

Joint Statement of the Fourth Trilateral Agricultural Ministers' Meeting

11 August 2025, Incheon, Republic of Korea

We, the Ministers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China, convened the Fourth Trilateral Agricultural Ministers' Meeting (TAMM) on 11 August 2025 in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

Recognizing that the global situation on food and agriculture has changed since we last met 7 years ago, we reaffirmed the significance of the meeting.

We recall the first meeting in Jeju (2012), the second meeting in Tokyo (2015) and the third meeting in Beijing (2018), where the three countries reached consensus on policies related to a variety of agricultural issues, such as rural revitalization, green agriculture, food security and animal and plant disease response, thereby laying the groundwork for cooperation.

Building on the achievements of our previous work, during the Fourth Meeting, we discussed areas of common interest, including food security, animal disease response, sustainable agriculture, revitalization of rural areas, protection of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and strengthening cooperation on international stages.

In particular, we reaffirmed that continued trilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture is crucial to effectively respond to the new challenges and bring substantial outcomes in main areas. Recognizing that the cooperation among the three countries was further strengthened during the Fourth Trilateral Agricultural Ministers' Meeting, the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China expressed their appreciation to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea, the host country, for the efforts made to ward continued progress in trilateral cooperation in agriculture.

We appreciate the contributions of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) to trilateral agricultural cooperation through its coordination and facilitation of the ministerial process. We encourage its future efforts in disseminating our achievement beyond the trilateral framework.

1. Cooperation on Food Security

We recognized the rising threats to food supply posed by the unstable international grain markets and climate change, and emphasized the necessity of enhancing the food self-sufficiency rate and strengthening reserve systems.

With this common understanding, we came together to share the food supply trends and policies regularly, and consult on joint responses as necessary in times of crisis.

We acknowledge the discussion at the 10th APEC Food Security Ministerial Meeting held in August 2025 in Incheon, on building sustainable and resilient agri-foodsystems and the importance of public-private partnership, which encourages joint cooperation among the three countries in line with the food security discussion at the international level.

2. Response to Animal Diseases

Based on the common recognition of aiming for the sustainable and sound development of the livestock production against the spread of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and African swine fever (ASF), we concurred on holding the trilateral Chief Veterinary Officers (CVO) meeting regularly to strengthen existing collaboration, including joint response to transboundary animal diseases.

Within this framework, we intend to promptly share information on the disease control measures of each country, and build capacity for early warning systems for animal diseases and joint response by conducting joint research, sharing disease control techniques, exchanging experts and hosting international workshops.

3. Sustainable Agriculture

We affirmed the role of sustainable agriculture amid the climate crisis situation, and exchanged examples of low-carbon farming practices and technologies and utilization of renewable energy. In particular, we will expand the exchange of advanced policies related to rice paddy water management, low-methane feed and agricultural solar power, and enhance capacity to respond to climate change through regular seminars and joint research projects.

We also recognized that smart farming technologies are the key to addressing issues such as an aging population and labor shortages. We will continue exploring opportunities for cooperation, including through sharing policy information and best practices of each other's policies including legal settings, to promote smart farming utilizing AI, sensors, data-based production management and automated agri-machinery.

4. Rural Revitalization

Rural depopulation and the threat of regional disappearance due to declining populations and super-aged society are a common concern of the three countries. To address these issues, we will share each country's rural policies as well as review the possibility of introducing and disseminating best practices according to each country's condition, and to promote policy exchanges at multiple levels of government.

5. Cooperation on the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)

We concurred on regularly sharing information and experiences on policies, study outcomes and conservation methods to conserve the value of agricultural heritage systems threatened by climate change and urbanization. In particular, we will explore potential areas of cooperation in various fields, including development of tourism resources, educational content and local branding, in order to contribute to regional economy revitalization through exchange and joint projects between local governments and private groups in the region designated as GIAHS.

We also have a willingness to continue exploring opportunities for information exchanges and policy cooperation to conserve and utilize agricultural heritage systems, in line with international initiatives including GIAHS.

To achieve this, we confirmed that a working-level and joint expert meeting will be held between governments in line with the 9th ERAHS (East Asia Research Association for Agricultural Heritage Systems) international conference to be held in September 2025 in Jeju.

6. Global Cooperation

We reaffirmed the necessity of strengthened cooperation among the three countries at the international and regional level, including FAO, WOA, IPPC, APEC, G20 and other relevant international settings, and recognized the importance of joint response to global issues, such as food security, animal and plant disease control, and climate change, and natural resource management related to food, with mutually agreed terms.

In particular, we concurred on utilizing the cooperation mechanisms related to the APEC Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) to identify joint projects in the field of agriculture, share information on each other's policies and expand cooperation on developing agricultural technologies in responding to climate change.

China, Japan and ROK have been leading the ASEAN+3 partnership to jointly contribute to the ASEAN+3 Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) in response to food crisis. The three countries confirmed their commitment to continue this effort, along with strengthening the function of the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS).

We wish to strengthen collaboration with the TCS to achieve steady progress under TAMM and its cooperation mechanisms. we also appreciate the achievements of the Trilateral Young Rural Leaders’ Exchange Program (TREP) which has been annually hosted by TCS since 2023, and will continue to support the future development of the program.

With regard to the global common interests such as digital transition, standardization of smart farming and climate-smart agricultural policy, the three countries will continue to exchange views at the meetings of major international forums in order to carry out discussions for policy coordination and cooperation.

7. Next Meeting

We expect to continue discussions among the three countries at the Fifth Meeting in Japan. We will continue close cooperation to further expand agricultural collaboration.

Signed on 11 August 2025 in the city of Incheon, Republic of Korea.

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KOIZUMI Shinjiro	HAN Jun	SONG Miryung
Minister	Minister	Minister
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China	Ministry Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea