

## **Joint Communiqué of the Third Japan-China-Korea Trilateral Agricultural Ministers' Meeting**

The Third Japan-China-Korea Trilateral Agricultural Ministers' Meeting (TAMM) was held in Beijing, China on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018, chaired by Han Changfu, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China, and attended by Yoshikawa Takamori, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and Lee Gae-Ho, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea.

Prior to this meeting, the TAMM had been held twice in Jeju Island, Korea in April 2012 and in Tokyo, Japan in September 2015 respectively. We, the ministers of agriculture of Japan, China and Korea, appreciate the good progress in the agricultural cooperation among Japan, China and Korea since the convening of the first TAMM. We acknowledge that holding TAMM on a regular basis is conducive to cementing the foundation of agricultural cooperation among the three countries. In this context, we reaffirm our commitment to jointly enhancing agricultural cooperation among the three countries.

As ministers of agriculture, we are aware that Japan, China and Korea not only face multiple challenges in achieving sustained progress in rural revitalization<sup>1</sup>, green agricultural development<sup>2</sup>, food security and nutrition, and animal and plant disease control, but also have to address prominent issues caused by small-scale farming, shrinking of high-quality arable land and further aging of rural population. In addition, we recognized the importance of agricultural cooperation among the three countries given the rise of anti-globalization sentiment and protectionism including all unfair trade practices in recent time.

We noted that the geographical proximity, complementarity in agricultural resource endowment, similarity of farming systems, and unsynchronized agricultural development of Japan, China and Korea constitute unique advantages for carrying out agricultural cooperation, which is conducive to the exchange of best development experiences and sharing of common development opportunities by the three countries.

We shared the view that being the home to oriental wisdom and civilizations rooted in farming, the three countries should expand their contribution in a sustained manner to better fulfill their common responsibility to promote agricultural development and rural prosperity in the region and the world.

With a view to implementing the *Joint Declaration of the Seventh Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit* and seeking solutions to common challenges in agriculture, we had in-depth discussion on issues of mutual learning in rural revitalization, green agricultural development, cooperation on food security and nutrition, animal and plant disease control and regional agricultural cooperation, and decided as follows:

### **I. Mutual learning in rural revitalization**

Acknowledging that the three countries are in different stages of agricultural and rural development, we noted the importance of sharing our experience related to agricultural development and rural modernization. We believe that rural revitalization can provide new cooperation areas to the three countries.

In this context, we decided to strengthen policy communication and conduct

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<sup>1</sup>The similar expression in Japan and ROK is “Agricultural and Rural Revitalization”. Similarly hereinafter.

<sup>2</sup>The similar expression in Japan and ROK is “environmental-friendly agricultural revitalization”. Similarly hereinafter.

mutual-learning among the three countries in rural revitalization. We support the organization of international symposiums on rural revitalization, the mutual visits by young leaders in rural areas, and the exchange of study tours on ecologically and environmentally-friendly industries in rural areas.

## **II. Green agricultural development**

We emphasize the important role of sustainable agricultural development in improving agricultural resource utilization and addressing challenges related to agricultural eco-environment.

We encourage and support the efforts to promote resource-saving and ecological conservation in agricultural production, such as Green Agricultural Development policy promoted by Chinese Government, Environmental friendly agriculture policy promoted by Japanese Government and Korean government through cooperation in basic studies and research and development.

## **III. Cooperation on food security and nutrition**

We noted the importance of ensuring food security and enhancing the health and nutrition of citizens in a sustained manner. We recognize that the three countries have strong needs and wide space for cooperation in ensuring food and nutrition security for their own country and the region.

We shared the view that the three countries will continue to strengthen and expand the domestic food production capacity, import at an appropriate scale, determine the reserve size based on science, intensify food quality assurance programs and build safe, efficient, and integrated logistic networks for food to steadily improve the regional food security. In addition, we will take a long-term interest in reducing food loss and waste, and discuss the building of a technical platform to quantify and reduce food loss and waste. We will encourage research cooperation to provide guidance for citizens on healthy diet, and issue the guidelines on healthy diet for Northeast Asia at an appropriate time.

## **IV. Cooperation on animal and plant disease control and livestock industries**

We spoke highly of the progress made since the signing of the *Memorandum of Cooperation among the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea on Response against Transboundary Animal Diseases* (hereinafter referred to as “the MOC”) during the Second TAMM.

We will actively carry out follow-up cooperative activities under the MOC by further strengthening our efforts on the sharing of animal health information, the surveillance, reporting and epidemiological investigation of diseases, the exchange of virus and other materials, research and development of diagnostic methodology and vaccines and collaborative research on Transboundary Animal Diseases such as avian influenza, foot and mouth disease and African swine fever. In particular, given the increasing threat of Transboundary Animal Diseases such as African swine fever, cooperation for effective border control among three countries needs to be strengthened.

We decided to hold a meeting among livestock officials of the three countries under the umbrella of Steering Committee of cooperation on Response against Transboundary Animal Diseases Japan-China-Korea with a view to sharing policies and status of the livestock industry, exchanging opinions on areas of interest for the three countries and enhancing mutual understanding. The three countries will consult

on important issues in the livestock industries, including the improvement of livestock breeding environment and development of livestock industry, on a regular basis.

## **V. Regional agricultural cooperation**

We acknowledge that strengthening regional cooperation in agriculture will serve the common interests of the three countries. We fully recognize the effective efforts by the three countries in communicating and coordinating their positions on agricultural issues under various global and multilateral frameworks. We are determined to strengthen regional agricultural cooperation to realize common interests of the three countries through trilateral dialogues.

We propose the three countries to strengthen their communication and coordination, enhance mutual understanding and trust, and deepen pragmatic cooperation in discussions under multilateral frameworks, including G20, World Trade Organization (WTO), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, International Plant Protection Convention, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, and ASEAN Plus Three. We will take stepwise actions to harmonize the entry-exit inspection and quarantine standards for agricultural produce and expedite our efforts on agricultural trade facilitation to promote trade of agricultural products in the region.

We encourage governments, industries and education (research) institutes of the three countries to carry out multi-dimensional agricultural cooperation at different levels. We will support the private think tanks with sound operational experience with a view to pooling wisdom of experts of think tanks to provide intelligence support to the above-mentioned agricultural cooperation.

We appreciate the participation of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) in and its intensive efforts dedicated to the TAMM. We wish to strengthen cooperation with the TCS to achieve steady progress under TAMM and its cooperation mechanisms. We welcome and look forward to the TCS's broader participation in and its active support to the areas of agricultural cooperation among the three countries.

We decided to hold the Fourth TAMM in the Republic of Korea.

Ministry of Agriculture,  
Forestry and Fisheries of  
Japan

Ministry of Agriculture and  
Rural Affairs of  
the People's Republic of  
China

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

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