

Joint Communiqué of the Second Trilateral Agricultural Ministers' Meeting

The Second China-Japan-Korea Trilateral Agricultural Ministers' Meeting (TAMM) was held in Tokyo, Japan on September 13th in 2015, chaired by Yoshimasa Hayashi, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, and attended by Chen Xiaohua, Vice Minister of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, and Lee Dong-phil, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea.

We, Ministers of China, Japan and Korea, shared a common view that agriculture is not only the food supply source but also a key industry with multifunctional roles that include conserving national lands and preserving the natural environment. At the same time, we committed to contribute to sustainable agricultural growth and stable food supply in this region by strengthening trilateral cooperation.

We acknowledged that the three countries entail difficulties, such as small-scale family farming, declining number of farmers and aging farmers. But the three countries account for 21% of the world's GDP and 18% of the world's trade value in 2014, which brings us various business opportunities in agriculture and food sector. We believe that establishing and upgrading the agriculture/food value chain will contribute to solving these difficulties by increasing farm income and producing high quality agricultural products.

We had an in-depth discussion on food security, animal and plant diseases, natural disasters and climate change, biomass energy development, agricultural scientific and technological cooperation, the 6th industrialization of agriculture, CJKFTA agricultural negotiations, agricultural cooperation within global and regional multilateral frameworks, and senior official meeting mechanism so as to seek ways to solve the current problems in a concerted manner, and determined as follows:

I. Food Security

Food security is ensured by three following elements, increasing domestic production, appropriate import and stocks.

As net food importing countries, we shared the view that sustainably increasing domestic production capacity is very important for our food security.

We determined to intensify exchange of information on agricultural and trade policies, to upgrade collaboration on agricultural technology, to boost cooperation on agricultural investment and to promote agricultural trade.

II. Animal and Plant Diseases

The outbreak of the animal and plant diseases causes serious damage to the Asian countries including China, Japan and Korea. We recognized that it is indispensable to cooperate to address cross-border animal and plant diseases, noting the achievement of the symposium on prevention and control of foot and mouth diseases in East Asia hosted by China, Japan and Korea.

With regard to animal diseases, we will sign the Memorandum of Cooperation on Response against Transboundary Animal Diseases to further strengthen our cooperation and relations. In addition, we will also encourage reinforcing cooperation regarding the exchange of information on the occurrences and control methods of new infectious animal diseases and zoonosis.

We will exchange information on the situation of plant diseases of each country, and explore the possibility of making the framework for containing and preventing plant diseases.

III. Natural Disasters and Climate Change

We shared the view that the natural disasters cause serious damage to our agriculture and economy. Therefore, we discussed the possibility of conducting mutual cooperation among the three countries in case of the outbreak of natural disasters.

In addition, we determined to examine the means to ensure sustainable agricultural production capacity to cope with ongoing climate change, and as a part of such effort, determined to conduct a systematic joint research in the area of impact analysis, mitigation, and adaptation.

IV. Biomass Energy Development

We recognized that biomass energy plays an important role in cutting emissions,

preventing air pollution, tackling climate change, and advancing circular agriculture.

We encourage and support the efforts to develop and use biomass energy that is produced mainly from agricultural and forest wastes such as straws and human and animal waste and logging residues, while adhering to the principle that the arable land should be basically used to produce food for human consumption and that the ecosystem and environment should not be sacrificed.

V. Agricultural Scientific and Technological Cooperation

We have similar conditions surrounding agriculture such as small-scale family farming, declining number of farmers and aging farmers. We recognized the importance of supporting the development of East Asia type agriculture on a sustainable basis through the various studies and knowledge of the agricultural research that each country has carried out.

For this purpose, we will promote exchange of researchers as well as conduct joint research.

VI. The 6th Industrialization of Agriculture

We shared the view that the 6th industrialization of agriculture that combines agriculture with processing and hands-on experience is crucial to invigorate agriculture and rural areas. To that end, we encourage cooperation to promote exchange in the 6th industrialization such as training, and to improve the condition.

VII. CJKFTA Agricultural Negotiations

We recognized that Free Trade Agreement among China, Japan and Korea (CJKFTA) will be expected to promote trade in agricultural products and food among the three countries.

In this regard, we shared the view that it is indispensable for our agricultural development to accelerate CJKFTA negotiations to achieve a Win - Win - Win situation while considering various concerns and interests of each country.

VIII. Agricultural Cooperation within global and regional multilateral frameworks

We have similar condition concerning challenges such as net food importing countries and small-scale family farming. We recognized that it is necessary to further strengthen communication and coordination of policies and positions within the global and regional multilateral frameworks such as G20, FAO, OIE, IPPC, APEC and ASEAN +3.

IX. Senior Official Meeting Mechanism

We noted that the China-Japan-Korea Trilateral Agricultural Ministers' Meeting, together with the cooperation in the area of agriculture, contribute significantly to the enhancement of friendly relations among the three countries. Therefore, we determined to establish the Senior Official Meeting Mechanism to interview the progress of the implementation as well as any other issues relevant to TAMM.

We welcomed the participation of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) to the 2nd TAMM and recognized TCS' efforts in promoting trilateral cooperation under the framework of TAMM. We support TCS to continue its role as a hub for trilateral cooperation in the agriculture sector.

We determined that the next Third Trilateral Agricultural Ministers' Meeting will be hosted in China.

For the Ministry of Agriculture
of the People's Republic
of China

For the Ministry of Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries
of Japan

For the Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs
of the Republic of Korea
