



# Training Workshop on Open Access Publishing Using Open Journal Systems

(26-30 August, 2013)  
TOT Academy, Nonthaburi, Thailand



# REPORT

*Organized by*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)  
Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR)



*With technical inputs from*  
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

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## Abbreviations

AGROVOC	Thesaurus by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
APA	American Psychological Association
APAARI	Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BARC	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council
CIARD	Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development
CoP	Community of Practice
CoRRB	Council for Renewable Natural Resources Research of Bhutan
CSIR-NISCAIR	National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAO RAP	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
GFAR	Global Forum of Agricultural Research
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
ICRISAT	International Crops Research institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
ICS	Information and Communication Services
ICTs	Information and Communication Technologies
ICT/ICM/IKM	Information and Communication Technology/Information and Communication Management/Information and Knowledge Management
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
LOCKSS	Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe
NARS	National Agricultural Research System
OA	Open Access
OJS	Open Journal System
PARC	Pakistan Agricultural Research Council
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SAC	SAARC Agriculture Center

# Training Workshop on Open Access Publishing Using Open Journal Systems

## **Introduction**

A five-day training workshop on “Open Access Publishing Using Open Journal Systems” was jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization’s Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP), Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) with technical supports from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) at Nonthaburi, Thailand on 26-30 August 2013. The objectives of the training workshop were to equip the professionals with skills needed to publish agricultural scientific research journals on Open Journal System platform; and to improve availability, accessibility, applicability and effective use of research results by wider agricultural community in most cost effective and efficient manner with the use of latest information and communication management systems. The concept note of the training workshop is provided at Annexure-I.

A total of 13 participants attended the workshop which included 10 professionals who are involved in editorial / publishing of agricultural research journal from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Pakistan; and 3 resources persons from FAO, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR-NISCAIR). Invited speakers from GFAR, ITU and other eminent information consultants were invited to share knowledge and experiences on Open Journal System. The list of participants is given in Annexure-II.

## **Inaugural Session**

The training workshop was inaugurated by Mr Vili Fuavau, Deputy Regional Representative of FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific on behalf of Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, the Assistant Director General and Regional Representative. In his inaugural address, he emphasized the sharing of information and knowledge as a powerful tool and FAO’s strong determination in working with valued partners in scheduling a series of training workshop to promote the “Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development” or the CIARD initiative to address the information needs in order to address critical issues concerning food security.

In the inaugural session, Dr Tharinee Limpibantern, Supervisor, Human Resource Development Analysis and Planning Center, TOT Academy gave warm welcome to the training organizers, resource persons and participants.



Mr Sameer Sharma, Senior Advisor & Officer-in-Charge of ITU, conveyed a message of Dr Eun-Ju Kim, Regional Director of ITU, in being a partner on this capacity building as a start of enhancing collaboration with FAO, APAARI and other partners in the Asia-Pacific region. He stated that availability of agriculture information online and service delivery online is not an achievement but a pre-requisite. He emphasized that ICT today is regarded as critical enablers for the overall socio-economic development with its infrastructure and applications from e-agriculture to food security.

Dr Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary of APAARI, sent a welcome address from New Delhi, India to participants via Skype. Dr Paroda, moreover, highlighted APAARI's role in facilitating information management in Asia and the Pacific region through APARIS, a specialized program of APAARI.

Mr Gerard Sylvester, Knowledge and Information Management officer, FAO gave an introduction to Open Journal System and the need for openness in agricultural research information.

Ms Chanerin Maneechansook, Program Assistant of APAARI, then proposed vote of thanks in the inaugural session.

## **Technical Session**

The five-day program was completed hand-on training with enough room for open discussion and group activities. It was organized into eight sessions where participants learned to setup and implement their Open Journal Systems. Since this training workshop is a continual program of the Regional Consultation on Collective Actions for Opening Access to Agricultural Information and Knowledge in the Asia-Pacific Region which was held in Bhutan in December 2012, Dr Tayan Raj Kurung who was a key member of CoRRB and a participant in that workshop presented outputs of Bhutan workshop and how significant the training would be to regional NARS. After the presentation by Dr Tayan, it was followed by series of technical sessions as per the program. See the program at Annexure-III.

### ***Day 1***

The training was handled by the 2 resource persons, Mr Madhan Muthu of ICRISAT and Mr Sanjay Burde of CSIR-NISCAIR. Participants were given an overview and features of the Open Journal System (OJS) in the 1<sup>st</sup> session. Since journal is a collection of articles written by different authors, Mr Madhan Muthu emphasized that the effective use of open software like OJS hinge on the four factors; understanding and customizing the software to one's needs, periodicity and frequency of a journal, peer review and a handling of submitted manuscripts, and people involving in a journal. Then the OJS software was circulated to all participants for installation on their laptops. The following sessions were completed hand-on training where the 2 resource persons demonstrated an establishing of the OJS and then participants started to create their own account and to set up own journal system following the instructions.

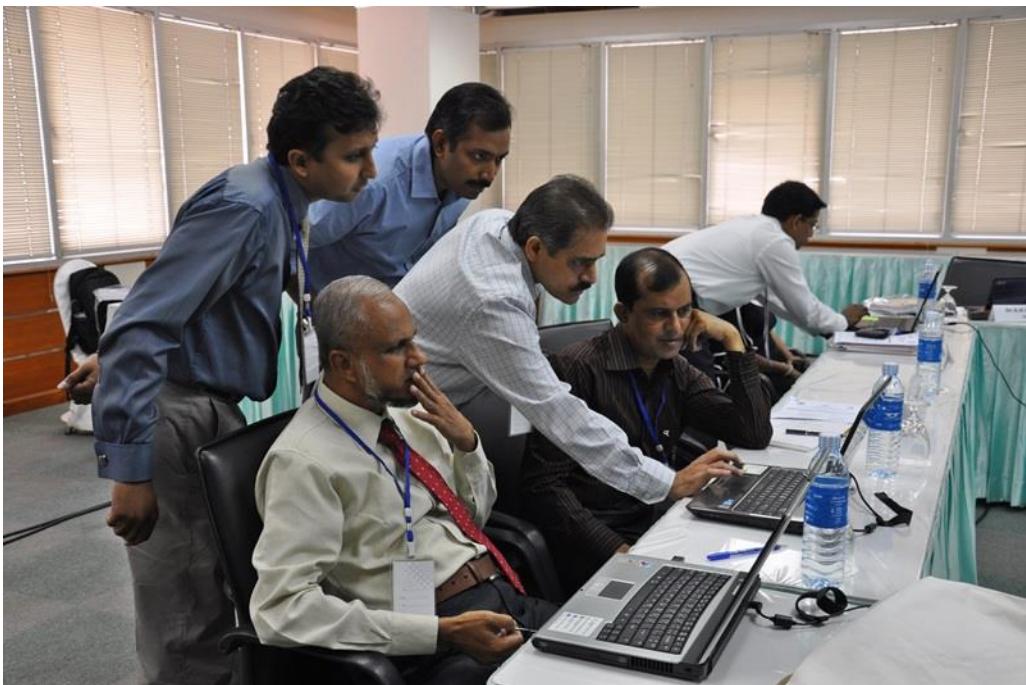
In the afternoon, Dr Ajit Maru, Senior Knowledge Officer of GFAR, hosted a session on the institutional issues in establishing OJS via Skype. He briefed the 3 major issues on establishing OJS including the technical issues which considered as a central part of implementation of the system, creation of a community where information was generated, reviewed and used in an effective way, and institutional issue. The presentation on institutional issue was revolving around 8 points concerning with the open information system; advocacy, establishing policies, setting up strategies, developing and establishing regulations, rules and norms, establishing and using standards, developing and implementing, organizational structures, setting up work processes, and building capacity and training. Following to the presentation by Dr Ajit Maru, Mr Sanjay Burde continued the hand-on training focusing on setting up a journal.

## **Day 2**

On its 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the training program, there were 2 more participants from Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) attended the workshop.

The training started with summary of the 1<sup>st</sup> day lessons by Mr Gerard Sylvester of FAO. Then participants were asked to divide into 3 groups to create its own journal and learned about the user role and navigating OJS Editorial process. Each group member had a chance to learn different roles of journal editorial team; for example, journal manager, author, reviewer and reader. The two new participants could catch up the lessons quickly with helps from other participants and a close coaching of the resource persons.

In the afternoon, participants were introduced to a review form and learned to create separated questionnaire for reviewer for posting their comments on the submitted articles. The resource persons emphasized an importance of the review form as a crucial measurement tools to decide whether a submitted manuscript should be published on a journal, and to give feedbacks to authors for development of their papers. Besides, participants were briefed about announcement and user interface customization by gone through an email generating system which could be modified for interactive decision and action.



Participants formed a group to learn the role of OJS users

After the technical training session, it was opened for participants to ask questions. Plagiarism issue was put on discussion since the OJS has no function to support the plagiarism checking feature. Two solutions were suggested by the trainers; employing separate plagiarism tool and building comprehensive reviewer database.

At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, the trainers asked participants to go through all sections again and put more practices after the classes in order to get familiar with the OJS system and to prepare for learning further steps in the coming sessions.

### **Day 3**

The workshop on its 3<sup>rd</sup> day continued on the hand-on session on Site and Journal Management where the trainers delivered a demonstration step by step and then trainees practiced following the trainers' instructions. Author's guideline for online submission and editor role were explained to participants. Open discussion on editor roles was conducted in which participants paid much attention on finding qualified reviewers and editor's action on accepting and rejecting of an article.

In the afternoon, it was scheduled for city visit. The reception dinner was arranged in the evening at the Crystal Grill restaurant on 82nd floor of Baiyoke Sky Tower. Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, ADG/RR of FAO RAP, made his presence at the welcome party and joined dinner with participants.

### **Day 4**

Morning session started with a presentation by Mr Wisit Atipayakoon, Program Officer of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). He shared his 10-year experiences and knowledge on information management. Impact of ICTs to social and economic development was revealed. Video of employing ICTs in agriculture sector to link farmers to markets and to building up agricultural database in Korea was presented to participants. Mr Wisit, in addition, pointed out that ICTs is not only establishment of an infrastructure, but skill of users and best use of available facilities must also be put on consideration.



Presentation by Mr Wisit Atipayakoon on ICT

Following session was hosted by the 2 trainers, Mr Madhan Muthu and Mr Sanjay Burde, on publishing issues. Participants were asked to perform a journal review one by one. Then the trainers led the discussion on quality of a journal. It was agreed that submitted articles should be circulated to reviewers most wisely. Reviewer rating was suggested as criteria for set up reviewer database to rank the qualified reviewers on each specific journal. Policy on rejection ratio must also be established since the rejection rate is an important parameter for quality measurement and creditability of a journal.

In the afternoon, Professor Subbiah Arunachalam, Distinguished Fellow of Center for Internet & Society, Institute of Mathematical Sciences Chennai, Bangalore gave lecture on Open Access Publishing (OA) which is important in improving access to information for scientists. Professor Subbiah indicated that journal subscription fee is a common problem to all developing countries which obstructs scientists not able to access to already known knowledge. In such situation, Open Access could help increasing visibility and impact of research paper.

### **Day 5**

Morning session began with summary of yesterday lesson by Mr Sanjay Burde. Participants then moved to work in a group to practice step by step following the flow of journal publishing. Editor's roles on managing the copyediting, layout editing and proofreading of submissions were put on discussion and all agreed that these processes could help improving quality and creditability of a journal. After a coffee break, customization of look-and-feel of a journal, increasing a journal visibility and preservation of journal contents using LOCKSS and Internet Archive were explained and demonstrated to participants. Morning session ended with Q&A discussion.



**Q&A Session**

Mr Gerard Sylvester created an email group of the Open Access using Open Journal System training program on Google and introduced to participants in the afternoon session. This Community of Practice (CoP) was created as a central point where they can post queries and share opinion related to Open Access and Open Journal System. Participants were encouraged to participate in the email group and engaged in this process of collective learning.

## **Workshop Recommendations**

### ***To workshop organization***

- There is an urgent need for capacity development of all those involved in editing/publishing a journal so as to manage and operate effectively the available open-source software in order to launch a new generation of journals committed to open access.
- It is necessary to promote and have advocacy at the institutional level to have a policy on open access journal and invest for improving accessibility, availability and effective use of available research outputs.

### ***To OJS implementation and operation***

- It is important to ensure blind review system when sending articles to reviewers in order to avoid competitive harmful acts.
- Citation style of the American Psychological Association (APA) was recommended as a stand citation format for preparing the reference lists.
- Rather than recent online publication, there is a need to also bring out printed journals and have them digitized for enhancing accessibility of available knowledge.
- Minimum required standards to publish research results to international community are plagiarism threshold, scientific system design and interesting area of scientific research.
- Recommendation was made to those who have inadequate IT capacity to use web hosting services like ENAS to help maintain the online journals.

## **Concluding Session**

The program ended with concluding remarks by Mr Gerard Sylvester of FAO and all participants shared their feedback and appreciation on the workshop organization, and emphasized need for similar capacity development programs to be organized in future. In the valedictory, certificates were presented to all the participants.

## Annexure-I

### **Concept Note**

Information and Knowledge Management in Agriculture has always suffered from the lack of quality digital content available online. Smart services could be built only if there is a substantial amount of digital content. Supporting this finding is the fact that publically-funded research results are published behind closed or subscription-locked journal systems. This impedes the uptake of research outputs.

FAO and partners have been promoting the need to make information content in the public domain more available, accessible, applicable and facilitate it to be effectively used and appropriated by agricultural communities across the world, this movement is called the “Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD; <http://www.ciard.net>). CIARD is a partnership-based initiative which reflects the value of collective action to mobilize and build upon existing resources and activities to create a coherent global approach to information management and knowledge exchange related to agricultural science and technology. Organizations and individuals can benefit from CIARD as follows:

- increased national and international visibility and use of their research output and content services
- increased exchange of information content between their system(s) and others
- increased awareness of other research outputs through information content and services
- increased access to specialized expertise and knowledge and the proven solutions of the other partners

From a series of sub-regional workshops on ICT/ICM/IKM that the FAO regional office for Asia and the Pacific conducted together with GFAR, APAARI and other partners, it was identified that the capacity to make research journals open access was a main hindrance among most NARS in this region. This was further highlighted during the Bhutan consultation (Dec 2012) and a few collective actions were identified. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research which has over the years moved many of their journals to open journal systems was identified to provide the necessary technical advice to other regional NARS in making their journals open access. FAO, APAARI and other partners would support this initiative.

Following this, a training workshop was planned for July 2013 with the ICAR in New Delhi, India but due to unforeseen circumstances it was postponed indefinitely. FAO-RAP with other partners has now put together a training workshop, scheduled for 26-30 August, 2013 at Thailand. This would be done in technical collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and GFAR with APAARI as the implementation partners.

### Key collective activities/actions identified

S.No	Action	Actors
1	Sensitization of SAARC Agricultural Ministers and Senior Policy Makers on ICM for agricultural development	SAARC Agriculture Center will facilitate the organization of a 2- 3 hrs meeting for the Agricultural Ministers during the next SAARC Agricultural Ministerial which will be possibly held in the first half of 2013. GFAR/FAO, APAARI to provide technical support and jointly organize the meeting with the ministers. <u>Explore similar possibility with ASEAN; Discussion paper at FAO APRC 2014</u> <u>Action at Global, Regional &amp; National level. APC</u>
2	Compilation of ICM projects and experts in the Asia-Pacific region and testing AgriVIVO with the dataset	APAARI will prepare a database of ICM projects in the AP region with the contribution from ICM managers in the NARS by June 2013, share it on the website and test with AgriVIVO. <u>Extend scope, Form a group..</u>
3	Need-based training programs to ICM managers in the developing NARS	ICAR to offer training programs to ICM managers of the developing NARS in the region free of registration cost. FAO, SAARC and APAARI to support suitable candidates for need-based training programs. Other NARS will also be approached by APAARI and FAO. <u>Thrust on technical support to national level training programs</u>
4	Policies and strategies on open access to agricultural research articles	ICRISAT to share its open access policies, strategies and procedures with NARS through APAARI/APARIS by January 2013. ICRISAT will also support through technical assistance/ help desk.
5	Catalogue of e-extension initiatives in India with critical analysis on their impact on agricultural development	ICAR to prepare the catalogue of e-extension initiatives in India with the technical support of APAARI in 2013. <u>All Countries</u> <u>Action – Template and oversight: Drs Attaluri, , Adhiguru, Rameshwar Singh, Madhan, Gerard</u> <u>Timeline:</u>
6	Development of AGROVOC in the countries	FAO to initiate development of AGROVOC in the following countries: Bangladesh- with the collaboration of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) Pakistan – with the collaboration of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Sri Lanka – with Council for Agricultural Research Policy ICS department of CoRRB, Bhutan
8	Development of Handbook of Agriculture on Wiki through collaborative contribution	ICAR to initiate publishing of handbook of agriculture on Wiki platform. Technical support to be provided by ICRISAT.

9	Joining AgriFeeds by the NARS for effective sharing of information and news to global users	All NARS to immediately generate RSS feeds and join the AgriFeed for effective sharing of information and news. APAARI and FAO to coordinate this action.
10	Joining CIARD RING	APAARI and FAO to pursue the SAARC Agriculture Center, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) to join the CIARD RING immediately and also initiate follow-up with other NARS in Loa PDR, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal and Philippines to join the CIARD by February 2013.
11	Developing Agricultural Information Repositories	ICRISAT to provide necessary technical support and help BARC, PARC, CoRRB/ICS and NARC who showed interest to develop institutional repositories.
12	Open Access to Agricultural Journals	ICAR to share technical knowledge with support of FAO and other partners to make the following research journals as open access journals: -SAARC Journal of Agriculture by the SAC -Bangladesh Journal of Agricultural Research by the BARC. -Journal of RNR Bhutan by the CoRRB - ASDA, Sri Lanka

## Annexure-II

**List of Participants****Bangladesh****1. Dr Tayan Raj Gurung**

Senior Program Specialist (NRM)  
 SAARC Agriculture Centre  
 BARC Complex, Telgaon, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh  
 Tel: +880-8113378/8113380/8113386 Cell: +880-1966184916  
 E-mail: tayangurung@yahoo.com  
 Web: www.saarcagri.org

**2. Dr. Md. Nure Alam Siddiky**

Senior Program Officer (Livestock)  
 SAARC Agriculture Centre  
 BARC Complex, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh  
 Tel.: +880-2-8113380, 8113386 Cell: +880 1716475486  
 Fax: +880-2-9124596  
 E-mail: siddiky.saarc@gmail.com, siddiky@saarcagri.org  
 Web: www.saarcagri.org

**3. Mr Md. Rafique Mostafa Kamal**

Principal Documentation Officer  
 Agricultural Information Centre  
 Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC)  
 Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh  
 Tel: +88 02 9132415  
 Fax: -  
 E-mail: rmkamalbarc@yahoo.com

**4. Ms Hosne Ara Ferdous**

Junior Bibliographic Officer  
 Agriculture Information Centre  
 Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC)  
 Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh  
 Tel: +88 02 9132415  
 Fax: -  
 E-mail: hosnearaf768@gmail.com

**Bhutan****5. Dr Lungten Norbu**

Specialist/Editor RNR Journal  
 Council for RNR Research of Bhutan (CoRRB)  
 Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Post Box 119 Thimphu, Bhutan  
 Tel: +975 2 329123  
 Fax: +975 2 322504  
 E-mail: lungtenorbu@gmail.com



**6. Ms Tshering Tshomo**

Librarian  
 Council for RNR Research of Bhutan (CoRRB)  
 Ministry of Agriculture and Forests  
 Post Box 119 Thimphu, Bhutan  
 Tel: +975 2 322936  
 Fax: +975 2 322504  
 E-mail: tsheringtshomo100@yahoo.com



**Pakistan**

**7. Mr Urooj Rashid Khan**

Researcher  
 Pakistan Academy of Sciences  
 3-Constitution Avenue Sector G-5/2  
 Islamabad Pakistan  
 Tel: +92 3212221204  
 Fax: -  
 E-mail: urooj\_rashid@yahoo.com  
 urooj\_rashid@hotmail.com



**Sri Lanka**

**8. Dr S.H.S.A. De Silva**

Additional Director  
 Field Crops Research & Development Institute, Maha Iluppallama  
 Department of Agriculture  
 Sri Lanka  
 Tel: +94 25 2249177  
 Fax: +94 25 2249132  
 E-mail: ajandes@gmail.com



**9. Dr Priyantha Weerasinghe**

Research Officer  
 Horticultural Crops Research & Development Institute, Gannoruwa  
 Department of Agriculture  
 Sri Lanka  
 Tel: +94 810388011  
 Fax: +94 812388234  
 E-mail: prisinghe@gmail.co



**FAO Country Office in Sri Lanka**

**10. Ms Malika de Mel**

Information Resources Associate  
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations UN  
 Compound, 202, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka  
 Tel: +94-11-2580798, +94-11-2588537 Fax: +94-11-2587990  
 E-mail: Malika.Demel@fao.org  
 Web: www.fao.org



## Resource Persons

**1. Mr Madhan Muthu**

Manager  
 Library and Information Services  
 Knowledge Sharing and Innovation  
 International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics  
 Patancheru, Hyderabad 502 324, India  
 Tel: +91 8008433663  
 E-mail: M.Madhan@cgiar.org, mu.madhan@gmail.com



**2. Mr Sanjay Burde**

Principal Scientist  
 CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources  
 New Delhi  
 India  
 Tel: 91-120-6471542  
 Mobile phone: 919868815504  
 E-mail: sanjayburde@yahoo.com, sanjayburde@niscair.res.in



**3. Dr Ajit Maru**

Senior Knowledge Officer  
 Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) Secretariat  
 B 648,OEKD, FAO  
 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome, Italy  
 Phone: 39-06-57054022  
 Fax: 39-06-57053898  
 E-mail: ajit.maru@fao.org



**4. Mr Wisit Atipayakoon**

Programme Officer  
 International Telecommunication Union (ITU)  
 Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
 Thailand Post Training Centre, 5th Floor  
 111 Moo 3 Chaengwattana Road Laksi  
 Bangkok 10210, Thailand  
 Tel: +66 2 575 0055  
 Fax: +66 2 575 3507  
 Email: wisit.atipayakoon@itu.int



**5. Prof Subbiah Arunachalam**

Distinguished Fellow  
 Center for Internet&Society  
 Bangalore Visiting Professor  
 Institute of Mathematical Sciences  
 Chennai, Bangladesh  
 Tel: -  
 Fax: -  
 E-mail: -



**6. Mr Gerard Sylvester**

Knowledge & Information Management Officer  
 FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
 Bangkok 10200  
 Tel: +66-26974365  
 E-mail: gerard.sylvester@fao.org



**7. Ms Supajit Tienpati**

Secretary  
 FAO Regional Office for Asia and the  
 Pacific  
 Bangkok 10200  
 Tel: +66-26974000  
 E-mail: supajit.tienpati@fao.org



**Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions**

**1. Ms Urairat Rujirek**

Administrative Associate  
 4th Floor, FAO RAP Annex Building, 202/1 Larn Laung Road  
 Klong Mahanak Sub-District, Pomprab Sattrupai District  
 Bangkok 10110, Thailand  
 Phone: +662-282 2918  
 Fax: +662-282 2920  
 E-mail: urairat@apaari.org



**2. Ms Chanerin Maneechansook**

Program Assistant  
 4th Floor, FAO RAP Annex Building, 202/1 Larn Laung Road  
 Klong Mahanak Sub-District, Pomprab Sattrupai District  
 Bangkok 10110, Thailand  
 Phone: +662-282 2918  
 Fax: +662-282 2920  
 E-mail: chanerin@apaari.org



Annexure-III  
**Program**

<b>Monday 26 August 2013</b>		
08.30 – 09.00	Registration	
09:00 – 09.10	Welcome Address	Ms Chanerin Maneechansook APAARI
09.10 – 09.25	Outputs from the regional consultation on Collective Actions for Opening Access to Agricultural Information and Knowledge in the Asia-Pacific Region	Dr Tayan Raj Gurung Senior Program Specialist (NRM), SAARC
09.25 - 09.35	ITU & FAO 's partnership to information management in agriculture	Mr. Sameer Sharma, Senior Advisor & Officer-In-Charge ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
09.35 – 09.45	The need for openness in agricultural information management	Mr Vili Fuavao Deputy Regional Representative, FAO RAP
09.45 – 09.55	APAARI's role in facilitating information management in Asia and the Pacific	Dr Raj Paroda (via Skype) Executive Secretary, APAARI
09.55 – 10.00	Building smart services for agriculture	Mr Gerard Sylvester Knowledge & Information Management Officer, FAO RAP
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break & Group photo	
10.30 – 10.45	Introduction to Open Journal System	Mr Gerard Sylvester
10.45 – 12.30	<b>Session 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview &amp; Features</li> <li>• Installation of OJS</li> <li>• User roles &amp; Navigation</li> <li>• Editorial Process</li> </ul>	Mr Madhan Muthu & Mr Sanjay Burde, OJS experts and resource person
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 15.00	<b>Session 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site &amp; Journal Management-I</li> <li>• Hosting Journals</li> <li>• Journal setup</li> <li>• Journal sections</li> </ul>	Mr Madhan Muthu & Mr Sanjay Burde
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee Break	
15.30 – 16.00	Institutional issues in establishing Open Journal systems	Dr Ajit Maru, GFAR (via Skype)
16.00 – 17.00	<b>Session 2 (Cont)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• User roles and navigating OJS Editorial process</li> </ul>	Mr Madhan Muthu & Mr Sanjay Burde

<b>Tuesday 27 August 2013</b>		
08.30 – 10.00	<b>Session 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site &amp; Journal Management-I (Cont)</li> <li>• Hosting Journals</li> <li>• Journal setup</li> <li>• Journal sections</li> </ul>	Mr Madhan Muthu & Mr Sanjay Burde
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee Break	
10.30 – 12.30	<b>Session 4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site &amp; Journal Management-II</li> <li>• Announcement</li> <li>• Review form</li> <li>• User Interface customization &amp; Notification</li> </ul>	Mr Madhan Muthu & Mr Sanjay Burde
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 15.00	<b>Session 4 (Cont)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site &amp; Journal management – II</li> </ul>	Mr Madhan Muthu & Mr Sanjay Burde
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee Break	
15.30 – 17.00	<b>Session 4 (Cont)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site &amp; Journal management – II</li> </ul>	Mr Madhan Muthu & Mr Sanjay Burde
<b>Wednesday 28 August 2013</b>		
08.30 – 10.00	<b>Session 5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site &amp; Journal management – III</li> <li>• User management: Role as Editor</li> </ul>	Mr Madhan Muthu & Mr Sanjay Burde
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee Break	
10.30 – 12.30	<b>Session 5 (cont)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site &amp; Journal Management-III</li> <li>• User management</li> </ul>	Mr Madhan Muthu & Mr Sanjay Burde
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
14.00 – onwards	City visit, reception dinner	
<b>Thursday 29 August 2013</b>		
08.30 – 09.00	Information and Knowledge Management	Mr Wisit Atipayakoon International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
09.00 – 10.00	<b>Session 6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statistics &amp; Reports</li> <li>• Publishing issues</li> <li>• Backup &amp; restore</li> </ul>	Mr Madhan Muthu & Mr Sanjay Burde
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break	
10.30 – 12.30	<b>Session 6 (cont)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statistics &amp; Reports</li> <li>• Publishing issues</li> </ul>	Mr Madhan Muthu & Mr Sanjay Burde

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backup &amp; restore</li> </ul>	
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 14.30	<b>Session 6 (cont)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statistics &amp; Reports</li> <li>• Publishing issues</li> <li>• Backup &amp; restore</li> </ul>	Mr Madhan Muthu & Mr Sanjay Burde
14.30 – 15.00	Guest lecture	Dr Subbiah Arunachalam
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break	
15.30 – 17.00	<b>Session 6 (cont)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statistics &amp; Reports</li> <li>• Publishing issues</li> <li>• Backup &amp; restore</li> </ul>	Mr Madhan Muthu & Mr Sanjay Burde

#### Friday 30 August 2013

08.30 – 10.00	<b>Session 7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Database of reviewers</li> <li>• Import, Export</li> <li>• Scheduling</li> </ul>	Mr Madhan Muthu & Mr Sanjay Burde
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break	
10.30 – 12.30	Session 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tagging, increasing visibility</li> <li>• Wrap-up, Questions &amp; Answers</li> </ul>	Mr Madhan Muthu & Mr Sanjay Burde
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 15.00	Session 8 (cont) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting up a Community of Practice (CoP)</li> </ul>	Participants
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break	
15.30 – 16.30	Valedictory function	

## Annexure-IV

**Welcome Address**

of

***Hiroyuki Konuma***

Assistant Director-General and

FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific

delivered by

***Vili Fuavao***

Deputy Regional Representative

FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

at the

**Training Workshop on Open Access publishing using Open Journal Systems  
: The Need For Openness in Agricultural Information Management**

26 to 30 August 2013

Nonthaburi, Thailand

**Good morning ladies and gentlemen,**

On behalf of Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director- General and FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, I am pleased to welcome you all to Thailand and to this training workshop on open access publishing using open journal systems.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As we all know, there has been a phenomenal growth of information over the last decade. We have moved from lack of information to information overload. In the case of agriculture, which is increasingly becoming knowledge intensive, the availability of the right information, at the right time, in the right format, and through the right medium, influences and affects the livelihoods of many stakeholders involved in agriculture and related fields.

The FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific has been promoting the “Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development”, or the CIARD initiative, in the region – together with partners such as APAARI, GFAR, SAARC and SPC – by conducting subregional workshops and capacity building initiatives. One proud achievement in recent times has been the publishing of an open access policy by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for their research outputs.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

When we were growing up, we were taught that information is power, and with this mindset we were hesitant to share our information with others. Today, that mindset has been replaced with “Sharing Information and Knowledge is Power”. In the case of information sharing, 1 plus 1 is not equal to 2, but to 11.

The Availability, Accessibility and Applicability (AAA) of agricultural research outputs is the key to addressing a range of issues related to food security. The CIARD initiative assists NARS and other organizations to make available their research outputs in ways that can be used by a variety of stakeholders to enable them to make informed decisions.

As we saw from the presentation of Dr Tayang, the workshop in Bhutan, in which many of you were participants, identified key collective actions that could be done by us ***to make public domain information and knowledge of agricultural research truly accessible to all. This is to maximize research outputs.***

There are two types of ICT – old and new. Old ICT consists of newspapers, radio and TV which are low cost and require little skill to use. New ICT consists of networked computers, satellite-sourced communication, wireless technology and the internet

Training would enable us to share information/knowledge through the new ICTs, while also making it adaptable so that it can be delivered using the old ICTs as well.

When we design information systems we need to be aware that ICTs, when introduced appropriately, can assist with the transfer and adoption of available knowledge and information.

I am pleased that RAP is working with a wide range of valued partners such as APAARI, GFAR, ITU and others in scheduling a series of training workshops.

I hope you all have a fruitful training course and I wish you a pleasant stay in Thailand.

Good luck and thank you.

## Welcome Address

by

***Eun-Ju Kim***

Regional Director

ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

delivered by

***Sameer Sharma***

Senior Advisor & Office-in-Charge

ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Mr Vili Fuavao, Deputy Regional Representative, FAO

Dr Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI

Dr Tayan Raj Gurung , Senior Program Specialist (NRM), SAARC

Khun Sudaporn Vimolseth, Vice President, TOT Academy

Experts, Participants, Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of ITU, I would like to thank FAO, APAARI and FAR for organizing this training workshop as well as inviting and trusting ITU for partnership.

First of all, I would like to convey my sincere apologies for not being with you today, as I had to travel to China with a prior commitment. But, let me assure you that my physical absence does not mean our lower commitment.

As a matter of fact, we do consider this specific partnership on capacity building as a start of enhancing our collaboration with FAO and other partners in the Asia-Pacific region, since ICT today is regarded as a critical enabler for the overall socio-economic development with its infrastructure and applications from e-agriculture to food security.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) indeed have become pervasive. It is very difficult to imagine a life without ICT to date. For example, sending and receiving mails a decade ago would have meant completely different from what it means today. Mobile phone today is almost everywhere reaching almost 100% penetrations worldwide. I would not be surprised by severe disruption of working in any sector from ICT itself, transportation to agriculture if the computer and telecommunication networks shut down.

Today, in a broadband world, where some 134 or 69% of countries have a national plan, strategy, or policy already in place to promote broadband, while 12 countries or 6% are planning to introduce such measures in the near future, when innovative and creative services would be critical. These services that are most likely to manifest in applications developed by and for public and private sector.

These National Broadband Plans refer to solving socio-economic issues in such sectors as education, government and governance, health, poverty reduction & food security amongst others.

The use of ICT in agriculture is not new. For decades, it has helped in determining agriculture prices, creating awareness on best practices through mobile, websites and broadcasting networks, providing micro credits, agriculture insurance, enhancing crop productivity, managing food delivery amongst others. It has seen a number of innovative and creative public-private=people based smart partnerships, not only from developed but also developing and least developed countries.

Now, availability of agriculture information online and service delivery online is not an achievement but a pre-requisite. Thus, this requires concerted efforts encompassing: e.g.

- Creation of e-agriculture strategies spanning multiple sectors;
- Management and exchange of best practices in an open manner;
- Digital literacy amongst agricultural stakeholders;
- Development of applications tailored to not only PCs and laptops but mobile devices (including smart phones); and
- Development of creditable market place: i.e., I mean an electronic market place for not only goods but also applications and services.

Working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Bhutan, ITU has recommended framework for development of mobile agriculture application as well as deployed the application based on the priority identified by the country. One such critical information needed by the farmers is the pricing information on the mobile devices through which farmers can time their visit to the wholesale markets to sell their produce and garner best prices rather than living with uncertainty in pricing and traveling distances without having a good understanding of the prices in the market. By having access to real-time pricing, farmers can be more efficient and they can improve their overall revenues.

ITU as its vision is committed to connecting the world. In doing so, it is committed to work with sister UN agencies such as FAO, national governments and stakeholders in their respective areas in helping them meet their own goals. For effective implementation and synergy, ITU has set up close partnership frameworks such as Broadband Commission between ITU & UNESCO; e-health strategy between ITU & WHO; and Cyber security (ITU & UNODC and others. Thus, I look forward to closer partnership between FAO and ITU especially with a start of this training to strengthening our partnership in the area of ICT for Agriculture, especially those in rural and remote areas with better infrastructure and creative applications or services.

On 18 November this year, we are organizing Connect Asia-Pacific Summit with aim of envisioning Smartly DIGITAL Asia-Pacific 2020 by political and industry leaders with concrete priority actions to connect the unconnected and strengthen the role of ICT as the innovative and creative engine powering economic prosperity, job creation, and sustainable and inclusive development in the Asia-Pacific region. Here, we are working with partners including UN agencies on potential projects that will assist us in meeting these requirements. In order to promote the partnership, we have also launched a project portal, where you can make a proposal if you are seeking partners. These projects will be available for development partners to consider funding and supporting. If you need more information, please feel free to contact us. We are also in discussion with FAO on working together systematically to bridge the information and knowledge gap in this area.

Although I personally could not join this training but my colleague Mr. Wisit Atipayakoon will share ITU's experiences in the area of knowledge management later this week.

While I look forward to meeting you all on the next occasion and welcoming you all at the Connect Asia-Pacific Summit and TELECOM World on 18-22 November 2013, Impact, Bangkok, I wish this training workshop every success

I Thank You = ITU

## **APAARI's role in facilitating information management in Asia and the Pacific Region**

Addressed by

***Dr Raj Paroda***

Executive Secretary

Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions

Dr Raj Paroda in his opening remarks highlighted that agriculture is becoming a knowledge-intensive activity. Hence, use and application of knowledge and information is increasingly gaining importance in the current context, especially to address emerging challenges such as: declining factor productivity, shrinking natural resources, climate change, and influence of market forces on the livelihood of smallholder farmers. ICT, therefore, plays an important role in providing relevant knowledge to the farming communities for effective adoption of improved technologies such as: conservation agriculture, high yielding varieties and hybrids, conservation through use of agricultural biodiversity and linking farmers to markets for higher income.

He further stated that through effective use of ICT, we can ensure inclusive development of our society. Today, ICT has become part of our life and we rather communicate much better and share information faster and efficiently.

APAARI since beginning has been instrumental in identifying, documenting and disseminating most important success stories on agricultural innovations with an aim to enable our stakeholders to adopt similar practices rather more successfully. So far, APAARI has published more than 50 success stories on important topics such as cropping systems, conservation agriculture, hybrid rice, BT cotton, dairying, fisheries, biofuels, agro-tourism, linking farmers to markets, IPM, ICT etc., which have made significant impact in the Asia-Pacific region. These success stories are available on APAARI website: [www.apaari.org](http://www.apaari.org)

The Asia-Pacific Agricultural Research Information System (APARIS) - one of the two major programs of APAARI, is mandated to foster effective use and application of ICT for AR4D in the region through capacity development, advocacy and networking of information resources. APARIS Communication Strategy 2010-2015 was developed in 2010 in order to adopt a strategic and systematic approach to communicate with all stakeholders involved. Large numbers of workshops/trainings programs on ICT/ICM have also been organized in different countries in order to raise awareness about effective use of ICT/ICM in AR4D programs.

During 2011-2012, with the support from GFAR and FAO, APAARI had organized an expert consultation on 'openness' in sharing agricultural information and knowledge under the theme 'Bridging Knowledge Gaps' as part of implementing strategy for GCARD Roadmap. As such, greater emphasis was laid on strengthening Asia-Pacific Agricultural Research Information System (APARIS) through:

- i) Implementation of APAARI Communication Strategy developing capacities of National Information Nodal Points (NINPs)
- ii) Facilitating the Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD) initiative in the region
- iii) To ensure that CIARD partners collectively continue to advocate and promote opening of access of agricultural information and data in the public domain for its effective use and to join CIARD RING

In conclusion, Dr Paroda emphasized the need for building capacity in the field of e-journalism being so essential to disseminate knowledge for outscaling innovations for greater impact and to ensure faster growth of agriculture in the Asia-Pacific region. Hence, he expected this workshop to help building much needed capacity in this specialized field.