



**27<sup>th</sup> ASIA-PACIFIC LEGAL  
METROLOGY FORUM  
ONLINE MEETINGS  
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## Working Group Report - 2020

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# *Working Group on Quality Measurement of Agricultural Products (QMAP)*

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## SECTION 1 – Details of the membership of the Working Group

### 1.1 Brief history

In 1996, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum Meeting proposed establishment of a new WG to study rice moisture meters with a coordinator of Australia. In 1997, it was re-established as a WG on Rice Moisture Meters. In 2001, Mr. Issei Akamastu of NMIJ (National Metrology Institute of Japan in AIST) took the chair, then Mr. Hiroshi Kitano (2005-2007) and Dr. Tsuyoshi Matsumoto (after 2007) took over the chair. In 2007, the name of WG was changed as present to cover a wide range of grains. A private company in Japan has supported the chair since its establishment.

This WG has conducted eleven training courses on traceability in rice moisture measurement and three workshops on agricultural measurement since 2001. We have done the following courses:

In 2001-2005: Mr. Akamatsu conducted 5 courses on rice moisture.

In 2007-2009: Dr. Matsumoto conducted 3 workshops on agricultural measurement.

In 2012-2018: Dr. Matsumoto conducted 5 courses on rice moisture including a small course in Bangkok in July 2018.

In Dec. 2018: Mr. Surachai conducted a course on rice moisture.

More than 330 participants attended these events. In the recent eight years, four large training courses were conducted in Indonesia (May 2012), Thailand (November 2013), Cambodia (November 2015), Malaysia (July 2017) and Thailand (December 2018).

The training courses/workshops until 2009 were supported by the fund of APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation). The two training courses in 2012-2013 were supported by the host economies. The courses after 2015 were supported by MEDEA (Metrology: Enabling Developing Economies within Asia) project.

\* **'Grains'** is used to indicate any target products in general. The WG selected **rice** as a narrower target because Japan, which took the WG chair for the first time, had sufficient knowledge/experiences on rice. The WG considers, however, that WG should cover any kinds of grain, which are produced/traded in the APLMF region.

## **1.2 Membership**

Although there is no explicit membership in this WG, its intended members are the national authorities in legal metrology and/or scientific metrology in the member economies which are producing grains. Membership of this WG presently consist of the six economies: Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. These economies participated in the former training courses.

## **SECTION 2 – Key activities of 2019/20**

### **2.1 Covid 19 pandemic impact to communications among WG members**

Workplaces all over the world were disrupted suddenly as the virus spread. Many workers who had never worked remotely before were suddenly working from home and had to adapt to a new way of work. An Online meeting is commonly used using platform such as Zoom is used to replace a face-to-face meeting. However, the challenge is to get all members connected through the online meeting. Since March 2020, three virtual WG meetings have been done to discuss on the test procedure for in-service moisture meters using meter-to-meter comparison. Three group members from Thailand, Malaysia and Japan joined these meetings.

### **2.2 Development of Test Procedure for In-Service Rice Moisture Meters using Meter-to-Meter Comparison Method**

A test procedure for verifying in-service rice moisture meters was developed in the former training courses and it was mentioned briefly in the APLMF Guide 6: Guide Document on Rice Moisture Measurement (2017). This procedure describes the test method for the verifications and in-service inspections of rice moisture meters using the Meter-to-Meter Comparison Method both in the laboratories and at the places where moisture meters are used for trade. It also mentions how to apply the associated MPEs in verification of in-service moisture meters. In order to establish a common procedure in APLMF, the WG provided a draft test procedure through the online WG meetings. This procedure will be an annex of the Guide 6.

## SECTION 3 – Future focus - Recommendations

In the last 26th APLMF meeting in Vietnam, during the WG workshop, we have discussed the WG action plan for the period from 2020 to 2023. The plan is as shown below:

### WG QMAP Action Plan 2020-2023

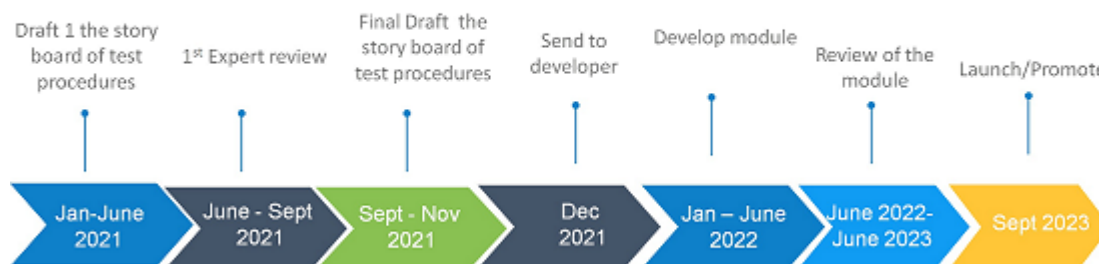


### REVIEW OF GUIDE DOCUMENT AND TEST PROCEDURE TIMELINE (2020)

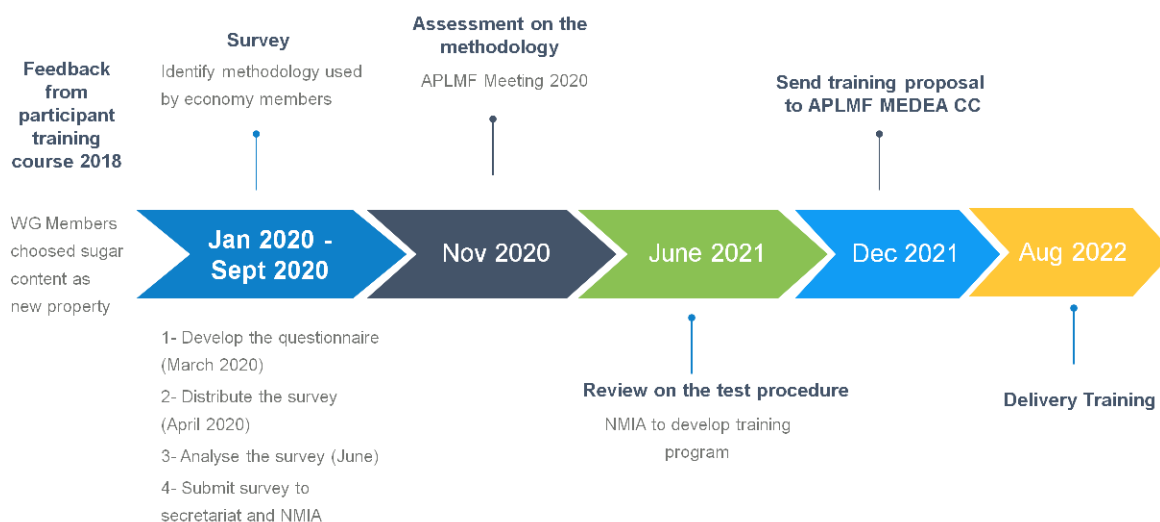


There is a delay in the review of APLMF Guide 6, Guide on Rice moisture measurement. The review is expected to be completed in the middle of year 2021.

### RICE MOISTURE E-LEARNING TIMELINE (2021-2023)



### SUGAR CONTENT TRAINING TIMELINE (2022)



## **SECTION 4 – Future focus – emerging issues**

### **4.1. Transfer of the WG chair.**

Mr. Surachai Sungzikaw of Thailand has been the WG chair since the 24<sup>th</sup> forum meeting in October 2017. At this forum meeting, it was agreed that Thailand took the WG chair for the term of three years and then being transferred to Malaysia at the end of 2020.

### **4.2. Future plans of the WG**

The QMAP has action plan 2020-2023 to carry out three activities, development of e-learning module, sugar content training and launch of the rice moisture e-learning module. The WG should be maintained and look for more members to be a real group of experts to run these activities to succeed.

### **4.3. WG meeting (resourcing/risks/proposed solutions).**

Online meeting is now being used by many small, medium and large companies to conduct internal meetings with employees who are not physically all in one location. It is also suitable for the WG to use it to conduct meetings because a WG member is the representative of each economy, and it is not easy to conduct a meeting physically all together in one location. Online meetings held any time can benefit WG's activities by saving time and cost for holding physical meetings. In the future, the WG can hold small meetings to follow the progress of activities or discuss any issues when necessary. It will support WG to run activities efficiently.

Other emerging issues, including special remarks on grain moisture measurement, synergy among the stakeholders, cooperation with the private sectors and IT technologies supporting training course, should also be taken into consideration as mentioned in the Working Group Reports – 2017, 2018 and 2019.