



ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS (APAARI)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Bangkok, Thailand

22 April 2014

PROCEEDINGS

The APAARI Executive Committee Meeting was held at Royal Princess Hotel, Bangkok on 22 April, 2014 under the chairmanship of Dr. Simon Hearn, Chairman, APAARI. The meeting was attended by 15 participants comprising APAARI members, their representatives and some special invitees (Annexure I). Dr. Rose, Dong-chong Hsiou represented Dr. Kueison Sheu, DG, Department of International Affairs, COA; Dr. Ahmad Bakhsh Mahar represented Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Chairman, PARC; Dr. B.M. Prasanna represented Dr. Thomas Lumpkin, Chairman, CIMMYT, Mr. Abdul Mazid represented Dr. Mahabub Hossain, Executive Director, BRAC and Dr. S ongpol Somsri represented Director General, DOA, Thailand.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome Address

Dr. Raj Paroda, while welcoming the participants expressed his appreciation for attending the meeting despite their busy schedule. He welcomed the Chairman, Dr. Simon Hearn and Vice Chairman, Dr. Masa Iwanaga and thanked them for their excellent support to APAARI. He also welcomed new member participant, Ms. Esther Penunia representing Asian Farmers' Association, as well as other representatives and special invitees. He also welcomed Dr. Kelvin Galagher, representing FAO-RAP and informed that Dr. Kelvin was in the process of organising an Asia-Pacific Network for extension services with which APAARI would have close linkages. He also expressed appreciation of funding support provided by COA to the biotechnology program (APCoAB) and to ACIAR for funding the activities of APAARI.

Subsequently, four APAARI publications were released by the chairman. Those were:

1. Wax Apple Industry in Taiwan: A Success Story
2. NARS-CGIAR Interactive Session for Strengthening Partnership in South Asia: Proceedings and Recommendations
3. Regional Workshop on Youth and Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities: Proceedings and Recommendations
4. National Workshop on Outscaling Farm Innovation: Proceedings and Recommendations

Agenda Item 3: Chairman's Opening Remarks

In his opening remarks, Dr. Simon Hearn welcomed all participants. As was evident, APAARI had another successful year of achievements during which varied and rather relevant activities were carried out. Dr. Hearn complimented Dr. Paroda for his sincere efforts in organizing and executing many activities to cover thematic areas.

Dr. Hearn opined that agricultural development faces many challenges, for which APAARI and other regional/global organizations need to put in long-term efforts. There is an obvious need to outscale appropriate technologies and demonstrate their impact on development, being the main message of the GFAR Steering Committee meeting held recently in Montpellier. CGIAR has made considerable progress through its reform process, but some NARS do not seem to have benefitted. These NARS need to approach CG more proactively and benefit from its various programs, especially the CRPs.

Dr. Hearn opined that participation of private sector in agricultural development is another area which deserves attention. Smallholder farmers do represent the private sector and hence, must be engaged in the development process. While APAARI should continue to champion the cause of small holder farmers, NARS and CG Centres should also address their needs and priorities, including capacity development.

The Chairman also appreciated the support of all partners and expressed his confidence in continued success of APAARI. He also hoped that all those present will be able to attend General Assembly Meeting being organized in October 2014.

Agenda Item 3: Approval of Minutes and Agenda

The committee was informed that the minutes of Executive Committee meeting held on 24 October, 2013 in Islamabad were circulated to all the participants and no comments were received. Accordingly, the minutes were approved through voice vote. The Chairman then moved the agenda (Annexure II) for adoption which was approved with an additional item, 'Announcement of Asia-Pacific Agricultural Extension and Outreach Network', proposed by Dr. Kevin Gallagher, FAO.

Agenda Item 4: Action Taken Report

Dr. Raj Paroda presented, through power point, the report on action taken and the progress made during 2013 (Annexure III). Highlights of the same are given below:

- 1) APAARI Executive Committee Meeting was held in Islamabad on 24 October, 2013. Important recommendations of the meeting were:
 - i) Organizing next General Assembly Meeting and Expert Consultation on Maize in Hanoi, Vietnam (27-29 October 2014).

- ii) Reserve funds be maintained to sustain APAARI activities.
- iii) Explore possible options regarding legal status of APAARI.
- iv) Audited accounts for Jan-August, 2013 were unanimously approved.
- v) Ensure harmony between APAARI biennium workplan and GFAR MTP.
- vi) Consider creation of one additional seat for Private Sector.

2) Conferences/Expert consultations/Dialogues held during the period under report:

- i) National Workshop on Outstanding Farm Innovations, 3-5 September 2013, New Delhi (TAAS-ICAR-APAARI)
- ii) NARS-CGIAR Interactive Session for Strengthening Partnership in South Asia, 22 October 2013, Islamabad (APAARI-PARC-CG Centers)
- iii) Regional Workshop on Youth and Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities in Asia-Pacific Region, 23-24 October, 2013, Islamabad (APAARI-PARC-CG Centers)
- iv) Expert Consultation on Promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, 2-3 December, 2013 (FAO-APAARI)
- v) Asian Food and Agribusiness Conference 2013: Biotechnology and Global Competitiveness, 15-18 July, 2013, Taipei (APO-COA-APAARI)
- vi) Asia-Pacific Symposium on Molecular Breeding, 1-3 October, 2013, Tainan (APAARI-AVRDC-COA)
- vii) Training Workshop on Open Access Publishing Using Open Journal Systems, 26-30 August, 2013, Bangkok (FAO-APAARI)
- viii) Expert Consultation on Strengthening Linkages between Research and Extension to Promote Food and Nutrition Security, 11-12 December, 2013, Bangkok (FAO-CAPSA-APAARI)

3. Following publications were brought out during 2013:

- i) Regional Consultation on Agricultural Research for Development: Proceedings and Recommendations
- ii) Benchmarking Agricultural Research Indicators Across Asia-Pacific: ASTI Regional Synthesis Report
- iii) Foresight and Future Pathways of Agricultural Research Through Youth: Proceedings and Recommendations
- iv) Expert Consultation on Managing Trans-boundary Diseases of Agricultural Importance in the Asia-Pacific – Proceedings and Recommendations

- v) Stakeholders' Dialogue on Biosafety Regulations in the Asia-Pacific Region – Proceedings and Recommendations
 - vi) Agricultural Information and Knowledge for All: Success Stories on ICT/ICM in AR4D in Asia and the Pacific Region.
 - vii) Training Workshop on Open Access Publishing Using Open Journal Systems: Proceedings
4. APAARI website is updated regularly with information on new publications, databases and other activities carried out by the organization. Also, links are provided to other sources on important global and Asia-Pacific agricultural developments.
 5. APAARI has made special efforts to involve diverse stakeholders including farmers, CSOs, private sector and other NARS in its activities. Some such programs in which these stakeholders were sponsored are:
 - i) National Workshop on Outscaling Farm Innovation.
 - ii) Asia-Pacific Symposium on Molecular Breeding
 - iii) Stakeholders' Dialogue on Biosafety Regulations in the Asia-Pacific region.
 - iv) Regional Workshop on Youth and Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities
 - v) NARS-CGIAR Interactive Session for Strengthening Partnership in South-Asia.
 - vi) Expert Consultation on Promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
 - vii) Asian Food and Agribusiness Conference 2013: Biotechnology and Global Competitiveness
 6. During 2013, APAARI was also represented in other important fora such as CGIAR Fund Council, EIAC of Fund Council, GFAR Steering Committee, GFAR Program Committee, and Tropical Agriculture Platform.

Following the presentation of Progress Report, the members offered some valuable suggestions:

- i) The Committee unanimously expressed its appreciation of the commendable progress made by APAARI, particularly the range of AR4D activities carried out. The members complimented Dr. Paroda on the remarkable achievements of APAARI.
- ii) Along with food security, there is a need to ensure nutrition security, particularly in developing countries. For this purpose, priority must be given to biofortification, adoption of pulses especially soybean as protein source, popularization of healthy and nutritious food and food diversification.

- iii) APAARI should take initiative on promoting soybean to address protein malnutrition particularly among children.
- iv) APAARI may consider organising an expert consultation during 2015 on nutrition with emphasis on biodiversity based food diversification.
- v) Pulse production has remained low due to biological factors that limit yield of these crops. However, as exemplified by soybean, research efforts can bring about substantial yield improvement in other leguminous crops.
- vi) A serious handicap to adoption of improved technologies by smallholder farmers is the weak linkage between research and extension workers. There is an urgent need to strengthen these linkages by involving researches in extension and vice-versa. APAARI can play a significant role in sensitizing NARS about these gaps and suggesting appropriate solutions in collaboration with proposed Network by FAO RAP.

Agenda Item 5: Membership Status

Dr. Raj Paroda apprised the members about the categories of APAARI members and the status of membership. Currently, there are 20 Regular, 16 Associate, 9 Affiliate and 10 Reciprocal members, making a total of 55. Most members are regular payers of their membership dues, though a few are in the process of clearing their dues. Requests have been made to some members for upgrading to the next membership category. PARC, CARP, CAPSA, and VAAS are considering the suggestion favourably and have assured for the same effective 2015.

Dr. R. Ghodake, based on his meeting with Dr. Haryono, IAARD, Indonesia, informed the Executive Committee that IAARD is considering to rejoin APAARI and a decision in this regard may be taken soon.

Kasetsart University has also expressed interest in joining APAARI and may take such a policy decision in the near future, possibly after attending the next GAM of APAARI.

Dr. Paroda acknowledged the funding support of ACIAR, FAO, CGAIR, GFAR, COA and AVRDC which enabled APAARI to organize a number of activities.

Dr. Rose conveyed the decision of COA to continue funding support of US\$ 50,000/- to APAARI-COA collaborative program on biotechnology for another term of 3 years (2014-2016). Also, during 2014, COA would host two events, one training program and one symposium to be held in Chinese Taipei. Chairman APAARI, on behalf of Executive Committee members, expressed appreciation of COA for its continued support.

Agenda Item 6: Audited Accounts and Budget

Dr. Paroda presented the Audited Accounts for the period 1 January – 31 December 2013 along with bank statements and audit certificate which were examined and reviewed by the members. A statement of assets and depreciation was also put up to the Executive Committee.

Explaining the Accounts Statement, Dr. Paroda mentioned that a balance amount of US\$ 1,037,767.90 was available as on 1.1.2013, amount received during 2013 was US\$ 447,001.39 and expenditure incurred was US\$ 410,174.11, leaving a balance of US\$ 1,074,595.18 on 31 December, 2013. Of this amount, US\$ 1,046,281.84 exists in fixed deposit as a reserve fund for sustaining the organisation.

The Executive Committee approved the audited accounts unanimously.

It was informed that the term of APAARI Auditor was completing in 2014. The members placed on record their appreciation for the efficient services provided by the auditor. It was also clarified that guidelines decided earlier for the appointment of new auditor, approved in Islamabad meeting would be followed. The Executive Committee was appreciative of the healthy financial position of APAARI and commended the secretariat for excellent management of funds.

Dr. Ghodake expressed the need for assured funding support to sustain the large number of activities being carried out by APAARI. It was pointed out that ACIAR and COA are committed fund supporters and in case wider support base is needed, then APAARI would have to change its role into an implementing agency. Majority of the participants felt that APAARI should continue its current mode of functioning because of which the members have a strong ownership and the organization is well recognized as an excellent professional neutral body.

Dr. Masa Iwanaga suggested to provide in future specific breakdown of expenditure under items “Consultancy/Travel/SSA/Honorarium” and “Expenses for Executive Committee Meeting and Expert Consultations” in the Account Statement for relatively more clarity.

Agenda Item 7: Status of Fund Investment

This item was discussed under Agenda Item 9c.

Agenda Item 8: Work Plan 2014

Dr. Raj Paroda presented the Work Plan for 2014, which had been approved in Islamabad meeting. Following activities were proposed to be carried out:

1. Publications:

- i) APAARI Newsletter (June and December, 2014) and APAARI on CD-2014
- ii) Publication of Success Stories/Status Reports/Case Studies on Agricultural Innovations, including ICT and Biotechnology
- iii) Publication of Proceedings of Regional Consultations/Dialogues/Workshops

2. Meetings/Expert Consultations/Symposia:

- i) APAARI Executive Committee Meeting (April, 2014)
- ii) APAARI General Assembly Meeting (October, 2014)
- iii) Expert Consultation on Improving Rice Productivity in Asia
- iv) Regional Workshop on Improving Productivity of Maize in the Asia-Pacific Region
- v) Prioritization of Demand-Driven Agricultural Research for Development in Southeast Asia

3. APARIS Related Activities:

- i) APARIS Steering Committee Meeting (April, 2014)
- ii) Regional Workshop on ICM for Agricultural Development (provided GFAR support is assured)
- iii) Training Workshop on Open Access Publishing Using Open Journal Systems in India
- iv) Report on CIRAD RING for knowledge sharing in Thailand

4. APCoAB Related Activities:

- i) APCoAB Steering Committee Meeting (April, 2014)
- ii) Expert Consultation on Food Safety, in collaboration with JIRCAS
- iii) Conference of Prevention and Control of Avian influenza, in collaboration with COA
- iv) Training Program on Food Safety, in collaboration with ICRISAT
- v) Training Program on Biotechnology related topic in collaboration with COA
- vi) Training Program on *In vitro* Conservation of Germplasm in collaboration with ICAR

5. Inter-regional Cooperation: Strengthening cooperation in the following:

- i) Ensuring participation of stakeholders in implementation of CRPs
- ii) Participation in other Regional Fora meetings

During discussion on Work Plan, suggestions were made to organize during 2014-15 events in priority areas of soil health, innovations in family farming , and household nutrition security depending on availability of resources.

Ms. Esther Penunia was requested to discuss the proposed plan for organising meeting on family farming with FAO and develop a concept note to initiate this activity in collaboration with APAARI sometime late in 2014.

Concern was expressed over the lack of clarity from GFAR regarding specific APAARI activities it proposes to support during 2014, especially those which have already been suggested in the MTP of GFAR. Also, details of GFAR Work Plan for 2014 are awaited.

Dr. Masa Iwanaga suggested to develop the Work Plan for 2015 in harmony with expectations in GFAR Road Map. Dr. Simon Hearn opined that CG had promised to be more consultative, involving all regional fora in implementation of CRPs.

Agenda Item 9: Any Other Matter

a) Legal Status of APAARI:

Dr. Raj Paroda explained the background and efforts by APAARI to obtain legal status in Thailand. As decided in the previous Executive Committee Meeting, negotiations were held with DOA to seek needed help to obtain legal status in Thailand. In this context, a draft MOU exchanged between DOA and APAARI was presented to the Executive Committee and approved. Dr. Songpol Somsri explained that DOA and APAARI would hold further meeting to have the MOU formally approved. Dr. Paroda mentioned that DOA had agreed in principle to support registration of APAARI as an Association in Thailand, help expatriate staff to be located in Bangkok, and assist in functioning of APAARI as an Association located in Thailand soon after seeking the approval of the Government of Thailand.

b) Policy on Investment:

Executive Secretary mentioned that based on the recommendation of earlier Executive Committee to earn higher income from existing APAARI reserve fund, US\$ 500,000/- had been invested through ICRISAT which earned returns of about US\$ 30,000/-. However, ICRISAT returned the amount due to a policy decision and now the amount is deposited back as FD in Siam Commercial Bank, at much lower interest rate. Based on the suggestion of earlier Committee, attempt was made to deposit some amount in other foreign banks but it was not possible due to the issues of legal status. The Executive Committee agreed that until the legal status of APAARI is resolved, no diversification of investment needs to be made .

c) Representation of Private Sector:

Representation of private sector in the Executive Committee was suggested in the last Executive Committee meeting. It was explained that creation of an additional seat for private

sector would require an amendment in APAARI Constitution to be approved by the General Assembly, for which prior notice of 60 days needs to be given to all the members.

Members discussed whether a small farmer, a corporate body or a private association would be the appropriate representative of private sector. Also, there were diverse views as to whether private sector representative should be included as a member of Executive Committee or should only be invited to participate in programs of APAARI.

It was decided that APAARI must have inclusiveness of all stakeholders, including the private sector, and a suitable amendment in the Constitution be got approved in the next GAM which requires advance notice of 60 days. Also, it was suggested further that APAARI Secretariat should prepare a list of organizations which could be considered for representation on Executive Committee and see as to in what APAARI programs private sector could be invited to the participate.

d) Update on GAM, Asian Maize Conference and Expert Consultation:

Executive Secretary informed that APAARI GAM would be held on 29 October, 2014. Along with it, the 12th Asian Conference and Expert Consultation on “Maize for Food, Feed, Nutrition and Environmental Security” is proposed to be held in Vietnam on 27-29 October. Discussions were underway with VAAS for co-organizing the events in Hanoi and to explore possible logistics for 150-200 participants, both Dr. Paroda and Dr. Prasanna are planning to visit Hanoi and decide the issue of venue.

Dr. Prasanna made an impressive presentation on the status of organizing the Asia-Maize Conference and Expert Consultation. He detailed the importance of maize as a food security crop for the developing countries, priorities for research and extension, and the tentative program of the maize conference. Maize as food and nutrition crop as well forage crop is gaining much importance. He emphasized that this event would be mainly stakeholder driven with diverse participation and would lay the path for future CG program on maize improvement and extension. Dr. Prasanna provided the details of the program drafted in consultation with Dr. Paroda (Annexure). He also informed that about 150-200 participants are expected to attend and, beside CIMMYT and APAARI, USAID, Syngenta, Monsanto, FAO, Mahyco and other organizations has agreed to co-sponsor.

e) Discussion with Dr. Mark Holderness:

The Committee held discussion with Dr. Mark Holderness, member APAARI Executive Committee and Executive Secretary, GFAR over Skype. He exchanged views on APAARI Work Plan, GFAR MTP and GCARD Road Map. Chairman briefed Dr. Holderness on the proceedings of the meeting and expressed the need to harmonize GFAR and GCARD Work Plans for 2014-15 with those of APAARI to ensure that the activities proposed by GFAR are in harmony with APAARI Work Plan. Dr. Holderness mentioned that an amount of US\$

70,000 has been approved by GFAR for activities to be carried out by APAARI during 2014. He expressed the need for demonstrating outcomes of GFAR supported activities, for which indicators are being developed. He will soon communicate the details including draft MOU to be signed with APAARI. Dr. Paroda sought clarity on the funding support and activities that GFAR proposes to undertake with APAARI. He also requested for an early finalization of MOU so that proposed activities could be planned well in time.

f) Update on Tropical Agricultural Platform (TAP):

Dr. Ghodake made a presentation on the background and objectives of TAP in which he represents APAARI. TAP was launched in 2012 at the initiative of G20 with the objective of facilitating capacity development in agricultural innovations in the tropics. APAARI is a member of the Global Task Force of TAP. TORs for the roles and responsibilities of Regional Fora have been drafted by FAO and are presently under discussion. Dr. Ghodake mentioned that linkages of TAP with GFAR MTP are not clear. In reply to a query from Dr. Ahmad Bakhsh Mahar, he informed that the broad criteria for selecting the countries for capacity development are also under discussion. It was agreed that APAARI Secretariat, in consultation with Dr. Ghodake, may send suitable response expressing own willingness to be an active partner of TAP.

g) Announcement of Asia-Pacific Agricultural Extension and Outreach Network:

Dr. Kevin Gallagher informed that a recent FAO-CAPSA-APAARI expert consultation on Strengthening Linkages between Research and Extension had clearly shown that in developing countries while research is well organized, extension systems have eroded considerably. In order that research outputs translate into developments at the farmers' field level, there is a need to promote services and linkages between agricultural research and extension. Hence, FAO proposes to establish an Asia-Pacific Agricultural Extension and Outreach Network for which TORs are being developed. FAO will provide secretarial services and support for the first three years to the network comprising relevant stakeholders. Dr. Gallagher cited APAARI as an example to be followed as it has clear vision and very impressive achievements. During discussion, Dr. Abdul Mazid gave details of research, extension and development activities being carried out by BRAC in Bangladesh and Africa. Similarly, Ms. Esther Penunia informed about extension and development activities being carried out by AFA. Discussion also centered around proposed event on Family Farming being organised by FAO at the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai. Dr. Kelvin hoped that AFA, BRAC and APAARI could also participate.

Agenda Item 10: Chairman's Concluding Remarks

In his concluding remarks, the Chairman made a mention of the expected changes in APAARI management. Dr. Raj Paroda would be handing over the reins of Executive Secretary to Dr. R. Ghodake, details of which need to be worked out before the next General

Assembly. Also, the term of present Executive Committee would come to an end on 31 December, 2014 and a new committee will have to be constituted for the next biennium (2015-2016) by the General Assembly. Dr. Paroda explained the process of constituting Executive Committee based on a general principle of rotation among sub-regions. Dr. Prasanna conveyed the appreciation of Dr. Thomas Lumpkin, Member, Executive Committee to Dr. Paroda for his long and dedicated service, and suggested that APAARI must continue seeking his services as an Advisor in the best interest of APAARI.

Agenda Item 11: Vote of Thanks

Dr. Paroda proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair and Co-chair. He also thanked all other members and special invitees for their valuable advice and support to APPARI.

APAARI Executive Committee Meeting
List of Participants

- 1. Dr. Simon Hearn**
Principal Adviser,
Australian Center for International
Agricultural Research (ACIAR),
GPO Box 1571, Canberra ACT 2601,
Australia.
E-mail : Simon.Hearn@aciar.gov.au
- 2. Mr. Masa Iwanaga**
President, Japan International Research
Center for Agricultural Sciences
(JIRCAS),
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry &
Fisheries,
I-1, Ohwashi Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305
8686, Japan
E-mail: miwanaga@affre.go.jp
- 3. Dr. Raj Paroda**
Executive Secretary, APAARI
C/o TAAS
Avenue II, IARI, Pusa
New Delhi-110012, India
Email: raj.paroda@yahoo.com
- 4. Mr. Misa Konelio**
ACEO, Crops Division
Ministry of Agriculture
Forests, Fisheries and Meteorology
(MAFFM)
3rd Floor, ACB Building
P.O. Box 1874
Apia, Samoa
Email: misa.konelio@crops.gov.ws
- 5. Dr. Rose, Dong-chong Hsiou**
Deputy Director General
Department of International Affairs
Council of Agriculture
Chinese Taipei
Email: chong@mail.coa.gov.tw
- 6. Dr. Kevin Gallagher**
Agriculture Research, Extension and
Education (REED) Officer
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the
Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand
Email: Kevin.Gallagher@fao.org
- 7. Dr. Ahmad Bakhsh Mahar**
Director General, Planning &
Development Division / Executive
Secretary (ALP)
Pakistan Agricultural Research Council
P.O.box 1031, Plot 20, G-5/1,
Islamabad, Pakistan
Email: harbr97@gmial.com
- 8. Dr. Raghunath Ghodake**
Dr. Raghunath Ghodake
PNG NARI Promoting Excellence in
Agricultural Research for Sustainable
Development
E-mail:
raghunath.ghodake@nari.org.pg
- 9. Dr. Songpol Somsri**
Senior Expert in Horticulture
Senior Expert Office of DOA
Department of Agriculture
50, Paholyothin Road, Chatuchak
Bangkok 10900, Thailand
Email : songpolsom@yahoo.com
- 10. Dr. B.M. Prasanna**
Program Director
Global Maize Program
CIMMYT, International Maize and
Wheat Improvement Center
Nairobi, Kenya
Email: b.m.prasanna@cgiar.org
- 11. Mr. Abdul Mazid**

Associate Director Agriculture
BRAC International
BRAC Centre, 75 Mohakhali
Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh
Email: ma.mazid@brac.net

12. Ms. Esther Penunia

Secretary General
Asian Farmers' Association for
Sustainable Rural Development (AFA),
Room 206, Partnership Center
59 c. Salvador St., Loyola Heights
Quezon City, 1108, Philippines
Email: estherpenunia@gmail.com

13. Dr. Peter Sha-Li Lan

Director
Political Division
Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in
Thailand
20th Floor Empire Tower 195, South
Sathorn Road, Bangkok 10120
Email: tecocomu.th@gmail.com

14. Chanerin Maneechansook

Program Assistant
Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural
Research Institutions
4th Floor, FAO RAP Annex Building
202/1 Larn Luang Road, Klong
Mahanak Sub-district
Pomprab Sattrupai District
Bangkok 10100 Thailand
Email: chanerin@apaari.org

15. Dr. J.L. Karihaloo

Coordinator, APCoAB
National Agriculture Science Centre,
Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, Pusa,
New Delhi - 110 012, India
E-mail: j.karihaloo@cgiar.org

**ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTIONS (APAARI)**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Hotel Royal Princess, Bangkok, Thailand

22 April, 2014
(09:00 – 12:30 hrs)

AGENDA NOTES

1. Welcome : Dr. Raj Paroda
2. Chairman's Opening Remarks : Dr. Simon Hearn
3. Approval of Minutes and Agenda : Dr. Simon Hearn
4. Action Taken Report : Dr. Raj Paroda
5. Membership Status : Dr. Raj Paroda
6. Audited Accounts and Budget : Ms. Urairat, Administrative Associate
7. Status of Fund Investments : Ms. Urairat, Administrative Associate
8. Work Plan 2014 : Dr Raj Paroda
9. Any Other Matter
 - a) Legal Status of APAARI
 - b) Policy on Investments
 - c) Representation of Private Sector
 - d) Update on GAM and 12 Asian Maize Conference and Expert Consultation
 - e) Update on Tropical Agricultural Platform (TAP) : Dr. Raghunath Ghodake
10. Chairman's Concluding Remarks : Dr. Simon Hearn
11. Vote of Thanks : Dr. Raj Paroda

APAARI PROGRESS REPORT

January – December 2013



**Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
(APAARI)**

Progress Report
January – June, 2013

C/o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
4th Floor, FAO RAP Annex Building
202/1 Larn Laung Road, Klong Mahanak Sub-District
Pomprab Sattrupai District
Bangkok 10110, Thailand

BRIEF REPORT ON APAARI ACTIVITIES

(January – June, 2013)

APAARI organized several activities comprising meetings/consultations/ conferences/ workshops during January-June, 2013. These included APAARI Executive Committee Meeting, APCoAB Steering Committee Meeting, Regional Dialogue on Biosafety Regulations in Asia-Pacific, Workshop on Foresight and Future Pathways of Agricultural Research through Involvement of Youth and Global Consultation on Use and Management of Agrobiodiversity for Sustainable Food Security in collaboration with its partners and through various networks. Also several publications, including three proceedings of conferences/workshops held and one book on wheat were brought out and disseminated.

A brief account of the achievements made during the period under report is presented here for the kind information of APAARI members/stakeholders:

I. MEETINGS AND EXPERT CONSULTATIONS

1. APAARI Executive Committee Meeting

The first meeting of the new APAARI Executive Committee for the biennium 2013-2014 was held at Bangkok on 15 April, 2013 under the chairmanship of Dr Simon Hearn, Chairman, APAARI and Principal Adviser, ACIAR. The meeting was attended by five members and some special invitees. Dr. Mark Holderness, GFAR participated through Skype link.

At the outset, Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI welcomed Dr. Simon Hearn for chairing the meeting and to all the new members and special invitees for their participation in the meeting. Dr. Paroda expressed appreciation to APAARI members, FAO, GFAR, ACIAR, CoA, CG Centers and other stakeholders for their active participation in various APAARI meetings.

Dr Simon Hearn welcomed the Executive Committee members and appreciated the remarkable progress made by APAARI in collaboration with its members and with the support of GFAR, FAO, ACIAR, COA and CG Centers. He appreciated the sincere efforts of Dr. Raj Paroda in implementing various activities and emphasized that APAARI became partner of Tropical Agricultural Platform (TAP). Dr. Raj Paroda as the Chair of Organizing Committee had successfully organized the GCARD-II at Punta del Este, Uruguay on 28 October - 1November, 2012. Dr. Paroda is also member of the Search Committee for the selection of GFAR Chair. The Chairman and Executive Secretary of APAARI are the members of GFAR Steering Committee. APAARI is representing all the Regional Fora as a member on the CG Fund Council and also a member of the Evaluation and Impact Assessment Committee of the CG Fund Council.

Dr. Mark Holderness appreciated the commendable role of APAARI and highlighted the success of Global Conference on Women in Agriculture, held in March 2012 at New Delhi which adopted Gender in Agriculture Partnership Program (GAP). He thanked Dr. Raj Paroda for his excellent leadership as the Chair of GCARD-II Organizing Committee.

Dr. Masa Iwanaga appreciated the role of APAARI website as an important mechanism for sharing information about events, meetings, proceedings and publications, etc., and suggested monitoring users' access to APAARI website on regular basis

The major decisions/action points that emerged are as follows:

- CABI has joined as new Associate Member from January 2013 and SHIATS, Allahabad has upgraded its membership to Associate Category. The total number of APAARI members now stands at 55 (Regular members 20, Associate Members 15, Affiliate members 12 and Reciprocal members 8). Some NARS members will be approached to upgrade their membership category voluntarily.
- Restoring the membership of Indonesia should be pursued through CAPSA which is an affiliate member based in Indonesia. Membership of New Zealand, CAAS, China, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and the countries in Pacific region also needs to be pursued.
- The Audited Accounts for 2012 were presented and the statement of Assets and Liabilities along with Bank statement were examined and reviewed by the members. It was explained that APAARI received additional funding support from GFAR for GCARD process. In, addition, support from co-sponsors like FAO, CG Centers, ACIAR, COA, ASTI, JIRCAS etc., was also received for specific activities.
- ICRISAT has already returned a sum of US \$ 536,389 to APAARI account in Bangkok after maturity of the fixed deposit. The same has already been deposited in the APAARI fixed deposit account with Siam Commercial Bank, Bangkok. The members were requested to suggest further better investment strategy. Audited accounts were unanimously approved by the Executive Committee. Members were also appreciative of support received in particular from GFAR, ACIAR and COA.
- ICRISAT may be requested to provide audited accounts for APCoAB from the next year onwards since most of the expenditure is done through its office in New Delhi/Hyderabad. Hence, current duplication for audit could be avoided.
- APAARI is a self-supported and not a donor-driven organization and hence reserve funds be maintained for sustaining APAARI activities. The General Assembly has all the authority to take a decision regarding utilization of reserve funds.
- The process of choosing auditor has been transparent. An auditor is identified after receiving quotations from the qualified government auditors in Thailand and a competent auditor is approved by the General Assembly for a period of two years at a time. It was suggested to have a written policy on record for the selection and appointment of the external auditor in future.
- It was suggested to have a long-term APAARI investment policy. It was agreed that Dr. Raghunath Ghodake and Dr. Masa Iwanaga under the chairmanship of Dr. Simon Hearn would develop a policy for investment, utilization of reserve funds and appointment of external auditor based on the existing principles and practices.
- It was explained that APAARI has been functioning as an entity under FAO umbrella and does not have any separate legal status. The members felt the need to attain legal identity for APAARI to face the challenges in future such as: operation of banking transactions including reserve funds, relocation of secretariat, etc. The proposed committee comprising Dr. Simon Hearn, Dr. Masa Iwanaga and Dr. Raghunath Ghodake would look into possible options for attaining legal status for APAARI.
- The Work Plan for 2013, was endorsed by the Executive Committee as approved by GAM in October 2012. The work-plan covered mainly the prioritized activities such

as: (i) Publications, (ii) Meetings/Expert Consultations/Symposia, etc., (iii) APARIS activities, (iv) APCoAB activities, and (v) Initiatives concerning Inter-regional cooperation. It was agreed that any requirements for additional programs from organizations like FAO, GFAR and other partners would be accommodated as per the needs.

- It was suggested that an Expert Consultation on the theme 'Role of Youth in Agriculture' be organized in Pakistan along with next Executive Committee meeting during October, 2013.
- Realizing the importance of food safety in the context of emergence of value chains in food markets all over the world, it was suggested that APCoAB should address this theme in future.
- GCARD-II proposed about 20 different thematic areas needing commitments for collective action. MTP would provide good opportunity for the Regional Fora to implement GCARD Roadmap to ensure action at the ground level. Participation of stakeholders in the decision making process at the national level is a big challenge and hence needs to be addressed effectively.
- It was proposed that the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), an active and well known NGO in Bangladesh and the Asian Farmers Association (AFA), Philippines may be requested to attend the next meeting as special invitees. The Committee members also agreed to invite both AFA and BRAC to join APAARI as reciprocal members and consider them for the inclusion in Executive Committee for the current biennium (2013-14).

2. Workshop on Foresight and Future Pathways of Agricultural Research through Involvement of Youth

During Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development 2 (GCARD2) organized by Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) at Punte del Este, Uruguay during 28 October – 1 November, 2012, the “Youth and Agriculture” was one of the focal discussion points. The Chair GCARD2 quoted “globally agriculture is an ageing and undervalued profession and youth need special encouragement in all aspects of AR4D”. As a follow-up action of GCARD2, APAARI, ICAR and TAAS jointly organized a national workshop on “Foresight and Future Pathways of Agricultural Research through Involvement of Youth in India” on 1-2 March, 2013 at NASC Complex, New Delhi. A total of 300 participants from different ICAR institutes and agricultural universities, including farmers, students and private sector representatives; and senior resource persons attended the workshop. Dr RS Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI and Chairman TAAS, was the Chief Guest, while Dr Ayyappan, Secretary DARE & DG ICAR chaired the Inaugural Session and Dr Thomas Lumpkin, Director General CIMMYT, gave special remarks. In the plenary session, Prof RB Singh, President, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) as the Chief Guest and Dr Ashok Gulati, Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) as the Guest of Honour.

Major Recommendations

Research:

- There is an urgent need to reorient agricultural research towards farming systems' mode by ensuring inter-institutional and inter-disciplinary collaboration creating state of art research facilities

- For taking research to end users greater emphasis is needed on joint research with the private sector through creation of excellent research infrastructure.
- As a matter of institute level priority, there should be greater emphasis on collaborative research with advanced national/international research institutions.
- To have a provision seed grant (10-15 lac) for the newly recruited scientist to encourage them to initiate research in a program mode rather than project mode.
- Provision of a special project for young scientist to be made through competitive research at the national level by ICAR.
- Encouraging young scientists for grant of patents and innovations
- Creating ICT facilities to discourage the repetitive research as well as for timely scientific accounting of the scientists

Development:

- Short to long-term trainings for young scientist at advanced research institutions at both national and international level.
- Greater involvement of young scientist as members in decision making bodies at institute level such as RAC, SRC and academic council, etc.
- Provision of training programs at NAARM for young and mid-career scientists for building scientific research leadership qualities.
- Provision for institutional grant and administrative freedom to encourage presentation of research work in International Conferences and its publication in referred journals

Policy:

- Greater emphasis on human resource development through allocation of funds at institute level with more freedom and accountability.
- Balancing the funding resources for basic, strategic, applied, and participatory research
- More scientific and administrative freedom for research pursuits by young researchers using a bottom up approach.
- Creating centralized research facilities to encourage greater scientific collaboration with the private sector
- Incentives and rewards for innovation and outscaling for impacts.
- National HRD strategy to address the concerns of small holder farmers through reorienting R&D efforts towards farming systems.

3. Global Consultation on Use and Management of Agrobiodiversity for Sustainable Food Security

Global Consultation on Use and Management of Agrobiodiversity for Sustainable Food Security was jointly organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), in collaboration with Bioversity International and with support from ITPGRFA, FAO, ICRISAT, ICARDA and APAARI at NASC Complex, New Delhi, on 12-14 February, 2013. The Consultation was attended by 55 delegates from 32 countries and about 60 participants from national agricultural research system (NARS).

Shri Tariq Anwar, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Government of India inaugurated the global consultation and emphasized the need of

enhanced South-South cooperation to complement North-South endeavours. Dr. Charan Das Mahant, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries stated that scientific approach should be adopted for on-farm conservation the custodian farmers be equipped technically and financially to enhance on-farm conservation. The other dignitaries who spoke in the inaugural session included Dr. R.S. Paroda, Dr. S. Ayyappan, Dr. Emile Frison, Prof. R.B. Singh and Dr. P.N. Mathur, and Dr. K.C. Bansal.

Key Recommendations:

As a result of in-depth discussions in different sessions, the following important recommendations/important points emerged:

- Genetic resources management requires a national action plan like GPA. This needs to be paid greater attention.
- *In situ* conservation cannot be replaced by *ex situ* conservation. To make *in situ*/ on-farm conservation more effective, involvement of local communities is essential; that can be achieved by providing more support and sharing of benefits.
- There is a great need for expansion of Annex. I crops of the Treaty by adding more species in the list.
- GPA is in place and needs to be further revisited for follow-up, in the best interest of parties/ stakeholders.
- There is a need for involvement of committed people with service motive in PGR/ FAO initiatives.
- National Biodiversity Laws in each country need to be enacted in harmony with the provisions of the Treaty.
- Activities need to be undertaken to further improve genebanks to avoid duplication of samples and for safe duplication using modern approach or tools. Wherever possible safety duplicates should be maintained to conserve PGRFA.
- There is need to exchange experience with other research institutes to understand as to how the regulations of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and ITPGRFA are harmonized.
- The global donors should provide greater funding support for PGR activities in various countries, particularly for *ex situ* conservation.
- Training and capacity building in PGR, research funding and grants for country projects for PGR activities need to be encouraged
- Priority attention needs to be given to the development of trait-specific PGR to overcome climate change, impart heat and salt tolerance and for development of biotic and abiotic stress tolerant varieties.
- Partnership among different centres and countries and capacity building in PGR needs to be strengthened.
- Prebreeding initiatives, viz., Prebreeding 1 (base broadening, wide hybridization) and Prebreeding 2 (gene discovery, genotyping, phenotyping and association genetics) for further breeding programs should be given greater thrust.

4. APCoAB Steering Committee Meeting

The XV Steering Committee Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB) was held in Bangkok on 15 April, 2013. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Simon Hearn, Chairman, APAARI and was attended by nine Steering Committee (SC) members/their representatives and special invitees. APCoAB progress report presented by the Coordinator detailed expert consultations, symposia and other meetings organized and supported by APCoAB, publications brought out and web based information dissemination carried out during 2012. The committee appreciated the progress and made the following recommendations and observations:

- Dr. Iftikhar Ahmed suggested that soft copies of new APCoAB publications should be emailed to all members for their use and sharing with other interested users.
- Dr. Raghunath Ghodake advised that strategic planning was required to enable all APAARI member organizations to benefit from these programs. These should be so tailored as to cater to the needs of less advanced NARS as well.
- The training programs and workshops organized by APCoAB were well appreciated. Dr. Raj Paroda, Dr. Etienne Duveiller and Dr. Kiran Kumar Sharma recommended to organize on priority training programs on GM technology, MAS and biosafety.
- Dr. Masa Iwanaga advised that schedules of group meetings and training programs should be circulated well in advance to enable timely response from the member organizations.
- It was suggested to organize expert consultation on food safety in 2014 in collaboration with JIRCAS.
- A proposal was also made to organize a training program on food safety in 2014 at ICRISAT which was seconded by Dr. Sharma.
- During the discussion on budget, it was recommended to request ICRISAT to issue, from 2014 onwards, audit certificates for the APCoAB accounts being maintained and operated from ICRISAT.
- Members expressed a strong need for regional cooperation to accelerate application of GM technology to address priority problems like abiotic stress. It would be desirable to pool resources and launch regional network programs to benefit from expertise available in the region. In this regard, commendable research has been done by JIRCAS on DREB gene which needs to be carried forward by other national systems through collaborative efforts. Dr. Paroda felt that APAARI could play a facilitation role in establishing the collaborations.
- Public sector by and large has not delivered to the expected level towards development of GM crops aimed at meeting local agricultural R&D priorities. There is an urgent need to streamline and accelerate public sector GM crop development programs. Success of public sector in development of GM crops would also remove the perception that GM crops are a private sector monopoly. In this regard, PARC has made commendable progress by releasing a number of GM cotton varieties in Pakistan.
- Dr. Simon Hearn emphasized the need to develop consumer confidence in GM products to ensure that farmers adopt the technology. This could be achieved through creation of a robust regulatory system and vigorous public communication of facts and figures.

Following work plan was approved for implementation during 2013.

Expert Consultations/Symposia/Meetings/ Training Programs/Workshops

- APCoAB Steering Committee Meeting, Bangkok, 15 April, 2013
- Stakeholders' Dialogue on Biosafety Regulations in the Asia-Pacific Region, Bangkok, 16-17 April, 2013
- APO Asian Food and Agribusiness Conference 2013: Biotechnology and Global Competitiveness Taipei, 15-18 July, 2013 (in collaboration with COA)
- Asia-Pacific Symposium on Molecular Breeding at AVRDC, Tainan, 1-3 October, 2013 (in collaboration with COA and AVRDC)
- Training program on biotechnology in Chinese Taipei in consultation with COA

Publications

- Proceedings of "Stakeholders' Interface on Genetically Modified Crops"
- Proceedings of Expert Consultation on "Managing Trans-boundary Diseases of Agricultural Importance in the Asia-Pacific"
- Biosafety Regulations of Asia-Pacific Countries (revision)

APCoAB Website

- Regular Update of News and Events on Agricultural Biotechnology Developments in Asia-Pacific region
- Regular update of other contents and databases

Since the term of the present Steering Committee had expired, a new Steering Committee was constituted for 2013-2014 as follows:

Chairman	Dr. Simon Hearn, Principal Adviser, ACIAR, Australia
Members	Dr. Masa Iwanaga, President, JIRCAS, Japan
	Dr. Su-San Chang, Director General, Department of International Affairs, COA, Chinese Taipei
	Dr. William Dar, Director General, ICRISAT, India
	Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Chairman, PARC, Pakistan
	Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI, India
Member Secretary	Dr. J. L. Karihaloo, Coordinator, APCoAB, India

5. Stakeholders' Dialogue on "Biosafety Regulations in the Asia-Pacific Region"

APCoAB organized a Stakeholders' Dialogue on "Biosafety Regulations in the Asia-Pacific Region" in Bangkok on 16-17 April, 2013. The meeting was inaugurated by Dr. Hiroyuki

Konuma, ADG, FAO-RAP and attended by 25 participants from AP countries, including APAARI members, CG Centers, FAO, CABI and other international and local organizations. The program included presentations on overview of biotechnology and biosafety in Asia-Pacific, country status reports, key-note lectures on related topics, discussion on key issues and plenary discussion. Following are the draft recommendations made in the meeting:

1. Biotechnology R&D priorities especially aimed at smallholders

- Countries need to adopt best technology options for GM production.
- GM technologies need to be focused to address the still unmet needs of smallholder farmers.
- Since private sector is putting most of its efforts on major crops, there is a need to give more attention by public sector organizations to niche crops, like cassava and *Bt* brassica.
- Regional prioritization of crops for GM intervention should be based on agroecology.
- There is a need to address those problems on priority for which the entire technology can be packaged into seed.
- Biosafety compliance costs can be lowered by assisting countries in implementing biosafety policies through collaboration and optimization of testing.

2. Enhancing communication for public awareness

- Enlist farmers' support for technology awareness and inputs at the field trial stage itself rather than later when the tests have been completed. To ensure their greater acceptance, it is important to make farmers a part of the product development process.
- Make use of farmer champions post-introduction for spreading the good word about the technology.
- Resources need to be allocated by research institutes/technology developers for adopting appropriate communication strategies developed through professional communicators.

3. Regional cooperation for biosafety management

- Cooperation, collaboration, linkages and networking in modern biotechnology/biosafety among the Asia-Pacific countries need to be initiated, implemented and strengthened.
- There is a need for alignment and synergies among the existing biosafety policies under different national component authorities in each Asia-Pacific country and within sub-regional or regional economic/political associations.
- There exists an acceptable resolution on the co-existence issues among conventional agriculture, organic farming and biotech crop cultivation. A settlement of this issue is urgently needed within and among Asia-Pacific countries.
- In order to accomplish these aims and make them sustainable, there is a need of an effective financial assistance mechanism at the regional level similar to the one existing under GEF.

II. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND PUBLICATIONS

A. Web-based and CD Information

1. APAARI Web Space

APAARI Website www.apaari.org provides access to more than 50 success stories, 42 issues of APPARI Newsletter, and more than 55 reports and proceedings of expert consultations. The website provides links to NARS in Asia and the Pacific region, partners like ACIAR, FAO, CGIAR, GFAR, AARINENA, FARA, CACAARI and directories such as research networks, projects database, ASTI databases, regional research networks etc. The website is being updated on regular basis with upcoming events, activities completed and latest publications with introduction of discussion forum, RSS feed Web 2.0 and social networking tools for dissemination of agricultural research information efficiently.

To improve effective dissemination of information, APAARI has been implementing a communication strategy in phased manner. The APAARI website domain and dedicated webhosting services were renewed upto 1 January, 2014.

2. Database Platforms

Under the implementation of APAARI Communication Strategy 2010-2015, APAARI launched **Contact Database** on its website. It helps to search contact details of APAARI Members by sub-region, country, category, area of activity etc., and allows downloading of contact information. NARS and National Information Nodal Points (NINPs) are welcome to register in this platform and add contacts of their constituencies. The design of databases on **ARD Experts** and **ARD Projects** was also completed and it was demonstrated in the Eleventh Meeting of APARIS Steering Committee held on 13 October, 2012. The database platforms are available at APAARI website: <http://www.apaari.org/ard-database/> The database development is progressing by adding more information on experts and projects.

APCoAB Website

APCoAB website (www.apcoab.org) provides information on APCoAB organization, objectives, activities and news and events on agricultural biotechnology. It provides access to APCoAB publications comprising success stories, status reports and proceedings of expert consultation and other group meetings. Databases of agricultural biotechnology institutions in Asia-Pacific and biosafety regulations of Asia-Pacific countries are also available at this website. These resources are updated on regular basis.

B. Publications

1. Proceedings of the Regional Consultation on “Collective Actions for Opening Access to Agricultural Information and Knowledge in the Asia-Pacific Region” (2013)

This publication synthesizes the highlights of the presentations, captures proceedings of the regional consultation on “Collective Actions for Opening Access to Agricultural Information and Knowledge in the Asia-Pacific Region” was jointly organized by APAARI, FAO, GFAR, CoRRB, ICS and SAARC Agriculture Center at Thimphu, Bhutan on 13-15 December, 2012. It presents an account of collective actions for opening access to agricultural information and knowledge in the Asia-Pacific Region. The publication is available at www.apaari.org

2. Stakeholders’ Interface on Genetically Modified Crops – Proceedings and Recommendations

This publication is the outcome of meeting organized by APCoAB and Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) in Manila, Philippines on 27 September, 2012. It includes summaries of the presentations and recommendations made during the meeting. The publication is available at www.apcoab.org.

3. Priorities for Agricultural Research for Development in South Asia

This publication is based on the synthesis report “Prioritization of Demand-Driven Agricultural Research for Development in South Asia” based on policy dialogues held in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. It is intended to promote further discussions and policy formulation for agricultural research and development in South Asia. The publication is available at <http://www.apaari.org/publications/ar4d-sa-brief.html>

4. Improving Wheat Productivity in Asia

A regional consultation on “Improving Wheat Productivity in Asia” was jointly organized in Bangkok, Thailand on 26-27 April, 2012 by the FAO and APAARI in collaboration with CIMMYT, ICARDA and JIRCAS. This publication includes the recommendations and extended summaries of invited papers presented in the regional consultation. The publication is available at <http://www.apaari.org/publications/improvin-wheat-productivity-in-asia-2013.html>

5. APPARI Flyer

An informative flyer on APAARI was published in February, 2013 giving vision and mission of APAARI, updated information and activities of APAARI, list of important publications, success stories, and a list of current APAARI Members etc., for wider distribution.

6. APAARI Posters

Posters indicating the latest programs and achievements of APAARI have been prepared for display at the meetings and conferences.

7. APAARI Calendar

APAARI Desk Calendar for the year 2013 was published and distributed to all members and stakeholders.

III. PARTICIPATION OF APAARI IN OTHER FORA

1. Dr. Simon Hearn, Chairman, APAARI

- The ninth meeting of the Fund Council of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural (CGIAR) was held at New Delhi on 25-26 April, 2013. Dr Simon Hearn and Dr Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI participated in the Fund Council meeting representing all Regional Fora.

2. Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI

- Global consultation on “Use and Management of Agrobiodiversity for Sustainable Food Security”, organized by Bioversity International and ICAR, New Delhi, 12-14 February, 2013.
- National Workshop on Foresight and Future Pathways of Agricultural Research through Youth in India, New Delhi, 1 March, 2013.
- 28th Meeting of GFAR Steering Committee, Istanbul, 28-30 April, 2013.

3. Dr. J. L. Karihaloo, Coordinator, APCoAB

- Global consultation on “Use and Management of Agrobiodiversity for Sustainable Food Security”, organized by Bioversity International and ICAR, New Delhi, 12-14 February, 2013.
- National Workshop on “Foresight and Future Pathways of Agricultural Research Through Youth in India”, organized by APAARI, TAAS and ICAR, New Delhi, 1-2 March, 2013.
- Workshop on “Application of Molecular Tools for Farmers' Prosperity”, organized by Sardar Vallabhai Patel University of Agriculture & Technology, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, 19 March, 2013.
- FAO Regional Workshop on Strengthening Regional Cooperation and National Capacity Building on Biosafety in Asia, Bangkok, Thailand, 17-20 June, 2013.

4. Dr. S. Attaluri, Coordinator, APARIS

- The First Regional Steering Committee meeting for Asia and the Pacific of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics held at FAO RAP, Bangkok, Thailand on 9-10 April, 2013
- CIARD Global Consultation organized by FAO, GFAR and CTA at ILRI, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 6-8 May, 2013.

- Expert Consultation on Livestock Research for Food Security and Poverty Reduction-ILRI Strategy 2013-2022: Implications for Southeast Asia held by ILRI at Bangkok, Thailand on 31 May, 2013

5. Dr. Bhag Mal, Consultant, APAARI

- Global consultation on “Use and Management of Agrobiodiversity for Sustainable Food Security”, organized by Bioversity International and ICAR, New Delhi, on 12-14 February, 2013.
- Steering Committee Meeting of ERA-ARD II Project at Brussels, Belgium on 4 June, 2013
- International Conference on Better Linkages Between Agricultural Research and Development for Greater Impact on Global Challenge, Brussels, Belgium on 5 June, 2013.

IV. INTERNATIONAL /REGIONAL COLLABORATION

During the period under report, APAARI had close collaboration with GFAR, CGIAR Centres, ACIAR, COA, and FAO RAP and organized several activities/programs including organization of workshops/ conferences/ training programs with funding support from them including the programs on agro-biotechnology and research information systems. It also had good collaboration with ASTI.

V. FORTHCOMING APAARI MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS

- National Workshop on Outscaling Farm Innovations on 3-5 September, 2013 at New Delhi, India, in collaboration with ICAR, TAAS, PPV&FRA, NARA, BKS and NIF
- NARS-CGIAR Interactive Session for Strengthening Partnership in AR4D on 22 October, 2013 at Islamabad, Pakistan
- Expert Consultation Meeting on “Youth and Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities”, 23-24 October, 2013 at Islamabad, Pakistan
- APAARI Executive Committee Meeting on 24 October, 2013 at Islamabad, Pakistan
- Expert Consultation on Promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Asia, at Bangkok on 2-3 December, 2013

VI. EPILOGUE

As is evident from this report, the APAARI activities are being expended in their scope. This has been possible mainly due to cooperation and support provided by all members and stakeholders, which is duly acknowledged. Overall, the year 2013 is progressing well and we look forward to have more activities/collaboration with our partners.



Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)

**Progress Report
July – December, 2013**

C/o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
4th Floor, FAO RAP Annex Building
202/1 Larn Laung Road, Klong Mahanak Sub-District
Pomprab Sattrupai District
Bangkok 10110, Thailand

BRIEF REPORT ON APAARI ACTIVITIES

(July - December, 2013)

The Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) The Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) is an apolitical, neutral, non-profit forum of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in the Asia-Pacific region since 1990 at the initiative of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. It has its Headquarters at the Regional Office of FAO in Bangkok. The main 'Mission' of APAARI is to promote the development of national agricultural research systems in the Asia-Pacific region through facilitation of intra-regional, inter-institutional, and international cooperation/partnership. APAARI has been active in fostering overall agricultural development by addressing the concerns of hunger, poverty, environmental degradation and sustainability of agricultural production. It has completed 22 years of its establishment with an impressive record of achievements.

APAARI organized several activities comprising meetings/consultations/ conferences/ workshops during June - December, 2013. These included: i) APAARI Executive Committee Meeting, ii) National Workshop on Outscaling Farm Innovation, iii) Regional Workshop on Youth and Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities, iv) NARS-CGIAR Interactive Session for Strengthening Partnership in South Asia, v) Expert Consultation on Promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, vi) Asian Food and Agribusiness Conference 2013: Biotechnology and Global Competitiveness, vii) Asia-Pacific Symposium on Molecular Breeding; viii) Training Workshop on Open Assess Publishing Using Open Journal Systems; and ix) Expert Consultation on Strengthening Linkages between Research and Extension to Promote Food and Nutrition Security. Also several publications, including four proceedings of conferences/workshops held were brought out and disseminated.

A brief account of the achievements made during the period under report is presented here for the kind information of APAARI members/stakeholders:

I. MEETINGS AND EXPERT CONSULTATIONS

1. APAARI Executive Committee Meeting

The meeting of the APAARI Executive Committee was held at the Hotel Best Western, Islamabad on 24 October, 2013 under the chairmanship of Dr. Simon Hearn. The meeting was attended by Executive Committee members and some special invitees. Dr. Masa Iwanaga, and Dr. S. Ayyappan were represented by Dr. T. Sugino and Dr. A.K. Srivastava, respectively. Dr. Ajit Maru, GFAR participated through Skype on behalf of Dr. Mark Holderness. Ms. Esther Penunia represented Asian Farmers Association (AFA) and Dr. Abdul Mazid represented Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) on behalf of Dr. Mahaboob Hossain. Dr. Mahmoud Solh, DG, ICARDA and Dr. N.H. Son also attended the meeting as special invitees.

At the outset, Dr. Raj Paroda, welcomed Dr. Simon Hearn for chairing the meeting and all members of the Executive Committee and special invitees for their participation. Dr. Paroda expressed his appreciation to all APAARI members, FAO, GFAR, ACIAR, CoA, CG Centers and other stakeholders for their support in organizing various APAARI activities.

Dr. Simon Hearn, welcomed the members and special invitees and appreciated the remarkable progress made by APAARI. He highlighted that APAARI has successfully addressed these diverse challenges. He also appreciated the leadership role of Dr. Raj Paroda and hard work of APAARI Secretariat and emphasized that APAARI has made impressive progress and strengthened regional

and inter-regional partnerships and also with Tropical Agricultural Platform (TAP) represented by Dr. Raghunath Ghodake, DG, NARI. The Chairman and Executive Secretary of APAARI are members of GFAR Steering Committee. APAARI is also represented in all Regional Fora, the CGIAR Fund Council and Evaluation and Impact Assessment Committee. He also stated that ACIAR is pleased with its partnership with APAARI and is expected to continue its support in future as well.

Dr. Raj Paroda presented a brief report on APAARI activities and the achievements. APAARI established collaboration with other Regional Fora such as AARINENA, FARA, SAARC, SPC, AFA and APIRAS. Seven conferences/expert consultations/workshops/ dialogues were held/planned in 2013. Eight publications have been brought out and three are in pipeline. APAARI and APCoAB websites are updated regularly and efforts are also on to develop the databases. He also presented the membership status, audited accounts and budget, status of fund investment and work plan for 2014 which were endorsed by Executive Committee.

Major decisions/action points are given below:

- It was agreed to organize the next General Assembly Meeting (GAM) of APAARI in Hanoi, Vietnam on 22 October, 2014. The Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS) has kindly agreed to host next GAM and provide support for local transport/conference facilities and other related expenses. Members desired that VAAS may consider providing support for local hospitality and accommodation for NARS leaders.
- APAARI Executive Committee meeting will be organized on 22 April, 2014 in Bangkok.
- Expert Consultation on Improving Maize Productivity in Asia is planned to be jointly organized by APAARI, VAAS and CIMMYT on 20-22 October, 2014 at Hanoi, Vietnam. VAAS will make efforts to approach some other organizations for sponsorship.
- National Workshops on Demand-driven AR4D Priorities will be organized in Southeast Asian Countries and also in Pakistan in collaboration with IFPRI.
- Other Expert Consultations/Workshops will be organized in the area of Biotechnology, GM Technology, Marker Assisted Selection, Biosecurity, and Open Access Journal Publishing.
- Expert Consultation on Food Safety will be organized in Japan in collaboration with JIRCAS in 2014 and Training on Food Safety is planned to be organized at ICRISAT, Patancheru, India.
- APAARI was requested to join the celebrations of the International Year of AFA (2014) by co-organizing a meeting at the regional level through greater involvement of Farmers' Associations.
- It was mentioned that a government 'White Paper' on agricultural competitiveness is being prepared in Australia in which research and agricultural farm structures are likely to be examined. When the paper is completed in late 2014, this can be discussed with APAARI to assess regional implications.
- The members were requested to suggest some appropriate topics for the success stories, to be published by APAARI in the near future.
- It was agreed that the matter pertaining to the procedure for appointment of External Auditor can be discussed in the next GAM, if there are some suggestions.
- The sub-committee constituted for advising on fund investment could not meet and hence there is need to wait for recommendations on fund investment. However, the fixed deposit with the Siam Commercial Bank, Bangkok be retained as reserve fund to better avoid the risk involved with other investment options.
- Both Asian Farmers' Association (AFA) and Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) have joined APAARI as reciprocal members. Hence, all present in the meeting

decided to induct them as members of Executive Committee for the current biennium (2013-14). For an additional seat for private sector, it was decided to take a final view in the next meeting.

- The need was expressed for greater focus on small holder farmers, greater participation of stakeholders, transformative change in policies and collective actions, outcome based allocation, South-South collaboration and more effective collaboration with CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs).
- It was agreed to ensure harmony between APAARI biennium workplan and GFAR Medium-Term Plan (MTP) and take up additional programs as per additional resources made available by GFAR and other organizations. APAARI has already taken several initiatives concerning implementation of GCARD Road Map.
- With the involvement of APAARI in Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP), the work load will increase. Moreover, TAP's objectives, role, etc. are not clear at this stage. Hence, APAARI should get involved only in those TAP related activities which fit well into its priorities.
- It was mentioned that the committee constituted for advising on legal status of APAARI has yet to explore the possible options. It was considered that suitable legal advice on options in Thailand would be useful.

Dr. Simon Hearn expressed his sincere thanks to all members and special invitees. He also thanked Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary for his valuable contributions and all other staff of APAARI for their sincere efforts in implementing various activities.

Dr. Raj Paroda thanked the Chair, all members and the special invitees. He thanked FAO, GFAR, ACIAR, COA, CG Centers and other partners for their support, Dr. Nguyen Van Bo for agreeing to host the next GAM in Vietnam, Dr. R.D. Ghodake for representing APAARI in TAP, and APAARI staff for their hard work and support.

2. National Workshop on Outscaling Farm Innovation

A National Workshop on Outscaling Farm Innovation was organized on 3-5 September, 2013 at the National Agriculture Science Centre (NASC) Complex, New Delhi with the objectives to: i) discuss the farm innovations for their validation, refinement and dissemination, ii) help protect the interest of farmers through intellectual property rights (IPR) and benefit sharing, iii) promote inclusive market oriented development (IMOD), and iv) suggest policy and institutional measures for outscaling farm innovations.

The national workshop was jointly organized by Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and cosponsored by Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), Haryana Kisan Ayog (HKA), Bharat Krishak Samaj (BKS), Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA) and National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA).

In all, 272 participants comprising administrators, researchers, policy planners innovative farmers including women, civil society organizations (CSOs), non-government organizations (NGOs), farmer organizations and representatives of farming communities as well as private sector in India and representative of PROLINNOVA attended the workshop. An exhibition was also organized to showcase the potential of innovations for greater impact on small holder farmers.

The major recommendations emerged are as follows:

- A paradigm shift in AR4D is needed to address the needs of small farmers and place renewed emphasis on “Farmer First” through participatory approach, better knowledge sharing and enabling policy environment to ensure food security.
- Outscaling of innovations based on their techno–economic feasibility, relevance and utility would be the key for inclusive growth of small farmers. Identification of innovations and their faster adoption or use will benefit considerably the smallholder farmers, and hence needs urgent attention.
- Mission-mode programmes on small farm mechanization, protected cultivation, low cost rural based agro-processing for value addition, livestock development, promotion of hybrid technology, microirrigation, etc. would go a long way in increasing both productivity and income of farmers. Hence, greater policy support for promotion of these innovations will be needed.
- Farmer led innovations relating to new crops, new areas, new onfarm/off-farm based secondary agriculture, etc. must be identified, tested, refined and advocated for large scale adoption for greater benefit to our farming community.
- Integrated farming systems involving high value crops and livestock should be developed and encouraged for different agro-ecosystems. This would help in increasing income of small farmers.
- Market reforms should be given high priority for promoting farmerled innovations. There is a need to revise Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act especially to delink horticultural produce, provision of Kisan Bazars/Huts, cool chain and credit linked trade/marketing options, and linking farmers to markets.
- Convergence and connectivity of different institutions and development programs for outscaling of innovations and development of necessary social skills is necessary. The innovations in use of renewable sources of energy, like bioenergy and solar energy should be improvised and outscaled.
- Market innovations should ensure greater share of farmers in the value created, transparency in price discovery, better delivery of quality inputs, flow of market information and risk management.
- There is a need for more effective and rather efficient extension mechanisms like information communication technology (ICT), smart phones, radio and television (dedicated channel exclusively on agriculture). Creation of a cadre of young technology agents for custom hire services in specialized areas will help in reducing dissemination losses while outscaling farm innovations.
- Incentives and rewards to innovative farmers will be needed to promote useful technologies on farmers’ fields. For this, central and state governments must create “Farm Innovation Fund” so as to ensure their sustained interest in creating and promoting new initiatives for enhanced productivity and income.
- Incentives and venture capital funds should also be provided to the entrepreneurs for upscaling and outscaling farm innovations and technologies, which need substantial investment in producing material (planting material, machine, seed, feed, etc.) for outscaling the innovations.
- There is an urgent need for institutional reforms for better coordination, convergence and efficiency. Linkage between Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA), linking schemes under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), etc. with outscaling of useful farm innovations, will help in having greater impact of new

innovations. Also, successful public-private partnership models will need to be replicated by creating enabling policy environment.

- Innovative farmers, must be rewarded and given incentives as well as recognition as “Farm Professors”, so as to share their knowledge and experience, while imparting training to others. Farmer to farmer training will have much greater acceptability and generate confidence for outscaling new innovations.
- Availability of credit at low interest rates and provision of insurance schemes for promotion of activities by SGHs, cooperatives, farmers, companies, especially for processing, grading, storage and primary value addition will encourage small holder farmers in outscaling their innovations, since such provisions will reduce risk factor and build much needed self confidence to promote farm innovations.
- Farm innovations in livestock and other high value products are rather less documented and outscaled. There are many innovations relating to low cost medicinal and nutritional products in livestock sector. These need verification, improvement and outscaling.
- There is also need to provide adequate visibility to protection of farmers’ innovations including varieties and sharing of benefits from their commercialization. Special programs must be supported to promote innovations in on-site conservation of genetic resources.

3. Regional Workshop on Youth and Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities

A Regional Workshop on Youth and Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities in Asia-Pacific Region was organized jointly by Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) at Best Western Hotel, Islamabad on 23-24 October, 2013. About 150 participants from different countries of Asia-Pacific region, CGIAR institutes, private sector, farmers and students attended. Out of these, more than 50 per cent participants were young professionals.

The Regional Workshop was organized with the objective to: i) assess national and regional constraints, opportunities and priorities for attracting youth (including young women) in agriculture to ensure food, nutrition and environmental security, ii) explore mechanisms for empowering farm youth through their involvement in decision making processes at local, national, regional and global level, iii) understand pathways to ensure effective participation of youth in agriculture through enabling policy environment, iv) develop suitable mechanisms for greater involvement of youth through various initiatives and collaborations, and v) create synergies and networks for capacity development, access to new knowledge and linking science to society by involving youth.

Recommendations

As a result of in-depth discussions, the following major recommendations had emerged:

- Concerted efforts are needed at the national, regional and international level to reorient agriculture into Agricultural Research 4 Result (AR4R) by promoting agri-innovation, agri-business and entrepreneurship through involvement of youth.
- Agriculture must compete with other sectors of economy. Hence, there is an urgent need for greater involvement of youth in agriculture to address the emerging challenges and to achieve second green revolution this time for household nutrition security.
- To make agriculture intellectually interactive and rewarding for youth, special emphasis will be needed henceforth on secondary agriculture, diversification, protected cultivation, crop intensification, service providers and use of ICT in agriculture.

- The future challenges would require linking agriculture with health, environment, nutrition and other basic science disciplines so as to address effectively the challenges by young professionals.
- In order to attract youth in agriculture, we urgently need innovative approaches in developing and transferring technologies, efficient funding mechanisms, openness in knowledge sharing and much required marketing reforms.
- Focused attention on capacity development of youth, through vocational trainings, inclusion of agricultural education in school curriculum and farmers participatory approach for technology generation, transfer and adoption is currently needed to ensure faster growth in agriculture.
- Greater thrust is required to create synergies and regional networks for capacity development, access to new knowledge and linking science to society with human face through involvement of youth.
- It is high time that we involve youth in decision making processes both for research and development programs at the national, regional and global levels.
- Higher investments are needed to motivate young professionals to adopt agriculture as a profession, create more job opportunities in agriculture, and develop agriculture on lines of industry so that youth in future become 'job creators' and not 'job seekers'.
- Emphasis should now be on policy support for inter-institutional partnership as well as public-private partnership for attracting youth in agriculture
- There is also an urgent need for creating awareness amongst the youth, through the help of media, regarding emerging opportunities in agriculture.
- We now need strong political will and enabling policy environment for greater youth involvement in AR4D initiatives. For this, we need to focus more foresight, research partnership and capacity development.
- A regional network is urgently needed in the overall interest of future agricultural growth for sharing the knowledge, innovations, and expertise in similar target environments and socioeconomic settings. For this, international organizations like FAO, IFAD, WB, ADB, CG Centers and regional organizations like APARI, ASEAN, SARC need to devise appropriate mechanisms involving NARS of the region.

4. NARS-CGIAR Interactive Session for Strengthening Partnership in South Asia

A Regional Dialogue on Strengthening Partnership between National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Centres engaged in South Asia was organised jointly by Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) on 22 October, 2013 at National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad. The dialogue mainly focussed on future priorities and the implementation strategies for strengthening partnership between NARS and CGIAR for shared vision in AR4D and for catalysing the policy makers/planners to create enabling environment to ensure food, nutrition and livelihood security in the region. About 100 participants, including 16 NARS Heads/their representatives, 4 CGIAR Director Generals/their representatives, policy makers and young agricultural professionals from NARS, GGIAR, NGO, the private sector and farmers' organisations had attended. In view of the current constraints for agricultural sustainability and emerging new options like GGIAR Research Programs (CRPs) and the establishment of Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA), an interactive session was organised to define clear Road Map for strengthening AR4D partnership between NARS and CGIAR in the

region. The senior experts deliberated at length the specific needs and chalked out possible future collaborations.

The dialogue was structured to have an in-depth discussion on: i) past successes and future prospects for joint collaboration, ii) emerging challenges and opportunities in the region, and iii) needed policy reorientation for new partnerships.

The major recommendations emerged are as follows:

- The partnership between NARS and CGIAR Centers was an important cradle of 'Green Revolution' in the region. A similar partnership in future is needed now to address successfully the current and emerging challenges before agriculture. Since many of the challenges are highly complex, the new partnerships should be highly complementary and strategic in nature to harness their comparative advantages.
- The CGIAR change management process leading to strategic research framework (SRF) and the CRPs are designed mainly to build multi-stakeholder partnerships for focused, targeted and output oriented research. At the same time, it is felt that defined priorities of these CRPs are invariably not in line with those of the National Agricultural Research Systems. Hence, in order to overcome the existing mis-match, wherever exists, it would be desirable to have more detailed consultations with stakeholders in the region.
- The germplasm flow from CGIAR to NARS in the form of prebreeding materials is expected to be the core strength of CGIAR. Hence, the germplasm flow should further be accelerated through multilateral/bilateral exchanges with NARS under ITPGRFA using the standard material transfer agreement (SMTA).
- There is an urgent need to increase investments (almost triple) for AR4D in South Asia, including the required funding for BISA. Unfortunately, policy support in this regard is lacking. Also, the donor community perception has to change to recognise the need for South Asia, being home for the maximum poor and malnourished people, even more than Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).
- The region now needs Second Green Revolution, especially for much needed nutrition security. Hence, the focus of AR4D needs to be reoriented towards bridging the yield gaps, attaining diversified agriculture, outscaling innovations, ensuring resilience, sharing of knowledge and achieving inclusive market oriented development (IMOD).
- The establishment of Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA) provides an excellent opportunity in the region to carry out cutting edge research through multi-institutional, inter-disciplinary and multistakeholder partnerships. BISA could also focus on strategic research and promote cutting edge technologies that could reduce the cost on inputs on one hand and increase farm income on the other.
- NARS-CGIAR partnership needs a non-linear approach wherein they jointly could play effective and more complementary role, including support both in cash and kind. CGIAR Centers should mainly target on new innovations, whereas NARS should assume major responsibility for their faster adoption on farmers fields for needed impact through process of refinement and validation.
- In view of scarce resources available with most of the countries in the region, it is extremely important that CG Centers work more closely with NARS to address specifically the priority areas while avoiding any duplication of work. Cross cutting areas like knowledge sharing and capacity development should once again receive priority attention of CG Centers.
- In order to make NARS-CGIAR partnership more effective and result oriented, similar interactive sessions/workshops need to be organized more frequently in future. In this regard, regional organizations like APAARI could play facilitator's role.

- In South Asian countries, existing administrative structure, lack of prioritization of research and development agenda, fragmentation along disciplinary lines, poor coordination, and volatile public funding are some real impediments, which need to be overcome soon through proper policy advocacy and public awareness mechanisms.
- There is an urgent need to build strong public-private partnership (PPP) through dynamic initiatives and required enabling environment. In this regard, greater trust, mutual understanding and defined roles/responsibilities right from the beginning will be needed. Clarity on access and benefit sharing will help in building mutual trust. Such initiatives may lead to higher investments in AR4D by the private sector.
- Partnership with agricultural universities in the region also needs to be built further to cater to the requirements of both research and education in specialized areas. There is also an urgent need for training the farmers, especially the youth, to adopt innovative approaches in different sectors of agriculture, beside crop production such as horticulture, livestock, fishery, agroforestry, etc.
- It is extremely important to involve both women and youth in agriculture. Their empowerment and participation in AR4D related activities, especially for secondary/speciality agriculture, extension services, processing/value addition and marketing will go a long way in ensuring future growth of agriculture in the region. It will also address the emerging concern of ageing population in agriculture. South Asian youth (including women), therefore, need specialized training and education to cater to the emerging needs in agriculture. In this regard, talents of young professionals be recognized and fully exploited. Also, they need to be encouraged to become entrepreneurs. In this context, it is expected that current CRPs, in partnership with NARS, will address this concern.
- CG Centers and the NARS will have to focus on better ways of communication. Hence, new mechanisms to share/transfer knowledge/technology more efficiently will have to be evolved for out scaling innovations at scale.
- CGIAR could also play an important role in policy advocacy for greater investments, strengthening agricultural R&D institutions for diversified agriculture in the region. Partnership between CG Centers and NARS will go a long way in addressing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in South Asia, and hence needs to be strengthened.

5. Expert Consultation on Promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

The Asian region is very rich in the diversity of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAP). Any threats to these vital genetic resources will jeopardize the livelihood of millions of people. The significance of medicinal and aromatic plants has risen in recent years due to significant change in the life style and realization about negative impact of modern medicines and awareness for use of bio-safe products.

Considering these facts, the Food and Agriculture Organization's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP) and the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) jointly organized a Regional Expert Consultation on Promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok, Thailand on 2-3 December, 2013 with an objective to: i) assess the current status of production, utilization and conservation of MAP in the Asia-Pacific region and identify future needs of conservation and opportunities for their development, ii) exchange information and share knowledge and technologies available in different countries in the region and learn from each other's experience; iii) create awareness on the value of MAP among producers in order to promote cultivation with a special focus to small scale farmers, iv) identify relevant policy options for strengthening the conservation and sustainable development of these

resources, and v) strengthen regional collaboration and networking and develop a regional strategy for promotion and sustainable use of medicinal and aromatic plants.

In all, 40 delegates from 14 countries, namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam and representatives of FAO RAP and APAARI participated. Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director General, FAO Regional Office, Bangkok inaugurated the expert consultation.

As a result of in-depth discussions, the following major recommendations emerged:

- There is an urgent need to prioritize the species (5-10) in each country that have high demand and comparative advantage for medicinal use. These need to be accorded high priority for research, general cultivation and value addition. Also, the rare and endangered species need to be identified for their proper evaluation and conservation. Also it will be highly desirable to develop a long term strategy for R&D concerning MAP by each of the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in the region.
- The impact of herbal products invariably depends on their quality. Therefore, product quality management be given due attention right from the production of raw material to that of the finished product stage. Accordingly, adoption of good agricultural practices (GAP), good collection practices (GCP), good manufacturing practices (GMP), and good laboratory practices (GLP) need to be given high priority while promoting use of MAP. For this, it will be desirable if each country develops proper guidelines/ monographs for good practices, including the requirement of labeling.
- Countries in the Asia-Pacific region have rich knowledge on MAP. Somehow, in most of the cases, this information is not scientifically documented/authenticated. Therefore, there is an urgent need to build a regional database covering: (a) list of medicinal plants being cultivated at commercial scale, (b) list of medicinal plants being collected from the wild, and (c) list of species on which countries in the region have valuable information but not well documented.
- The number of MAP being quite large in many countries, a strong R&D system would be required to be put in place. Hence, there is an urgent need to build strong institutional base so as to undertake systematic research work in different fields like ethnobotany (including molecular taxonomy, distribution and economic significance); genetic conservation, evaluation and improvement; agronomy; and post-harvest management and processing/value addition. Research efforts on medicinal plants for new drug discovery, especially for therapeutical use against various pharmacological targets would require strong institutional as well as funding support. State-of-the art bioactivity and biosafety screening techniques would also be needed to harness full benefits from MAP in the region.
- In order to create immediately the much needed infrastructure and R&D base, it was unanimously felt that the level of investment on MAP be tripled at each country level, supported by proper policy advocacy and general public awareness. Also, the required emphasis be given to build much needed competent human resource, which is currently lacking in many developing countries in the region.
- In the Asia-Pacific region, it was interesting to find that there are several MAP, which are common and for which there exists considerable traditional knowledge. Hence, the countries in the region could benefit immensely by sharing the knowledge, material and the production and processing technologies.
- There is an urgent need to develop a regional network on MAP for the Asia-Pacific region. Participants unanimously resolved that FAO Regional Office in Bangkok, with needed facilitation role of APAARI, may help initially to start this network and eventually pass on this responsibility to

one of the willing NARS in the region. For this, all MAP growing countries be requested to join the Network formally.

- Linkage between research and industry is invariably lacking in most of the countries and hence, needs to be developed using successful models. For this, public private partnership for initiating research for development programs, through enabling environment and suitable policies, will be critical both at the national and regional levels.
- Regulatory mechanism for biosafety and international trade, including adherence to quality standards, will be important to link producers with consumers while ensuring Inclusive Market Oriented Development (IMOD).

APCoAB ACTIVITIES

1. Asian Food and Agribusiness Conference 2013: Biotechnology and Global Competitiveness

The Asia Productivity Organization in collaboration with the Council of Agriculture, China Productivity Center, and Food and Fertilizer Technology Center organized the Asian Food and Agribusiness Conference: Biotechnology and Global Competitiveness in Taipei on 15–18 July, 2013. Besides participation of Dr. J. L. Karihaloo, APCoAB Coordinator as a resource person, APCoAB sponsored participants from Sri Lanka and Thailand attended the conference.

The conference consisted of thematic sessions, open forums, panel discussions, poster exhibition, and a visit to the Bio Taiwan 2013 exhibition. Seventy four participants from 13 Asia-Pacific countries attended and shared their expertise through thematic presentations and discussions on biotechnology-related topics. APCoAB Coordinator delivered a talk on “Promoting Safe Application of Agricultural Biotechnology in Asia and the Pacific region for Greater Global Competitiveness”, and chaired one session.

The important outcome of the conference was the widespread view among the experts and participants that biotechnology is one important tool to help Asia-Pacific countries to meet the challenges arising from climate change, natural resource constraints, food security, and sustainable development. Additionally, experts shared experience in the many varied, proven, safe, effective applications of biotechnology ranging from biopesticides and biofertilizers to genetically modified crops.

Recommendations

A. Policy/Regulatory Enablers

- Governments should put in place appropriate science based biosafety regulatory frameworks in line with international conventions. The regulatory process must be well defined with deadlines to ensure timely review and processing of applications.
- There is a need to synchronize international approvals, lower regulatory costs, and create favourable public awareness of the socioeconomic benefits of biotech products and services in order to accelerate acceptance by the public.
- Countries should learn from the experience of those that have been successful in harnessing biotechnology through using cross-national metrics to benchmark progress and through the sharing of initiatives and experiences, whether successful or unsuccessful.
- To encourage biotech innovations and commercialization, governments should provide basic support such as financial incentives, a supportive policy environment, and infrastructure.

B. Risk Management and Risk Communication

- There are risks in starting and sustaining agricultural biotech enterprises. Specialized expertise is required to identify and manage such risks. A full understanding of these risks and the stakeholders concerned is needed with reference to the entire spectrum of biosafety regulatory and commercialization requirements for biotech products.
- There are still some concerns raised by the general public on the cultivation of biotech/GM crops. Experience has shown that it is important to treat all such concerns seriously. There is a need to address those concerns directly through appropriate communication strategies including the use of risk communication tools.
- One of the leading countries in Asia to approve a GM food crop for planting by farmers was the Philippines. Considerable expertise now is available in the national system within the Philippines. This experience should be tapped to conduct communication activities aimed at both internal and external stakeholders during R&D, product development, and commercialization. Such activities should be carefully designed to recognize stakeholders' perceptions, build trust, and be flexible and effective even under high-risk situations.

C. Investment

- Many Asian countries have invested heavily in public-sector biotech R&D in anticipation of the growing demands to remain food secure. Biotechnology as a relatively new agricultural technology has seen high returns on investment. However, in order for the benefits of biotechnology to be realized fully, a key structural requirement is the existence of science-based biosafety regulatory frameworks and their operational implementation.
- Agriculture requires continuous innovations to keep up with the needs of the marketplace, farmers, and consumers. But, agricultural technologies require significant investments in funding and time, especially potentially “game-changing” technologies such as biotechnology. There is a great need to optimize and synergize, at the country level, biotech applications emanating from both the private and public sectors and to explore ways for both sectors to work toward expediting the delivery of biotech benefits to farmers and consumers.
- Many Asian countries face common challenges in meeting food and feed security needs. Biotech applications are the solution to address both challenges. A significant barrier to the use of biotechnology is the heavy investment required, especially by governments. Asian countries need to learn from one another and share experiences as well as coordinate efforts between governments, academic communities, local private companies, and foreign investors to offer a modality to accelerate the growth of the biotech sector.

D. Biotechnology for Green Productivity/Technology Solutions

- In view of declining water, energy, labour, and land resources “Green Food Production” has become essential to grow more food to meet increasing demand. In the coming decades, countries will have to use biotechnology for green food production in order to deter food insecurity and to address the anticipated effects of climate change.
- Animal waste is a growing problem in Asia due to the increased demand for protein. Strategies to address biogas emissions such as biodesulfurization technology using bacterial biofilters as used in the Republic of China can be utilized to treat the large amounts of livestock biogas before it is used as clean energy in farming and other sectors.

E. Strategies for Sector Advances

- Non-GM biotech applications are much easier to commercialize and receive public acceptance than GM biotech applications.

- Many non-GM biotech applications, such as biofertilizers, biopesticides, and tissue culture, are already accepted in Asian countries. Countries are urged to use the experience gained from public acceptance of such non-GM applications to support GM biotech applications.
- Biotech applications are varied, with a very broad scope, such as production inputs (biofertilizers, biopesticides, and animal vaccines), technologies (bioreactors, tissue culture, GM), and target crops and animals. Countries need to prioritize biotech applications appropriately to meet their needs, as has been done by the Republic of China, and provide adequate policy, financial, and logistical support to ensure success.
- Biotechnology has considerable potential to produce additional food from declining water and land resources while mitigating climate change impact, but its commercialization is constrained by unfounded perceptions of risk. International and regional organizations, NGOs, and agribiotech companies should continue to sensitize policymakers and planners to the potential contribution biotech applications can make to ensure national food security and socioeconomic development of the farming community.

2. Asia-Pacific Symposium on Molecular Breeding

APCoAB in collaboration with Council of Agriculture, Chinese Taipei and AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center organized “Asia-Pacific Symposium on Molecular Breeding” on 1- 3 October 2013 at AVRDC, Tainan, Chinese Taipei. It was aimed at promoting marker-assisted selection in crop and animal breeding in the region with the purpose to enhance food security and income generation along the whole agricultural value chain. More than 60 participants involved with plant and animal breeding from ten Asia-Pacific countries attended the symposium. APAARI nominated participants from Vietnam, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Nepal, Pakistan and India to the symposium.

The symposium program was divided into three parts: The first part provided a technical update on marker-assisted selection in breeding and on genotyping innovations. The second part reported on the status and the progress of molecular breeding in the countries represented in the symposium, which was followed by a networking session designed to connect people and build bridges between the research institutions in the region to enhance research collaborations in marker-assisted selection in the region. The group discussions led to identification of three molecular breeding networks; cereals, vegetables, and livestock with identified network partners. Commodities, work areas and work flow. Steps to formalize the partnerships and initiate network activities were also identified.

On the last day of the symposium, a workshop was held to engage the representatives of the APAARI member countries in an exercise to identify priorities, gaps and strengths in molecular breeding in their respective countries and to design first steps towards the establishment of a Molecular Breeding Network.

Three networks were proposed and next required steps to establish these were identified and given below:

I. Molecular Breeding Network: Cereals

- Organize capacity development activities
- Exchange germplasm
- Develop joint project proposals

II. Molecular Breeding Network: Vegetables

- Seek funding for network activities
- Germplasm distribution via AVRDC and other International Centers

- Trait-based marker development (in collaboration with the Asian Pacific Seed Association and similar organizations)

III. Molecular Breeding Network: Livestock

- Identify national reference labs for MAS
- Set up MAS protocols

APARIS ACTIVITIES

1. Training Workshop on Open Access Publishing Using Open Journal Systems

The Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP), the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and technical supports from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) organized the training workshop on "Open Access Publishing Using Open Journal Systems" at Nonthaburi, Thailand on 26-30 August 2013. The workshop was attended by 10 participants 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 also invited to share knowledge and experiences on Open Journal System.

The main objectives of the training workshop were:

- To equip the professionals with skills needed to publish agricultural scientific research journals on Open Journal System platform
- 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

This 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.

The major recommendations emerged are given below:

- There is an urgent need for capacity development of all these 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.
- 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.

2. Expert Consultation on Strengthening Linkages between Research and Extension to Promote Food and Nutrition Security

The expert consultation on “Strengthening Linkages between Research and Extension to Promote Food and Nutrition Security” was jointly organized by The Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP). The Asia Pacific Association of Agriculture Research Institutions (APAARI) and the European Union-funded 'Network for Knowledge Transfer on Sustainable Agricultural Technologies and Improved Market Linkages in South and Southeast Asia' (SATNET Asia) project co-sponsored this meeting to be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 11-12 December 2013. APAARI's Executive Secretary addressed participants in the inaugural session and participated in the consultation as a moderator in a panel discussion on “Role of the Research-Extension System in Promoting Food and Nutrition”.

The consultation was attended by over 40 participants from more than 10 countries including national leaders in agricultural research and extension from the Asia-Pacific region and representatives from civil society, private sector and international organizations. The objectives of the event were to:

- To assess the current status of research and extension linkages in Asia and the Pacific region and identify future needs for their further development
- To exchange information and share knowledge available in different countries in the region and learn from each other's experience
- To create awareness on the importance of research and extension linkages in order to enhance food production and crop productivity of small scale farmers
- To identify relevant policy options for strengthening research and extension linkages
- To strengthen regional collaboration and networking and develop a regional strategy for promotion of smallholder based and participatory research-extension linkages under private, public and farmers partnerships

The consultation process was highly participatory and interactive with active contribution of participants in assessing the existing research-extension systems, identifying gaps and exploring opportunity to enhance effective and efficient services to farmers, particularly small scale farmers. An Action Framework for strengthening research-extension linkages and guiding future efforts of stakeholders in enhancing their partnership was developed through the deliberations in the meeting. Participants agreed that it is important for policy makers to pay more attention on strengthening the research-extension linkages as it contributes largely to food and nutrition security. FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific announced its support for incubation of a regional network for agricultural extension services. It is expected that the Action Framework would improve farmers' productivity and contribute to sustainability of food systems in the region.

II. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND PUBLICATIONS

A. Web-based and CD Information

1. APAARI Web Space

APAARI Website www.apaari.org provides access to more than 50 success stories and status report, 42 issues of APPARI Newsletter, and more than 55 reports and proceedings of expert consultations. The website provides links to NARS in Asia and the Pacific region, partners like ACIAR, FAO, CGIAR, GFAR, AARINENA, FARA, CACAARI and directories such as research networks, projects database, ASTI databases, regional research networks etc. The website is being updated on regular basis with upcoming events, activities completed and latest publications with introduction of discussion forum, RSS feed Web 2.0 and social networking tools for dissemination of agricultural research information efficiently.

To improve effective dissemination of information, APAARI has been implementing a communication strategy in phased manner. The APAARI website domain and dedicated webhosting services have been renewed.

APAARI website (<http://www.apaari.org>) has more than 300 linkages to various national, regional and international institutions, networks and other relevant organizations. APAARI website received more than 1.2 million hits during the last six months. Among the total number of 83,468 persons, more than half were unique visitors indicating that the website also attracted new comers.

On an average, the number of pages that visitors accessed were 7 pages per visit. APAARI website attracted visitors from many countries mainly from Russian Federation, Europe and Asia. Top ten downloads from the site were publications on Success Stories highlighting the best practices of agricultural development in many countries from the Asia-Pacific region.

2. Database Platforms

Under the implementation of APAARI Communication Strategy 2010-2015, APAARI launched **Contact Database** on its website. It helps to search contact details of APAARI Members by sub-region, country, category, area of activity etc., and allows downloading of contact information. NARS and National Information Nodal Points (NINPs) are welcome to register in this platform and add contacts of their constituencies. The design of databases on **ARD Experts** and **ARD Projects** was also completed and it was demonstrated in the Eleventh Meeting of APARIS Steering Committee held on 13 October, 2012. The database platforms are available at APAARI website: <http://www.apaari.org/ard-database/> The database development is progressing by adding more information on experts and projects.

APCoAB Website

APCoAB website (www.apcoab.org) provides information on APCoAB organization, objectives, activities, and news and events on agricultural biotechnology. It provides access to APCoAB publications comprising success stories, status reports and proceedings of expert consultation and other group meetings. Databases of agricultural biotechnology institutions in Asia-Pacific and biosafety regulations of Asia-Pacific countries are also available at this website. These resources are updated on regular basis.

B. Publications

1. Regional Consultation on Agricultural Research for Development : Proceedings and Recommendations

This publication synthesizes the highlights of the presentations, captures proceedings of the “Regional Consultation on Agricultural Research for Development” jointly organized by Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) at Bangkok, on 10-11 September, 2012. The publication is available at www.apaari.org

2. Benchmarking Agricultural Research Indicators Across Asia-Pacific : ASTI Regional Synthesis Report

This report analyzes and benchmarks indicators of public agricultural R&D for Asia-Pacific. It draws largely from a set of publications based on recent datasets derived from primary surveys prepared by the Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) initiative of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and various secondary datasets. These data have been linked with historical datasets from ASTI and other sources for the region, thereby allowing a more long term analysis of public agricultural R&D investment and capacity trends. The publication is available at <http://www.apaari.org/publications>

3. Foresight and Future Pathways of Agricultural Research Through Youth : Proceedings and Recommendations

A national workshop on “Foresight and Future Pathways of Agricultural Research Through Youth” was jointly organized in New Delhi, on 1-2 March, 2013 by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), This publication provides the outcomes of deliberations and key recommendations for implementation by the scientific community and policy makers for youth professionals in India. The publication is available at <http://www.apaari.org/publications>

4. Expert Consultation on Managing Trans-boundary Diseases of Agricultural Importance in the Asia-Pacific – Proceedings and Recommendations

The publication details the proceedings of meeting organized by APAARI in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at New Delhi on October 10-12, 2012. The contents include recommendations made in seven sessions on Status and Management of Trans-boundary Diseases

(TBDs) of Plants, Animals and Fish; Issues on TBDs; and Priorities for Policies, Research and Regional Management of TBDs. The final chapter comprises proceedings of Plenary Session including recommendations on policy, research, capacity building and regional cooperation in management of TBDs.

5. Stakeholders' Dialogue on Biosafety Regulations in the Asia-Pacific Region – Proceedings and Recommendations

This publication details the proceedings of meeting organized by APCoAB in Bangkok, Thailand on 16-17 April 2013. It includes background information, program, and summaries of presentations, discussion highlights and recommendations. The latter are grouped under three subheads; i) biotechnology R&D priorities especially aimed at smallholders ii) enhancing communication for public awareness, and iii) regional cooperation for biosafety management.

6. Agricultural Information and Knowledge for All: Success Stories on ICT/ICM in AR4D in Asia and the Pacific Region

This publication highlights four success stories namely: i) Open Access to Agricultural Research Journals in India, ii) Empowering Farmers through Rice Knowledge Management Portal in India, iii) AgrobIS: Tools for Managing Agrobiodiversity Data and Information Sharing in Malaysia, and iv) Knowledge Networking for Agricultural Research for Development: The Philippines K-AgriNet Program. These success stories present different approaches, models, institutional collaboration, partnerships, community participation, and development of need-based information services to promote openness in sharing agricultural information and knowledge and placing it in the public domain for the benefit of wide range of stakeholders. The publication is available at <http://www.apaari.org/publications/ict-icm-success-stories-2013.html>

7. Training Workshop on Open Access Publishing Using Open Journal Systems: Proceedings

The proceedings of the training workshop on “Open Access Publishing Using Open Journal Systems” were published. It details eight hand-on training sessions on: (i) overview and feature of OJS, (ii) hosting journal and journal set up, (iii) user roles and navigating OJS editorial process, (iv) user interface customization and notification, (v) user management: role as editor, (vi) statistics and reports, publishing, back-up and restore, (vii) database of reviewers, and (viii) increasing visibility of OJS and setting up a Community of Practice. The publication is available at <http://www.apaari.org/publications/ojs-2013.html>

8. APAARI on CD

A CD containing all the APAARI publications and website information till 2013 is published and distributed to all members and stakeholders.

9. APAARI Calendar

APAARI Desk Calendar for the year 2014 has been published and distributed to all members and stakeholders.

III. SUPPORTING PARTICIPATION OF CSOs, (FOs, NGOs)

APAARI sponsored followings participants in the meetings organized:

- Mr. Ajay Vir Jakhar, Chairman, Farmers' Forum, for his participation in Regional Workshop on Youth and Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities held on 23-24 October, 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- Ms. Esther Penunia, Secretary General, Asian Farmers' Association, for his participation in APAARI Executive Committee, NARS-CGIAR Interactive Session and Regional Workshop on Youth and Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities held on 22-24 October, 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- Dr. Abdul Mazid, Associate Director Agriculture, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) for his participation in the APAARI Executive Committee meeting, NARS-CGIAR Interactive Session and Regional Workshop on Youth and Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities held on 22-24 October, 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- Mr. Vikas Kumar Chaudhary, Progressive Farmer, India, for his participation in Regional Workshop on Youth and Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities held on 23-24 October, 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- Mr. Mohinder Singh Grewal, Progressive Farmer, India for his participation in Expert Consultation on Strengthening Linkages between Research and Extension to Promote Food and Nutrition Security' to take place from 11-12 December, 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand.

IV. PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS ORGANIZED BY APAARI AND OTHER FORA

Dr. Simon Hearn, Chairman, APAARI

- APAARI Executive Committee Meeting, 24 October, 2013, Islamabad, Pakistan
- NARS-CGIAR Interactive Session for Strengthening Partnership in South Asia, 22 October, 2013, Islamabad, Pakistan
- Regional Workshop on Youth and Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities, 23-24 October, 2013. Islamabad, Pakistan
- The 10th CGIAR Fund Council Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, 6-7 November, 2013

Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI

- National Workshop on Outscaling Farm Innovation, 3-5 September, 2013, New Delhi, India
- NARS-CGIAR Interactive Session for Strengthening Partnership in South Asia, 22 October, 2013, Islamabad, Pakistan
- Regional Workshop on Youth and Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities, 23-24 October, 2013. Islamabad, Pakistan
- APAARI Executive Committee Meeting, 24 October, 2013, Islamabad, Pakistan

- Expert Consultation on Promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in the Asia-Pacific Region, Bangkok on 1-2 December, 2013.
- Expert Consultation on Strengthening Linkages between Research and Extension, Bangkok, 11-12 December, 2013

Dr. J. L. Karihaloo, Coordinator, APCoAB

- Application of genetic engineering in grain legumes and its translation, Hyderabad 18-27 November 2013.

Dr. Bhag Mal, Consultant, APAARI

- National Workshop on Outscaling Farm Innovation, 3-5 September, 2013, New Delhi, India
- NARS-CGIAR Interactive Session for Strengthening Partnership in South Asia, 22 October, 2013, Islamabad, Pakistan
- Regional Workshop on Youth and Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities, 23-24 October, 2013. Islamabad, Pakistan
- APAARI Executive Committee Meeting, 24 October, 2013, Islamabad, Pakistan
- Expert Consultation on Promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in the Asia-Pacific Region, Bangkok, 1-2 December, 2013.

Dr. Raghunath Ghodake, Director General, NARI, PNG

- Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) Inception Workshop, 4-6 September, 2013, Hainan, People's Republic of China

Ms. Chanerin Manaechansook, APARIS

- Regional Workshop on Youth and Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities, 23-24 October, 2013. Islamabad, Pakistan
- The second meeting of the Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics held at FAO RAP Conference Room, Bangkok, Thailand on 1 November 2013
- Regional Dialogue on Family Farming: Sustainable Rural Development and Food Security jointly organized by FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the World Rural Forum, the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the World Farmers Organization (WFO) at Bangkok, Thailand on 21-22 November 2013.
- Expert Consultation on Strengthening Linkages between Research and Extension, Bangkok, 11-12 December, 2013

V. INTERNATIONAL /REGIONAL COLLABORATION

During the period under report, APAARI had close collaboration with GFAR, CGIAR Centres, ACIAR, COA, and FAO RAP and organized several activities/programs including organization of workshops/

conferences/ training programs with funding support from them including the programs on agrobiotechnology and research information systems. It also had good collaboration with ASTI.

VI. FORTHCOMING APAARI MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS

- APAARI Executive Committee Meeting will be held on 22 April, 2014 at Bangkok, Thailand.
- Expert Consultation on Improving Maize Productivity in Asia jointly organizes by APAARI, VAAS and CIMMYT on 20-22 October, 2014 at Hanoi, Vietnam.
- APAARI General Assembly Meeting will be held on 22 October, 2014 at the Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS), Hanoi, Vietnam
- Expert Consultation on Food Safety, proposed to be held in collaboration with JIRCAS, in July, 2014 at Tsukuba, Japan.
- Training program on in vitro conservation and cryopreservation of plant germplasm in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Bioversity International from 17-28 February 2014, at NBPGR, New Delhi, India.

VII. EPILOGUE

As is evident from this report, the APAARI activities are being expended in scope. This has been possible due to cooperation extended by all members and stakeholders, which is duly acknowledged. Overall, the year 2013 ended well and we look forward to have more activities/collaboration with our partners in the year 2014.
