



ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

**The Executive Committee Meeting
5 June 2006, Rama Gardens Hotel, Bangkok**

PROCEEDINGS

1. Introduction

The mid-term Executive Committee Meeting of APAARI was held on 5 June 2006, at the Rama Gardens Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand, under the Chairmanship of Prof. H.P.M. Gunasena. The adopted Agenda and the list of participants are given in Annex I & II, respectively. Three Executive Committee members -Dr. M.E Tusneem, PARC, Mr. Nicomedes P. Eleazar, BAR, Philippines, and Mr. Luke Ratuvuku, CEO, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Settlement, Fiji, could not attend the meeting because of their pre-commitments.

2. Welcome Address

Prof. Gunasena welcomed the participants and pointed out that notable steady progress has been achieved in the field of agricultural research in the Asia-Pacific Region. He also mentioned that NARS of several South Asian countries lack the creativity in agricultural research in comparison to developments in some East and Southeast Asian countries. APAARI may consider providing needed advice and support to these South Asian NARS.

Dr. Thierry Mennesson, Vice-Chairman of APAARI, in his short remarks desired APAARI to encourage the NARS of developing countries to identify their own agricultural research development needs instead of seeking help from outside experts. So APAARI may extend its help to the Pacific Island countries in developing their capacity to organize effectively on-going research programs.

3. APAARI Activities Report

Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, welcomed the participants and also conveyed the apologies, on behalf of those ExCo members who were unable to attend the Meeting. He expressed his appreciation to all the members of the Executive Committee for their full cooperation in taking action by the Secretariat for implementing earlier decisions of the Executive Committee Meetings. He presented the Action Taken Report details, which are provided below:

Decision

Action Taken

- | | |
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| (i) To expand the Executive Committee to have the membership of GFAR & APAARI CGIAR Centers included. | Proposed Amendment in Article X of APAARI Constitution was considered to present at the General Assembly for approval (amended version set out under item 6 of this Report) |
| (ii) To increase the Fixed Deposit amount to the level of US\$ 800,000/= | This has been done on 26 January 2006 |
| (iii) To approach Bhutan CAAS, CIP, IAARD, ICARF, ICUC, DPR Korea, MARDI, Myanmar and New Zealand for their Membership. | All of them are being constantly approached and the matter is pursued on regular basis. Lately in May 2006, the Liaison Officer of APAARI had good discussions with concerned Executives of NARS of Asian countries at the 28th FAO RAP Conference held in Jakarta, Indonesia |
| (iv) To explore the possibility of national Agricultural and related Universities to also become members of APAARI | The PNG University of Technology has become new member since 2005. In this regard, discussion is going on with concerned authorities of some Agricultural Universities Association, including GCHERA. |
| (v) To explore the possibilities for donor funding from regional & international organizations like ADB, IDRC, DFID, etc. | Discussions are going on with these donor organizations. |

The meeting was also informed of the actions taken to organize several Meetings of APAARI scheduled as follows:

- (i) Meeting of the Asian Contact Group on Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA), from 15-16 April 2006 in Bangkok.
- (ii) Meeting of *PhT* Regional Working Group, from 6-7 June 2006 in Bangkok.
- (iii) APCoAB Steering Committee Meeting on 5 June 2006 in Bangkok
- (iv) APAARI-GFAR Workshop on Advocacy and Inter-regional Cooperation for Information Communication Technologies/ Management in Agricultural Research for Development (Inter-RAIS Meeting), from 3-4 July 2006 at AIT, Thailand

Referring to the Chairman's comment, Dr. Paroda also emphasized the need for providing assistance to the least developed NARS of APAARI region. Accordingly, it would be desirable to identify their priority needs in the field of agricultural research and take up specific support activities. He urged ExCo Members to suggest specific needs of these NARS.

Dr. Paroda also pointed out that volume of work program is gradually expanding particularly in the areas of ICT, Biotechnology, *PhT*, etc. Hence, in the future we would need more collaborative

action programs with concerned international organizations and agencies. This may help APAARI in assisting the least developed NARS such as: Bhutan, Cambodia, DPR Korea, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar and Maldives.

To increase the membership of APAARI, Dr. Paroda suggested to have a group of NARS as well as Agricultural Universities of the economically least developed countries into a category of "Group D" with their annual membership fee of US\$ 1,500/=. Dr. T. Mennesson, Vice-Chairman, was also requested to extend his help in having some potential Pacific Island Countries join APAARI. It was agreed that the Secretariat should bring an Agenda item in the 9th APAARI General Assembly meeting for discussion and appropriate decision.

Referring to the SL No. (ii) under decision and action report, Dr. Paroda expressed his caution over the financial resources of APAARI, mentioning that although the figure of the FD is quite reasonable now but still it may not be enough for long term sustainability, as besides the membership fee, APAARI has no other regular scale contribution from other financial resources. Hence, we have to continue mobilizing more resources in future. Support received from GFAR for some joint activities is highly appreciated.

4. Recent Progress

Executive Committee reviewed the progress of various activities as under:

- (a) Chairman, APAARI and Executive Secretary attended the GFAR Steering Committee Meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, from 5 to 7 December 2005. A Report on APAARI activities was presented and GFAR Work Plan was discussed and finalized involving role of APAARI for 2006.
- (b) Publication and distribution of (i) APAARI Newsletter December 2005 issue, and (ii) Proceedings of "High Level Policy Dialogue on Biotechnology for Food security and Poverty Alleviation: Opportunities and Challenges" held from 7-9 November 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand
- (c) APCoAB Coordinator was appointed effective 1 February 2006.
- (d) APAARI was represented in the NACA Governing Council Meeting held in Tehran, Iran by Dr. Jafar Khalghani, Head of AREO and Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Iran and Dr. Mohammad Roozitalab, Chairman, GFAR from 25 - 28 February 2006.
- (e) APAARI participated in the IFAP Meeting held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 15 to 17 May 2006. Dr. Betty del Rosario, Assistant Executive Secretary of APAARI attended and presented a paper on "Strengthening linkages between farmers' organizations and agricultural research". She had a short power point presentation for briefing the ExCo Meeting on the output of the IFAP Meeting.
- (f) Prof. Gunasena, Chairman and Dr. Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI, would participate in the GFAR Steering Committee and AARINENA General Assembly Meetings to be held from 25 to 27 June 2006, in Sana'a, Yemen.
- (g) On behalf of the Executive Secretary of APAARI, Mr. P. K. Saha, Liaison Officer attended the 28th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific held from 15 - 19 May 2006 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

- (h) Web sites of both APAARI and APCoAB have been up-dated and further improved
- (i) APARIS program of APAARI has prepared manuscripts for:
 - (a) CD on NARS
 - (b) Success Story on ICT

5. Work Plan for 2006

The following Work Plan was proposed and discussed for implementation during 2006: (i) Publication of two success stories — one on "Bt Cotton in India" and the other one either on "Production of Virus Free Citrus Plants" in Taiwan or "Bt Cotton in China" or tissue culture in datepalm or in potato (ii) Publication of "Fifteen Years of Achievements by APAARI". (iii) Inter-Regional RAIS Workshop in the Asia-Pacific Region to be held from 3 - 4 July at AIT, Thailand, (iv) APAARI Regional Synthesis Workshop on Research Needs in Asia and the Pacific, 18 - 19 August 2006, in Bangkok, Thailand, (v) Expert Consultation on Agricultural Innovations: Linking Farmers to Market and the 9th General Assembly Meeting of APAARI from 6 - 8 November 2006 in New Delhi, India.

Executive Committee approved the program and felt happy that many important activities are being taken up during 2006.

6. Audited Accounts of APAARI

The Executive Secretary presented the Account Statement for period January - December 2005, duly audited by the Government Registered Auditor. The ExCo members were requested to scrutinize and approve the audited Account Statement for the year 2005. While expressing their satisfaction, the ExCo members approved the Audited Accounts for the year 2005 and agreed to present the same before the 9th APAARI GAM to be held in November 2006 in New Delhi, India. Members were also pleased that the Fixed Deposit Target of US\$ 800,000 has been achieved due to proper planning by the Secretariat under able leadership of Dr. Paroda.

Executive Committee also agreed to extend one more three years term for the current Government Registered Audit Co., as we face difficulties to find Registered Audit Co. The Committee also approved the proposal to increase the remuneration of Auditors from the current Baht 15,000 to Baht 25,000 per annum effective their next term.

7. Amendment in the Constitution

In view of the earlier decision of the Executive Committee, Executive Secretary presented the draft amended version of the Article X of the APAARI Constitution to consider the changed composition of the Executive Committee which is to be presented before the 9th GAM of APAARI to be held in November 2006. He also informed that the proposed amendment has to be circulated to all the members of APAARI at least 90 days in advance. Accordingly, the amendment was approved by Executive Committee. The present and proposed amended versions of the "Article X: Executive Committee" are given below:

Present Text

There shall be an Executive Committee of the Association composed of three officers, namely Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Executive Secretary, and four members. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members shall be elected by the General Assembly from among the member institutions at the biennial session and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election to the same office for more than two terms. No country will have more than one representative on the Executive Committee. The Executive Secretary, who shall be appointed according to Article XII, Paragraph 22, shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.

Proposed Amended Text

There shall be an Executive Committee of the Association composed of three officers, namely Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Executive Secretary of APAARI, and six members. The following are ex-officio members of the Executive Committee: the Executive Secretary of the Association who shall be appointed according to Article XII under paragraph 22, the Executive Secretary of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and a CGIAR Director-General. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and the four other members shall be elected by the General Assembly from among the member institutions at the biennial session and shall hold office until the next biennial session and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election for the same office for more than two terms. Additional two members will represent (i) GFAR and (ii) CGIAR member institutions (any one Director General by rotation for two years). No country will have more than one representative on the Executive Committee

8. Secretariat Matters (Closed Session)

The matters relating to Secretariat functioning were discussed and Executive Secretary was authorized to strengthen program activities and bring in desired efficiency in view of increased quantum of work-through out-sourcing , wherever needed and through delineation of job responsibilities. In the best interest of APAARI, ExCo members decided and persuaded Dr. Raj Paroda to continue his services as Executive Secretary, for next two year term (2007-2008) so that APAARI gets further strengthened and attains newer heights. They unanimously appreciated his services in the past and desired to have continued guidance to the organization at this critical juncture.

For other staff matters, including clearance of probation period and other salary related matters, Executive Secretary was authorized to take appropriate action as discussed keeping in view the best interest of APAARI and have the Executive Committee members apprised from time to time.

9. Any Other Items

Other items discussed were:

A) As per requirement of the GFAR, the Executive Committee decided to recommend the following two names for the Program Committee of GFAR to represent APAARI:

(i) Executive Secretary of APAARI - Dr. Raj Paroda, and (ii) Director of APSA - Dr. J. S. Sindhu.

Agenda of the (i) Workshop on Regional Synthesis of Research Needs in the Asia-Pacific Region to be held from 18 - 19 August 2006, in Bangkok, and (ii) Agenda of the Expert Consultation on Agricultural Innovations: Linking Farmers to Market and 9th APAARI GAM, to be held from 6 - 8 November 2006, in New Delhi were also discussed, including issues relating to logistic matters.

10. Closing of the Meeting

In his closing remarks, Prof. Gunasena expressed his appreciation for efficiently carrying out the program of APAARI by the Secretariat Team under the experienced guidance of Dr. Raj Paroda. Dr. Thierry Mennesson, Vice-Chairman also extended his vote of thanks to the Chairman, Executive Secretary, all members and APAARI Secretariat staff for their contributions in undertaking various activities of APAARI. Dr. Paroda also expressed his thanks to all the members of the Executive Committee as well as the APAARI Secretariat for their excellent support and guidance towards the activities of APAARI.



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**The Executive Committee Meeting
5 June 2006, Rama Gardens Hotel, Bangkok
(09:30 to 13:30)**

Tentative Agenda

1. Welcome Address by the Chairman – Prof. H.P.M. Gunasena
2. Action Taken Report by Executive Secretary – Dr. Raj Paroda
3. Recent Progress
4. Work Plan for 2006
5. Audited Account for 2005
6. Amendment in the Constitution
7. Secretariat Matters (Closed Session)
8. Any Other Item
9. Closing of the Meeting

List of Participants

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