

## **Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) 2024 Work Plan**

### **Overview**

- In the Putrajaya Vision 2040, APEC Leaders committed to build “an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040, for the prosperity of all our people and the future generations.” The implementation plan of the Putrajaya Vision, Aotearoa Plan of Action, stated to “ensure lasting food security, food safety and improved nutrition for all, as well as reducing food waste and loss in the region by promoting agricultural and food trade, agricultural sustainability and innovation, and implementing the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030” and “cooperate to further develop APEC’s work on other groups with untapped economic potential, such as those from remote and rural communities.”
- Moreover, the Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy endorsed by APEC Leaders in 2022 urges Members to utilize technology and innovation to create value, reduce waste, advance resource efficiency, and promote sustainable business models. It also calls for more holistic efforts to achieve more balanced, inclusive, and sustainable growth.
- 2023 APEC Leaders’ Golden Gate Declaration pledged to “Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All” and reaffirmed to “fully implement the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 as a pathway to make our agri-food systems more resilient, productive, innovative, and sustainable, while recognizing there is “no-one-size-fits-all” approach to agricultural sustainability.” They also reaffirmed “the importance of agricultural productivity, international trade, and prevention and reduction of food loss and waste, in achieving food security, and will increase our efforts to ensuring food security and nutrition.”
- Toward that end, in 2024, the APEC Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) will endeavour to conduct its activities in line with its Strategic Plan for 2021-2025 to enhance the capacity of agriculture and its related industries to contribute to economic growth, food security and social well-being by addressing the challenges of climate change and the recovery from the impact of COVID-19 on the agri-food systems in the region.
- Simultaneously, in 2024, the ATCWG will align its activities along with Host Economy Peru’s Policy Priorities for APEC 2024: “Empower. Include. Grow.”, particularly by focusing on “sustainable growth for resilient development, which seeks to promote energy transition, decarbonization of economic activities, and promotion of food security,” as well as bearing the commitment to continue implementing our projects in accordance with the Putrajaya Vision 2040, Aotearoa Plan of Action (APA), Bangkok Goals and Golden Gate Declaration.
- In 2024, the ATCWG will strengthen the cooperation among APEC members on the innovation and extension of agricultural technologies and the facilitation of agricultural trade and investment in the region, addressing the importance of digital transformation in agriculture, climate change adaptation and mitigation, reducing food loss and waste, sustainable biomass management through the BCG models, strengthening regulatory capacity in biosecurity, empowerment of smallholder, women and youth farmers, and sustainable agriculture and rural development, among others.
- In 2024, the ATCWG will continue to support and collaborate with the Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) and other Food Security related fora to carry on the commitment to fully implement the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 and its Implementation Plans under the guidance of the ATCWG Strategic Plan for 2021-2025 as a pathway to make our agri-food systems more resilient, productive, innovative, and sustainable.
- The importance of La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth (2019-2030) will be stressed simultaneously. The ATCWG will continue to enhance women’s capacities and

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pursue for a greater inclusion of women in the regional economy by empowering women through access to capital and markets as well as supporting women's education, training and skills development and access in a changing world of work.

### **Fora Governance in 2024**

- Contribute to the Implementation Plan on the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030;
- Contribute towards Food Security and Agriculture initiatives of the ATCWG, PPFS and other Food Security related fora; and
- Contribute to the APEC SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH) (SCE) reporting documents such as but not limited to:
  1. Participate in the SCE working group fora assessment; and
  2. Draft ATCWG's annual report for endorsement.

### **Expected Deliverables**

#### **1. Hold the 28<sup>th</sup> ATCWG Annual Meeting**

The 28<sup>th</sup> ATCWG Annual Meeting is currently scheduled to be held physically in August 2024 in Trujillo, Peru during the Food Security Week of the SOM3 cluster, which is scheduled to take place from 12 to 18 August 2024. In this meeting, member economies are expected to share their previous outcome of the projects conducted after the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting till 2024, the latest agricultural innovations and policies, as well as possible upcoming ATCWG projects.

#### **2. Hold ATCWG APEC Workshops:**

**a. ATC 01 2023A (PE): Study and Workshop on the Associativity as a Strategy to Improve the Competitiveness of Women in Small Scale Agriculture in APEC Economies** - The project includes the collection of information on policies, plans, and interventions implemented by APEC economies to strengthen the participation of women in small-scale agriculture in the various associative forms as a mechanism to improve competitiveness; in addition, a workshop will be held in August 2024 in Peru for the exchange of good practices in the implementation of productive inclusion policies and programs. There will be a publication on the results.

**b. ATC 02 2023A (VN): Promoting APEC Cooperation for Sustainable Biomass Energy from Agriculture Wastes** - The Workshop in May 2024 aims to provide an overview of biomass energy in APEC region with the current status, trends and future settings. It will discuss the sources and types of biomass from agricultural wastes, the opportunities for biomass energy in climate policy and finance, and the potential for biomass energy using different and specific agriculture crop products' wastes from paddy rice, coffee, corn, and sugarcane.

**c. ATC 02 2023S (AUS): Harmonising Biosecurity Regulatory Approaches in a Multilateral Context** – A tailored training for biosecurity officers in Indonesia and Malaysia is planned to be held in August 2024 as part of the in-person verification and training for developing APEC economies. This project aims to mitigate regional biosecurity risks by harmonising biosecurity management in the Asia-Pacific region and building participants' capacity to address risks through awareness raising and information sharing. The 2024 Quarantine Regulators Meeting (QRM) will be held from 13 to 17 May 2024 in Viet Nam. The 2024 QRM will focus on reconnecting to strengthen international partnerships (including

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partnerships between APEC economies), highlighting areas where agencies have shown resilience and adaptability to manage biosecurity risk.

**d. ATCWG 201 2023A (PE): Survey and Workshop on Interconnecting Family Farmers with Consumers through Innovative Digital Platforms** – The workshop scheduled for August 2024 aims to showcase tools and platforms promoting the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) among smallholder farmers in APEC economies. This event will include the presentation of survey findings on ICT adoption, expert presentations on digital tools, discussions on best practices from various economies, and interactive group sessions. The workshop will include policy and decision makers, as well as researchers and experts closely related to the topic.

**e. ATCWG 2024 (PRC): APEC Workshop on Enhancing Arable Land Resources and Promoting Food Security** – The workshop is planned to be held in October, 2024. The specific topics of the workshop are as follows: the overall situation of the quantity and quality of cultivated land in the APEC region and its members; Classic case studies and experience sharing of farmland upgrading for food security in APEC member economies; Ways for future cooperation among APEC members to focus on the quantity and quality of cultivated land. The workshop will last for 2 days and is to be held in a combination of online and onsite.

### **3. Collaborating with the PPFS and Other Food Security Related Fora on the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 initiatives**

In 2024, the ATCWG will continue to pursue collaborations with the PPFS and other Food Security related fora to achieve the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 initiatives by focusing on six key action areas: digitalization and innovation, productivity, inclusivity, sustainability, public-private partnerships and SMART goals. We are committed to but not limited to promote sustainable, resilient agri-food systems in the APEC region.

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### Itemized Work Plan

Output/Project Title	Mandate (Leaders/Ministers/SOM/SCE Priorities and Decisions, Strategic Plans, ABAC recommendations)	Summary of Activities	Cross-fora collaboration (within APEC and beyond APEC)
<b>ECOTECH Medium-Term Priorities:</b> Ensure lasting food security, food safety and improved nutrition for all, as well as reducing food waste and loss in the region by promoting agricultural and food trade, agricultural sustainability and innovation, and implementing the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030; <b>Host Year Priorities:</b> (1). <b>Empower</b> - Trade and investment for inclusive and interconnected growth. (2). <b>Include</b> - Innovation and digitalization to promote transition to the formal and global economy. (3). <b>Grow</b> - Sustainable growth for resilient development.			
<b>ATC 01 2023A (PE)</b> Study and Workshop on the Associativity as a Strategy to Improve the Competitiveness of Women in Small Scale Agriculture in APEC Economies  <b>Output:</b> Exchange and collect good practices in the implementation of productive inclusion policies and programs, to serve as an instrument for decision-making in the formulation of policies and interventions carried out by the economies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ATCWG 2021-2025 Strategic Plan on "creation of agricultural value chains and marketing channels, promoting the exchange of experiences considering research and development activities to improve skills and marketing and business processes with an emphasis on women in small-scale agriculture."</li> <li>APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030, in the key action area of digitalization and innovation, as it seeks to support food security by increasing productivity and efficiency; minimizing food loss and waste; mitigating and adapting to climate change; reducing costs, and facilitating food trade, and key action area 14a.</li> <li>Host Year Priorities: Empower and Grow.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect information from APEC economies about the policies, plans and interventions implemented by the APEC economies to strengthen the associative capacities for production, trade, and business entrepreneurship of women in small-scale agriculture.</li> <li>Hold technical workshop with authorities, experts, and women from small-scale agriculture.</li> <li>Endorse final report about the challenges, policies, and efforts of the APEC economies to strengthen the associative capacities for production, trade, and business development of women in small-scale agriculture.</li> </ol>	It will be useful to invite participants and experts from other APEC groups and forums such as the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) through work on access to capital, access to markets, skills and capacity development, women's leadership and the Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG), by improving the inclusion of the internet and the digital economy, promoting innovative, inclusive and sustainable growth. In addition, it will be important to consider the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) through relevant input from the private sector on policies, plans and activities to build capacity and empower women in agriculture
<b>ATC 02 2023S (AUS)</b> Harmonising Biosecurity Regulatory Approaches in a Multilateral Context  <b>Output:</b> Facilitate developing APEC economies' attendance at multilateral meetings and workshops and their participation in specialised training activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This project supports APEC's overarching mission to foster sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region through addressing biosecurity risks that threaten agriculture and the environment, awareness-raising activities in this project provide the co-benefit of mitigating risks to agri-food systems and food security challenges caused by pest incursions, which is also in line with the priority area of ATCWG 2021-2025 Strategic Plan on "Strengthening cooperation on prevention and control of animal and plant pests and diseases including sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop for biosecurity regulators (May 2024)</li> <li>In-person verification and training for developing APEC economies</li> </ol>	The activities involve engagement between APEC and non-APEC economies. This will promote cross-fora collaboration and facilitate multilateral engagement by initiating and maintaining dialogue between non-APEC stakeholders and APEC economies.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host Year Priorities: Empower and Include.</li> </ul>		
<b>ATC 2024(PRC)</b> APEC Workshop on Enhancing Arable Land Resources and Promoting Food Security.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project helps advance the goals of the ATCWG Strategic Plan for 2021-2025, as it is aligned with the objectives of ensuring food security in the APEC region.</li> <li>The project aligns with APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 and its action plan, 8f, as it seeks to support food security by increasing productivity and efficiency</li> <li>Host Year Priorities: Empower and Include.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop on Enhancing Arable Land Resources and Promoting Food Security</li> <li>Collect information from APEC economies about the policies, plans and interventions implemented by the APEC economies</li> </ol>	It will be useful to invite participants and experts from other APEC groups and forums such as the ATCWG. In addition, it will be important to consider the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) through relevant input from the private sector on policies, plans and activities to build capacity and empower women in agriculture.
<p><b>ECOTECH Medium-Term Priorities:</b> Cooperate in relevant APEC fora to develop, encourage and exchange best practice policies, and promote capacity building programmes, that address all environmental challenges - including climate change - and support sustainable growth, such as through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>promoting sustainable growth across sectors and the development of cost effective low and zero emissions technologies, sustainable finance and, if appropriate, carbon pricing mechanisms</li> </ul> <p><b>Host Year Priorities:</b> <b>(1.) Empower</b> - Trade and investment for inclusive and interconnected growth. <b>(2.) Include</b> - Innovation and digitalization to promote transition to the formal and global economy. <b>(3.) Grow</b>- Sustainable growth for resilient development.</p>			
<b>ATC 02 2023A (VN)</b> Promoting APEC Cooperation for Sustainable Biomass Energy from Agriculture Wastes <b>Output:</b> Capacity building for rural community while sharing advance technologies for biomass energy production from agricultural wastes; and providing policy recommendations to policy makers on promoting APEC cooperation to enhance biomass energy use in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2021-2025 ATCWG Strategic Plan - Improving agricultural capacity and information sharing on climate change adaptation and mitigation and fostering sustainable agriculture system including conducting agricultural resources recycling and reuse; development of green energy; environmental benefit assessment and economic value addition under the practices of circular agriculture, sustainable materials management, and other resource efficiency systems.</li> <li>Bangkok Goals - Promoting sustainable, resilient, productive, and inclusive food systems and agricultural practices, achieving food security and nutrition, reducing food loss and waste, including through encouraging environmentally friendly policies and minimizing environmentally harmful ones, conserving</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and disseminate a survey for APEC economies; conduct desktop research and literature review; and analyse survey responses and summarise findings.</li> <li>Hold a 3-day workshop, including a field trip.</li> <li>Publish a Project Report.</li> </ol>	<p>The PO will consider inviting representatives from related groups or fora in APEC (PPFS and EWG) and even other non-APEC stakeholders.</p> <p>The workshop will invite representatives from FAO, UNEP (UN Environmental Program), SRP (Sustainable Rice Platform), ASEAN... to attend the workshop and share experiences and knowledge.</p>

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	agro-biodiversity, and enhancing the use of agricultural biotechnology, digitalization and other innovative approaches.  • Host Year Priorities: Grow.		
Output/Project Title	Mandate (Leaders/Ministers/SOM/SCE Priorities and Decisions, Strategic Plans, ABAC recommendations)	Summary of Activities	Cross-fora collaboration (within APEC and beyond APEC)
<b>ECOTECH Medium-Term Priorities:</b> Cooperate to accelerate digital transformation, including by supporting the digitalisation of industries such as services, manufacturing and agriculture; <b>Host Year Priorities: (1.) Empower</b> - Trade and investment for inclusive and interconnected growth. <b>(2.) Include</b> - Innovation and digitalization to promote transition to the formal and global economy. <b>(3.) Grow</b> - Sustainable growth for resilient development.			
<b>ATCWG 201 2023A (PE)</b> Survey and Workshop on Interconnecting Family Farmers with Consumers through Innovative Digital Platforms <b>Output:</b> To generate information to encourage APEC member economies to develop policies, programs and activities that promote the adoption of digital platforms (ICTs) for the commercialization of products from small farmers within the framework of the Implementation Plan of the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the implementation of the 14<sup>th</sup> key action area of inclusion of the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030, which establishes taking actions to implement the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth (2019-2030)</li> <li>This project contributes to the Declaration of Leaders 2022, within the framework of deepening cooperation to facilitate access to digital infrastructure and close digital gaps, improving access to services and opportunities to generate income and improve the means of life.</li> <li>The project helps advance the goals of the ATCWG Strategic Plan for 2021-2025, as it is aligned with the objectives of creating agricultural value chains and commercialization channels, and promoting digital transformation in agriculture.</li> <li>Host Year Priorities: Interconnected, Innovative, and Inclusive.</li> </ul>	1. Survey and virtual consultation 2. Workshop 3. Final Report	The project intends to invite participants and experts from other APEC groups and forums, including the PPFS, DESG, PPWE and ABAC.