

APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB)

STRATEGIC PLAN

2019 – 2021

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 five Strategic Plans [2004-2006, 2007-2009, 2010-2012, 2013-2015 and 2016-2018]. The Strategic Plan for 2019-2021 is an extension of the strategic plan 2016-2018 approved by Senior Officials.

The Policy Dialogue has noted its achievements against the goals set forth in the 2017-2018 Strategic Plan. The Policy Dialogue has also realized the changes in agriculture's operating environment deserving its attention. The 2019-2021 Strategic Plan seeks to address these issues, in light of the goals set forth when the Policy Dialogue was created.

Policy makers use the Policy Dialogue to promote public policy development and science-based regulatory decisions, share information on innovative agriculture technologies, encourage investment and strengthen public confidence regarding biotechnology in order to increase agricultural productivity, protect the environment, and push for food security.

BACKGROUND:

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 is a forum for APEC member economies to discuss issues of common interest with regard to agricultural biotechnology, including the safe introduction of biotechnology products and public acceptance of these products.

The APEC Policy Dialogue Workshop was held in Brisbane, Australia, in August of 2018, for APEC economy regulators and policy makers to enhance scientific knowledge and understanding of new innovations in plant breeding, trade issues and lessons on science communication.

OBJECTIVES:

Objective 1. Establishment and maintenance of mechanisms to ensure continued information exchange on economies' experience with agricultural biotechnology and other innovative agricultural technologies.

Activities/Deliverables:

- a. Contact List (Coordinator: APEC Secretariat) A contact list is available and member economies will provide updates on an as needed basis to the APEC Secretariat who will update and review at annual meeting.

- b. Update and maintain the APEC Agricultural Biotechnology Website. (Coordinator: APEC Secretariat, Member Economies) <http://www.apec.org/Groups/Other-Groups/Agricultural-Biotechnology.aspx>. These updates should include events, news, and contact information.
- c. Annual Meeting held at either the APEC Food Ministerial or a Senior Officials Meeting (Coordinator: Host APEC Economy Member) to include workshops, and concept papers. Continue building of relationships among APEC Policy Dialogue 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.

Objective 2. 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.

Activities/Deliverables:

- a. Promote understanding, best practices and confidence in APEC economy regulatory systems by sharing knowledge at APEC HLPDAB meetings and workshops. (Coordinator: APEC Member Economies) and APEC HLPDAB Workshops (Coordinator: Sponsoring Economies and Host Economy)
- b. Build upon the work of international fora, to promote greater alignment of national policies and regulatory systems with relevant international standards among APEC economies. If appropriate, at the APEC meeting or workshop on the margins of a meeting hold a session on current work/findings/sharing platforms by other international fora or APEC member economies biotechnology. (Coordinator: Host Economy).

Objective 3. Facilitate the 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.

Activities/Deliverables:

- a. Share information on new production methods and products being developed that can help address the challenges of increasing food production and making food production systems more resilient and able to meet environmental challenges. Use the APEC HLPDAB resources to share this information. (Coordinator: Member Economies)
- b. Promote mechanisms for collaboration and sharing of information and experiences among member economies to address common challenges including low level presence, co-existence of conventional, organic and biotech agriculture, asynchronous approvals and risk and science communication. APEC HLPDAB members may share their experiences and participation in other international fora at the APEC HLPDAB annual meetings and global challenge workshops. (Coordinator: Member Economies).