

Proposed Work Plan for 2018 High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB)

I. INTRODUCTION

In 2018, the Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB) will conduct a sequence of activities that aim to respond to APEC Leaders' Declarations, Ministerial and High-Level statements, decisions of Senior Officials, as well as SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) priorities and, where appropriate, APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) recommendations. The HLPDAB will continue to implement the Niigata Declaration on APEC Food Security (2010), the Kazan Declaration on APEC Food Security (2012), the Beijing Declaration on APEC Food Security (2014), the Piura Declaration on APEC Food Security (2016), and the Can Tho Statement on Enhancing Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture in Response to Climate Change (2017).

The APEC 2018 priority areas for food security falls under "*Promoting sustainable agriculture and inclusive growth*" as one of the 3 priorities under the overall APEC PNG 2018 theme of "*Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future*". The HLPDAB work for 2018 will contribute towards enhancing food security through smart innovative agriculture as the 2018 PPFs theme that is aligned to the over-arching 2018 APEC PNG theme

The proposed activities to be taken sit within the framework of the HLPDAB Strategic Plan (2017-2019) and policy makers will use the Policy Dialogue to achieve its goals and objectives of:

- i. Establishment and maintenance of mechanisms to ensure continued information exchange on economies' experience with agricultural biotechnology and other innovative agricultural technologies as a tool to increase agricultural productivity, raise farm income, protect the environment, strengthen food security and militate against the impact of climate change.
- ii. Promote transparent, science-based and functioning regulatory systems to support the development, application and trade of innovative agricultural technologies and biotechnologies for the benefit of APEC member economies.
- iii. Facilitate the management of regulatory differences by endeavoring to develop solutions to global challenges with respect to innovative agricultural technologies, including trade-related issues while building upon the work of international fora and existing international standards.
- iv. Support outreach and capacity building activities to help achieve the above objectives.

II. EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND DELIVERABLES FOR 2018

1. Meetings

1.1. Annual HLPDAB Meeting

HLPDAB will hold one Annual Plenary Meeting (HLPDAB 17) in August in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea during the APEC Food Security Week, 04-10 August 2018.

1.2. Joint fora session during Food Security Week

HLPDAB Economy Members will use this opportunity to discuss areas of collaboration and engagement with complimentary fora - Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS), Agriculture Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) and Ocean Fisheries Working Group (OFWG). The goal will be to identify cross cutting issues and coordinate them across fora.

2. APEC HLPDAB Activities

2.1 Regulations of Products Derived from Innovative Agricultural Technologies: Baseline Review of APEC Member Economies (United States, Philippines, Canada and Peru co-sponsored Concept Note)

This project hires a consultant to conduct the Update of the APEC Baseline Study: *Regulations of Products Derived from Innovative Agricultural Technologies* and Identification of Ways to Promote Greater Efficiencies and Alignment, HLPDAB 2017 T. This project begins in November 2017 and will be completed by September 2018.

2.2 Two-part Workshop: (i) Innovations in Plant Breeding: Leveraging Innovation for Economic Development through Enabling Policy Environments and (ii) Practical Implementation of the HLPDAB 2017 T Update of the APEC Baseline Study: *Regulations of Products Derived from Innovative Agricultural Technologies* and Identification of Ways to Promote Greater Efficiencies and Alignment, 01-03 August 2018, Brisbane Australia

This will be a three day workshop targeted toward APEC economies' policy makers and regulators. The first part involves facilitating the understanding of new agricultural and plant breeding techniques. The second part involves sharing consultant tools with economies with a view to increase regulatory efficiency and harmonization.

2.3 Terms of Reference, Strategic Plan, Work Plan and Achievements:

The APEC Secretariat and member economies will work together to update APEC HLPDAB website to keep current with the forum itself as well as advances in agricultural biotechnology.

The 2018 annual meeting, the hiring of the consultant and the workshop are in line with the implementation of the tasks set out for the HLPDAB according to the objectives of the HLPDAB Strategic Plan (2017-2019), and aims to build capacity for all economies and improves the ability of APEC Economies to communicate effectively on related issues.

These information exchanges will include improving production methods, practical resource sharing, and working solutions to many current regulatory challenges. The information shared will benefit both large and small-holder farmers.

3. HLPDAB forecast for 2018.

<u>Expected Outcomes</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Draft 2018 HLPDAB Work Plan	April 2018
Promotion of transparent, science-based and functional regulations to advance science and agricultural innovation in the global trade context.	Ongoing
Facilitate the understanding of new agricultural and plant breeding techniques.	August 1-3
Exchanging information on economies' experience with agricultural biotechnology and other innovative agricultural technologies.	August 1-10
Consultant tools to increase regulatory efficiency and harmonization are shared with economy members.	August 1-3
Economy members share the consultant tools to increase regulatory efficiency and harmonization with regulators and policymakers who did not attend the workshop.	August 15 - December 15
Enhancing the coordinated actions among HLPDAB members to develop and prioritize HLPDAB project submissions	August 4-10
Determine next actions	October
Facilitate collaboration across APEC sub-fora on food security issues	Ongoing
Contribution to enhancement of the scientific knowledge of APEC economy regulators and policy makers	Ongoing
Engagement of ABAC, private sector, and other relevant non-members to promote the work of HLPDAB, as appropriate	August 1-10
Formulation of HLPDAB inputs for the APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security 2018	August 15

Title	Summary of Specific Plans	Mandate (Leaders/Ministers/SOM/SCE Priorities and Decisions, Strategic Plans and to ABAC recommendations)	ECOTECH Priorities and/or Host Year Priorities	Cross-fora collaboration (within APEC and beyond APEC)
<i>Agricultural Technologies and Identification of Ways to Promote Greater Efficiencies and Alignment, (HLPDAB 2017 T), November 2017 to September 2018</i>	international fora and existing international standards to promote greater alignment of national standards with relevant international standards among APEC economies and build public confidence in those systems. [January 2018 - August 2018]	Can Tho recommendations 2017		
Workshop Part 1 : Innovations in Plant Breeding: Leveraging Innovation for Economic Development through Enabling Policy Environments, Brisbane, Australia, 01-03 August	The workshop will begin with introductions to recent innovations in plant breeding, such as genome editing tools; and include an overview of the state of science and product development in order to facilitate the understanding of new agricultural and plant breeding techniques. Economies will be invited to share any ongoing domestic discussions regarding innovative plant breeding developments, as well as policy and regulatory discussions. Sessions will be dedicated to topics such as possible policy convergence, potential regulatory divergence, economic and trade implications, and communication strategies to increase public awareness and acceptance.	<i>Outreach and Capacity Building to Support the APEC Innovative Agricultural Technologies Initiative</i> HLPDAB Strategic Plan 2017-2019	2018 priorities: Regional Economic Integration	Codex Alimentarius
Workshop Part 2: Practical Implementation of the HLPDAB 2017 T Update of the APEC Baseline Study: <i>Regulations of Products Derived from Innovative Agricultural Technologies and Identification of Ways to Promote Greater Efficiencies and Alignment, Brisbane, Australia, 01-03 August</i>	The second part of the workshop will be an implementation of the HLPDAB 2017 T. Hired consultant would report on tools and best practices and work with the forum to incorporate the suggestions into a road map or work plan to increase regulatory efficiency and harmonization	Osaka Action Agenda HLPDAB agreement, Piura, Peru, 2016 Can Tho recommendations 2017 HLPDAB Strategic Plan 2017-2019	2018 priorities: Regional Economic Integration	Codex Alimentarius