

Joint Communiqué of the First Trilateral Agricultural Ministers' Meeting

The First China-Japan-Korea Trilateral Agricultural Ministers' Meeting was held in Jeju Island, Korea from 14 to 15 April 2012, attended by Han Changfu, Minister of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, Michihiko Kano, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, and Suh, Kyu-yong, Minister for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea.

The Three Ministers shared a common recognition of Agriculture being not only the food supply source that ensures health and happiness of mankind but also a key industry with multiple functions that include conserving agricultural lands and preserving biodiversity. At the same time, the Three Ministers came together to make contributions to sustainable growth in respective countries through strengthened trilateral cooperation.

The Three Ministers acknowledged that the trilateral parties are faced with difficulties, such as small-scale farming, less farmland and fewer farmers, aging society and environmental degradation while being asked to take on challenges, such as increasing agricultural production and productivity on a sustainable basis ensuring food security, innovating agricultural technologies and handling natural disasters.

The Three Ministers had an in-depth discussion on food security, plant and animal disease response, natural disaster response, researcher exchange program, economic partnership among China, Japan, and Korea as well as regional and international cooperation so as to seek ways to solve the current problems in the concerted manner, and agreed as follows:

- To exchange information on agricultural policies pertaining to food security and researchers as well as to seek joint research opportunities all through means like co-hosting of symposiums while focusing on fostering trilateral cooperation on the food security issue at a regional and international level including AFSIS (ASEAN Food Security Information System), APTERR (ASEAN+3 Emergency Rice Reserve) and APIP(Asia-Pacific Information Platform on food security).

- To share the status of and exchange information about plant and animal diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Avian Influenza (AI) that break out frequently throughout Asia, and consider the feasibility of establishing a center for disease control and prevention as joint response efforts.
- To share the information of natural disasters and to exert concerted efforts in avoiding and mitigating natural disasters as well as in restoring agricultural production damaged by natural disasters.
- To assess the status of trilateral cooperation in promoting the exchange of researchers and organizing joint research, workshops and symposiums so as to share information on common issues.
- To promote trade in food and agricultural products while pursuing sustainable agriculture through a possible economic partnership among China, Japan, Korea.
- To enhance cooperation at regional and global fora like ASEAN+3, APEC, FAO, and G20.

The Three Ministers expressed their strong hope for the First Trilateral Agricultural Ministers' Meeting to serve as an occasion not only to bring about advances and growth in respective countries but also to make contribution to peace in North East Asia and to prosperity in the World.

The Three Ministers agreed to hold the Trilateral Agricultural Ministers' Meeting every year on a rotation basis. The Second Trilateral Agricultural Ministers' Meeting will be held in 2013 in Japan.