



Webinar

Regional Consultation on Forgotten Foods in Asia-Pacific

Developing a Regional Manifesto



Date: 28 May 2021

Time: 14:00-16:50hrs (Bangkok, Thailand)



Registration link:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtcO2hqDotHNOmt1-fwvkOSmHvqHKINDoL>

Background

Around 3 billion people across the world cannot afford a healthy diet and 1.9 billion of them are in the Asia-Pacific Region. Of these, 1.3 billion live in South Asia, 230 million in East Asia, 325.5 million in Southeast Asia, and 0.5 million in Oceania according to a recent United Nations agencies report. More than 350 million people in Asia-Pacific were undernourished in 2019, which is half of the global total, as stated in the Asia and the Pacific Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2020: Maternal and Child Diets at the Heart of Improving Nutrition.

In the past, Asia-Pacific countries were cultivating and consuming a wide variety of food crops, which had high nutrition value. However, as a result of modern, industrialized agriculture and consequent changes in policies and food habits, many have moved away from the traditional foods. These have now almost become forgotten food, and include, for example: pseudo cereals (grain amaranth, buckwheat and chenopods), small millets (finger millet, foxtail millet, proso millet, kodo millet and barnyard millet), underutilized grain legumes (rice bean, moth bean, adzuki bean, faba bean and horse gram), tuber crops (taro, cassava, sweet potato, yams, potatoes), minor fruits (jackfruit, custard apple, jewish plum, ber and tamarind), as well as seabuckthorn. Furthermore, a recent regional survey also included red gram or pigeon pea, and sorghum in this 'forgotten' food category.

A shift from the current 'yield-for-immediate-profit' paradigm towards multi-functional and diversified agri-food systems is needed to achieve zero hunger and provide nutritious, healthy and sustainable diets. This requires, among others, a transformation of agricultural innovation systems, valuing local knowledge and ingenuity, as well as neglected genetic and species diversity. Greater diversity associated with sustainable management practices is needed in agricultural and food systems to feed 9.7 billion people in 2050.

The Regional Consultation on Forgotten Food will seek information and set priorities from collective actions to promote research, innovation, education, sustainable production, processing, marketing and consumption of forgotten food. Specifically, the Conference aims to:

- Improve different stakeholders' recognition of the importance and value of forgotten species and sustainable agricultural technologies, such as agroecological approaches, participatory plant breeding, efficient seed systems, and new technologies.
- Articulate and analyse multi-level (institutional, organizational, individual) capacity development needs in the areas of research, extension, education and development across the value chain of such crops.
- Identify strategic and effective ways to lobby and advocate for policy innovations to ensure the use and conservation of forgotten food, such as incentives for their cultivation and conservation, as well as incentives for farmers to innovate.
- Identify possible areas for collaborative research projects and partnership opportunities, and discuss the establishment of a Regional Knowledge Hub on Forgotten Food.

Expected Output

A comprehensible and actionable draft Manifesto on Forgotten Foods in Asia-Pacific region, owned by major farmers organizations, as well as research and development agencies, will be considered by the wider community of stakeholders. The Manifesto will provide a framework for public declaration of shared values, operational principles and concrete strategies that will help smallholder farmers to localize actions and policies within their own communities and countries. It is envisioned that this will eventually facilitate the preparation of a Global Manifesto.

Partners

Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) in partnership with Global Forum of Agricultural Research, Alliance Bioversity - CIAT, Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA) and M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), and International Crop Research Institute for Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

Participants

Selected regional representative groups and actors of various innovation systems, including APAARI members, institutions including national and international research and educational organizations, custodian Farmers, farmers associations, value chain actors and the private sector, civil society and policymakers from Asia-Pacific.

Programme

Opening Session		
14:00 -14:20	Opening Remarks (Including background and objectives)	Ravi Khetarpal, APAARI Alessandro Meschinelli, GFAR C. Fadda, Alliance Bioversity-CIAT
Session 1 : Perceptions about forgotten food		
Moderator: Sayed AA		
14:20 -14:30	The science and value of forgotten foods and crops	Ronnie Vernooy, Alliance Bioversity – CIAT
14:30 -14:50	Farmers’ perception on forgotten foods in Asia-Pacific – Survey results	Irish Baguilat, Asian Farmers’ Association
14.50 - 15.00	Smart Food Initiative	Joanna Kane-Potaka, ICRISAT
Session 2: Panel Discussion on Transformation of Agri-Food Systems and Innovation in favour of Forgotten Foods		
Co-Moderators: Irish Baguilat/ Rishi Tyagi		
15.00 -15.50	Panel Discussion	Moderator: GFAR
	Strategies for transforming agri-food research and innovation systems Farmers’ perspectives National Agricultural Research Systems perspectives	Martina Spisiakova, APAARI; Norah Omot, APAARI; Dave Shearer, CoSAI Selected farmers of the Asia Pacific Region Selected NARES of the Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Vilas Tonapi, ICAR-India ➤ Birte Komolong, NARI-Papua New Guinea,
Session 3: Breakout Session for farmers’ Interaction (three breakout rooms organized per sub-region)		
Co-Moderators: Esther Penunia, Oliver King, and KS Varaprasad		
15.50- 16.20	Farmers from different countries through their organizations discuss the regional Manifesto and future course of action with all participants	Discussion in three breakout rooms organized per Sub-region (each having its moderator)

Session 4: Plenary Session**Moderator: Carlo Fadda**

16:20-16.35	Key outputs from the breakout sessions	Moderators of Breakout sessions
16:35-16.45	Key elements for draft regional Manifesto for Asia-Pacific	Estrella Penunia, AFA, KS Murali, MSSRF and Rishi Tyagi, APAARI
16:45-16.50	Closing Remarks	Ravi Khetarpal, APAARI