

# 行政院及所屬各機關出國報告

(出國類別：參加國際會議)

亞太農業研究機構聯盟(APAARI)

強化區域農業資訊體系專家諮議會議出席報告

出國人員〔服務機關、職稱及姓名〕

行政院農業委員會企劃處                      科      長      林      貞

出國地區：泰國曼谷

出國期間：中華民國九十二年十二月一日至三日

報告日期：中華民國九十三年三月二日

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系統識別號:C09300818

公務出國報告提要

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附件：是

報告名稱：參加亞太農業研究機構聯盟舉辦強化區域農業資訊體系專家諮議會議

主辦機關：行政院農業委員會

聯絡人／電話：賴瓊珠／23126066

出國人員：林貞 行政院農業委員會 簡任技正兼科長

出國類別：其他

出國地區：泰國

出國期間：民國 92 年 12 月 01 日 - 民國 92 年 12 月 03 日

報告日期：民國 93 年 03 月 02 日

分類號／目：F0／綜合（農業類）／

關鍵詞：農業電子化, 農業資訊, APAARI

內容摘要：參與該次會議第一天即遭遇我國代表的座席卡架被拿掉之不平等待遇，經我國代表力爭終於擺出寫明 Council of Agricultur(Taiwan)的座席卡架，且向日本、泰國、越南及菲律賓等國代表表達我國願意舉辦 APAARI 第八屆年會之誠意，並獲得他們在 92 年 12 月 4 日所召開 APAARI 指導委員會時全力支持，終於確定將於今年 12 月初在台北舉行年會。我國農業資訊發展成果獲得與會人員的讚賞，我國有非常進步的資訊網路建設，應充分利用其便利性及全球性拓展我國優質安全農產品及休閒農場，同時應增加農業電子化的投資，以提昇農業產值，增加農民收益。為讓國際人士知道我國存在的事實，我們應努力不懈創造傲人成果，且積極參與國際事務及會議，讓國際不容忽視我國的存在。

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# 參加亞太農業研究機構聯盟(APAARI)舉辦強化區域農業資訊體系專家諮議會議報告

## 壹、前言

有鑑於資訊科技產品及網際網路的蓬勃發展，全球各領域均在探討如何應用資訊網路科技促進知識蓄積與分享，進而激發創新，突破發展限制。因此，亞太農業研究機構聯盟(APAARI)舉辦強化區域農業資訊體系專家諮議會議，邀集會員代表及一些非政府組織代表共同探討資訊通訊科技(Information Communication Technology, ICT)在農業研究發展上所扮演的角色，並藉以了解亞太太平洋區域研究網路的狀況，該次會議於九十二年十二月一日至三日在泰國曼谷舉行。

參加此次會議之國家代表計有日本、台灣(中華民國)、大韓民國、菲律賓、印度、越南、泰國、馬來西亞、孟加拉、尼泊爾、新喀里多尼亞、巴基斯坦、巴布亞紐幾內亞、澳洲、斐濟、伊朗及西薩摩亞等十七個國家。此外，有亞洲理工學院(AIT, Asian Institute of Technology)、亞洲蔬菜研究發展中心(AVRDC, Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center)、國際職務遺傳資源所(IPGRI, International Plant Genetic Resources Institute)、國際乾旱農業研究中心(ICARDA, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas)、國際半乾旱熱帶作物研究所(ICRISAT, International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics)、世界漁業中心(World Fish Center)、國家農業研究國際服務中心(ISNAR, International Service for National Agricultural Research)、國際玉米與小麥研究中心(International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center)、國際稻米研究所(IRRI, International Rice Research Institute)、亞太地區養殖漁業中心網路(NACA, Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific)、亞太地區種子協會(Asia-Pacific Seed Association)、亞太森林研究機構聯盟(Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions)、國際鹽分地帶農業研究中心(ICBA, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture)、聯合國潮濕熱帶區粗穀類、豆類、根莖類、塊莖類作物研究發展中心(UN ESCAP CGPRT)、網路協調機構(Network Coordinators)、國際待開發作物研究中心(International Center for Underutilized Crops)、全球農業論壇(GFAR, Global Forum on Agricultural Research)、聯合國糧農組織(FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization)等十九個仲會員

出席。

我國由行政院農業委員會企劃處林科長貞出席會議。我國代表於十一月三十日出發，當天即抵達會場，並由 APAARI 秘書 Dr. Sahdev Singhe 告知次日會議我國代表的座位席次，桌上擺有座席卡架，上面寫明 COA, Council of Agriculture (Taiwan)。但第二天早上我國代表到達會場卻發現前一天寫明我國代表單位的座席卡架不見了，於是立即向 Dr. Sahdev Singhe 詢問我國代表應坐何處，他竟然告知在旁邊沒有座席卡架的位子隨便坐，我國代表發覺與他理論無用，即刻向 APAARI 執行秘書 Dr. R. S. Paroda 告知我國代表座席卡架不見，他說他的同事弄錯以為我國代表不出席，於是他請人去處理此事。結果他的同事拿來一個空白座席卡架，上貼一張白紙打上 COA，我國代表即時抗議為何沒寫上 Council of Agriculture (Taiwan)，他竟說都只寫明單位名稱，我國代表立即反駁為何泰國、越南、菲律賓等國家代表的座席卡架均有寫明代表單位的全銜及國家名稱，只有非政府組織才寫明單位名稱縮寫。因會議已開始，我國代表只好自己在座席卡架上寫明 Council of Agriculture (Taiwan)。待中場休息再向 APAARI 主席 Dr. Mutsuo Iwamoto 說明我國是 APAARI 的會員國之一，我國一直對該組織負起會員國的責任，為何會遭受如此不平等的待遇，他隨即告訴 Dr. Paroda 不可如此對待我國代表，要求他們立刻將我國代表的座席卡架找出來，過一會兒即有人找出我國代表正式的座席卡架，並放置我國代表的面前。

在 APAARI 第七屆年會已爭取獲得 2004 年第八屆年會將在台北舉行，但一直未再得到 APAARI 秘書處的確認，因此，我國代表銜命在這次諮詢會議中詢問第八屆年會相關事宜，當 12 月 1 日向 Dr. Paroda 提及第八屆年會決定何時在台北舉行，他竟然回答還未確定是否在台北舉行，必須待 12 月 4 日早上 APAARI 指導委員會召開會議時再討論，於是我國代表只好將國際處事先準備好我國舉辦第八屆年會的說帖交給指導委員會的委員們，同時拜託對我國友善的泰國、越南及日本代表給予支持，終於在 12 月 4 日會議中拍案確定第八屆年會將於 2004 年 12 月 1 日至 4 日在台北舉行。

## 貳、會議重要議題及決議

本次會議由與會各國代表報告各國農業資訊化情況，會員國中以台灣、日本及南韓在農業資訊的軟硬體建設及應用推廣均居領先地位，尤其我國農業資訊發展的深廣度及通訊網路的普及更是令與會代表印象深刻。

亞太農業研究機構聯盟自 1999 年開始發展亞太農業研究資訊

系統(APARIS Asia Pacific Agricultural Research Information System)，至 2002 年完成第一期工程，包括七項主要功能，分述如下：

1. 提供管理資訊系統工具—建立區域研究網路資料庫、農業研究發展計畫資料庫及農業研究發展指標資料庫、每日農業新聞；
2. 提供有關農業研究發展及資訊通訊管理之區域事件訊息—如亞太區域召開有關農業研究發展及資訊通訊管理等議題之會議或訓練活動；
3. 張貼農業研究科學性刊物；
4. 提供農業研究發展社群便於對話的電子論壇，目前有三項電子論壇，分別為亞太區域資訊及訓練需求、連接 EGFAR NARS 論壇及國家農業研究體系
5. (NARS, National Agricultural Research System) 會員所提出特定題目之論壇。
6. 提供入口服務，作為區域研究網路 (RRNs, Regional Research Networks) 入口，連結亞太地區具 NARS 機構的網站，成為有關農業研究區域性特定主題網站的入口。
7. 強化亞太區域農業研究發展知識網路，促使各區域研究網路的資訊資源易於使用，啟動農業研究發展某些特殊領域知識網路研發之先驅計畫。
8. 提供有關 APAARI 的一般訊息，如 APAARI 的出版品及所製作的光碟影片，連結其他農業研究發展機構出版品。第一期已完成 APARIS 的系統架構。

因此，於 2002 年十月 APAARI 組成第二次資訊通訊技術專家顧問群討論該系統未來的發展，並於 2003 年四月開會決議未來發展方向如下：

1. 在 APAARI 網站建立一個區域農業專家庫 (REAL, Regional Agricultural Expert Locator)，此專家庫包含每位專家的基本資料，但為機密資料不公開，同時建立各專家所執行的計畫、發表的研究文獻及報告、參與專業的各項活動。並提供查詢功能，但使用者必須申請帳號。
2. 簡化 APAARI 網站的入口功能，連結 APAARI 會員組織的伺服器主機，針對每一個網頁進行全文檢索，針對被選擇的檔案取得所需資訊，儲存資料市集成為一個內部資料庫，以減少搜尋時間。並將搜尋結果以標準的 XML 格式呈現。
3. 印製農業研究發展資訊資源手冊，由 APAARI、FAO、ISNAR 及 CABI 合作編製，讓使用者可存放在個人電腦中便於參考，第一版只包含免費可使用的資訊資源，內容包括網站內容簡介、使用對象及

使用步驟。

4. 評估 NARS 會員對資訊通訊技術需求，以提供農業研究發展決策者訂定 ICT 採用模式、數位資訊的建立與管理等工作。
5. 更新 APARIS 網站，確定所連結網站的有效性。
6. APARIS 將連結 FAO、GFAR、ISNAR 及其他區域或國家所發展的農業資訊系統。

亞太區域人口近 35 億，佔全世界人口數 55%，從事農業人口佔 57%，農地面積佔全球農業面積 32%，但貧窮人口佔 40%，且面對飢餓與食物安全、人口及農村變遷、農地分割及減少、自然資源惡化、農業研究發展投資經費下降、以及全球化等重要問題，而據估計至 2003 年，全球穀物需求量為 957 百萬噸，東亞需求量佔 27.27%，南亞需求量佔 19.12%，因此，第二次的綠色革命是必要的，以滿足因人口增加而需更多的食物，所以，將生物技術整合應用於傳統農業會增加產量並滿足消費者的需求。但也因而衍生該類農產品對人類及動物健康安全性評估的問題。於是 FAO 及 APAARI 從 2002 年 3 月 21 日至 23 日在曼谷召開亞太地區生物技術專家諮詢會議，評估農業生物技術對於增加農業生產力及利潤的潛力，同時考量生物技術的採用對農民及消費者的利益，能否確保食品的安全性。與會者都認為目前生物技術的研發門檻高且花費大，必須公私部門共同合作從事生物技術的研發，故建議成立亞太農業生物技術協會 (APCoAB, Asia Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology)，以有效整合大家的力量，利用有限資源，促使應用生物科技達成農業永續發展。

該協會將與亞太區域的大學及其他機構合作舉辦有關生物資訊、新分子技術、生物安全等課題之短期課程或研習會，以強化研究人員、政府官員及農民的知識；並與非政府組織、農民及 ISAAA、IARCS、GFAR、ARIS 等組織合作舉辦公論壇，促成政府訂定相關政策、一致的標準。同時舉行兩年一次有關農業生物技術的研討會。

亞太農業生物技術協會是一獨立的組織，有一小型指導委員會負責協會的運轉，並有政策規劃及督導之責。該次會議報告該協會架構時，已將台灣列為會員國之一。

在該次諮詢會議亦討論如何發展老師及學生們所需要的電子化課程 (E-courses)，目前先開發英文版的課程，未來再翻譯成亞太各國的當地語言。同時倡導亞太區域農業相關資訊有效流通，並強化農業網站的內涵，增加國家級、區域性及全球性的農業資訊系統的開發資金。

### 參、心得與建議

目前我國已完成農漁會、水利會等農業相關組織的網路建設，並

將其行政業務導入電子化，同時開發產銷班經營管理系統免費提供產銷班使用，期使他們利用資訊科技導入企業化管理，以掌握市場資訊、降低管理成本，提升經營效率，了解自身利基所在，進而能獲得收益。去年我國又積極建構農業知識管理應用資訊平台，期望由本會所屬研究單位同仁將農業相關知識匯入該體系，促使農業知識能蓄積且快速分享，以激發創新研發的能量。我國農業資訊方面的建設在亞太區域雖位於領先地位，但更需藉由農業工作者充分利用台灣資訊科技的進步與網際網路的普及促成我國農業發展展現新的生機，藉由網路宣導我國優質且安全的農業，以拓展農業產品通路，並擴增農業的產值。而且，唯有我們的表現優異，拉大我國農業發展與其他國家的距離，才能在國際佔一席之地，參加國際會議時亦不易被矮化。我們在國際所面臨的困境更需要靠優越的成果讓別人不敢忽視台灣的存在，同時要鼓勵國人排除萬難出席國際會議以展現國人努力產生的豐碩結果，讓國際視聽體認我國實質的存在。

#### 肆、附 錄





**GFAR**

GLOBAL FORUM ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
FORUM MONDIAL DE LA RECHERCHE AGRICOLE  
FORO GLOBAL DE INVESTIGACION AGROPECUARIA



**Expert Consultation on Strengthening Regional Agricultural Information System:  
Role of ICT in ARD  
and  
Status of Regional Research Networks and Consortia**

Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand

1-3 December, 2003

**Draft Agenda**

**December 1, 2003 (Monday)**

8:00-9:00	Registration	
	<b><i>Inaugural Session</i></b>	
	<i>Chairperson :</i> Dr. Matsuo Iwamoto, Chairman, APAARI	
	<i>Co-chairperson :</i> Dr. Nurul Alam, Vice-Chairman, APAARI	
9:00-9:05	Welcome Address on behalf of APAARI	Dr. Nurul Alam Vice-Chairman, APAARI
9:05-9:10	Welcome Address on behalf of AIT	Prof. Mario Tabucanon Provost, AIT
9:10-9:20	Objectives of Expert Consultation	Dr. Raj Paroda Executive Secretary, APAARI
9:20-9:30	Special Remarks on behalf of GFAR	Dr. Mohammad Roozitalab Chairman, GFAR; Dr. Jean-François Giovannetti Senior Expert, GFAR
9:30-9:40	Special Remarks on behalf of FAO	Dr. Hiroyuki Konuma FAO Deputy Regional Representative
9:40-9:50	APAARI Chairman's Address	Dr. Mutsuo Iwamoto Chairman, APAARI
9:50-10:00	Inaugural Address by H.E. Mr. Newin Chidchob, Deputy Minister for Agriculture & Cooperatives, Royal Government, Thailand	<i>(To be read by)</i> Mr. Somchai Channarongkul DDG, DOA, Thailand
10:00-10:05	Vote of Thanks	Mr. P.K. Saha Liaison Officer, APAARI
10:05-10:30	Coffee Break and Group Photograph	

**Session I: Global and Regional Initiatives**

*Chairperson : Dr. William Dar, Director General, ICRISAT*

*Co-chairperson : Prof. H.P.M. Gunasena, Executive Director, CARP*

- 10:30-11:00 GLOBAL Agenda for ICT in ARD Dr. Jean-François Giovannetti  
Senior Expert, GFAR
- 11:00-11:30 Status Report on APARIS Dr. Sahdev Singh  
Assistant Executive Secretary, APAARI
- 11:30-12:00 Brief Reports from other Regions Dr Abdel Nabi Fardous,  
President, AARINENA/  
Dr. Rafea, AARINENA;  
Ms. Myra Wopereis-Pura, FARA
- 12:00-12:30 General Discussion
- 12:30-13:30 Lunch

**Session II: Country Status Reports**

*Chairperson : Dr. Badaruddin Soomro, Chairman, PARC*

*Co-chairperson : Dr. Paul Teng, Deputy Director General, The World Fish Center*

(Country Presentations for Approx. 15 mins. each)

- 13:30-15:30 Country Reports of Bangladesh, India, Iran, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Japan and  
Malaysia
- 15:30-16:00 Coffee Break
- Session II: Country Status Reports (contd.)**
- Chairperson : Dr. R.N. Sapkota, Executive Director, NARC*
- Co-chairperson : Dr. William Padolina, Deputy Director General, IRRI*
- 16:00-18:00 Country Reports of Pakistan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Australia, Fiji, New  
Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, and Western Samoa
- 18:00-18:30 Discussion on Strengthening Regional Agricultural Information System (RAIS) –  
APARIS
- 19:30 Reception Dinner by APAARI (The Asia Airport Hotel)

**December 2, 2003 (Tuesday)**

**Session III (a): Demonstrations on Existing ICT Opportunities**

*Chairperson : Prof. Gajendra Singh, AIT*

*Co-chairperson : Dr. Jean-François Giovannetti, GFAR*

- 8:30-8:55 FAO ICM Models and Tools (Demonstration by Mr. Michael Riggs, FAO-RAP)
- 8:55-9:20 ICT-KM program of the CGIAR (Demonstration by Ms. Enrica Porcari, CGIAR)
- 9:20-9:45 ISNAR ICM Models and Tools (Demonstration by Dr. Ajit Maru, ISNAR)
- 9:45- 10:10 Virtual Academy for Semi-Arid Tropics (Demonstration by Dr. V. Balaji,  
ICRISAT) 半乾地

10:10- 10:35	APAN and APAN Agricultural Working Group (Dr. Seishi Ninomiya, APAN)
10:35-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-11:25	Successful Global Research Databases (Demonstration by Dr. Paul Teng, The World Fish Center)
11:25-11:50	Distance Education Initiatives for ARD (Dr. Robert Raab , APRTC)
11:50-12:15	ICT Capacity Building Programs for the Region (Prof. Gajendra Singh, AIT)
12:15-12:40	Private/NGO Initiatives (Mr. Sunil Khairmar, ISAP)
12:40-13:00	General Discussion

***Session III (b): Update on Research Networks***

*Chairperson : Dr. Mohammad Roozitalab, Chairman, GFAR*

*Co-chairperson : Dr. M. H. Al-Attar, Director General, ICBA*

8:30-9:00	APAARI Initiatives on Research Networks	Dr. R.S. Paroda Executive Secretary, APAARI
9:00-9:20	CORRA	Dr. William Padolina, Deputy Director General, IRRI
9:20-9:40	CLAN	Dr. C.L.L. Gowda, ICRISAT
9:40-10:00	GoFAR	Dr. M.V. Gupta, The World Fish Center
10:00-10:20	UTFANET	Prof. H.P.M. Gunasena, Executive Director, CARP
10:20-10:50	Coffee Break	
10:50-11:10	PGR Networks	Mr. L.T. Hong, Expert in Bamboo & Rattan, IPGRI
11:10-11:30	TAMNET	Prof. Chamnan Chutkaew, Coordinator, TAMNET
11:30-11:50	INCANA	Dr. M. Roozitalab, AARINENA
11:50-12:10	Biosaline Network	Dr. Faisal Taha, ICBA
12:10-12:30	ITFNet	Mr. Khairuddin Md. Tahir, ITFNet
12:30-13:00	Discussion on Strengthening the Networks	
13:00-14:00	Lunch	

**Session IV: Group Discussions**

- 14:00-18:00 Discussion on Framework of APARIS (Detailed guidelines will be explained.)
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Group I</i><br>ICT for Science & Technology Information<br>Dissemination (how to reach students) | <i>Moderator</i><br>Dr. Jean-François Giovannetti, GFAR |
| <i>Group II</i><br>ICT Networks of ARD Professionals<br>(how to reach ARD professionals)            | Dr. Ajit Maru, ISNAR                                    |
| <i>Group III</i><br>Extension through ICT<br>(how to reach farmers)                                 | Dr. Malcolm Hazelman, FAO-RAP                           |
| <i>Group IV</i><br>ICT in Research Policy Formulation<br>(how to reach ARD institutions/managers)   | Dr. R.D. Ghodake, PNG                                   |
- 15:30-15:50 Coffee Break
- 15:50-18:00 Group Discussion (contd.)

**December 3, 2003 (Wednesday)**

**Session V: Recommendations on ICT**

*Chairperson : Dr. Mangala Rai, Director General, ICAR*

*Co-chairperson : Dr. P.S. Faylon, Executive Director, PCCARD*

- 8:30-8:50 Group I: ICT for Science & Technology Information Dissemination
- 8:50-9:10 Group II: ICT Networks of ARD Professionals
- 9:10-9:30 Group III: Extension through ICT
- 9:30-9:50 Group IV: ICT in Research Policy Formulation
- 9:50-10:30 General Discussion and Finalization of Recommendations  
(Including Role of NINPs and Steering Committee)
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee Break
- Plenary Session**
- Chairperson : Prof. Dr. Adel El-Beltagy, Director General, ICARDA*
- Co-chairperson : Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI*
- 11:00-12:00 Strengthening of Research Networks/Consortia
- 12:00-12:30 Final Recommendations and Concluding Remarks
- 12:30-14:00 Lunch (A field tour of AIT will be organized for NINPs in the afternoon)
- 18:00-19:00 APARIS Steering Committee Meeting

指導委員会

*A Special Session on Establishment of APCoAB*

*Chairperson : Dr. Matsuo Iwamoto, Chairperson, APAARI*

*Co-chairperson : Dr. B.R. Barwale, Chairman, MAHYCO Foundation*

14:00-14:30	Establishment of APCoAB – a status report	Dr. Raj Paroda Executive Secretary, APAARI
14:30-15:00	APCoAB Road Map and Work Plan for 2004-2006 – Support Group Report	Dr. Andrew D. Powell Consultant
15:00-15:30	Discussion	
15:30-15:50	Coffee Break	
15:50-17:30	General Discussion and Recommendations	



**Expert Consultation on Strengthening Regional Agricultural Information System: Role of ICT in ARD  
and  
Status of Regional Research Networks and Consortia  
1-3 December 2003  
Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand**

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

### **An Update on Recent APAARI Activities (2002-2003)**

#### **Introduction**

Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research institutions (APAARI), established in 1990 as an apolitical, non-profit and neutral forum of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in the region, aims to strengthen the research capabilities of NARS and promote experience sharing among them in order to alleviate poverty, increase agricultural productivity and resource use, protect/conservate the environment and improve sustainability. Besides the regional NARS, several International Agricultural Research Centers (IARCs) and CGIAR Institutes are its associate members.

The primary focus of APAARI objectives is to enhance exchange of scientific and technical know-how and information in agricultural research for development; assist in strengthening research capability of member institutions and promote cross linkages among national, regional and international research organizations. APAARI, in consultation with its stakeholders, has developed a long-term perspective plan and strategies to address relevant issues, including regional collaboration, networking of research programmes; HRD; policy advocacy; resource generation and publication enhancement.

#### **APAARI Mission**

"To promote the development of national agricultural research systems in the Asia-Pacific region through facilitation of intra-regional, inter-institutional and international cooperation"

#### **Functions**

- Convene General Assembly to develop Policies, Priorities and Programmes; Organize working groups, meetings, seminars, expert consultations on regional issues;
- Collect, collate and disseminate research information; maintain links with agencies/institutions/organizations engaged in similar activities within and outside the region;
- Promote collaborative research among member institutions; Partnership with CGIAR/IARCs, ARIs, GFAR, Regional, Sub-Regional Fora and the Private Sector

A brief Report of APAARI activities undertaken since the GFAR 2002 meeting is as follows:

#### **1. Expert Consultations/Meetings**

##### **1.1 Meetings Held**



- **The Seventh General Assembly of APAARI and Expert Consultation on Strengthening of Research Partnerships Through Networks and Consortia**

The Seventh General Assembly of APAARI and Expert Consultation on Strengthening of Research Partnerships Through Networks and Consortia were held at Penang, Malaysia from 2 - 4 December 2002. There were about 60 participants representing member NARS, associate members, ARIs, the Private sector, supporting organizations such as FAO, GFAR and special invitees. The Expert Consultation had five technical sessions and Plenary session. Reports on important regional networks such as CLAN, CORRA/INGER, RWC, TAMNET, GoFAR, PGR, COGENT, BAPNET were presented by respective network coordinators/representatives. The collaborative research activities involving the private sector were presented by APSA and MONSANTO. An exclusive session was held on ICT networks with speakers from FAO, GFAR, CABI, ASTI and APAARI. APAARI looks ahead to strengthen networks further keeping in view the suggestions that have emerged from dialogue among stakeholders, such as: Lead NARS to work more towards networks hub-role; Involve NARS in the development and not only research partnerships; Vitalize sick networks or close the non-performing networks; Identify and initiate new networks, such as: a) IWMI's Challenge Programme on Food and Water; b) The Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB), and c) The Inter-Regional Network on Cotton involving AARINENA, APAARI and CAC-RF.

The expert consultation was followed by 7th General Assembly of APAARI on 4 December 2002. A new Executive Committee of APAARI for the period 2003-2004 was unanimously elected by the General Assembly and the members reviewed the progress made by APAARI in its various activities.

- **Meeting to discuss Establishment of Asia-Pacific Consortium for Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB)**

FAO-RAP and APAARI, on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2003 at Bangkok, organized a meeting to discuss establishment of Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB). There were about 25 participants representing regional NARS, IARCs, CG Centers, NGOs, foundations, and the private sector. Based on meeting deliberations, the following specific recommendations emerged that were endorsed by the participants:

- The participants recognized the efforts of both FAO and APAARI for having developed the APCoAB concept through consultation involving various stakeholders, and they further appreciated the initiative of APAARI in putting together a very good Concept Note on APCoAB and for having organized this meeting jointly with FAO Regional Office, Bangkok;
- APCoAB to move ahead as a neutral platform for the stakeholders to exchange views, ideas and knowledge in the field of agricultural biotechnology;
- Initial focus to be on some achievable objectives after further prioritization of APCoAB activities;
- Beside APAARI, active support of FAO, CGIAR (ISNAR), GFAR, ADB, World Bank, the private sector, prominent foundations, and other key global donor agencies be sought for the establishment of APCoAB. Subsequently, NARS could also be approached for their support as well in the form of membership contributions;
- An APCoAB Steering/Advisory Committee, consisting of one representative from each APAARI, FAO, NARS, CG Centers, the Private Sector, NGOs, and the Foundations be formed that can guide on pragmatic constitutional and legal structure of the Consortium;
- Recommendations and proceedings of the meeting should be sent to all NARS associated with APAARI, who approved the APCoAB idea during APAARI Expert Consultation on ARD Networks and Consortia, held in Penang, Malaysia in order to apprise them of these further developments; and
- Finally, APAARI to continue with its efforts to move forward in establishing APCoAB and take up the matter further with all concerned organizations.

- **Meeting of the APARIS Support Group**

The meeting on April 3, 2003 was a follow up initiative to formalize the bilateral cooperation between APAARI and the members of its support group in the area of ICT, including FAO-RAP, GFAR, ISNAR, and AIT. The final recommendations of the meeting included followings:

- APAARI and FAO-RAP representatives to discuss and develop a proposal for collaborative activities

to be considered by FAO-RAP and APAARI management.

- APAARI and ISNAR to develop a MoU for future collaboration between APAARI and ISNAR, particularly for the ICT need assessment activities, ISNAR's support for ICT capacity building in the Asia Pacific region, and possible integration of ISNAR's information resources those of APARIS.
- APAARI and AIT to finalize the arrangements for proposed APAARI ICT workshop at AIT in December 2003 with major support from GFAR, and AIT's help in APAARI web site development and promotion.
- APAARI, ISNAR and FAO-RAP to jointly develop a guide for useful ARD information resources that can be distributed to APAARI members.
- APAARI to move forward with the development of (a) a simplified gateway function with the help of ISNAR, FAO, AIT, and CABI, and (b) a regional agricultural expert locator function with the collaboration of FAO-RAP.
- APAARI, in collaboration with all its support group members, to develop a framework for a project proposal to be submitted to ADB, the World Bank, or some other donor organizations.

- **Meeting of APCoAB Support Group**

In order to accelerate the process for establishment of Asia-Pacific Consortium of Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB), for which APAARI General Assembly in December 2002 had given its endorsement, a meeting of the APCoAB's primary donor/support group was convened on 21 July, 2003 at Bangkok. The meeting participants included representatives from FAO-RAP, APAARI, ICRISAT, ISNAR, ACIAR, and Monsanto Corporation and discussed the APCoAB issues such as its steering committee formation, priority activities and programmes, funding support, location of the APCoAB secretariat, and potential collaborators. The outcomes of the meeting included:

- APCoAB steering committee to include APAARI represented by two NARS members (one APAARI Chairman himself and one NARS leader from any developing country); FAO represented by Dr. Arturo Martinez of AGPS (as per FAO communication); CG Centers (ICRISAT, IRRI, and ISNAR on rotation-basis); GFAR represented by Dr. Ola Smith, Executive Secretary; Private Sector represented by Dr. Eric Johnson of Monsanto; ISAAA represented by Mr. Randy Hautea; CSO/NGO/Farmers initially represented by Mr. Roel Ravanera of ANGOC; and APCoAB Coordinator to serve as Member Secretary
- Priority activities of APCoAB to include research partnership, information dissemination, capacity building, public awareness, and policy advocacy
- APAARI to present these recommendations to its Executive Committee and seek further funding support from international, regional, private and public organizations

## **1.2. Current Meetings**

From 1-4 December 2003 APAARI will organize three meetings at Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand for which invitations have been sent to various APAARI stakeholders and several participants have confirmed their attendance. These events will include:

- **Expert Consultation on ICT in ARD**

With partial financial support from GFAR, this expert consultation will be organized from December 1-3, 2003 to strengthen the regional agricultural information system and national information nodal points, and further identify specific programmes to enhance the role of ICT in ARD.

- **Status of Regional Research Networks and Special Session on Establishment of APCoAB**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2003, a special session on establishment of APCoAB will review the current status of this initiative and discuss the future road map. A special session on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2003 will discuss the status of APAARI supported research network and ways to further strengthen them.

- **Seventh APAARI Executive Committee Meeting**

The seventh APAARI Executive Committee meeting will review 2003 APAARI activities, membership status and audited accounts, finalize 2004 work plan, and decide on establishment of APCoAB.

## 2. APAARI ICT Activities

### ▪ APAARI Homepage

The APAARI home page ([www.apaari.org](http://www.apaari.org)) has been improved and further enriched with new information and links. The site now provides useful information on agricultural R&D activities in the region such as seminars, symposia, conferences etc., performs gateway function and serves as a portal to regional research networks. The objective of this component of APARIS is to facilitate access to information resources on the internet, both through search engines and by facilitating access to web sites of institutions that work in ARD and to web sites that are related to specialized topics of ARD. This is only a portal service, and not a database. Access to the web sites of the NARS institutions in the region is being facilitated. Some of the new features on the site include information on NARS database and links to other regional and global institutions. The improved site has features for e-discussion among national information nodal points. Most of the APAARI publications are now available on the website for download.

### ▪ APARIS Update

Two new functions, gateway and regional agricultural expert locator (RAEL), are currently being developed to make APARIS more useful to the agricultural researchers of the region. The gateway function will be able to perform keyword-based search on the ARD information resources available in the region and the RAEL function will maintain a database of agricultural experts. Through this function the interested agricultural experts will be able to log-on to APARIS and upload/update their information including a list of their publications.

### ▪ MoU between APAARI and ISNAR

APAARI and ISNAR developed an MOU to undertake joint programmes in the area of ICT and an action plan is being prepared. Under this MoU, APAARI and ISNAR are currently developing a guide of useful ARD information resources and collecting information on the status of ICT in ARD which will be published as a benchmark report for the region.

### ▪ FAORAP-APAARI Collaboration on ICT Activities

FAO-RAP and APAARI representatives have jointly developed a work plan to promote ICT in ARD. The specific activities in the work plan include demonstration of FAO's ICT tools to the national information nodal points of APAARI and publication of the benchmark report on the status and progress of ICT in ARD in the Asia-Pacific region.

## 3. Publications

APAARI brought out the following publications during the period under report and these were widely distributed particularly for the use of member NARS:

### ▪ Newsletters

Two issues of APAARI Newsletter (December-2002 and June -2003) were published timely and widely circulated. Electronic versions of the newsletters have also been posted on APAARI web site.

### ▪ Proceedings of Expert Consultations

The Proceedings of the following two Expert Consultations were published and distributed widely. These are also posted on APAARI homepage:

- Proceedings of the Seventh General Assembly of APAARI and Expert Consultation on Strengthening of Research Partnerships through Networks and Consortia
- Proceedings of the ICT Expert Consultation on the Development of Second Phase of APARIS

- **Success Stories**
- A new Success Story on the "Control of Newcastle Disease in Village Chickens Using Thermotolerant Vaccines", the nineteenth in the series by APAARI, has recently been published and circulated to all APAARI members and some key ARD contacts for its wider dissemination. The success story is also being put on the APAARI web site.
- Another Success Story on "Biological Control of Insect Pests in India" is presently being edited for its publication soon.
- Revised Constitution of APAARI has also been published and circulated. It has also been posted on APAARI website.

#### **4. Membership enhancement (New Members/Associate members/ Reciprocal Associate Members)**

Several national, regional and international organizations expressed interest in becoming members, associate members of APAARI. These are:

- APSA, NACA, APAFRI, and AARINENA have joined as associate members and have also accepted APAARI as their associate member on reciprocal basis.
- Crop & Food Research, PB 4704, Christchurch, New Zealand

NARS of China and Indonesia are also being pursued for joining APAARI.

#### **5. Support to NARS and Networks**

- **Support to CLAN**

In order to widen the network activities of CLAN, a network of ICRISAT, to also cover crops such as soybean, mungbean and lentil in partnership with AVRDC and ICARDA, APAARI ICRISAT have jointly decided to organize a steering committee meeting at Hyderabad in November, 2003. ICRISAT, ICARDA and AVRDC have, in principal, agreed to collaborate and would initiate specific activities under the network to support APAARI member NARS in Asia-Pacific region.

- **TAMNET Revival**

APAARI, in cooperation with FAO and APSA, has facilitated the revitalization of the network TAMNET, and has provided support for the distribution of hybrid maize trial seeds to the participating members in the network.

- **CORRA**

CORRA network presented its activity report in the APAARI organized expert consultation on Strengthening of Research Partnerships through Networks and Consortia.

- **GoFAR**

GoFAR coordinator presented an activity report in the APAARI organized expert consultation on Strengthening of Research Partnerships through Networks and Consortia. APAARI extended complete funding support to delegates from Philippines, Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Nepal to participate in the third meeting of GoFAR at the World Fish Center, Penang, Malaysia from 3-5 November 2002.

- **Inter-Regional Cotton Research Network**

APAARI contributed a sum of USD5,000 to the Inter-Regional Cotton Research Network facilitated and coordinated by Cotton Research Institute, AREO, Iran. The network partners include: AARINENA, APAARI, CAC, GFAR, ICARDA and AREO.

## 6. Participation in meetings/workshops/conferences

- APAARI was represented by Dr. Patricio Faylon of PCAARD in the Sixth Annual Meeting of CORRA held in Beijing, China from 14-15 September 2002.
- Dr. Raj Paroda, APAARI Executive Secretary attended the Inter-Regional Cotton Workshop held in Teheran (Iran) on 12-13 October 2002.
- APAARI representative Dr. Sahdev Singh attended the ICT Expert Consultation organized by GFAR and AARINENA in February 2003 at Cairo, Egypt and presented a brief overview of APAARI experience in developing its own information system, APARIS.
- APAARI representative Dr. A.K. Bawa participated in the Second International Workshop on Lentil Improvement in South Asia held from 24-28 February 2003 at Kathmandu, Nepal and presented APAARI suggestions to include lentil in CLAN activities.
- Several APAARI stakeholders participated in the GFAR meeting in Dakar, Senegal in May 2003, supported by GFAR and facilitated by APAARI Secretariat.
- APAARI representatives Mr. P.K. Saha and Dr. Sahdev Singh attended FAO organized Regional Consultation on Capacity Building in Biosafety of GM Crops in Asia held in Bangkok, Thailand from 7-10 July 2003.
- APAARI representative Dr. Sahdev Singh attended the CLAN Steering Committee Meeting held from 10-12 November 2003 at ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India. APAARI also supported delegates from Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand to attend this meeting.
- APAARI supported participation of delegates from India, Bangladesh, Thailand and Philippines in the GM seed detection training-cum-workshop organized jointly by FAO and ISTA at Bangkok from 25 to 29 November 2003.
- APAARI Executive Secretary participated in the GFAR Steering Committee meeting held recently at Nairobi, Kenya at the invitation of GFAR and made presentation on APAARI activities during the year 2002-2003.

## Conclusion

Overall, APAARI's diverse activities have provided further thrust on strengthening partnership, collaboration and networking in agricultural research and development in the Asia-Pacific region, meeting the NARS emerging needs and expectations. APAARI looks forward to strengthen partnership with ARD organizations in pursuing common goals and objectives, especially in areas of genetic resource conservation and biotechnology, NRM related activities, ICT networking and commodity chain programs. APAARI also looks forward to strengthen inter-regional partnership with other Fora engaged in agricultural research and development through active support and involvement of GFAR. APAARI would like to move forward to have "Gap Analysis" based on regional/sub-regional priority setting exercises undertaken earlier and ensure collaborative efforts to bridge those gaps. Areas of biotechnology and post-harvest technology will be addressed on priority through new programs, such as APCoAB, and expert consultation on post-harvest technologies, which APAARI plans to organize along with next General Assembly to be held in December 2004.

國際處提供我國之端之說帖

We are pleased to join the Donor Support Group as soon as we are notified that the following conditions will be met.

1. A clear member status for COA, ROC in APCoAB will be conferred;
2. We will have the right and be invited to all the decision-making meetings relating to APCoAB;
3. We will be a member of the Steering/Advisory Committee as we are allowed to being an APAARI member;
4. We will have voting powers no less than those of the members also sitting on the Steering/Advisory Committee, and
5. Finally and imperatively, our appellation will be the same under both APAARI and APCoAB. We are willing to accept a change in our title to COA (Taiwan), but no further concession will be made.

In the Seventh General Assembly of APAARI held in Penang, Malaysia, we proudly and officially accepted the duty conferred upon us to organize the Eighth General Assembly of APAARI. It is with great pleasure that we welcome you all and wish you a productive and inspiring stay. In accordance with the request made to us to further increase our membership contribution, which was also made during our last General Assembly, we are please to inform you that the COA (ROC) will provide all local expenses including travel, lodging, and boarding of one participant of each of the participating members from developing countries in the region.