IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency
Atoms for Peace

Virtual Mid-Term Regional Coordination Meeting

Hosted by the

International Atomic Energy Agency

29-30 January 2024

Ref. No.: ME-RER5028-EVT2306863

Information Sheet

Purpose

The purpose of the event is to review the project progress and refine the scope of activities to be implemented in 2024 and 2025.

Working Language(s)

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

Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after **8 January 2024** will not be considered.

Project Background

The unbalanced rainfall distribution has negative effects on vegetation and soil. It causes a drought stress during the dry seasons and excess moisture during the wet periods (rainy seasons and snow melt periods). Neither dry nor waterlogged soils can support appropriate agricultural exploitation of land and the soil moisture management is a major threat of food production. Another on-site and off-site environmental consequences are surface runoff, soil erosion, sediment transport, floods, pollution of water sources and siltation in water reservoirs.

To improve the soil moisture management the more comprehensive soil moisture monitoring is needed. The soil moisture data should be more long lasting and associated with larger territorial extend of the studied area to express the spatial variability of soil moisture. This can be achieved with the aid of new nuclear techniques.

Nuclear and isotopic techniques such as the cosmic ray neutron sensor (CRNS) are useful and effective tools to assess landscape soil water status for irrigation scheduling, and in calibrating and validating remote sensing data for possible drought and flood forecasting. Gamma ray spectrometer (GRS) for monitoring soil water and soil properties mapping at field scale. These maps can be directly applicable for farmers conducting precision farming such as the use of fertilisers, planting distance, irrigation, soil improvement and tillage. The GRS sensor is also useful to pinpoint locations within fields that need treatment when agricultural soils are converted from nutrient-poor soil. Such information when combined with conventional approaches and modern technologies such as UAVs, GIS, Remote Sensing can provide an additional advantage in generating science-based natural resource management recommendations for sustainable agriculture production systems while protecting the environment.

Expected Outputs

The expected outputs of the meeting are:

(1) The project progress is reviewed;
(2) The workplan for 2024 and 2025 is discussed and agreed.

Scope and Nature

The meeting will consist of online presentations by the IAEA on the scope of activities as per workplan, informative discussions on the future workplan, and discussions and /or presentations by participants on their expectations and needs to be addressed in the framework of the project.

Participants' Qualifications and Experience

The participants should be national project counterparts of RER5028 and represent authorities and organisations in charge of agricultural or environmental research.

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. Download and complete the Designation of Beneficiary and Emergency Contact Form, and upload to InTouch+ ('Profile' tab under the personal section) specifying the document name. If already provided, kindly discard this step; and
    c. Search for the relevant technical cooperation event (**EVT2306863**) 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 training course 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.

IAEA Contacts

Programme Management Officer (responsible for substantive matters):

Ms Meng Li
Division for Europe
Department of Technical Cooperation
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA
AUSTRIA
Tel.: +43 1 2600 26442
Fax: +43 1 26007
Email: Me.Li@iaea.org

Administrative Contact (responsible for administrative matters):

Ms Dragana Rainer
Division for Europe
Department of Technical Cooperation
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA
AUSTRIA
Tel.: +43 1 2600 25987
Fax: +43 1 26007
Email: d.rainer@iaea.org

Ms Aida Karabegovic
Division for Europe
Department of Technical Cooperation
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA
AUSTRIA
Tel.: +43 1 2600 26033
Fax: +43 1 26007
Email: a.karabegovic@iaea.org