biotechnology developments in Asia-Pacific region.
- Regular update of other contents and databases.

(For details on all the above activities, please see Annex III)

The members accepted the progress report on no further comments. Dr. Junne-Jih Chen, Vice Chair of the SC reminded the APCoAB coordinator to send the progress report to COA before the year end.

Agenda Item 5: APCoAB Work Plan Jan-April 2016

Dr. Vilasini presented the Work Plan for January till April 2016 (Annex IV) as there will be another SC meeting in May 2016 where details of the other activities planned for the rest of the year will be presented.

Dr Vilasini presented the Bt Brinjal dialogue that will be held on the 23-25th February 2016, co-organised with BARC, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project II (APSP II), International Services for the Acquisition of Agricultural Applications (ISAAA) and Malaysia Biotechnology Information Centre (MABIC). This was an activity approved in the last EC meeting but had to be deferred on the suggestion of our co-organisers.

Dr. Vilasini also touched on ways to get feedback from member countries on activities that they would like to see APCoAB carry out to develop their capacities in Biotechnology. One

way suggested was using Facebook. She also suggested developing a strategic framework for long term planning and follow through of APCoAB plans and activities so that there will be continuity as well impact on the activities carried out.

Mr. Md Abdul Awal, representing the Executive Chairman of BARC offered his assistance on coordinating the Bt Brinjal Dialogue. He further said his organisation will be most willing to help out in whatever possible.

The idea of the Facebook was not approved as it was suggested that it might open up to abuse and invite negative comments that may prove to be more detrimental than a help.

It was suggested by David Shearer, ACIAR that the Theory of Change be used to make changes to the overall APCoAB program instead of developing a Strategic Framework.

Dr. Reynaldo Ebor, Acting Executive Director of Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) - Department of Science and Technology has agreed to co-organise an event with APCoAB to be held back to back with the Philippines Biotechnology Week in November. This way there will be cost saving as well taking advantage of the targeted audience that will be present at the Biotechnology week. The area of collaboration will be worked by April 2016.

The Work Plan until April 2016 was approved by the Steering Committee. (Annex IV)

Agenda Item 6: Audited Financial Statements: January-October 2015

Dr. Vilasini presented the Audited Accounts of 2015 along with the audit certificate. A total amount of US\$ 94,943.99 was available on 1.1.2015 while the amount spent until the end of October 2015 was US\$ 85,041.70. The expenditure under all the items was within the budget. The Audited accounts statement was approved by the Steering Committee.

Agenda Item 7 & 8: General Discussion and any other matters

No further points were brought up by members of the SC.

Agenda Item 9: Concluding Remarks by Chairman






In her closing remarks, Dr. Surmsuk Salakpetch thanked all SC members present for their comments, participation and useful suggestions.







Agenda Item 10: Vote of Thanks



Dr. Vilasini proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair, Vice-Chair and all the other participants for their valuable advice.



XVII APCoAB Steering Committee Meeting
List of participants

N o.	Name	Designation and address	Email	Country	Photo
1	Surmsuk Salakpetch (Chairman)	Member, Organizing Committee; and DDG, Department of Agriculture, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900	ssalakpetch@gmail.com	Thailand	
2	Junn-Jih Chen (Vice Chairman)	Director General, Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) of COA	jjchen@tari.gov.tw	Chinese Taipei	
3	Raghunath Ghodake	Executive Secretary APAARI, FAO Annex Building, 202/1 Larn Laung Road, Pomprab Sattrupai, Bangkok 10100, Thailand	raghunath.ghodake760@gmail.com	Thailand	
4	Md. Abdul Awal	Chief Scientific Officer (CSO), Planning and Evaluation Division, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Farmgate, Dhaka-1215	maawal70@barc.gov.bd; maawal70@yahoo.com; Maawal70@gmail.com	Bangladesh	
5	David Shearer	General Manager, Corporate, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), 38 Thynne St Bruce ACT 2617, GPO Box 1571, Canberra, ACT 2601	david.shearer@aciarc.gov.au	Australia	

6	Curtis Lind	Scientist, Aquaculture and Genetic Improvement, World Fish, Jalan Batu Maung, Batu Maung, 11960 Bayan Lepas, Penang, Malaysia	C.Lind@cgiar.org	Malaysia	
7	Reynaldo Eborá	Acting Executive Director, Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Dev (PCAARRD) - Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Paseo de Valmayor, Economic Garden, Bgy. Timugan, Los Baños, Laguna 4030	rvebora@gmail.com; r.ebora@pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph	The Philippines	
8	Jawahir Lal Karihaloo (Invitee)	Senior Consultant, Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), C/o ICRISAT, NASC Complex, DPS Marg, Pusa Campus, New Delhi - 110012	j.karihaloo@apaari.org; jlkarihaloo@gmail.com	India	
9.	Vilasini Pillai	Coordinator, APCoAB, FAO Annex Building, 202/1 Larn Luang Road, Pomprab Sattrupai, Bangkok 10100	vilasini.pillai@apaari.org	Thailand	
Observers					
1	Jintawee Thaingam	Director of International Agricultural Affairs Group, Department of Agriculture, 50 Phaholyothin Road, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900	jintawee@hotmail.com	Thailand	
2	Margaret C. Yoovatana	Policy and Plan Specialist, Planning and Technical Division, Department of Agriculture, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900	luckymegy@yahoo.com	Thailand	

3	Chawee Lomlek	Policy and Plan Specialist, Planning and Technical Division, Department of Agriculture, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900	plomlek@yahoo.com	Thailand	
4	Prapas Songhongsa	Department of Agriculture Phaholyothin Rd., Chatuchak Bangkok 10900, Thailand	haripoonchai@hotmail.com	Thailand	



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

**XVII STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
(1/2015)**

**Rama Gardens Hotel,
Bangkok, Thailand
10 December 2015
(13.30-15.00hrs)**

Agenda

#	Time	Item	Facilitation
1	13.30-13.35	Welcome and Introduction	Dr. Raghunath Ghodake Executive Secretary
2	13.35-13.40	Opening Remarks by Chairman	Mr Somchai Charnnarongkul
3	13.40-13.50	Final Approval of Minutes of XVI SC Meeting	Chairman
4	13.50-14.05	APCoAB Progress Report: May 2014- November 2015	Dr. Vilasini Pillai - APCoAB Coordinator
5	14.05-14.20	APCoAB Work Plan Jan- April 2016	APCoAB Coordinator
6	14.20-14.30	Audited Financial Statements: January - October 2015	APCoAB Coordinator
7	14.30-14.40	General Discussion	Members
8	14.40-14.45	Any other Matters	Members
9	14.45-14.55	Concluding Remarks	Chairman
10	14.55-15.00	Vote of Thanks	APCoAB Coordinator



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

XVII STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Rama Gardens Hotel,
Bangkok
10th December 2015 (13.30-15.00)

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introduction

Dr. Raghunath Ghodake, Executive Secretary, APAARI will welcome the members, special invitees and other participants if the Steering Committee meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Opening Remarks by Chairman

Chairman APAARI, Mr. Somchai Charnnarongkul will deliver his opening remarks highlighting the APCoAB program and key issues to be addressed.

Agenda Item 3: Final Approval of Minutes of XVI SC Meeting

Proceedings of the XVI Steering Committee held on the 22 April 2014 at the Royal Princess Hotel, Bangkok were circulated to all the members of the past Steering Committee. The proceedings will be placed before the Steering Committee for formal approval.

Agenda Item 4: APCoAB Progress Report for the period May 2014- November 2015

Dr. Vilasini, Coordinator, APCoAB will brief the Steering Committee about the activities carried out from May 2014 till November 2015. The report covers the Expert Consultations, Conferences and Training carried out as well as list of publications and collaborative projects carried out with the Council of Agriculture, Chinese Taipei.

Members will be requested to comment, give suggestions, recommendations and to endorse the progress report.

Agenda Item 5: Work Plan January- April 2016

Work plan for the first quarter of 2016 will be presented to the Steering Committee. The members will be invited to give their suggestions on the draft work plan.

Agenda Item 6: Audited Financial Statements January- October 2015

The Audited Account statement for January-October 2015 will be presented for consideration and approval of the Steering Committee.

Agenda Item 7: General Discussion

Discussion on progress made, program for first Quarter of 2016 and budget will be held. Members are welcome to suggest new initiatives.

Agenda Item 8: Any other Matters

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

Agenda Item 9: Chairman's Closing Remarks

The Chairman will deliver his closing remarks to the members of the Steering Committee based on the discussions and deliberations held on APCoAB's progress and future plans.

Agenda Item 10: Vote of thanks by APCoAB Coordinator

Dr. Vilasini Pillai, APCoAB Coordinator will present a vote of thanks to the members of the Steering Committee meeting for their participation.



Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB)
Brief Report on Activities
(May 2014 – November, 2015)

The following are activities carried out for the period May 2014- December 2014

Expert Consultations/Conference/Training

1. Expert Consultation on Assuring Food Safety in Asia-Pacific

In pursuance of its mandate to assist APAARI member organizations and other stakeholders in developing appropriate agricultural research and development policies and programs on food safety, APCoAB/APAARI in collaboration with Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) organized ‘Expert Consultation on Assuring Food Safety in Asia-Pacific’ at JIRCAS, Tsukuba on 4-5 August, 2014. The objective was to deliberate on recent developments on the science and regulation of food safety, identify country level gaps in effective implementation of food safety measures, and set priorities for regional and sub-regional cooperation.

Recommendations were made under various aspects:

(i) Policy and standards, (ii) Traditional foods, (iii) Stakeholders’ involvement, (iv) Food control systems – risk management aspects, (v) Laboratories, (vi) R&D, (vii) Farm level good agricultural practices (GAP), (viii) Genetically modified food, and (ix) Others. In addition, areas of collaboration at national/regional level were identified which included suggestions for increasing coordination between competent authorities within countries, creation of information network for knowledge sharing, rapid alert system for food and feed, and capacity development.

2. 2014 International Conference on Avian Influenza Prevention and Control

COA and APCoAB/APAARI jointly organized ‘2014 International Conference on Avian Influenza Prevention and Control’ on 18-19 November, 2014 at Animal Health Research Institute, New Taipei City. The Conference was attended by experts from Japan, Russia, India, Korea, the Philippines, and Chinese Taipei, who were supported by both COA and APCoAB/APAARI. The program comprised presentations on country status of epidemiology and control of avian influenza, technical advances in characterization and control, and Round Table Meeting on prevention and control of avian influenza.

Based on the presentations and discussion, the following conclusions and recommendations emerged:

Conclusions:

- H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (HPAIV) strains have persisted in domestic poultry for 18 years and antigenic variants have been selected mainly due to the misuse of vaccine;
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been put under control in several countries by the stamping out policy without the use of vaccine;
- Stamping out policy has been recognized as the most effective measure for the control of HPAI;
- Vaccine is used in several countries where HPAI has not been controlled;
- Compensation for livestock owners is prerequisite in the case of stamping out;
- H5 and H7 low pathogenic avian influenza viruses have potential to acquire high pathogenicity to chickens; and
- Clinical signs are observed in chickens infected with HPAI viruses, but not in ducks.

Recommendations made:

- Since stamping out is the best and ultimate measure for the control of HPAI, vaccination should not be applied as an alternative policy;
- We should continue to develop standards and share information on avian influenza surveillance, prevention and control;
- Infection of H5 and H7 low pathogenic avian influenza virus in poultry is notifiable and should be controlled;
- Intensive surveillance is necessary to detect HPAI virus in domestic water birds;
- Surveillance of swine influenza is important in addition to that of avian influenza for the preparedness for pandemic influenza; and
- International collaboration for the prevention and control of avian influenza should be encouraged.

3. Training on ‘Analytical Techniques in Nutrition, Food Safety and Biosafety

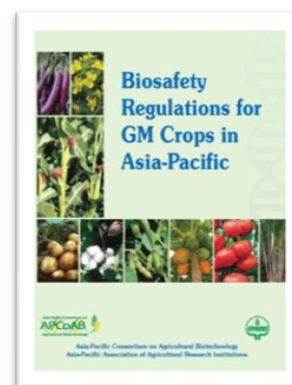
The training program was organized by APCoAB/APAARI in collaboration with ICRISAT and conducted at ICRISAT, Patancheru, India on 1-14 September, 2014. Eighteen participants from eight Asian and four African countries participated. Dr. Tzu-Hung Hsu, Taiwan Agricultural Chemicals and Toxic Substances Research Institute, was fully supported by APCoAB for participation in the training program.

Publications

Following publications were brought out during 2014:

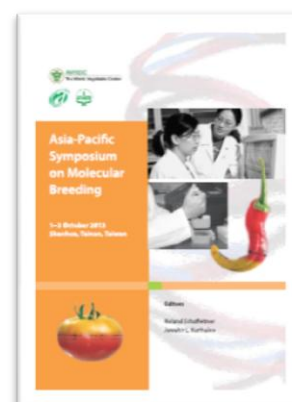
a. Biosafety Regulations for GM Crops in Asia-Pacific

This is a rewritten, updated and enlarged version of the previous APCoAB publication, 'Biosafety Regulations of Asia-Pacific Countries'. It gives brief details of the regulatory instruments comprising laws/acts/decrees/regulations/rules related to biosafety of GM crops existing in 48 countries of Asia and the Pacific.



b. Asia-Pacific Symposium on Molecular Breeding-Proceedings

The publication reports the proceeding of the 'Asia-Pacific Symposium on Molecular Breeding' held on 1-3 October 2013 at AVRDC-The World Vegetable Centre. The first part provides a technical update on marker-assisted selection in breeding and on genotyping innovations, the second part reports on the status and the progress of molecular breeding in the countries represented in the symposium, and the final part comprises output of a networking session designed to build bridges between the research institutions in the region to enhance collaboration in marker-assisted selection for improvement of priority crops and animals.



c. Expert Consultation on Assuring Food Safety in Asia-Pacific – Proceedings and Recommendations

The publication reports the proceedings of the meeting held at Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Science (JIRCAS), Tsukuba, Japan on 4-5 August 2014. It includes summary of presentations on Keynote Lectures, Country Reports, Scientific Advances in Specific Commodities followed by discussions held in each session. Details of Discussions on Key Issues and Recommendations made in the final session are also provided.



The above publications have been shared with all the participants and member organizations. These are also available at www.apaari.org and www.apcoab.org

The following are activities carried out for the period April 2015- November 2015

Executive Committee Meeting

12th May 2015

APCoAB work plan for 2015 was presented for endorsement and approval.

Activities with COA, Chinese Taipei

1. Council of Agriculture (COA), Executive Yuan, China Productivity Center and the Asian Productivity Centre together with APAARI co-organised a **Multicounty Observational Study Mission on Revitalizing Rural Economies for More Inclusive Development from the 14-18th September 2015 in Chinese Taipei.**

The aim of the study mission was to study the policy and institutional settings for better revitalization of rural economies as well as to learn from the strategies, approaches, and successful models used to revitalize the host country's rural economies. The participants would be then able to formulate strategic action plans to utilize for the revitalization of their own rural economies and disseminate findings of the Study Mission in their own respective countries. The study mission consisted of visits to sites of successful cases of revitalization of local economies in the host country, theme presentations, sharing of experiences among member countries, and individual/group exercises. APAARI nominated the 6 participants, namely i. Dr. Dao The Anh (Vietnam); ii. Dr. Stewan Korallalage Don Frank Felix Niranjan; iii. Dr. Shambhu Prasad Khatiwada (Nepal); iv. Mr. Jose Tomas M. Cabagay (Philippines); v. Dr. Umar Farooq (Pakistan); and vi. Dr. Mohammad Mosharraf Uddin Molla (Bangladesh).

2. The Agricultural Technology Research Institute (ATRI) co-organised with APCoAB, COA and China Productivity Centre, the **International Symposium on Bio pesticides & Bio fertilizers for Sustainable Agriculture from the 13-15th October, 2015** in Chinese Taipei. A total of 120 participants from Industry, regulators, and scientists from Universities and Research Institutes in Taiwan as well as experts and officials from 5 South East Asian countries took part. The main objectives of this Symposium were to understand registration systems, policies, and regulation rules in bio pesticides and bio fertilizers of Southeast Asian countries, understand the development status, management, marketing promotion, and marketing bio pesticides and bio fertilizers of Southeast Asian countries as well as promote the international cooperation of bio pesticides and bio fertilizers through international industrial development and co-operation. The Symposium covered talks from local and foreign regulatory officials and scientists from Taiwan and abroad. The countries that took part in the symposium were from:

- Thailand
- Philippines
- Malaysia
- Vietnam
- Indonesia

Their talks covered the respective country laws and regulations on registration of Bio fertilizers and Bio pesticides as well as the latest research and development on bio fertilizers and bio pesticides. There was a field visit to the Kaohsiung District Agricultural Research and Extension Station, COA, Pingtung Agricultural Biotechnology Park (PABP), COA and a Bio fertilizer factory called Advanced Green Biotechnology Inc. APAARI nominated 1 participant from Malaysia, Dr. Ganesan Krishnan.

OUTPUTS

- Better understanding of the registration systems, policies and regulation rules in bio pesticides and bio fertilizers in Taiwan and other South East Asian countries;
- Status of research and development in the field of bio fertilizer and bio pesticides of Taiwan and other South East Asian countries; and
- Promotion of international cooperation in the field of bio fertilizer and bio pesticide between researchers and industry.

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- There was consensus that all concerned should encourage and promote the wider use of Bio pesticides and bio fertilizers. This will then increase the production and bring the cost down. The present high cost of bio fertilizers and bio pesticides is seen as an obstacle to the greater adoption and usage by farmers ;
- It was agreed that a mechanism for regional or international cooperation should be set up under the umbrella of ASEAN;
- ATRI to initiate a regional consortium with industry players and other experts in this field to organize symposiums, workshops and conferences;
- To conduct more research in increasing the shelf life of Bio pesticides and bio fertilizers at the request of Industry as this is a major problem faced by manufactures;
- To consider having botanical pesticides de regulated or easier process of registering as they are extracts from plants, having lower toxicity. However it's important to look into their proper formulation;
- To study the problems involved in the export of bio pesticides and bio fertilizers and come up with better solutions to ease this problem;
- To have a list of material that would be exempt from registration;
- To have a list of terminologies, agreed by all experts from the various countries in South East Asia and Taiwan so that there is better understanding of what falls under the various categories;
- ATRI will prepare the proceedings of this Symposium; and
- All the suggestions and recommendations will be taken up by the Department of Science and Technology, COA, Taiwan.

3. The Animal Health Research Institute (AHRI), APCoAB and COA, co-organised the **International Conference on Prevention and Control of Avian Influenza** from the 21-22nd October, 2015 in Chinese Taipei. The conference, discussed issues about enhancing communication and collaboration among Asian countries to fight against the disease. The conference provided opportunities to share information and experiences on prevention

and control of avian influenza for government officials, researchers and stakeholders. The output of the Conference was to establish a communication network for the international collaboration on co-defense mechanism, and to achieve the goal of fighting invasion and spread of avian influenza. The experts came from Japan, Chinese Taipei, USA and Korea. Participants were from South East Asian countries. APAARI supported 1 participant from Vietnam, Dr. Pham Minh Hang.

Workshop

Workshop on Development of Communication Strategies for Adoption of Agri-Biotechnology in the Asia-Pacific region, Dusit Island Resort, Chiang Rai, Thailand, 28-29th September 2015.

The Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and its program on biotechnology, the Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB), organized a workshop on Development of Communication Strategies for Adoption of Agri-Biotechnology in Asia and the Pacific from the 28-29th September, 2015 in Chiang Rai, Thailand. The workshop was organized in collaboration with International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA), Malaysian Biotechnology Information Centre (MABIC) and supported by Council of Agriculture, the Chinese Taipei. Dr. Alongkorn Korntong, Deputy Director General, Department of Agriculture (DOA), Thailand officiated the workshop. He emphasized on the importance of plant biotechnology in enhancing agriculture productivity in a sustainable manner in the Asia-Pacific region but its successful adoption and implementation will depend on a number of critical factors including the public awareness and acceptance. International experts from nine countries together with twenty-four agriculture researchers from fifteen countries in the Asia and the Pacific participated and shared their experiences as resource persons, scientists, regulators and communicators and deliberated on issues and bottlenecks in the adoption of agri-biotechnology in the Asia-Pacific region. They also discussed on policies, regulations and communication strategies that can expedite the adoption of agri-biotechnology in the Asia-Pacific region. The key problems are no longer based around not having an adequate flow of technology in the region, but are based around not having commensurate communication and understanding of agri-biotechnology opportunities. Proceedings of this workshop as well as a Communications Framework will be published. This framework is designed for research agencies and partners to assist in developing strategies for communicating about Agri-biotechnology and come up with recommendations and communication strategies that could expedite the adoption of biotech crops to harness its benefits in the Asia-Pacific region.

Publications

1. Development of Communication Strategies for Adoption of Agri-Biotechnology in the Asia-Pacific region- Proceedings and Recommendations.
2. Development of Communication Strategies for Adoption of Agri-Biotechnology in Asia Pacific - A Framework for Engagement with Key Stakeholders about Agri-Biotechnology – a Paradigm Shift. (published by end February 2016).

APCoAB Website

APCoAB website is updated on regular basis with News and Events on current global developments in agricultural biotechnology, APCoAB publications and other important news including that from APAARI member organizations.

The APAARI Newsletter issued twice a year includes items on agricultural research and development in the Asia-Pacific countries, especially of member national agricultural research systems. Activities under APAARI-COA collaborative project were also highlighted.



APCoAB WORK PLAN FOR 2016

Expert Consultations /Symposia/Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APCoAB Steering Committee Meeting, Bangkok, April 2016 • Expert Consultation/Meeting in collaboration with PCAARRD (Date to be finalised) • Dialogue on Bt Brinjal with BARC/BARI on the 23-25th February 2016
Training Programs/Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on Biotechnology of Pulses • Training programs/workshops on biotechnology to be held in Chinese Taipei (in consultation with COA, dates to be decided).
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceedings of 3 events • Communications Framework- February 2016 • Success Stories- targeting 2 • APCoAB updated Brochure and Posters
APCoAB Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-design of Website • Regular update of latest in agricultural biotechnology developments • Regular update of other contents and databases
Other Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook for ApCoAB • Feedback Survey • Partnerships and collaborations • Strategic Framework for long term planning