12th Asian Maize Conference and Expert Consultation on “Maize for Food, Feed, Nutrition and Environmental Security”

Rama Gardens Hotel
Bangkok, Thailand
30 October – 1 November, 2014

Organizers
Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)
International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
CGIAR Research Program on MAIZE
12\textsuperscript{th} Asian Maize Conference and Expert Consultation on “Maize for Food, Feed, Nutrition and Environmental Security”

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Preamble

Around the world, maize is a major food, feed and industrial crop. In addition, maize is a major food security crop in several developing countries. The area, production and yield of maize have increased several-fold over the last 50 years; much of that growth has occurred in the developing world. In Asia, maize has recorded the fastest annual growth (around 4 percent) compared with other cereals. Despite increased production, increasing and competing demands (food, feed, industry) have created a continued need to invest in maize research for development (R4D). The demand for maize is expected to double by 2050, which indicates a further need to increase productivity significantly. At the same time, maize production and productivity in several Asian countries is severely constrained by an array of factors, including lack of access to improved seeds and other critical production-related inputs, lack of training and knowledge transfer for resource-poor farmers, and abiotic and biotic stresses, the magnitude and dynamics of which are rapidly increasing under climate change.

Several factors are critical to effectively meet the present and future demand for maize in Asia. These include:

- Integrating novel breeding techniques for improved genetic gains (especially under stress-prone environments).
- Accelerating the development and deployment of high-yielding and climate-resilient maize; strengthening the maize seed sector and access to quality seed through public-private partnerships (PPPs).
- Introducing precision-conservation agriculture and climate smart practices for sustainable intensification of maize-based cropping systems.
- Empowering local stakeholders through cutting-edge technologies.
- Implementing innovative policies for stronger maize value chains and services for client communities.

Maize’s importance in Asia’s cropping systems has grown rapidly in recent years, with several countries registering impressive growth in production and productivity rates. There is scope for further expansion of maize area in the region, as well as tremendous opportunities for innovations in crop improvement, management and diversification. International and national institutions engaged in maize research and development are also emphasizing foresight, technology targeting, partnerships involving all stakeholders and capacity development to effectively out-scale innovations for greater impact. Innovations include single cross maize hybrids, quality protein maize (QPM), genetically modified (GM) maize, conservation agriculture (CA), small farm mechanization, transplanted maize, winter and spring maize area development, baby corn, sweet corn and biofuel production.

As Asia’s agribusiness and food processing industries and economies continue to grow, the opportunities for the use of maize as food, feed, fodder and in industry will also increase significantly. The growing needs of the poultry sector, the expansion of the maize seed sector and
increasing interest by consumers in nutritionally enriched and specialty maize products require greater attention from both the research and development viewpoints. Beyond the need for conducive policy support/environment, what is needed most is greater investments on maize R4D in the region to harness the opportunities. There also are specific issues concerning the Asian maize industry that require urgent attention in order to harness the emerging opportunities. Also, the CGIAR Research Program (CRP) on Maize (“Global Alliance for Improving Food Security and the Livelihoods of the Resource-Poor in the Developing World”) offers options to catalyze stakeholders in the region to out-scale innovations in maize-based cropping systems by building new PPPs. The 12th Asian Conference and Expert Consultation on Maize will bring together key Asian maize partners to discuss the current status, future opportunities and challenges for enhancing food, feed, nutrition and environmental security in Asia.

**Goal**

Enhancing food, feed, nutrition and environmental security in Asia.

**Objectives**

- To assess the regional priorities and niches for enhancing maize production and productivity.
- To share experiences and latest information/knowledge on cutting-edge maize technologies among the maize research and development community.
- To create general awareness and provide a platform for synergies among institutions and stakeholders for better use of maize as food, feed and industrial crop in Asia.
- To develop an innovative and impact-oriented regional strategy and road map through access to and accelerated adoption of resilient technologies, market opportunities, networks, investment priorities and policy guidelines.

**Expected Outputs**

- National and regional priorities for enhancing maize production and productivity identified.
- Experiences and knowledge on innovations relating to sustainable maize production and utilization shared among diverse stakeholders.
- Awareness created for promoting the use of maize for diverse purposes.
- Synergies and convergence opportunities among maize R4D stakeholders in Asia identified.
- A regional maize strategy for sustainable food and nutritional security in Asia developed.

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- International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
- CGIAR Research Program on MAIZE
Participants

The participants will include researchers, policy makers, service providers, innovative farmers and representatives of various organizations including NARS institutions, private sector, international agricultural research centers and advanced research institutions, non-governmental organizations, foundations and funding agencies involved in maize breeding, biotechnology, production management, seed systems and value chains. About 250 participants are expected to attend this important Conference and Expert Consultation.

Language

The official language of the Conference will be English.

Call for Abstracts

The Conference will have: i) invited lectures for Plenary Sessions; ii) invited lectures for Technical Sessions based on contributory papers; and iii) poster presentations. The participants are encouraged to submit abstracts of their papers relevant to one or more themes/technical sessions of the Conference. An abstract should be submitted by 30 June, 2014 (please see “Abstract Submission Form”) for evaluation by an expert committee for selection of papers for invited oral or poster presentations during the Conference, based on their content and technical quality. Extended summary of each of the accepted papers should be submitted by 15 August, 2014 as per the “Guidelines to the Authors.”

Registration

Selected participants and invited delegates are requested to register in advance by submitting the duly filled-in Registration Form to amc.apaari@gmail.com and urairat@apaari.org on or before 15 September 2014.

Registration Fee

- Self-sponsored participants: US$ 500
- Mode of Payment:
  - [ ] Cash
  - [ ] Wire Transfer to APAARI Bank A/c No. 003-200031-0-840
  - Siam Commercial Bank, Banglumphu Branch,
  - Bangkok 10200, Thailand (Swift code: SICOTHBK)

Travel and Accommodation

A block booking for the accommodation for the delegates has been made at Rama Gardens Hotel, Bangkok (www.ramagardenshotel.com). The room rates (including breakfast) are:

Superior (Main Wing): Single 1,800 Baht/room/night  
                      Twin 2,000 Baht/room/night

Executive Deluxe (New Wing): Single 2,500 Baht/room/night  
                             Twin 2,900 Baht/room/night
The cost of participation including travel, accommodation, etc. will be borne by the delegates who are self-sponsored. However, the cost of participation (either partial or full) of sponsored participants will be borne by the organizers. To obtain a visa to visit Thailand, foreign delegates may contact the Thailand Embassy/High Commission in their respective countries; Thailand issues visa on arrival for nationals of some countries (please check the information on relevant website). A formal letter of invitation will be sent by the Organizers to the registered delegates for the purpose of applying for a Thailand visa. Registered participants must send their travel plans in advance to the Conference Secretariat (amc.apaari@gmail.com) with a copy to Ms. Urairat, Administrative Associate, APAARI (urairat@apaari.org).

**Important Dates**

- **30 June 2014:** Submission of Abstract for review
- **15 August 2014:** Submission of Extended Summary
- **15 September 2014:** Submission of Registration Form and Registration Fee (if applicable)
- **1 October 2014:** Submission of information on travel and accommodation

**Core Organizing Committee**

**Chair:** Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI  
Email: raj.paroda@gmail.com

**Co-Chair:** Dr. Thomas Lumpkin, Director General, CIMMYT  
Email: t.lumpkin@cgiar.org

**Member-Secretary:** Dr. B.M. Prasanna, Director, Global Maize Program, CIMMYT  
Email: b.m.prasanna@cgiar.org
Day 1: October 30, 2014

09:00 – 10:00: Conference Inauguration

10:00 – 10:30: Tea/Coffee Break

10:30 – 12:00: Plenary Session I

Keynote Lectures:
1. Global maize scenario: trends and implications
2. Asian maize research and development: challenges and opportunities
3. Maize varietal development and deployment in Thailand

12:00 – 13:00: Plenary Session II

Panel Discussion: “Doubling Asia’s maize production in the next decade”

13:00 – 14:00: Lunch Break

14:00 – 16:00: Parallel Technical Sessions

Technical Session 1: Enhancing genetic gains in maize breeding

Technical Session 2: Precision-conservation agriculture for enhanced input use efficiency

16:00 – 16:30: Tea/Coffee Break

16:30 – 18:00: Parallel Satellite Group Discussions

Group 1: Maize phenotyping in Asia: challenges and opportunities
Group 2: Genomics-assisted breeding in Asia
Group 3: Transgenic/GM maize in Asia: status, opportunities and challenges

*Details of the Technical Program will be announced in the second circular*
18:00 – 19:00: **Poster Session**
(Posters accepted under the Technical Sessions 1 and 2 will be displayed throughout the day for review by delegates, as well as for evaluation by a panel.)

19:00: **Reception Dinner hosted by APAARI**

**Day 2: October 31, 2014**

09:00 – 10:00: **Plenary Session III: Invited Lectures**

*Keynote Lectures:*
1. Present and potential impacts of changing climate on maize-based cropping systems
2. Global and Asian maize markets and trends

10:00 – 10:30: **Tea/Coffee Break**

10:30 – 12:00: **Parallel Technical Sessions**

*Technical Session 3:* Climate-smart maize production practices
*Technical Session 4:* Developing stress-resilient maize for Asia

12:00 – 13:00: **Plenary Session IV**

*Panel Discussion:* “Ensuring vibrant maize seed sector through public-private partnerships”

13:00 – 14:00: **Lunch Break**

14:00 – 15:30: **Parallel Technical Sessions**

*Technical Session 5:* Maize quality and value-addition
*Technical Session 6:* Maize value chains and market trends

15:30 – 16:00: **Tea/Coffee Break**

16:00 – 17:30: **Parallel Satellite Group Discussions**

*Group 1:* Out-scaling innovations for impact at scale
*Group 2:* Innovative regional and national policies for enhanced adoption and impacts of maize production
*Group 3:* Enhancing gender equity and social inclusiveness
17:30 – 18:30: **Poster Session**
(Posters accepted under the Technical Sessions 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be displayed throughout the day for review by delegates, as well as for evaluation by a panel)

19:00: *Dinner hosted by CIMMYT*

**Day 3: November 1, 2014**

08:30 – 09:30: **Plenary Session V: Invited Lecture**

*Keynote Lecture:* Biotechnology for maize improvement: Present and Future

09:30 – 10:00: *Tea/coffee break*

10:00 – 12:00: **Concluding Plenary Session**

12:00 – 13:30: *Lunch*

13:30 – 17:00: **APAARI General Assembly Meeting**
(Only for APAARI Members and Special Invitees)