



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 224

Date of Issue	24 October 2023
Project Code	23-CL-03-GE-WSP-A
Title	Workshop on Food Supply Chains in the Informal Sector
Timing	5 December 2023–7 December 2023
Hosting Country(ies)	Bangladesh
Venue City(ies)	Not Applicable
Modality	Online
Implementing Organization(s)	National Productivity Organisation, Bangladesh and APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	38
Local Participants	12
Closing Date	24 November 2023
Remarks	Not Applicable

Objectives	Study informal-sector food supply chains after the recent pandemic and disasters; introduce methods and technologies to improve food quality, safety, and productivity; examine ways to increase nutritional intake, manage health risks, and create resilient, sustainable food supply chains; and share good practices and models of food supply chains in the informal sector in APO members.
Rationale	Large populations in Asia depend on food sourced from informal-sector smallholder growers. They provide affordable food and contribute to rural incomes. Improving food safety and quality in the informal sector is aligned with the SME Development and Broad-based engagement goals in the APO Vision 2025.
Background	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered the extensive worsening of food insecurity worldwide and threatens to create long-term malnutrition and negative health consequences. One major threat is the disruption of informal food chains and the limited efforts to-date of leveraging their resilience capacity (National Library of Medicine, 2020).</p> <p>Food supply chains in the informal sector play an important role in complementing formal-sector supply chains. The COVID-19 pandemic worsened food insecurity, especially in the producer-driven informal sector, compounding food insecurity issues worldwide and increasing health risks. Developing countries face difficulties in food safety and quality control in informal food chains due to a lack of information and skills, limited resources, and weak cooperative work systems.</p> <p>This workshop will examine the benefits and potential of informal food chains, review case studies of safety and quality control in informal food supply, and analyze opportunities to improve informal food supply chains in APO members.</p>
Topics	Overview of food supply chains in the informal sector; Definition of informal food supply chains; Safety and quality control of food in the informal sector; KPIs, techniques, and applications to improve informal food supply chains; and Case studies of informal food supply chains in APO members.
Outcome	Enhanced knowledge and understanding of informal food supply chains; insights on building resilience in informal-sector food supply chains are applied; and successful models in APO members are adopted.
Qualifications	Government officials, policymakers, representatives of small farmers'/ agribusiness associations, academics, and consultants working on food safety and quality control.

Please refer to the implementation procedures circulated with this document for further details.



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