

## **APNAN**

### **Asia-Pacific Natural Agriculture Network**

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### **Founding of APNAN**

The Asia-Pacific Natural Agricultural Network (APNAN) was founded at the First International Nature Farming Conference that was held during October 17-21, 1989 at Khon Kaen, Thailand. A Steering Committee with members of 13 Asian and Pacific countries was established to provide scientific and administrative counsel to APNAN's president and coordinator.

Professor Teruo Higa, a distinguished agricultural scientist at the University of the Ryukyus, Okinawa, Japan and expert on natural farming systems was elected as the founding President of APNAN.

### **Objectives of APNAN**

The purpose or goal of APNAN is to establish an international network of scientists in the Asia-Pacific Region that would promote research and education programs on natural farming practices and technologies. The objectives of APNAN are to:

- 1) Avoid or largely exclude the use of synthetic agricultural chemicals, especially fertilizers and pesticides.
- 2) Enhance environmental quality and protection of the natural resource base.
- 3) Improve the productivity and profitability of small farmers and the long-term sustainability of their farming systems.
- 4) Optimize the use of on-farm resources and minimize the dependence of farmers on purchased inputs, especially fertilizers and pesticides.
- 5) Enhance the safety and nutritional quality of food.

### **Current Workplan**

Currently the APNAN members are conducting research studies to evaluate the reported benefits of effective microorganisms as inoculants in natural farming systems. Specifically, they are studying the effect of these microbial inoculants on the decomposition of organic amendments in soils, nutrient release and cycling, soil properties, and crop growth and yield. While somewhat similar experiments are being conducted for comparative purposes, APNAN members are directing their research toward local agroecological conditions and the specific farming systems of their own countries.

### **Associated Agencies**

The primary nongovernmental agency that supports APNAN is the International Nature Farming Research Center at Atami, Japan which advocates the principles of natural farming and self-reliance. Support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is provided through the service of technical advisors to APNAN.

### **Forthcoming Activities**

The Steering Committee meets every 12 to 18 months in one of the APNAN countries to report and evaluate research results, and priorities.

The Second International Nature Farming Conference will be held in Brazil during October 1991.

Contact: APNAN HEADQUARTERS

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## **Asia-Pacific Natural Agriculture Network APNAN**

We the Founding Members of the Asia-Pacific Natural Agriculture Network (APNAN) hereby commit ourselves , this 21st day of October, 1989, to actively engage in efforts that support the research , development, and implementation of natural agriculture techniques that:

- 1) Lead to the elimination of dependence on synthetic agricultural chemicals;
- 2) Are based on local agroecological conditions;
- 3) Assist small farmers to increase their income; and
- 4) Lead to self-reliance on the part of farmers in a sustainable agriculture system.

Dr. Chaitat Pairintra, Associate Professor, Department of Soil Science, Khon Kaen University, Thailand, was unanimously selected as the Coordinator of APNAN, and Dr. Tahir Hussain, Associate Professor, Department of Soil Science, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan, will serve as co-coordinator.

The headquarters of APNAN shall be at Bangkok, Thailand. There shall be a Steering Committee to plan the activities of the network.

Initial members of the APNAN Steering Committee are as follows:

- 1) Dr. Teruo Higa, The College of Agriculture, Okinawa, Japan, President.
- 2) Dr. Chaitat Pairintra, Khon Kaen University. Khon Kaen. Thailand, Coordinator.
- 3) Dr. Tahir Hussain, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan, Co-coordinator.
- 4) Dr. Har Swarup Singh, Haryana Agricultural University, India.
- 5) Dr. R. Sangakhara, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
- 6) Dr. Shariffuddin, University Pertanian Malaysia, Malaysia.
- 7) Dr. Teodoro Mendoza, University of Philippines at Los Banos, Philippines.
- 8) Dr. Cho Cho Myint, Institute of Agriculture, Myanmar.
- 9) Mr. David Lung-Li Lin, Taiwan Natural Farming Research Center, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 10) Dr. M. S. Wigenasantana, Indonesia.
- 11) Dr. Kyung-Hee Lee, Korea.
- 12) Dr. Tawisuk Santawisuk, Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen, Thailand, Technical Advisor
- 13) Dr. James F. Parr, U.S. Department of Agriculture, USA, Technical Advisor.
- 14) Dr. Sharon B. Hornick, U .S. Department of Agriculture, USA, Technical Advisor.

APNAN shall hold a site visit, tour, and a planning meeting workshop every two years in a member country, as approved by the Steering Committee, to discuss the results from each country and to plan future strategies on natural farming.

The Sekai Kyusei Kyo, an NGO of Japan, shall be requested to finance APNAN activities.

The coordinator will write letters of information containing recommendations of the International Conference on Kyusei Nature Farming as well as an introduction of APNAN to the Federal Ministers of Agriculture of each member country.