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International Atomic Energy Agency

Agence Internationale de l'énergie atomique

Международное агентство по атомной энергии

Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica

Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100, 1400 Vienna, Austria

Phone: (+43 1) 2600 • Fax: (+43 1) 26007

Email: Official.Mail@iaea.org • Internet: <https://www.iaea.org>

National Liaison Officers /

National Coordinators

In reply please refer to: **ME-RER5024-1907364**

Dial directly to extension: (+43 1) 2600-22419

2021-03-04

Subject: Virtual Event - First Coordination Meeting, from 29 March to 1 April 2021

Dear National Liaison Officer / National Coordinator,

I am pleased to inform you that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is organizing a Virtual Coordination Meeting under the IAEA technical cooperation project RER5024, "Enhancing Productivity and Resilience to Climate Change of Major Food Crops in Europe and Central Asia" 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: (i) present and review activities implemented at the national level, identify gaps and needs; and (ii) establish national workplan of the participated countries to be implemented under the project.

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 **15 March 2021** through the IAEA's InTouch+ platform (<https://Intouchplus.iaea.org>). Should this not be possible, applicants may download the Nomination Form for the course 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,



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

Enclosure: Information Sheet



Virtual Event - First Coordination Meeting

Hosted by

**The International Atomic Energy Agency
IAEA Headquarters**

29 March to 1 April 2021

Ref. No.: ME-RER5024-1907364

Information Sheet

Purpose

The purpose of the virtual event is to: (i) present and review activities implemented at the national level, identify gaps and needs; and (ii) establish national workplan of the participated countries to be implemented under the project.

Working Language

The working language of the event will be **English**.

Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after **15 March 2021** will not be considered.

Project Background

A serious issue facing worldwide efforts to ensure food security for the global population is the climate change that affects agricultural production in Europe and Central Asia. Overcoming the negative impact of drought on plant productivity and developing tolerant genotypes became a strategic goal in agriculture in the region. Drought - a combination of heat and water stress, results from climatic change that increases the percentage of arid, abandoned regions, which were formerly crop lands. This environmental stress factor limits plant growth and crop yield.

In this regard, increasing genetic diversity can play an important role in addressing the challenges arising from unfavourable environmental conditions. Achieving even a slight reduction of the impact of stress factors is particularly important for food security worldwide.

The above-mentioned challenges will be addressed under the regional TC project RER5024 "Enhancing Productivity and Resilience to Climate Change of Major Food Crops in Europe and Central Asia" with support of the FAO/IAEA to increase production of main crops (legumes, cereals and other important food crops) in Europe and Central Asia. Nuclear technology will be used for generating new beneficial mutations followed by mutation breeding to develop improved lines and varieties. Increasing drought and salt tolerance is the target, together with productivity and other traits available.

The overall objective of the TC project RER5024 is to support the production of major food crops with higher yields, improved quality and better resilience to climate change through mutation breeding and combined biotechnologies to contribute to food security in Europe and Central Asia. The expected outcome is the enhanced productivity and resilience to climate change of major food crops in the region.

Scope and Nature

The participants of the virtual meeting shall present on-going national plant mutation breeding work in their Member States. Therefore, each designated project counterpart is expected to prepare and present a PowerPoint presentation and a report (Word document) on the on-going national activities, workplans implemented in relation to the TC project RER5024, difficulties and future needs in his/her country.

The virtual meeting will review and according to identified needs in the participating Member States update the project work plan of the TC project RER5024, agree on activities to be implemented during 2021-2024 and identify host countries for the future events.

Participation

The meeting is open to participating Member States through their designated project counterparts.

Participants' Qualifications and Experience

The participants should be the project counterparts responsible for planning activities carried out within the TC project RER5024 in the respective Member States.

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 (EVT1907364) 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):

Ms Ludmila Wiszczor
Division for Europe
Department of Technical Cooperation
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA
AUSTRIA
Tel.: +43 1 2600 22419
Fax: +43 1 26007
Email: L.Wiszczor@iaea.org

Administrative Contact (responsible for administrative matters):

Ms Ia Beria
Division for Europe
Department of Technical Cooperation
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA
AUSTRIA
Tel.: +43 1 2600 26099
Email: I.Beria@iaea.org