

## **APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB) Workplan for 2022**

### 1. Introduction

In the Putrajaya Vision 2040, APEC Leaders committed to building “an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040” . The implementation plan of Putrajaya Vision, Aotearoa Plan of Action, stated that “APEC fora and sub-fora will make provision for implementing the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 in their work plans and strategic plans” . Specifically in relation to agriculture, the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 set “Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth” as the third economic driver, the Aotearoa Plan of Action emphasized in the collective actions that “economies will ensure the lasting food security, food safety and improved nutrition for all, as well as reducing food waste and loss in the region by promoting agricultural food trade, agricultural sustainability and innovation, and implementing the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030”.

In 2022, the High-Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB) conducts a sequence of activities that aim to respond to APEC Leader’s Declarations, Ministerial and High-Level statements, decisions of Senior Officials. The HLPDAB will continue to implement the activities in compliance with the previous food security declarations to achieve food security both in certain and uncertain circumstance, with emphases on three concepts namely: Safety, Security, and Sustainability.

The proposed activities to be conducted under the framework of the HLPDAB Strategic Plan (2022-2024), which focuses on three priority areas, are as follow:

- 1) Strengthen mechanisms to continue information exchange on economies’ experiences with agricultural biotechnologies to achieve food security, environmental sustainability, and economic prosperity.
- 2) Continuously promote transparent, science-based, risk proportionate, and functioning regulatory systems to support the development, application, and trade of innovative agricultural biotechnologies for the benefit of APEC member economies.
- 3) Facilitate the management of regulatory differences by endeavoring to develop solutions to global challenges to innovative agricultural biotechnologies—including trade-related issues and improve the ability of APEC economies to communicate effectively about these issues

### Activities done in the previous HLPDAB Meeting

1. Resource Sharing on Agri Bio policies
2. Endorsed the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 for FS Ministerial Meeting
3. Renewal of HLPDAB TOR and mandate
4. Discussion of ongoing and upcoming projects

### 2. HLPDAB Activities

#### 2.1 Annual HLPDAB Meeting

HLPDAB will hold a virtual annual plenary meeting on 20 August 2022 to continue addressing its mandate to exchange information and promote capacity building, to promote transparent, science-based, risk-proportionate, and functioning regulatory systems, and to encourage investment and strengthen public confidence regarding biotechnology with the ultimate objective of promoting food security and environmental sustainability in line with HLPDAB Strategic Plan (2022-2024).

The annual meeting will continue to build relationships among APEC members while exchanging information regarding the adoption of agricultural biotechnology policies and regulations, including for genome editing, and discussing trends and challenges using

agricultural biotechnology to address food security and environmental sustainability.  
 [Alternative language from Canada: ~~with perspective towards~~ with a focus on the regulations of products of genetic engineering and genome editing.]

The joint meeting with the agricultural working groups consists of PPFS, ATCWG, OFWG will be held in virtual format on 21 August 2022 for information sharing.

## 2.2 HLPDAB 2022 Workshops

<b>Workshop</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>United States-HLPDAB 01 2022S:</b> The Role of Agricultural Biotechnology to Address Climate Change	21-22 April 2022
<b>United States-HLPDAB 02 2022S:</b> Agricultural Biotechnology Webinar Series:	<b>Webinar I</b> Genetic Engineering and Genome Editing in Agriculture, Application and Challenges: 11 May 2022
	<b>Webinar II</b> The Regulation of Genome Edited Products and Its Challenges: 22 July 2022
	<b>Webinar III Outreach to Enhance Public Awareness &amp; Confidence on Agricultural Biotechnology: 5 August 2022</b>
	<b>Webinar IV</b>
<b>United-States-HLPDAB 04 2022S:</b> Agricultural Biotechnology: Sharing Resources, Experiences and Lessons Learned	16-17 August 2022

## 3. Expected Outcomes/Deliverables for 2022

<b>No</b>	<b>Expected outcomes</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
1	Encourage APEC economies to share resources, exchange experiences and promote knowledge on the adoption, use, and trade of products of agricultural biotechnology.	Ongoing
2	Promote the concept of transparent, science-based, risk-proportionate, and functioning regulatory systems of agricultural biotechnology.	Ongoing
3	Support the development, application and adoption of innovative agricultural biotechnologies for the benefit of APEC economies.	Ongoing
4	Enhance the management of regulatory differences to develop solutions to global challenges.	Ongoing

5	Increase APEC economies' knowledge of agricultural biotechnology to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.	Ongoing
6	Encourage APEC economies to develop self-funded capacity building and proposals for APEC funded project.	Ongoing
7	Preparation of HLPDAB inputs for the APEC Ministerial Meeting on 2022	August

#### 4. For Assessment, Strategic Plan (2022-2024)

The HLPDAB Strategic Plan has a term of three years starting from 2022 to 2024. The HLPDAB projects would be assessed to ensure the alignment with its priorities including the Putrajaya Vision 2040, the APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 and its Implementation Plan, La Serena Roadmap for Women, and Inclusive Growth, and the HLPDAB Strategic Plan.