

Proposed Work Plan for 2017
High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB)
In Response to Leaders/Ministers/SOM/SCE Priorities and Decisions

In 2017, the 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), the Beijing Declaration on APEC Food Security (2014), and the Piura Declaration on APEC Food Security (2016).

The proposed activities to be taken sit within the framework of the HLPDAB Strategic Plan (2016-2018) and policy makers use the Policy Dialogue to achieve its goals and objectives of:

- i. Establishment and maintenance of mechanisms to ensure continued information exchange on economies' experience with agricultural biotechnology and other innovative agricultural technologies as a tool to increase agricultural productivity, raise farm income, protect the environment, strengthen food security and militate against the impact of climate change.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Facilitate the management of regulatory differences by endeavoring to develop solutions to global challenges with respect to innovative agricultural technologies, including trade-related issues while building upon the work of international fora and existing international standards.
- iv. Support outreach and capacity building activities to help achieve the above objectives.

1. Annual HLPDAB Meeting

HLPDAB will hold one Annual Plenary Meeting (HLPDAB 16) in August in Can Tho, Viet Nam during the APEC Food Security Week to continue addressing topics related to the HLPDAB's mandate above.

The annual meeting will continue building relationships among APEC members while exchanging information on agricultural biotechnology.

The meeting will focus on Viet Nam's APEC priorities, topics recommended from the Piura HLPDAB Meeting and as solicited from Economy members including:

- Updates on agriculture biotechnology issues/policies in their economies, 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;

- Promotion of public-private partnerships in agricultural biotechnology research and applications along with capacity enhancement of technology transfer on agricultural biotechnology;
- The Use of Agricultural Biotechnology in Response to Climate Change and Sustainable Development.

At the meeting members should confirm their roles and contribute to discussions. Per the Independent Assessment completed in 2016, there will be a discussion with the Economy members and the APEC Secretariat as to whether there is support and whether it is feasible of the SOM Steering Committee on Economic Technical Cooperation to endorse the Budget and Management Committee to initiate a project evaluation and proactively seek an impact assessment of HLPDAB workshops to gauge the effectiveness and level of behavioral change. Importantly this should focus on the level of change in capacity and capability across the APEC region. [APEC Secretariat, HLPDAB Economy members, August 2017]

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

2. APEC HLPDAB Activities

2.1 Viet Nam and the United States are co-sponsoring a workshop: Agricultural Biotechnology: Driving from 1G to 5G. This will be a 1.5 day workshop on the margins of the APEC HLPDAB Meeting. The goal of the workshop is to get economies to implement practical approaches, policies and regulations for the safe acceptance of agricultural biotechnology to solve issues of food security, climate change and scarce resources. There will be three sessions with the first setting the stage of successful adoption; no safety concerns; 30 years of experience; current issues; slow and cumbersome regulatory processes; and avoiding duplication of efforts. The second session will provide information on how economies move forward in response to climate change, scarce resources and food security; why farmers adopt agricultural biotechnology (emphasize smallholder farmers); and on how public, state, and the private sectors can increase technology development and technology deployment. The final session will identify practical tools and success stories including regulatory efficiencies; recognition policies; assessment, resource and information sharing; and precision breeding and other new technologies

2.2 Discuss the use of the *Regulations of Products Derived from Innovative Agricultural Technologies: Baseline Review of APEC Member Economies* and United States, Philippines, and Canada co-sponsored Concept Note: Update of the APEC Baseline Study: *Regulations of Products Derived from Innovative Agricultural Technologies* and Identification of Ways to Promote Greater Efficiencies and Alignment to [Member economies, facilitator; begin in November complete by September 2018.]

2.3 The Chair of the HLPDAB will present an update on the work/meetings of the HLPDAB at the joint session with the Policy Partnership and Food Security (PPFS) and the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) during Food Security Week as well to the

plenary session of the PPFS. HLPDAB Economy Members will use the joint sessions during Food Security Week to discuss areas of collaboration and engagement with complimentary forum. The goal will be to identify cross cutting issues and coordinate them across fora. [2017 Chair of the HLPDAB; Economy Members; APEC Food Security Week, August 2017/]

2.4 The APEC Secretariat and member economies will work together to develop a membership education program for new members. This would be in the form of updating the APEC HLPDAB website to include current: Terms of Reference, Strategic Plan, Work Plan and Achievements. It would include the roles, functions and expectations of members. At the meeting, members can have a discussion as to whether to include other material. [The United States volunteers to work with the APEC Secretariat to complete this activity by December 2017.]

Both the annual meeting and the workshop in 2017 are in line with the implementation of the tasks set out for the HLPDAB.

3. Capacity building activities planned for 2017.

The annual meeting and the workshops referenced in section 2.1 aims 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.

The workshop 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.

4. Expected Outcomes/Deliverables for 2017.

<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
Determine the feasibility of updating the baseline review of APEC economies' regulations on products derived from innovative agriculture and develop next steps	November 2017
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 cultivation, data transportability and assessment sharing, regional Coordination - Public Private Partnerships, trade, imports, exports, LLP and recognition Policies. (From Workshop on Agricultural Biotechnology: Driving from 1G to 5G)	August
Formulation of HLPDAB inputs for the APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security 2017	August
Draft 2018 HLPDAB Work Plan	April 2018