

13th APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology
September 16, 2014
Beijing, China

Executive Summary

1. The 13th plenary meeting of the APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB) was held on September 16, 2014 in Beijing, China. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Yunbo Luo, Dean of College of Food Science and Nutritional Engineering, China Agricultural University. 12 Economies attended the meeting.
2. The HLPDAB reviewed the proposed HLPDAB Work plan for 2014-2015 to advance the goals of:
 - Establishment and maintenance of mechanisms to ensure continued information exchange on economies' experience with agricultural biotechnology.
 - Promote transparent, science-based and functioning regulatory systems and the development, application and trade of innovative biotechnologies for the benefit of APEC member economies.
 - Endeavor to develop solutions to global challenges with respect to innovative agricultural biotechnology.
3. The HLPDAB discussed and reviewed the proposed HLPDAB Terms of Reference. As for the third point of "*Goals and Objectives*", The United States proposed to revise the statement "to promote regulatory harmonization among APEC economies" to be "to promote greater alignment of national standards with relevant international standards among APEC economies". Chile and Indonesia proposed the word "harmonization" should be included. China proposed to revise the "national standards" in the US comments into "economy standards", and suggested all the international standards to follow a case-by-case principle. As for the last point of the undertaken work for Policy Dialogue: "The Policy Dialogue will establish both short-term (annual) and medium-term (three – five year) work plans to support HLPDAB and APEC objectives", The United States proposed to revise the statement to be "The Policy Dialogue will establish one or more work plans of up to three years to support HLPDAB and APEC objectives". About the second point of the "Structure and Membership", US suggested to add a new point: HLPDAB will have a deputy chair who will rotate annually to the host economy that holds the APEC meeting the following year. Representatives from another APEC economy, with consensus of the HLPDAB, can serve as Deputy Chair.
4. The HLPDAB discussed and reviewed the Regulations of Products Derived from Innovative Agricultural Technologies: Baseline Review of APEC Member Economies.
5. Presentations and discussions at the meeting focused on the following areas:
 - Upshots from the Plant Biotechnology Life Cycle Workshop by US delegate
The economies shared successful experience and common issues regarding the development of agricultural biotechnology. The participants also recognized the important role of seed industry.
 - Upcoming activities: Active Concept Notes including the United States Sponsored Technical Training (The Philippines, Summer 2015)
Philippines stated that the next APEC HLPDAB to be held in Manila in 2015 will include topics of new breeding technologies such as RNAi technology, risk communication etc. Philippines will stay close with the US for the further preparation of the venue and logistics of the event. Russia stated that a comprehensive introduction to a science and technology center will be established in 2030. This center will cover multiple aspects of agriculture and education. Indonesia expressed their will to share experience in agricultural biotechnology with Philippines as a neighbor economy. China acknowledged the important role of biotechnology in protecting food security under global climate change, called for more focus on public

education and social media communication and suggested to find a balance between promoting industry and regulations in the next HLPDAB.

- Next steps for the HLPDAB – assigning roles and responsibilities
The United States suggested Peru to be the first Deputy Chair of the next HLPDAB. Since Peru representatives are absent at the meeting, the delegates suggested the Secretariat to communicate with Peru.