



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

PROJECT NOTIFICATION

No. 31109/19

Project Code	19-AG-03-GE-TRC-B
Title	Training of Trainers on Development of Rural Leadership for Change
Duration & Timing	22-26 July, 2019
Venue	Colombo, Sri Lanka
Implementing Organization	Ministry of Agriculture
Closing Date for Nominations:	6th May 2019

Objectives:

- To promote leadership skills and requirements such as communication and challenging mindsets among rural leaders in governments, communities, and the agriculture sector;
- To suggest leadership models and directions of talent management to achieve inclusive, sustainable rural development in APO member countries; and
- To formulate strategic action plans to contribute to rural leadership development in member countries.

Background:

Rural leaders are catalysts for successful community development. They create a sense of community which encourages unity and cooperation among villagers to achieve shared objectives. For example, they lead the process of community-based collaboration by facilitating stakeholders' participation and involvement to reach the agreed upon best outcomes. Many studies found that the success of rural development depends more on human resources like competent leaders than other factors like financial support. This implies that "getting things done" is a matter of "who does the work", as some leaders make changes while others do not given the same resources.

Rural leaders' influencing skills affect villagers' motivation and willingness to work for community goal achievement. Leaders' mediation role in conflict resolution of the diverse parties involved is also important to reach fair agreements for inclusive, sustainable development. If leaders cannot identify the underlying power dynamics among the interest groups and do not accommodate diverse voices through transparent processes, the outcomes of concerted efforts represent only certain parties among stakeholders.

To manage complex, unexpected situations while working with diverse types of people, it is extremely important to understand oneself and others. Many successful leaders are mindful of continuous learning and the need to examine and compare their own leadership styles with those of others for improvement. An unbiased, open mindset is another crucial quality for rural leaders to make strategic decisions to meet global challenges. Today's world is changing at a faster speed than ever in history. Agriculture is also advancing in diverse aspects such as social, economic, and technological development. If rural leaders are hesitant to adopt or opposed to change, rural economies will stagnate and become isolated. Therefore, open mindsets toward changes in agriculture in the future are gaining importance, especially for young rural leaders.

In many Asian rural communities, opportunities for rural leadership training are uncommon and they face difficulties in identifying qualified leaders. This course will focus on appreciating and understanding leadership and developing relevant strategic skills through diverse tools for the rural leaders of governments, communities, and the agriculture sector in APO member countries.

Scope and Methodology

The program will consist of lectures, presentations, sharing of country experiences, group exercises, and field/company visits.

Qualifications of Candidates:

Senior government officials, academics, and consultants in charge of training and consultancy for rural community leaders and/or from relevant institutions for developing leadership skills and growth mindsets for sustainable community development. Nominees should be preferably between 30 and 50 years of age with preferably a university degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized university/institution. He or she should be at least two years of experience.

Financial arrangements:

Round-trip, economy-class international airfare by the most direct route between the international airport nearest to the participant's place of work and Colombo, Sri Lanka **for participants from nonprofit organizations and SMEs will be borne by the APO.**

Round-trip international airfare between the member country & Colombo, Sri Lanka and Participating Country Expenses at USD 50 per participant, payable to the APO in convertible currency **for participants from profit-making organizations, except for SMEs, will be borne by the participants/participating organizations.**

All participants should be fully insured against accident and illness (including hospitalization) for a principal sum of USD 10,000 for the entire duration of the project and travel which will be borne by the participants or participating organizations.

However, all taxes including airport tax, security tax, fuel surcharge, visa-fees, service tax etc. will have to be borne by participants/participating organizations.

Others:

Other details of the programme are given in the APO Project Notification, which can be downloaded from the NPC web site (upcoming projects)

www.npcindia.gov.in/5280-2/

(Signed)
Santhi Kanoktanaporn
Secretary-General