

Asia and the Pacific Regional Dialogue on the International Year of Pulses Concept Note

Background

Following resolution 6/2013 of the 38th FAO Conference, the UN General Assembly, at its 68th session declared 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYP). The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been nominated to facilitate the implementation of the Year in collaboration with Governments, relevant organizations, non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders.

FAO is planning to hold a series of regional dialogues to enhance local and regional discussions on the important role of pulses. In Asia and the Pacific region, FAO is planning to organize the Regional Dialogue in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in close cooperation with National Organizing Committee of IYP of Mongolia. The regional dialogue aims at strengthening national, regional and local capacities to formulate and implement policies and programmes to improve nutritional status.

The outcomes of the IYP dialogues will provide regional overviews of the opportunities, challenges, existing policy environment supporting/hindering the promotion of pulses. In addition, the above-mentioned outcomes will be addressed in the IYP Global Dialogue to be held in FAO HQ at the end of 2016.

Asia and the Pacific region shares 48% (FAO STAT 2013) of world pulses production and pulse crops have made and will continue to make to achieving food and nutrition security for the millions of people living in this region. Pulses are an integral part of Asian farming systems and they are linked with the culture, beliefs and economy of the region. India, China and Myanmar are amongst world top 5 pulse producers. The world's largest importer of pulses is India with 2.7 million tons in 2013. Therefore, results of Asia and the Pacific regional dialogue will be important feed into the Global Dialogue, as the region is planet's biggest producers and consumer of pulses.

Although production of pulses sharply increased in Cambodia, Kazakhstan and Myanmar, but changes in consumer preferences have led to stagnant or negative production growth in China, Republic of Korea, DPR Korea, Thailand, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Japan and New Zealand. For this reason, organizing Regional discussion on the role of pulses on human health, animal health and soil health is important to increase pulse production.



Overall objectives

The objectives of the RD are to:

- Understand/Document the “state-of-the-art” on pulses in the Region in terms of opportunities and challenges, including existing policy environment
- Agree on common priorities for advocacy and promotion of pulses in each region.
- Identify knowledge gaps and research needs

Expected Deliverables

- Strengthened national, regional and local capacities to formulate and implement policies and programmes to improve nutritional status
- Documented and disseminated knowledge about pulses, their attributes, and their ability to provide solutions to nutrition, health, trade and environmental sustainability issues
- Recommendations and priority actions to be submitted to the IYP Global Dialogue

Methodology

Two – day facilitated event bringing together a wide spectrum of stakeholders and representatives of different constituencies/sectors in the region. The two days will be structured according to four major themes:

- Theme 1: Role of Pulses in the Region and its contribution to sustainable rural development and food security and nutrition
- Theme 2: Pulses value chain and Pulse actors
- Theme 3: Production, productivity and consumption of Pulses and good practices
- Theme 4: Awareness raising and Policy issue and Recommendations

Participants

Maximum of 50 participants. Representatives from 15 member countries but priority is given to major pulses growing and consuming countries in the region /: India, China, Pakistan, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, Indonesia/

Estimated Budget:

The budget is estimated at USD42,870/see Annex for details/ and it is rounded up USD43,000. IYP Secretariat (voluntary contributions) will provide USD23,000 and RAP will provide remaining **USD20,000**.

RAP and FAO Mongolia office in close cooperation with the Mongolian Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry will be responsible for the organization of Regional Dialogue. The organizer of the RD will be responsible for the identification of keynote speakers (according to the above themes), the selection of participants, coordination of travel and accommodation arrangements, logistics and preparation of the report.

Technical support will be provided by FAO experts from AGP, ESN and EST, Regional office for Asia and the Pacific and FAO Mongolia.

Timeframe and Venue

The Regional Dialogue will be organized in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. It will take place on 24-25 October 2016.

Tentative Agenda

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PULSES

TENTATIVE AGENDA 24-25 October 2016

Venue: The Best Western Premier Hotel, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

The Meeting will be chaired by Kevin Gallagher, Deputy FAO Representative

Time	Title	
DAY 1		
Monday, 24 October 2016		
8:30 – 9:30	Registration	
9:30 – 10:20	Opening address	RAP
		Sergelen Puntsag, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia
		Prof. Kadambot Siddique, Special IYP Ambassador
	Tour de Table	All participants
	International Year of Pulses in Mongolia	Bayarsukh Noov, Director of Institute of Plant and Agricultural Science
10:20 – 10:40	Coffee break	
10:40 – 12:10	Role of Pulses in the Region	
	Presentation 1: Role of Pulses in the Region and its contribution to sustainable rural development and food and nutrition security	Regional Expert
	Identifying needs and priorities – working sub-groups	
	Reporting to Plenary and discussion	
Lunch		
13:30 – 15:00	Pulses value chain	



Time	Title	
	Presentation 2: Pulses Value Chain and its development	Australia
	Identifying needs and priorities – working sub-groups	
	Reporting to Plenary and discussion	
15:00 – 15:20	Coffee break	
15:20 – 16:50	Pulses production	
	Presentation 3: Pulses production and productivity	India
	Identifying needs and priorities – working sub-groups	
	Reporting to Plenary and discussion	
Reception at the hotel		

DAY 2		Tuesday, 25 October 2016
9:00 – 10:30	Policies, institutions and capacity	
	Presentation 4: Mainstreaming pulses into national and regional food security policy	Japan Pakistan
	Identifying needs and priorities – working sub-groups	
	Reporting to Plenary and discussion	
10:30 – 10:50	Coffee break	
10:50 – 12:20	Pulses Research Development	
	Presentation 5: Pulses Research Development and variety development	Republic of Korea Myanmar
	Identifying needs and priorities – working sub-groups	
	Reporting to Plenary and discussion	
12:20 – 12:40	Closing Remark	Deputy FAO Representative Mongolia
Lunch		
14:00 – 18:00	Tour to Tsongin Boldog	FAO Mongolia