



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2018/SOM1/SCE/009

Agenda Item: 5.2

Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group Updated Terms of Reference

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: ATCWG Lead Shepherd



**First SOM Steering Committee on
Economic and Technical Cooperation
Meeting
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
6 March 2018**

**ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION WORKING GROUP**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Article 1 Establishment of the APEC Working Group on Agricultural Technical Cooperation (ATCWG)

The previous APEC Experts Meeting on ATC was established as an Experts Group on Agricultural Technical Cooperation in November 1996. The Group was renamed to the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group in November 2000.

Article 2 Objectives

The ATCWG will serve as a forum for member economies to enhance the capacity of agriculture and its related industries to contribute to economic growth, food security and social well-being in the region.

Article 3 Principles of Cooperation

The activities of the ATCWG will accord with the principles and essential elements of Economic and Technical Cooperation set out in Part II of the Osaka Action Agenda (updated in 2001) and with any subsequent directions from APEC Economic Leaders, Ministers and Senior Officials. These activities will:

- Be based on the principles of mutual respect and equality, mutual benefit and assistance, constructive and genuine partnership and consensus building;
- Develop an environment favourable to the effective operation of market mechanisms and integrate into the cooperation process the business/private sector and other pertinent institutions where possible;
- Integrate environmental considerations in all relevant activities, and take into account the essential elements of Common Policy Concepts, Joint Activities and Policy Dialogue, while respecting the autonomy of each APEC economy over its policies.

In addition, agricultural technical cooperation will:

- Pay due consideration to the diversity of agricultural sectors in the region;
- Recognize the rapid changes occurring in the agricultural sectors in the region; and
- Avoid duplication with, and add value to, other APEC activities, and activities undertaken by international agencies and regional fora.

Article 4 Scope of Activity

- 4.1 The ATCWG will carry out its activities consistent with the vision statement and action plans incorporated in the Osaka Action Agenda and any subsequent directions, including those identified in the Ministerial Meetings on Food Security in Niigata (2010), Kazan (2012), Beijing (2014), Piura (2016), and those to be identified in subsequent Ministerial Meetings.
- 4.2 The ATCWG will concentrate in its future work on developing a dialogue and implementing agreed action programs on economic and technical cooperation along the chain of agriculture and food production, processing, marketing and distribution with special emphasis on opportunities for agricultural technical cooperation.
- 4.3 The work of the ATCWG shall proceed in parallel with, and complement the work of other APEC groups.
- 4.4 Agricultural Technical Cooperation will focus on, but not be limited to, the following areas of activities:
- Promote activities and regional cooperation to strengthen food security in the APEC region, such as through the reduction of food losses.
 - Conservation and Utilization of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources.
 - Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology.
 - Production, Processing, Marketing, Distribution and Consumption of Agricultural Products.
 - Sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS), Integrated pest management (IPM), Biosecurity, Biodiversity, and control of invasive alien species (AIS).
 - Cooperative Development of Agricultural Finance System.
 - Sustainable Agriculture and Related Environmental Issues, including climate change adaptation and mitigation.
 - Agricultural investments and trade facilitation.
- 4.5 Above mentioned areas of activities will be reviewed annually against their objectives.
- 4.6 Where appropriate, the ATCWG will liaise with the business sector and relevant regional and international bodies to ensure that its work is relevant, practical and focused and to avoid duplication.

Article 5 Structure of the Group

- 5.1 The ATCWG will be composed of officials and experts from universities, public and private sectors. There shall be a rotation of the Lead Shepherd every two years.
- 5.2 The ATCWG will have a Lead Shepherd and a Deputy Lead Shepherd for ATCWG, which is appointed by consensus within the Group.
- 5.3 The ATCWG will meet at least annually, with meetings arranged in such a way which minimizes resource costs and maximizes member participation.
- 5.4 The ATCWG may establish special task forces with strictly defined terms of reference and duration.
- 5.5 The ATCWG will focus on project implementation in order to enhance APEC cooperation. ATCWG will make efforts to achieve the better understanding of the procedures for projects application and increase the success of projects approval.
- 5.6 The ATCWG will undergo standardized fora assessment periodically in accordance with the Fora Assessment Schedule endorsed by the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE).
- 5.7 The Terms of Reference (ToR) as well as other aspects of ATCWG operations will be reviewed periodically, particularly if there is a change in situation, with a view to modification or amendment.
- 5.8 The ATCWG will report annually through the SCE Fora Report or as requested by Senior Officials.

Article 6 Quorum

Quorum for ATCWG's Meetings constitutes attendees from 14 economies. Should the ATCWG fail to meet quorum for two consecutive meetings, it shall be referred to Senior Officials for a decision on whether it should continue to exist as is or in a modified form (such as, with changed responsibilities or merged with a relevant sub-fora).

Article 7 Sunset Clause

- 7.1 The ATCWG has a term of four years starting from 2018. At the expiration of this and any subsequent term, the mandate of ATCWG and its ToR shall be reviewed by ATCWG and SCE, and a recommendation on renewal put to Senior Officials' for approval
- 7.2 In the event that ATCWG is due to dissolve, the APEC Secretariat will help to facilitate discussions with other relevant sub-fora on the potential to merge or transfer responsibilities.

End