

AFACI NEWSLETTER

Asian Food & Agriculture Cooperation Initiative

Congratulatory Address by Administrator of RDA



Congratulations for publishing the first issue of AFACI newsletter!

I am honored to offer a congratulatory remark on the first issue of AFACI News Letter as the Administrator of the Rural Development Administration, Republic of Korea.

In accordance with government policy to strengthen its participation in the international efforts to help improve the living standards of the people in needy regions, RDA initiated a humble but determined move to share our experiences with the people in Asia, under the framework of AFACI. We do not believe that Korean experiences of development in agriculture would be directly transferable to other countries where circumstances are differ vastly. But we believe that the basic concept to improve the agriculture would not differ so much that we cannot even try to work together. With Asian neighbors, we share same culture in many aspects, particularly in work spirits. I trust that if we work together with confidence, friendship and sincerity, AFACI would achieve more than what we have imagined. With this confidence, I wish to propose, "Let us go ahead!".

I am very much pleased to congratulate the launching of AFACI News Letter.

Thank you.

Seung-Kyu Min
Administrator, RDA, Korea

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Dr. Seung-Yeol Na Talks About AFACI



*Dr. Seung-Yeol Na
Head of International Cooperation Bureau*

1. AFACI newsletter is being newly published. Would you please give a congratulatory message?

Congratulations for the inauguration AFACI News Letter. And I know that AFACI web-site also opened recently. I hope that both the News Letter and the AFACI web-site would become instrumental for the productive communication and strengthening of friendship among the AFACI member nations.

2. Could you explain the background of establishing the AFACI?

I do not want to make it long. In a nutshell, the history of the country of recent past was regretful; the country was under colonial rule for sometime. Destructive war followed it. The country was one of the poorest of the poor in the world. From there we started to build up the country. We worked hard in every sphere agriculture, manufacturing, service, international trade, and etc. In particular, in agriculture, phenomenal achievements were made; achievement of self sufficiency in staple food, phenomenal increase of production in the horticultural crops, enabling to feed the people sufficiently, and allowing the farmers to generate more income. Now the voices that it is the time for Korea to pay attention to share her experiences with the countries struggling to catch up with the advanced countries, have become louder both internally and externally. In response to those voices, RDA has taken some initiatives. Recently launched is the KOPIA (Korean Project in International Project), a bilateral project. We are attempting a multilateral approach within Asia. AFACI is the that approach.

From 1972, our organization, Rural Development Administration (RDA), has trained 3,400 researchers, scientists and officials from 100 countries on rural development and agricultural technology. RDA Alumni Association consisting of the trainees has been organized in seven countries to conduct joint researches. As part of these endeavors, we have launched a multilateral cooperation, AFACI (Asian Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative) joined by 12 Asian countries

(Korea, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan and Mongolia) to jointly address the agricultural issues in the Asian region.

3. What do you think of the role of AFACI and what should members do for the success of AFACI?

"The problem cannot be solved except on an international scale. The atmosphere is ignorant of national boundaries" said Carl Sagan. Regarding issues not only for climate change but also food security, all Asians should work together and overcome together. To bring positive effects, AFACI will play an important role as a center for Asian agricultural network. The most important thing for the success of AFACI, I think, ties among member countries. To do that, for example, members should visit AFACI web-site frequently and exchange knowledge for their research and extension. "Cyber Forum" board on the AFACI web-site would be the meeting place with enthusiastic participation of you. Also, workshops, forums and conferences hosted by AFACI might be opportunities for members to meet each other and join various learning program.

4. What do you think of the role of RDA in AFACI?

As I have mentioned, RDA has trained thousands of researchers, scientists and officials since 1972. So I firmly believe that RDA has enough experiences and capability to organize AFACI. In addition, RDA is the center of agricultural research with state-of-the-art agricultural research and training resources. In these regards, RDA should spearhead the cooperative organization in Asian agricultural area.

5. Finally, do you have any advisory comment for AFACI?

Out of 6 billion global populations, 1 billion are living on less than one dollar. Hence, the food is the most pressing priority among the global issues. The UN-FAO forecasted that the global population will increase by 2.3 billion till 2050. The increase of food production is absolutely needed. When we look back at human history, the agricultural and rural development has been a driving force for economic and social development of a nation. "The Green Revolution was one of the greatest achievements of the 20th century," said Bill Gates in Des Moines, Iowa on the eve of World Food Day.

The significance of food security is growing more than ever before. Especially, many Asian countries have been dependent on imported food, while the R&D and distribution systems have not been sufficiently developed. Considering these current situations, this cooperation initiative is very meaningful. Many Asian countries are needed to actively join in the cooperation on Food and Agriculture. I wish that the cooperation among member countries will be further vitalized, and also more countries will join us in this Initiative. We will provide unwavering support for the development of this Initiative.

Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of an Asian Food And Agriculture Cooperation Initiative

CONSTITUTION

The representatives of each Asian Country comprising, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Philippines, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (hereinafter referred as the "Member Countries"):

ACKNOWLEDGING the necessity of cooperation among Asian countries for the sustainable agricultural development in the region;

RECONFIRMING their commitment to endeavor to promote agricultural and food industry and reform the industry structure for promoting common interests and food security of the Member Countries; and

SHARING the view that poverty eradication in the region and the world is its priority;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1

Establishment and Location

1. The Member Countries hereby establish an initiative known as the Asian Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (hereinafter referred as "the Initiative").
2. The headquarters and secretariat office of the Initiative will be located in Rural Development Administration, Suwon, the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred as "ROK"). Its affiliate centers may be established in the Member Countries.

ARTICLE 2

Purpose

The purpose of the Initiative is to promote the sustainable agricultural green growth in the Asian region to eradicate poverty and starvation and to contribute to consistent economic development in the Member Countries through the technological cooperation in agriculture and food sector.

ARTICLE 3

Membership

1. The Member Countries are the countries in the Asian region and will become the Members of the Initiative by signing this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred as "MOU") in accordance with Article 15.
2. A country that may want to be the member after the initial effectuation of this MOU will obtain the

approval of the Executive Council and sign the MOU to obtain the membership.

ARTICLE 4

Activities

To achieve its purpose, the Initiative will undertake the following activities:

- A. Technology development cooperation for food security and agricultural product & food:
 - 1) to develop the technology in crop, horticulture, and livestock sector for the food security;
 - 2) to develop the research policy for promoting agricultural industrialization and restructuring;
 - 3) to develop food resources and evaluate their functionality to extend the agricultural product and food industry;
 - 4) to develop nutrition and dietary improvement program;
 - 5) to establish and operate 'Asia Food Culture Center' to spread and promote the Asian food culture, and
- B. Technology development cooperation for sustainable agricultural environment, and resource conservation and utilization:
 - 1) to develop technology for environment-friendly organic farming and safe production;
 - 2) to develop new food and energy resource to cope with the climate change;
 - 3) to develop and commercialize the green growth technology and energy;
 - 4) to jointly explore the agricultural genetic resources and develop utilization technology to the extent feasible under the existing legal provision of the member countries; and
 - 5) to develop the conservation technology for agricultural eco-system.
- C. Capacity building and technology transfer for the development of agriculture and food industry:
 - 1) to provide education program to develop human resource in agriculture and food fields;
 - 2) to promote the technology transfer among the Member Countries; and
 - 3) to assist workshops and conference for the pending issues.

ARTICLE 5

Organization

1. The Initiative will establish a General Assembly.
2. The Initiative will establish an Executive Council and a Secretariat to support the General Assembly.

3. The Member Country where the Secretariat is located will provide active support for the cooperation in agricultural technology among the Member Countries.
4. The Initiative may establish advisory committee such as the Committee on Science and Technology by the approval of the Executive Council and organize a working group or special task force by the roles.

ARTICLE 6

General Assembly and Executive Council

1. Each member country will nominate a suitable representative as country director to be represented at the General Assembly. The General Assembly will designate one of the directors as Chairperson. The Chairperson will hold office for a term of two years and may be reappointed.
2. The General Assembly will be held every other year.
3. The General Assembly will select the Executive Council Member Countries among the Member Countries.
4. The Executive Council will consist of Directors from the Council Member Countries (hereinafter referred as the Executive Director) and the Chairperson of the Council will take the post of the Chairperson of the General Assembly.
5. The Executive Council will hold more than one meeting a year.
6. The Executive Council may establish a temporary committee on various issues within its scope of authority and function whenever necessary.

ARTICLE 7

Secretariat

1. The Secretariat will consist of a Secretary General and staffs who are nationals of the Member Countries.
2. The term of office of the Secretary General will be three years and he/she may be reappointed. He/she will, however, cease to hold office when the Executive Council so decides.
3. The Secretary General will prepare the draft annual work program, the annual budget estimate, and the annual report for presentation at the annual meeting of the Executive Council for its approval.
4. The Secretary General will, in addition to exercising the powers assigned to him/her under this MOU, supervise the execution of the annual work program and the annual budget as well as the implementation of the decisions of Committees under the supervision and advice of the Executive Council.
5. The Secretary General will establish appropriate Units approved by the Executive Council to carry out the powers and functions assigned to him/her. The duties of each Unit will be described in the Annex to this MOU.

6. The Heads of Units will be appointed by the Executive Council upon nomination by the Secretary General. Other personnel of the Secretariat will be appointed by the Secretary General.
7. The terms and conditions of employment of the staff members will be set out in staff regulations approved by the Executive Council.

ARTICLE 8

Official Language

The official language of the Initiative is English.

ARTICLE 9

Finance

1. The Member Countries will endeavor to contribute to the Initiative, in accordance with their respective national laws and regulations, an agreed amount of money necessary for the operation of the Initiative under the decision of the Executive Council.
2. The expenses and goods borne by the ROK where the Secretariat is located will be as follows:
 - (a) the project expense for the implementation of the cooperation project within the available budget for the Initiative;
 - (b) the rental expense of the office(s) occupied by the Secretariat in the territory of the ROK;
 - (c) the wages, insurance fees and other expenses necessary to hire staffs who are nationals of the ROK; and
 - (d) other expenses required for the Initiative to execute its regular functions performed in the territory of the ROK.
3. The expenses borne by the Member Countries will be the wages, insurance fees and other expenses necessary to hire staff who is nationals of the Member Countries.
4. The Initiative may, with the approval of the Executive Council, accept assistance on a grant basis from non-member countries and organizations.

ARTICLE 10

Settlement of Disputes

Any disputes or differences between the Member Countries arising out of the interpretation and/or implementation and/or application of any of the provisions of this MOU will be settled amicably through mutual consultations and/or negotiations between the Member Countries through diplomatic channels, without reference to any third party or international tribunal.

ARTICLE 11

Protection of Intellectual Property Rights

1. The protection of intellectual property rights of each Member Country will be carried out in conformity with the respective national laws and regulations of such the Member Country. Each Member Country reaffirms the provisions of international agreements relating to

intellectual property to which it is a party.

2. The use by the Initiative of the name, logo and /or official emblem of any of the Member Countries on any publication, document and/or paper developed pursuant to this MOU is prohibited without the prior explicit approval by that Member Countries.
3. Notwithstanding anything contained in Paragraph 1 above, a Member Country will own the intellectual property rights in respect of any technological development, and any products and services development, which were solely and separately developed by that Member Country. When two or more of the Member Countries carry out any activity pursuant to this MOU, such Member Countries will clearly specify intellectual property issues that may arise in connection with the said activity, for instance, the ownership of intellectual property rights to any inventions that might arise from the said activity.

ARTICLE 12 Confidentiality

1. Each Member Country will observe the confidentiality and secrecy of documents, information and other data received from or supplied to another Member Country pursuant to this MOU or any other agreement made under this MOU.
2. The provisions of this Article will continue to apply to the Member Countries regardless of their withdrawal from, or their termination of, this MOU.

ARTICLE 13 Withdrawal

1. Any Member Country may at any time withdraw from this Initiative by giving a written notification to the Secretariat.
2. The Member Country applying for withdrawal will be bound by its obligations until the end of the fiscal year during which the application for withdrawal is submitted. It will also settle any other financial dues it owes to the Initiative.

ARTICLE 14 Amendments

1. Any Member Country may propose amendments to this MOU. A proposed amendment will be communicated to the Secretary General who will communicate it to the other Member Countries at least six months in advance of its consideration by the Executive Council. Nevertheless, the amendments to the Annex of this MOU may be communicated to the Member Countries at least three months prior to the consideration by the Executive Council.
2. Amendments to this MOU will be adopted by the Executive Council and will come into force upon their acceptance by the Member Countries.

3. Amendments accepted by the Member Countries will enter into force upon the date of the last deposit of the instruments of acceptance with the Secretariat.

ARTICLE 15 Signature, Ratification and Acceptance

This MOU will be open for signature by the Member Countries. It will be subject to ratification or acceptance by the Signatories.

ARTICLE 16 Entry into Force

This MOU will enter into force 30 days after the date of the last deposit of the instruments of ratification or acceptance by at least five or more countries. It will remain in force until it is terminated under Article 17 of this MOU.

ARTICLE 17 Termination

This MOU may be terminated when the number of Member Countries is less than five. Such termination due to the withdrawal will take effect at the end of the fiscal year of the terminating withdrawal.

ARTICLE 18 Depositary

1. Upon signature, this MOU will be deposited with the Secretariat. The Secretary General will then promptly send a certified copy thereof to the Member Countries.
2. Instruments of ratification and acceptance mentioned in Article 16 will be deposited with the Secretary General of the Secretariat.

ARTICLE 19 Suspension

Each Member Country reserves the right for reasons of national security, national interest, public order or public health to suspend temporarily, either in whole or in part, the implementation of this MOU. Such suspension will take effect immediately after notification has been given to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will notify it to the Member Countries without delay.



Delegations signing MOU during the inauguration- ceremony

Workshop on Rural Development for High-Level Officers

Workshop on Rural Development for High-Level Officers of AFACI Member Countries

On 8th August, the AFACI Secretariat conducted a workshop on rural development for high-level officers of AFACI member countries at Suwon, Republic of Korea. This workshop was identified during the first AFACI General Assembly Meeting as a training program of the Initiative. The workshop aims to build the capacity of AFACI member countries for agricultural and rural development and to strengthen the network.

The Secretariat informed each participant to prepare country report for presentation. Overall, 20 participants from 10 AFACI member countries joined this week-long workshop and presented the status of their national agriculture research and extension. In this workshop, the participants had a first hand experience and learning about the Korean agriculture system through field studies.



Watching Nan-ta performance on Sunday evening

Opening ceremony

The first official event was the opening ceremony attended by the participants, the directorate, and staff of ITCC. It was held Monday morning, August 9, 2010 at the ITCC conference room.

Dr. Gyoung-Rae Cho, Secretary General of AFACI facilitated the opening ceremony. Dr. Seung-Yeol Na, Head of Technology Cooperation Bureau, commenced the session with his welcome address followed by Dr. Hari Dahal, as the participant representative, who wished for a successful workshop.



Speech by Mr. Seung-yeol Na (Head of Technology Cooperation Bureau)

National Agricultural System Reports

Dr. Soo-Chul Park started the first lecture entitled "Global R&D Issues and a Case of Korea". Dr. Park has published "Agricultural R&D System & Issues" both in Korea and USA. He also lectures on Food Security and Green Revolution as global issues. His lecture greatly contributed understanding about agriculture system and global issues to the participants. Then, each participant reported their respective national agriculture status which include agricultural research system, extension system, country profile on agriculture, human and financial resources, and so on. (see country reports on our Website, www.afaci.org)

Group Discussion

The participants tackled the national agriculture research and extension system into two groups. The first group mentioned three targets needed to strengthen R&D of AFACI member countries such as: food security, sustainable agriculture, and farm economy and livelihood improvement. With regard food security, the participants emphasized the need to develop high-yielding varieties and to adapt to climate change. For global issues on sustainable agriculture, several strategies and important things to consider were proposed: develop appropriate technologies/ interventions and manage natural resources.

At the same time, the second group discussed the extension system of each country. Consequently, the group stated that the existing extension organization needs assessment and restructuring. Also, more investment on agriculture and extension in particular should be encouraged.

The 2-day discussion came up with conclusions. (see more detailed conclusion on our Website)



Discussion about agricultural research and extension

Field Study



RDA also offered the opportunity to experience cases of Korean agriculture in the field with some lectures and discussion. This helped the participants to benchmark Korean research and development and good examples of extension system. The participants visited the National Institute of Horticultural & Herbal Science, the Agricultural Technology Center as extension service center, and so on. Interest especially in Agricultural technology Center at Hwa-seong was expressed. The Professor who conducted the lecture toured the participants into various facilities and she adeptly answered all the questions. The participants were surprised when the Professor informed them that the government supports the high cost of maintaining the facilities.

Field trip



In agriculture, facilities and cropping technology are not the only important things, but how it could be applied to other industries should also be considered. Agriculture needs to be developed with others as an industry. One example is the Korean traditional food-Kimchi. Production of Kimchi using domestic agricultural products could turn into a large business. The factory that the participants visited produces tons of kimchi every day and has an exhibition hall on Kimchi-making and traditional farming for visitors. Not only did the participants had experienced Kimchi-making, but also the wearing of the Korean traditional costume called Han-bok. It is a way to promote Kimchi as well as the Korean culture and traditions to the people.

Closing ceremony

All the participants completed the workshop safely that ended with the presentations of the outcome of the group discussions. Although it was the last day of the workshop, the heat continued to rise as debaters went head to head. The first workshop to develop the agriculture system and strengthen the network among AFACI member countries culminated successfully. It was an opportune time to understand the different national agriculture in Asia and help AFACI to move towards the right direction. In addition, with this fruitful undertaking AFACI is envisioned to be a successful initiative.



Presentation of certificates and gifts



Taking a group photo after closing ceremony