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International Atomic Energy Agency

Agence Internationale de l'énergie atomique

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In reply please refer to: **ME-RER5028-2200091**

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National Liaison Officers /

National Coordinators

2022-01-12

Subject: Virtual Event - Regional Project Coordination Meeting, from 14 to 17 February 2022

Dear National Liaison Officer / National Coordinator,

I am pleased to inform you that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is organizing a Virtual Regional Meeting under the IAEA technical cooperation project RER5028, "Improving Efficiency in Water and Soil Management" to promote innovative ways of delivering our programme in the face of the unprecedented health crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The purpose of the virtual event is to develop project work plan and detailed implementation strategies for the first phase of the project implementation. Furthermore, during the meeting the state of the art of the research in the field of soil and water management will be assessed and the selection of nuclear techniques to be used for soil erosion assessment and soil water monitoring in Member States discussed.

The attached Information Sheet provides further details, including technical and administrative aspects of the event. Selection of participants will be in accordance with IAEA procedures. Member States are strongly encouraged to identify suitable women participants.

For participants who indicate their need, the IAEA could provide financial support to contribute to the expenses of their costs for internet connection for the duration of the event in line with IAEA rules and procedures

We would appreciate receiving your country's nominations by **28 January 2022** through the IAEA's InTouch+ platform (<https://Intouchplus.iaea.org>). Should this not be possible, applicants may download the Nomination Form for the event from the [IAEA's webpage](#). Completed forms must be endorsed by the relevant government authority and may be sent to the IAEA, preferably by email to Official Mail - IAEA Mail address Official.Mail@iaea.org, with copy to Ms Ludmila Wiszczor L.Wiszczor@iaea.org. Please be advised that late nominations or replacements of participants after the closing date for nominations will not be accepted.

We look forward to receiving your early response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Wiszczor', written in a cursive style.

Ludmila Wiszczor
Programme Management Officer
Division for Europe
Department of Technical Cooperation

Enclosure: Information Sheet



Virtual Event - Regional Project Coordination Meeting

Hosted by

The International Atomic Energy Agency
IAEA Headquarters

14 to 17 February 2022

Ref. No.: ME-RER5028-2200091

Information Sheet

Purpose

The purpose of the virtual event is to develop project work plan and detailed implementation strategies for the first phase of the project implementation. Furthermore, during the meeting the state of the art of the research in the field of soil and water management will be assessed and the selection of nuclear techniques to be used for soil erosion assessment and soil water monitoring in Member States discussed.

Working Language(s)

The working language(s) of the event will be English.

Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after **28 January 2022** will not be considered.

Project Background

The simultaneous use of advanced nuclear techniques in combination with modern technologies such as UAV, remote sensing, can lead to a better understanding of the consequences of climate change affecting agricultural production as well as may improve and optimize the use of soil and water resources, protect the environment, help generate economic benefits and promote sustainable agriculture, being at the same time resilient to the impact of climate change. The efforts will focus on addressing the increasing occurrence of extreme weather events such as water scarcity and flooding affecting agriculture, through the use of advanced nuclear techniques such as cosmic ray neutron sensing for improving landscape water management, irrigation scheduling and forecasting the onset of drought and flood, gamma ray spectrometer for rapid determination of soil physical properties which are the basis for the most accurate characterization of agricultural land resources and existing water resources.

The proposed project supports the national priorities and needs of all participating Member States in agricultural research and development and is aligned with the European Union strategy set out in the "A European Green Deal" for 2019-2024 which aims to achieve a resilient economy and society to climate-change challenges, protecting and sustainably managing natural resources and ecosystems and ensuring food security, supplies and sustainable uses of raw materials, to meet the needs of a growing global population within the sustainable limits of natural resources.

Scope and Nature

The objectives of this meeting are as follows:

- (i) develop the project work plan and detailed implementation strategies for the first phase of the project;
- (ii) assess the state of the art of the research in the field of soil and water management;
- (iii) discuss the national and regional research activities in order to build human capacities, enhance the laboratory facilities, and support the specific project activities with regards to soil erosion assessment and soil water monitoring;
- (iv) discuss the selection of nuclear techniques to be used for soil erosion assessment and soil water monitoring.

It is expected that every participating country will give a presentation reflecting

- (i) brief characterization of agriculture in a respective country, including basic geographical conditions such as soils and climate;
- (ii) characterization of soil moisture regimes and erosion processes in the country;
- (iii) characterization of land and water management practices, soil conservation programmes, irrigation and precision farming;
- (iv) proposed modifications of a work plan for RER5028, if any.

Furthermore, participants of the meeting are expected to prepare a concise review document (in English) on the above indicated topics in relation to their countries (including a comprehensive and concise reference list of publications on the topic). This document should be submitted before the meeting.

Expected Outputs:

During the meeting following outputs are expected to be reached:

- Overall work plan for the first half of the TC project RER5028 agreed
- Individual country work plans developed on the base of submitted by participants country reports
- List of items to be procured in 2022-2023 proposed

Participation

The regional meeting is open to one/two candidate per TCEU Member State participating in the project.

Participants' Qualifications and Experience

Nominated candidates should be the representatives of the counterpart institutions or/and Project Counterparts to be designated for the TC Project REER5028. They should have educational background in one of following scientific disciplines: earth sciences, life sciences, chemistry, physics or agricultural sciences; and should have experience in research work in soil science or land and water management.

Application Procedure

Candidates wishing to apply for this event should follow the steps below:

1. Access the InTouch+ home page (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) using the candidate's existing Nucleus username and password. If the candidate is not a registered Nucleus user, she/he must create a Nucleus account (<https://websso.iaea.org/IM/UserRegistrationPage.aspx>) before proceeding with the event application process below.
2. On the InTouch + platform, the candidate must:
 - a. Finalize or update her/his personal details, provide sufficient information to establish the required qualifications regarding education, language skills and work experience ('Profile' tab) and upload relevant supporting documents;
 - b. Search for the relevant technical cooperation event (EVT2200091) under the 'My Eligible Events' tab, answer the mandatory questions and lastly submit the application to the required authority.

NOTE: Completed applications need to be approved by the relevant national authority, i.e. the National Liaison Office, and submitted to the IAEA through the established official channels by the provided designation deadline.

For additional support on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help page](#). Any issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be addressed to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Should online application submission not be possible, candidates may download the nomination form for the meeting from the [IAEA website](#).

Administrative and Financial Arrangements

Nominating authorities will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected, and will at that time be informed of the procedure to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants who indicate their need, will receive financial support to contribute to the expenses of their costs for internet connection for the duration of the event in line with IAEA rules and procedures.

Disclaimer of Liability

The organizers of the event do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the course, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in approving his/her participation, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.

IAEA Contacts

Programme Management Officer (responsible for substantive matters):

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