



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2016/HLPDAB/006

Agenda Item: 7

HLPDAB Work Plan

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: HLPDAB Chair



**High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural
Biotechnology
Piura, Peru
20-21 September 2016**

Proposed Work Plan for 2016

High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB)

1. Proposed Work Plan for 2016 in Response to Leaders/Ministers/SOM/SCE Priorities and Decisions.

In 2016, the High Level 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 Nigata Declaration on APEC Food Security (2010), the Kazan Declaration on APEC Food Security (2012), and the Beijing Declaration on APEC Food Security (2014).

The proposed activities to be taken sit within the framework of the HLPDAB Strategic Plan (2016-2018), which focuses on three priority areas:

- (1) Administration of innovative and emerging agricultural biotechnology tools as part of the solution to global challenges
- (2) Management of the differences in agricultural biotechnology regulatory system
- (3) Enhancement of public perception and understanding of agricultural biotechnology

1.1 Annual HLPDAB Meeting

HLPDAB will hold one Annual Plenary Meeting (HLPDAB 15) in September in Piura, Peru during the APEC Food Security Week to continue addressing its mandate to develop regulatory frameworks, facilitate technology transfer, encourage investment and strengthen public confidence regarding biotechnology in order to increase agricultural productivity and protect the environment, with the ultimate objective of promoting food security.

The annual meeting will continue building relationships among APEC members while exchanging information regarding the responsible use, development and adoption of innovative plant breeding and animal biotechnologies. These information exchanges will include how new production methods can meet future resource challenges while improving farmers' welfare.

Member economies shall update their contact list as needed to receive documents for the meeting through the APEC Secretariat.

1.2 APEC Projects

HLPDAB aims to conduct three projects in 2016

Project 1: Sharing Information on the differences on established Biosafety Regulations in APEC: through a survey and follow-on discussion at the APEC HLPDAB workshop/meeting that will be held on the margins of the APEC HLPDAB meeting.

Project 2: Innovative Technology Issues: exchange of views to be held at the workshop/meeting that will be held on the margins of the APEC HLPDAB meeting.

- 1) Exchange of views on practical approaches to address the Low Level Presence of unapproved GE events in food and feed.
- 2) Exchange of views on the impact of asynchronous approvals.
- 3) Exchange of views on practical approaches to address the low level presence of GE events in seed and grain commodities.

Project 3: Workshop on Strengthening Innovation and Cooperation among APEC Economies to Advance Science and Facilitate Trade. This will be held on the margins with the HLPDAB annual meeting during the Food Security Week of 2016. The Concept Note was proposed by the United States, which is co-sponsored by Peru, Mexico and Canada. The workshop will address issues related to the review of best practices and opportunities for functioning biosafety systems; the considerations of practical approaches to LLP in food, feed and seed trade; supporting coexistence and practical management of market differentiation in agriculture; and new plant breeding techniques including fostering innovation, adoption, and use.

Note: The workshop on Innovative Plant and Animal Technologies, scheduled for August 2016, will be conducted in 2017, exact dates and location to be determined. The workshop will follow on the 2015 workshop: *Fostering Innovative Plant Technologies* and will provide economies with information on recent advancements and provide a forum for discussing policy with regards to innovative plant and animal technologies. At this time the United States and Canada are co-sponsoring.

Both the annual meeting and the workshop in 2016 are in line with the implementation of the tasks set out for the HLPDAB:

- Harness scientific innovations that address common challenges for smallholder farmers and enhance cooperation in maximizing the benefits of biotechnology for improved resiliency, inclusive growth, sustainable agriculture development, and food security.
- Promote transparent, science-based regulations in order to advance science, and reap the benefits of agricultural innovation in the context of global trade.
- Exchange information and discussion policy issues, taking into economies internal laws, regulations and capacity to strengthen food security in the Asia Pacific region and include policies pertaining to the trade of products on innovative agricultural biotechnology.
- Strengthen APEC agricultural science and technology innovation and cooperation with a view to facilitating trade related agricultural products and promoting sustainable agricultural development; encourage the use of agricultural science and

technology research in a market-oriented manner to improve food safety and security in the region.

2. Anticipated Activities and/or Proposed Work Plan with outside organizations in response to Leaders' and Ministers' calls for greater engagement with:

HLPDAB will explore opportunities to involve international organizations in their discussions through relevant projects and activities.

3. Identify cross cutting issues and explain how they will be coordinated across Fora.

The APEC HLPDAB has identified cross-cutting issues on food security, climate change and agriculture, trade facilitation and making the best use of natural resources with the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group and the Policy Partnership on Food Security and shall identify and share relevant policy recommendations with both groups with a view to contribute to the preparation of the Food Security Ministerial agenda.

4. Capacity building activities planned for 2016.

The annual meeting and the workshops referenced in section 1.2 aim to build capacity for all economies.

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.

These workshops and meeting are designed to meet the three objectives in the HLPDAB strategic plan: i) establishment and maintenance of mechanisms to ensure continued information exchange on economies' experience with agricultural biotechnology and other innovative agricultural technologies; ii) promotion of 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) facilitation of management of regulatory differences by endeavoring to develop solutions to global challenges with respect to innovative agricultural technologies, including trade-related issues, and improve the ability of APEC Economies to communicate effectively on related issues

5. Expected Outcomes/Deliverables for 2016.

<u>Expected Outcomes</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Continue 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	Ongoing
Continuing efforts towards information sharing among members	Ongoing
Continue to develop self-funded capacity building proposals and proposals for APEC-funded projects	Ongoing
Enhance the coordinated actions among HLPDAB members to develop and prioritize HLPDAB project submissions	Ongoing
Continue updating the baseline review of APEC economies' regulations on products derived from innovative agriculture and develop next steps	Ongoing
Facilitate collaboration across APEC sub-fora on food security issues	Ongoing
Contribute to enhancement of the scientific knowledge of APEC economy regulators and policy makers	Ongoing
Engage ABAC, private sector, and other relevant non-members to promote the work of HLPDAB, as appropriate	Ongoing
Discussion on regulatory practices, practical approaches to LLP in international food, feed and seeds trade, discussion on the causes and impact of asynchronous approvals; and the latest on the innovative plant and animal technologies; and using biotechnology to address environmental sustainability and biodiversity. (From Workshop on Strengthening Innovation and Cooperation among APEC Economies to Advance Science and Facilitate Trade)	September
Formulation of HLPDAB inputs for the APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security 2016	September
Cooperate with the appointed Assessor in the joint HLPDAB-ATCWG 2016 Independent Assessment	September
Draft 2017 HLPDAB Work Plan	December