Technical Workshop on Remediation of Radioactive Contamination in Agriculture

IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria
Vienna International Centre
Meeting Room C1

17–18 October 2016
Ref. No.: IAEA-DX-TM-53560

Announcement and Call for Speakers
A. Background

There have been few major nuclear accidents that have affected agricultural production in the long term. However, the year 2016 marks the fifth anniversary of the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant (NPP) and the 30th anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl NPP, both of which were classified as major accidents at Level 7, the highest on the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA’s) International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale.

From an agricultural perspective, the impacts of both these major accidents are related to caesium radionuclides, specifically caesium-137, which is a relatively long lived isotope with a half-life of some thirty years. Research and technical efforts to remediate and ameliorate the impact of this radioactivity on agricultural production aim to minimize and prevent the contamination of foods and consumer goods. In doing so, they assist the social and economic recovery of affected rural communities by enabling sustainable production. However, these efforts are not widely appreciated outside of the affected areas.

There is a need to promote and share knowledge and experience related to remediation of radioactive contamination in agriculture. This workshop will be an efficient means of promoting practical remediation activities that have been implemented in the timescale of years and decades after major nuclear accidents. An appreciation of developments in this area will greatly improve emergency preparedness related to food and agricultural production in Member States. It would also support efforts to re-establish agricultural trade from areas currently affected by residual levels of radionuclides from these former NPPs.

This workshop will be hosted by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as “the Joint Division”) in collaboration with Japan’s National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (NARO).

B. Objectives

The purpose of the workshop is to improve understanding of remediation of radioactive contamination among authorities and organizations responsible for food and agriculture, and thereby to facilitate their future policy development and research planning. The workshop has the following specific objectives:

1. To disseminate information on methods for averting and minimizing the impact of radiocaesium on agricultural production in areas affected by radiocaesium from the Fukushima Daiichi and Chernobyl accidents;

2. To highlight and encourage research aimed at the development of technologies that support sustainable agricultural production and rural development after a nuclear accident.
C. Format and Topics

The workshop will have an opening and plenary session (invited speakers) followed by technical sessions and a closing session where conclusions and recommendations for future activities in this area will be considered. A limited number of places are available for participants to give presentations of up to 20 minutes during the technical sessions that will comprise both invited and selected speakers.

Over a two-day period the workshop will comprise the following sessions:

- **Opening and Plenary Sessions**
- **Technical Sessions**
  - 1 Agricultural Land and Water
  - 2. Plant and Crop Products
  - 3. Animals and Animal Feeds
  - 4. Food and Commodities (Post-Harvest)
- **Closing presentations (including socio-economic aspects)**

The IAEA invites participants to provide high quality contributions related to remediation in the technical sessions concerning:

1. Agricultural Land and Water
2. Plant and Crop Products
3. Animals and Animal Feeds
4. Food and Commodities (Post-Harvest)

D. Target Audience

The target audience includes officials responsible for food and agriculture, nuclear safety or emergency planning and response. Professionals and academics involved in the remediation of radioactive contamination are also welcome to participate.

E. Expected Outcomes

The workshop, through reviewing practical experience gained in the remediation of radioactive contamination in agriculture, is expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

- Strengthened understanding of the up-to-date remediation measures that are applicable to food and agriculture after major nuclear and radiological emergencies.
Highlighting of the experience gained in the remediation of radioactive contamination in agriculture, and facilitation of a broader understanding of practical remediation methods.

F. Abstracts and Presentation

Persons who wish to give presentations at the workshop must submit a short abstract related to one of the technical sessions listed under Section C. Presentations of up to 20 minutes are invited and the abstract of 400 words or less should give enough information to enable the Programme Committee to evaluate the proposed presentation. Introductory and general matters should not be included. Accepted abstracts will be reproduced in unedited form in the electronic Compilation of Abstracts which will be distributed to all participants at the workshop.

Speakers who have their abstracts accepted will be expected to submit an extended abstract of a maximum length of three pages in A4 format (including a maximum of two figures, tables or graphs) which will be used in the written report of the workshop.

F.1. Submission of Abstracts

Short abstracts for presentations must be submitted in the space provided on the Participation Form (see Section G; no paper copies). The Participation Form including the abstract must be submitted by 3 June 2016 at the latest. No other form of submission will be accepted.

The abstract should indicate to which of the topics outlined in Section C above the proposed paper relates and should:

- be a maximum of 400 words (including title);
- not include any figure, graph or table;
- not include references; and
- be written within the Participation Form.

Authors must submit the Participation Form through their appropriate governmental authority (see Section G) for transmission to the IAEA. The form must be received by the IAEA (email address for submissions: RRCA2016-apps@iaea.org) no later than 3 June 2016.

F.2. Acceptance of Abstracts for Presentation

The Workshop Secretariat reserves the right to exclude papers that do not comply with its quality standards and that do not apply to one of the topics in Section C above. Authors will be informed by 30 June 2016 as to whether their abstracts have been accepted. The abstracts, if accepted by the Programme Committee, will also be reproduced unedited in the electronic Compilation of Abstracts which will be distributed to all participants at the workshop. Accepted speakers will be expected to also provide an extended abstract of a maximum length of three pages in A4 format (including a maximum of two figures, tables or graphs) to be used in the written report of the workshop.

F.3. Workshop Report

The workshop report will be published by the IAEA as soon as possible after the workshop.
G. Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the workshop are requested to register via email with a completed Participation Form (those who do not wish to submit an abstract for a presentation may leave that section blank). Completed Participation Forms must be sent through your appropriate governmental authority for subsequent electronic transmission to the IAEA (email for submissions: RRCA2016-apps@iaea.org).

A participant will be accepted only if the Participation Form is transmitted through the competent national authority of a Member State of the IAEA or by an organization invited to participate. Participants whose official designations have been received by the IAEA will receive further information approximately three months before the opening of the workshop. This information will also be posted on the workshop web page (see Section P below).

H. Expenditures

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the workshop. The IAEA has limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of invited speakers.

I. Distribution of Documents

A preliminary programme will be posted on the IAEA workshop web page as soon as possible. The final programme and the electronic Compilation of Abstracts will be available free of charge upon registration at the workshop.

K. Working Language

The working language of the workshop will be English. All communications and papers must be sent to the IAEA in English.

L. Venue and Accommodation

The workshop will be held at the IAEA’s Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Hotels which are offering a reduced rate for workshop participants will be listed on the workshop web page (see Section P below). Please note that
the IAEA is not in a position to assist participants with hotel bookings, nor can the IAEA assume responsibility for paying cancellation fees or for re-booking and no shows.

M. Visas

Designated participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from a designated consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

N. Key Deadlines

- Deadline for submission of Participation Form (with or without an abstract): 3 June 2016
- Final confirmation will be sent to speakers by 30 June 2016.

O. Workshop Secretariat

To contact the Workshop Secretariat, please send an email to: RRCA2016@iaea.org

P. Workshop Web Page

Please visit the following web page regularly for new information regarding this workshop: