

POLICY PARTNERSHIP ON FOOD SECURITY (PPFS) APEC Meeting

Iloilo City, Philippines

October 2-3, 2015

The members of the PPFS convened in Iloilo City earlier in October as part of the High Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and the Blue Economy. Below is an outline of the top four priorities discussed at the meeting.

I. Climate change and the impact on food security

- a. Promoting sustainable management and use of natural resources.
- b. Climate Smart and the adaptation strategies for farmers as weather patterns continue to evolve.

II. Logistics, supply chain and connectivity

- a. Continue creating strategies for addressing post-harvest losses at all stages of the entire food supply chain by strengthening public – private partnerships.
 - i. Referenced the 5 year post-harvest loss project started in 2013 hosted by Chinese Taipei. The first phase identified key issues and challenges in post-harvest food losses, formulated a preliminary methodology on food crops, and deliberated on strategies and action plans for APEC economies. In Iloilo, questions of what's next and how do APEC Economies carry the project outcomes and action plans forward beyond the 2017 final phase of the project was brought up for discussion.
- b. Investment in agriculture infrastructure (equipment, irrigation systems, storage facilities and roads and ports)
 - i. Enhance rural connectivity.
 1. Making sure the urban population has access to food grown in rural areas.
 - ii. Reaffirmed the importance for public-private partnerships' role in agriculture investment.

III. Education and skills development

- a. How to engage and share best practices with small farmers?
- b. Provide more access to education and skill development to the rural workforce. (i.e. extension programs)
- c. Increase technical abilities in the rural workforce.
 - i. Encourage youths to be the next generation of farmers.

IV. Trade Facilitation

- a. PPFS would like to further engage the private sector in identifying non-tariff barriers in agricultural products
 - i. The working group will work closely with the private sector to highlight specific issues that is on the private sector's agenda

Future Structure of PPFS

The attendees of the PPFS also discussed the current and future structure of the management council and working group. There were many issues brought forward regarding how to better work with the private sector and keep the consistency of leaders. Below are some highlights of what was underlined.

- Potentially the need to redefine the Terms of Reference (TOR) and the structure of the Chairmanship and management of ongoing initiatives of the working group
 - The need for multi-year Chairmanship.
 - The challenge is in selecting who and how many years?
- The need for continuity with attendees.
- Continue to include Blue Economy in the food security conversation.
 - Upcoming host economies such as Peru and Vietnam will make the Blue Economy a priority issue.
- The need to work with the host economy on an agenda that is strong to encourage more engagement from the private sector.
- The private sector should have seats around the table.
 - If there is a strong agenda with private sector input, there will likely be more private sector participants in future projects and meetings.

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