



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2013/SOM3/HLPDAB-ATCWG/007

Agenda Item: 2

HLPDAB Workplan 2013-2015

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: HLPDAB



**Joint Session of the High Level Policy
Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology
and the Agricultural Technical Cooperation
Working Group
Medan, Indonesia
28 June 2013**

DRAFT
APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology
DIALOGUE WORK PLAN
2013 – 2015

RATIONALE:

The High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (the Policy Dialogue) reports directly to the APEC Senior Officials. Accordingly, the Policy Dialogue needs Senior Official approval of a Work Plan. Senior Officials have previously approved three Work Plans [2004-2006, 2007-2009, 2010-2012]. This new Work Plan for 2013-2015 is submitted to Senior Officials for their review and approval.

The Policy Dialogue has noted its achievements against the goals set forth in the 2010-2012 Work Plan. The Policy Dialogue has also recognized the changes in agriculture's operating environment deserve its attention. The 2013-2015 Work Plan seeks to address these issues, in light of the goals set forth when the Policy Dialogue was created.

BACKGROUND:

At its inception in 2001, APEC Senior Officials affirmed the benefits of biotechnology and called for the establishment of a High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology. The purpose of the Policy Dialogue is for policy makers in APEC's 21-member economies to exchange information and promote public policy development to support the responsible use and informed adoption of agricultural biotechnology as one tool to increase agricultural productivity, protect the environment, and promote food security.

The Policy Dialogue has come to be recognized as the premiere forum for information exchange and sharing of experiences related to the use of biotechnology in agriculture in the APEC region. Trade ministers from the APEC economies have issued repeated statements of support for the work ongoing in the Policy Dialogue. As APEC economies incorporate biotechnology into their agricultural sectors, the Policy Dialogue will continue to serve as an important forum for these economies to share information, to exchange experiences and also to identify and begin to address common challenges associated with the responsible adoption and informed use of agricultural biotechnology, for interested APEC economies.

The Policy Dialogue continues to play a key role in addressing the issue of food security as well as food safety. The Policy Dialogue's 3-year work plans provide policy makers a long-term forum in which to encourage agricultural biotechnology policy initiatives that will foster growth of APEC economies' agricultural sectors. Policy makers have successfully used the Policy Dialogue to develop tools to increase agricultural productivity, protect the environment, promote food security and farmers welfare; including through work on: regulatory frameworks; technology transfer; and investment and programs to strengthen public confidence regarding biotechnology.

With growing demand for food crops and changing patterns of consumption, and with climatic changes and increasing new demands on limited resources increasing pressure on the food supply, the Policy Dialogue must renew its commitment to serve as the APEC region's premier forum for policy makers to exchange information related to the use of biotechnology in agriculture and promote public policy development to support the responsible use of agricultural biotechnology.

OBJECTIVE:

The Policy Dialogue, in its 2010-2012 Work Plan, set out several goals designed to promote greater understanding and regulatory harmonization of agricultural biotechnology. These goals included holding regular annual meetings, carrying out activities targeting specific issues related to agricultural biotechnology and developing tools to assist APEC economies create, implement and communicate transparent, science-based biotechnology policies. The Policy Dialogue largely achieved all of these goals and, in doing so, identified emerging and related issues that build on these achievements and are in line with the Policy Dialogue's overall objectives.

In the period from 2013-2015, the Policy Dialogue proposes to continue advancing policy discussion and efforts in the areas of 1) Regulatory harmonization; and 2) Technical approaches to global challenges.

1) REGULATORY HARMONIZATION

The Policy Dialogue is well positioned to assist economies in developing transparent regulatory systems that ensure farmers welfare and promote public confidence in those systems.

Objectives:

- The Policy Dialogue will promote transparent and functioning regulatory systems to facilitate investment in the development, application and transfer of innovative biotechnologies for the benefit of farmers as well as regional food security.
- The Policy Dialogue will build upon the work of international fora, to promote regulatory harmonization among APEC Economies and public confidence in those systems.

Activities/Deliverables:

The Policy Dialogue will:

- Share information exchange in any areas related to agricultural biotechnology
- Promote understanding of and participation in regulatory systems to build public confidence in regulatory systems and decisions.
- Share information and experiences establishing transparent and functioning regulatory systems in order to promote consistency in regulatory systems and to facilitate trade.
- Put more emphasis on farmers welfare as a consideration in transferring innovative technology

2) TECHNICAL APPROACHES TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES

As global food supplies tighten, more emphasis will be placed on increasing the quantity and quality of food production. New biotechnology products are being developed that can help to address the challenges of increasing food production and making food production systems more resilient. The Policy Dialogue can serve as a forum to assist economies develop strategies for dealing with the new food and energy demand and environmental challenges.

Objectives:

- The policy dialogue will provide opportunities for member economies to co-develop and transfer technology, sharing of information and experiences in the application of biotechnology with linkages with other APEC Fora related to food security.

Activities/Deliverables:

The Policy Dialogue will:

- Identify applications of agricultural biotechnology that meet the new environmental, and food and energy demand challenges.
- Promote development of mechanisms for collaboration and sharing of information and experiences among member economies to address common challenges.
- Develop Platform for Co-Development and Transfer of Appropriate Innovative Technology to benefit small scale farmers
- Strengthen the linkage between policy dialogue with other APEC fora for food security (ATCWG and PPFS)



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WORKPLAN 2013 – 2015 High Level Policy Dialogue in Agricultural Biotechnology

Medan June 28th, 2013



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WORK PLAN 2013 – 2015

- This new Work Plan for 2013-2015 is submitted to Senior Officials for their review and approval;
- **Objective** is to advance policy discussions and efforts in the areas of regulatory harmonization of agricultural biotechnology and technical approaches



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Regulatory Harmonization

- **Objectives:**
 - promote transparent and functioning regulatory systems, and harmonization among APEC Economies, and public confidence.
- **Activities/Deliverable:**
 - Share information exchange in agricultural biotechnology
 - Promote understanding of and participation in regulatory systems
 - Share information and experiences establishing transparent and functioning regulatory systems.
 - Put more emphasis on farmers welfare as a consideration in transferring innovative technology
 - Address the issue of low level presence and work together to identify global solutions.



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Technical Approach to Global Challenges

- **Objectives :** to co-develop and transfer technology, sharing of information and experiences in the application of biotechnology.
- **Activities/Deliverable :**
 - Identify applications of agricultural biotechnology.
 - Promote development of mechanisms for collaboration and sharing of information and experiences.
 - Develop Platform for Co-Development and Transfer of Appropriate Innovative Technology
 - Strengthen the linkage between policy dialogue with other APEC fora for food security (ATCWG and PPFS)



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The HLPDAB Work Plan at 2013

- Objectives:
 - promote transparent and functioning regulatory systems.
 - promote regulatory harmonization among APEC Economies and public confidence in those systems.
 - provide opportunities to co-develop and transfer technology, sharing of information and experiences in the application of biotechnology.



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The HLPDAB Work Plan at 2013

- Activities/Deliverable
 - Annual HLPDAB meeting on facilitating development and application of Agro biotechnology for farmer welfare and sustainable food security
 - Enhance linkages with other APEC Fora related to food security to undertake capacity building efforts in agriculture biotechnology
 - Develop Platform for Co-Development and Transfer of Appropriate Innovative Technology to benefit small scale farmers



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Thank You