

INFORMATION NOTE

40th International Vegetable Training Course on “Safe Vegetable Production”, The World Vegetable Centre, Bangkok, Thailand, 13-24 November 2023

Duration: 13-24 November 2023 (excluding dates of arrival and departure)

Venue/Host: WorldVeg, Bangkok, Thailand

Sponsoring Organizations: African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) &
Government of Republic of China (Taiwan)

Background:

Consumers in poor or rich countries alike are increasingly concerned about the safety of vegetables they buy and eat. Farm-level pesticide use is usually high in vegetable crops and many countries report problems with pesticide contamination of vegetables. Also, microbial contamination, usually resulting from unhygienic practices and the use of contaminated water in production and postharvest handling, is a growing problem.

There have been various initiatives by the food industry, producer organizations, governments, and NGOs to improve food safety through common standards for good agricultural practices (GAP). In Southeast Asia, Thailand has been leading the way with a national GAP certification program. Hundreds of thousands of Thai farmers are participating in the program, but there are also various private standards for organic and safe production. While GAP standards are usually explicit about what farmers are not allowed to do, they may not provide detailed guidance on specific methods of managing vegetable pests and diseases without the use of chemical pesticides.

About the Training Course: The training programmes aim at enhancing technical, scientific and managerial skills of the participants to contribute to sustainable development of their countries through increased production and consumption of health-promoting vegetables.

Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the course is to provide participants with knowledge and hands-on experience on safe vegetable production. More specifically, it will inform participants about:

- Good Agriculture Practice for Vegetable Crops (GAP Certification);
- Sustainable Soil Fertility Management;
- Major Nematode Diseases of Vegetables and their Management;
- Process of developing GAP Standards using a Case Study;
- Use of Protected Cultivation for Vegetable Crops;
- Diseases of Vegetables and their Management related to GAP Standard;

- Integrated Pest Management for key Vegetable Crops;
- A Global perspective on Disease Management of Safe Vegetable Production;
- Principles of Regenerative Agriculture for better Soil Health in Vegetable Production;
- Vegetable Grafting Techniques; and
- Post Harvest Management and Processing

Methodology: This training course is a blend of theory and practice: lectures, class exercises, laboratory demonstration and field test to seed companies, farmers, value chain actors and markets. The course is taught in English by experts from world vegetable Center, Universities, international organizations etc. At the end of programme, participant will be required to develop and present an action plan adapted to the needs of their respective countries.

Application Process: The nominees are required to click on the link: <https://aardo.org/worldveg.html> a link to the application form (In Editable Pdf) and guidelines will appear. The nominee needs to download the form, fill it, get the duly filled in and endorsed by the nodal ministry and forward it to AARDO through the email: cbdp@aardo.org **along with the recommendation letter from AARDO's Nodal Ministry and a passport copy.**

Deadline for Application: 25 August 2023

The form must be completed in all aspects. Incomplete/wrong information may lead to rejection of application.

Selection Procedure: The nominations received from the member countries, after due screening and finalization will be forwarded to WorldVeg for their consideration.

Presentation of Country Report: the participants will be required to give a presentation during the programme on the situation in their respective countries. The guidelines for preparation of country report will be provided to the selected candidates along with the letter of acceptance.

Post Training Action: on completion of the training course, the participants will be required to submit a brief report and evaluation of the training to the AARDO Secretariat.

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