

## Conduct of Survey on Demand for APRACA Activities

APRACA Secretariat has conducted a survey on 'Demand for diversified APRACA programs' to benefit from the meeting of APRACA member delegates in order to obtain useful data and information in the fields of rural and agricultural finance and policy for establishing activity plans for members. The data collected will also be used for preparing proposals and concept papers for continuing the current collaboration with IFAD and prospective collaboration with other donor/grant agencies including UN Organizations such as FAO and ESCAP, State Grant Organizations such as GIZ, JICA and KOICA and larger APRACA member institutions.

### 1. Methodology of the survey

The survey questionnaire was simply designed to show the field of endeavor or program each institution is interested in and the type of support needed. The Secretariat distributed prepared questionnaires to the participants of the 60<sup>th</sup> APRACA EXCOM meeting held on June 14, 2011 in Tehran, Iran. A total of 13 filled-in questionnaires were collected from the members, one from each EXCOM member attending.

### 2. Results of the survey

Respondents showed greatest interest in three fields : 1)micro-insurance, 2)rural and agricultural lending to small farmers including microfinance, and 3)value chain finance. Micro-insurance received 22 ticks from 9 respondents, while agricultural lending to small farmers and value chain finance both had 20 ticks from 9 respondents respectively. The next three important fields were 4) agricultural lending to medium and small enterprises, 5)risk management, and 6)human resource management, each of which received 17 ticks, 16 ticks and 15 ticks respectively. The other fields including outreach methodologies, savings mobilization, rural finance regulations and policies, and technology in rural finance caught relatively lower interest from respondents, receiving 12 or less ticks respectively.

As for the types of support or methodologies of programs, it was shown that members like the following three items best : 1)exchange through forums (43 ticks), 2)training courses (35 ticks), and 3)field visits (28 ticks). Each type of support mentioned above was favored by 10 members out of 13 members, respectively. The other types of support preferred by members were 4)technical support through pilot testing (17 ticks from 9 members), 5)research and survey (13 ticks from 7 members). On- the- job training (10 ticks) and consultancies (3 ticks) attracted little interests from members . It can be inferred that members want to have more opportunities to share knowledge and experiences on their interested fields through various meetings and training occasions offered by APRACA.

Most favored support types are exchange through forums and training courses for most of the fields in which members are interested. However, field visits were also favored as the support type for the members who are interested in rural and agricultural lending to small farmers and agricultural lending to SMEs.

In summary, we can conclude that APRACA members expect APRACA to provide with more opportunities regarding rural and agricultural lending as well as micro-insurance through diversified forums, training courses and field visits. Since it is also necessary for APRACA members to conduct rural finance including micro-insurance efficiently, programs in the fields of value chain finance and risk management are to be developed through the activities of APRACA. It is envisioned that the next survey will be undertaken during the Regional Forum-Consultation to be held in Bangkok, Thailand on November 2-5, 2011.

### 3. Application of the survey results

The results of survey will be widely utilized in every aspect of APRACA activities from the establishment of annual action plans to the collaboration work with donor/grant organizations. In addition, the Secretariat plans to regularly conduct similar surveys to the one performed this time with the expansion of respondents from the EXCOM members to all APRACA members to secure better and more general information about the members' expectations on APRACA activities.

#### [Survey on preferences for APRACA activities and their implementations]

Classification	Exchange through forums	Training courses	Field visits	On-the-job training	Tech. supports	Consultancies	Research & study	Total
Rural/agri. lending to small farmers	5	4	5	1	2	1	2	20 (9)
Agri. lending to MSEs	3	3	5	2	3	-	1	17 (7)
Value chain finance	7	5	3	1	4	-	-	20 (9)
Outreach methodologies	1	2	1	-	2	1	2	9 (6)
Savings mobilization	4	1	1	1	1	-	2	10 (6)
Micro-insurance	6	5	4	1	3	-	3	22 (9)
Human resource management	5	6	3	1	-	-	-	15 (8)
RF regulations and policies	4	1	2	1	-	-	-	8 (7)
Technology in rural finance	4	3	1	1	1	-	2	12 (7)
Risk management	4	5	3	1	1	1	1	16 (7)
Total	43 (10)	35 (10)	28 (10)	10 (6)	17 (9)	3 (2)	13 (7)	149 (13)

Note) The total in bracket for each row or column is a sum of respondents (members) that ticked one or more boxes in that row or column.