

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

Workshop Report

Regional Workshop on Mechanisms for Technical Cooperation on Green Innovation

19 October 2022

Tashkent, Uzbekistan and Online

A. Summary of discussions

1. The Regional Workshop brought together 137 experts and participants from 15 UN Member States (namely Cambodia, China, India, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Türkiye and Uzbekistan). They included policymakers, Government officials, representatives from technology and innovation centers, universities, educational institutions, research and development institutions, innovators, and the private sector.
2. The deliberations during the Regional Workshop covered the following topics: enabling mechanisms for technical cooperation to foster green innovation; and strategies to adopt new and emerging mechanisms for technical cooperation on green innovation.
3. It was highlighted that many green innovations or new technologies, which aim at reducing environmental and climate change risks while enhancing cost-effectiveness, are increasingly playing a vital role in responding to the global challenges.
4. The importance of green innovations in bringing significant opportunities for businesses was often underscored. There are several ideas that modern businesses and enterprises can use to shift from conventional ways of thinking and doing business to green innovation approaches. Sustainability has gained significance among the customers and the market. By emphasizing the environmental benefits of the products or services, companies are incorporating green innovation as a permanent factor driving their businesses.
5. The workshop discussed existing and emerging mechanisms to promote green innovations. These include technology transfer, co-innovation, involvement of private sector and public-private partnerships. Collaborative efforts are required to harmonize intellectual property (IP) policies to create an enabling environment

for cross-border technology transfer and to advance collective economic competitiveness. Regional collaboration and partnerships are urgently required to ensure that no one and no country in the Asia-Pacific region is left behind.

6. Governments in Central Asia are pursuing green economy to promote green innovation; circular economy to minimise waste and build resilient cities; promoting low carbon environment friendly transportation; and technologies to improve living standards.
7. Policies are important to accelerate green innovation. These may include providing IP protection for cleaner technology developers, and capacity building and skills development in green technology development, installation and trouble shooting.
8. The workshop highlighted financial measures to promote green innovation. These include tariffs and incentives for green technologies, regulations and standards, impetus for circular economy, funding for R&D infrastructure set up.
9. Information dissemination and awareness creation were mentioned as tools to lead behavioural change and support green innovation. These include availability of data, analysis, and transparency; capacity building and international cooperation.
10. It was mentioned that grassroots innovations offer advantages over existing alternatives and are inclusive solutions to solve perennial problems. They are socially responsible and have a value oriented (green) approach to sustainability. Many grassroot innovations and technologies are improving the livelihoods and helping in skill development of communities in areas of engineering, agriculture, veterinary science and human health.
11. South Asian countries have outperformed in green innovation systems by efficiently converting inputs vis-à-vis R&D, researchers and IP into high tech exports, trademark and patent applications.
12. Private sector engagement approaches need to promote not only supplying technology innovations but also a business model for climate protection/sustainable development, by understanding the market demands. Private sector role needs to go beyond the low hanging fruits in innovations (such as renewable energy and energy efficiency) and target a range of complex issues such as low carbon economy and circular economy by building appropriate incentive systems and integrated approaches.

13. It was highlighted that Germany is taking several initiatives to reach its 2030 climate targets through green innovations. Some of the proposed areas of cooperation with countries on green innovation were mentioned as health economy, agriculture, renewables, transport and logistics.
14. The workshop mentioned some of the green banking and eco-friendly business initiatives in Uzbekistan. These include development of green financial products and instruments for corporate and retail business and SMEs. It also includes formation of a green loan portfolio.
15. An example of Agrarian Green Innovation center in Azerbaijan was shared. The center is promoting and encouraging innovation, innovative technology transfer and innovative pilot projects. Some of the examples of green innovation in agriculture being implemented are use of smart greenhouses of the fourth and fifth generations; use of drones in agriculture and use of Electronic Agriculture Information System (EAIS).

General/Policy Recommendations

1. The workshop underscored the need for strengthening collaborations, networks and partnerships to increase awareness of policymakers and to promote low cost, inclusive green innovation.
2. Financing is the key aspect to achieve green innovation. It was emphasized that scaling-up of financing is imperative to achieve green innovation.
3. Promoting enabling policies including intellectual property protection to accelerate green innovation is required.
4. It is important to identify successful business models for promoting green innovation by understanding the market demands.
5. Defining measurable metrics for the collaborative partnerships would be useful determinant for the success of cooperation.