



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

2019 Agricultural Trade Policies International Conference Agenda

Agri-food Trade and Rural Revitalization: Perspectives on Challenges and Opportunities in an Interconnected Global Economy

1-2 December 2019 | Beijing, China

Agri-food systems around the world are undergoing rapid change. They are becoming increasingly interconnected and shaped by new technologies and digitalisation. This agricultural transformation takes place in the presence of an unabated urbanization process with rising income levels and changing consumer preferences. It also takes place in the presence of environmental degradation, pressures on land and water resources as well as climate change, all of which take a toll on the resource base required for future production growth.

Policymakers need to respond to this wide array of challenges. They have to develop strategies that promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable forms of agriculture, revitalising rural economies. In order to tap into opportunities opening up to them, many rural regions need to overcome specific bottlenecks, including in the agriculture and food sectors. With its National Strategic Plan for Rural Revitalization 2018-22 released in September 2018, China has been making significant efforts to respond to these challenges. The plan foresees new approaches to support agri-businesses, deliver agricultural modernisation, and create vertically integrated rural industries.

In this increasingly interconnected global economy, where trade remains essential to reap new market opportunities, a global dialogue to identify innovative policy approaches becomes ever more important. Previous workshops organised jointly by the Agricultural Trade Promotion Center (ATPC) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, OECD and FAO explored options for devising new policy approaches and assessing their impacts. These policies can inform a broader policy framework, directed towards long-term productivity growth and sustainable resources use, coherently addressing food security concerns.

Against this background, this year's conference pursues several objectives. First, it explores the dynamics of agricultural markets and their implications for food security within the framework of an interconnected global economy. Second, it aims to explore the synergies and trade-offs of different policy approaches aimed at creating a more productive, sustainable and resilient agri-food system. Finally, it gathers specific country and regional experiences, with a view to focusing on future agricultural policy solutions for China and the world.

DAY ONE – 1 December – Celebration of the 15th Anniversary of ATPC	
15:00-15:10	<p>Welcome and introduction</p> <p><i>Wang Guan</i>, Chief Correspondent and News Anchor at CCTV/CGTN</p>
15:10-15:50	<p>Opening speeches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Zhang Taolin</i>, Vice Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs • <i>Kim Hong-Sang</i>, President of Korea Rural Economic Institute • <i>Sun Tan</i>, Vice President of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences • <i>Frank van Tongeren</i>, Head of Division OECD • <i>Brian Ng</i>, Director Chinese Mainland HKTDC • <i>Vincent Martin</i>, FAO Representative China
15:50-16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOU Signing with Korea Rural Economic Institute (KREI) • MOU Signing with Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC)
16:00-16:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “My Work with Agri-Food Trade” Essay Award Ceremony
16:10-16:20	<i>Break</i>
16:20-17:20	<p>Keynote speeches (15 minutes each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Song Hongyuan</i>, Director General, Research Center for Rural Economy, MARA • <i>Vincent Martin</i>, FAO Representative China • <i>Frank van Tongeren</i>, Head of Division OECD • <i>Shenggen Fan</i>, Director General IFPRI

DAY TWO – 2 December – Conference	
8:30-10:10	<p>Session I: Agricultural market dynamics and their implications for food security</p> <p><i>Context and objectives of the session:</i> Agricultural market dynamics continue to be at the heart of policy debates; markets shape policies, policies affect markets.</p> <p>This session will set the stage by providing a brief overview of recent and projected trends in agricultural markets at global and regional levels. It will then focus on the risks and challenges faced by agri-food systems, through examples of selected agricultural products that explore the production, demand and trade situation as well as the implications of market dynamics for food security. Potential questions for discussion include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are agri-food markets developing and what are the underlying drivers? • How are producers, including small-scale farmers, able to respond to dynamically changing market conditions? • What are the challenges and opportunities created by increasingly interconnected agri-food markets? <p><i>Chair:</i> <i>Peng Tingjun</i>, Department of International Cooperation, MARA</p>

	<p>Presentations (15 minutes each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Cotton Market Situation (<i>Georgios Mermigkas, FAO</i>) • Agricultural Trade and Food Security in China (<i>Professor Zhu Jing, Nanjing Agricultural University</i>) • China's Agricultural Import Pattern and Analysis on Import Diversification (<i>Dr. Yang Jing, ATPC</i>) • Medium-term Impacts of a Further Spread of African Swine Fever on International Agricultural Markets (<i>Mischa Tripoli, FAO</i>) <p>Discussant (up to 10 minutes) <i>Professor Tian Weiming, China Agriculture University</i></p> <p>Open discussion (30 minutes): all participants</p>
10:10-10:25	Coffee/tea break
10:25-12:05	<p>Session II: International dimensions of agricultural policies</p> <p>Context and objectives of the session: Agricultural policies are a key part of the changing landscape of agri-food markets. Not only have agri-food markets changed significantly since the latest round of WTO negotiations began in 2001, agricultural policies have evolved in parallel. In the context of limited budgetary resources, governments need to choose those policies that are best suited to increase productivity, sustainability, resilience to climate change and other risks. With continuous globalisation and structural change at both farm and market level, new issues (e.g. concentration in agri-food supply chains) are emerging in global agri-food trade, which in turn may affect the WTO negotiations process. At the same time, many countries have been entering into preferential free trade agreements with a subset of global trading partners, reflecting the slow progress at the multilateral level.</p> <p>This session will discuss policy perspectives through global and regional lenses, looking at patterns of agricultural policies, key issues in the WTO negotiations, developments through preferential trade agreements, as well as potential impacts of different policy approaches. Potential questions for discussion include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can agricultural policies integrate a system-wide approach for food and agriculture moving forward? • What are the key issues in the agricultural negotiations in the WTO? • What role do preferential trade agreements play vis a vis the multilateral trading system, in providing the policy space for countries to pursue their national objectives? <p>Chair: <i>Zhang Xiaowan, ATPC</i></p> <p>Presentations (15 minutes each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing Landscape of Agricultural Policies (<i>Florence Bossard, OECD</i>) • Global Reflection on Rural Revitalization (<i>Kevin Chen, IFPRI & Zhejiang University</i>) • Public Stockholding and Import Surges (<i>Georgios Mermigkas, FAO</i>) • Research on the Forced Effect of Technical Measures to Trade on Chinese Agricultural Exporters (<i>Dr. Xie Zhongmin, ATPC</i>) <p>Discussant (up to 10 minutes) <i>Professor He Xiurong, China Agriculture University</i></p> <p>Open discussion (30 minutes): all participants</p>

12:05-13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30-15:25	<p>Session III: Innovation in the agriculture and food systems</p> <p><i>Context and objectives of the session:</i> As the challenges faced by the agriculture and food sectors become increasingly important, so will knowledge generation and knowledge transfer that can lead to changes in farm practices. Moreover, as agri-food systems become more complex – with increasingly fragmented production systems – farmers will require ever more advanced innovation and technological skills to remain competitive. The extent to which such technologies are diffused and applied can in turn influence the patterns of agri-food production and trade.</p> <p>This session will first focus on the role of innovation policies in guiding the development and diffusion of technologies and practices related to production, processing and marketing of agri-food products. It will then also look into specific examples of technology innovation – including big data, digital technologies for production, e-commerce, among many others – and their role in transforming agricultural production and agri-food trade. Potential questions for discussion include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What roles do innovative technologies play in the context of agri-food global value chains? ● What regulatory environment is required to harness the potential of innovations in revitalising rural areas? What policies are needed to ensure that smallholder farmers can access new technologies? ● Given limited resources, how can the need for investment in research and innovation be balanced with the need for training and extension services that can enable farmers to use existing technology? <p><i>Chair: Georgios Mermigkas, FAO</i></p> <p><i>Presentations</i> (15 minutes each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Application of Computer Vision and Phenotype Technology in Agriculture (<i>Sun Tan, Vice President of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences</i>) ● Innovation in Food and Agriculture: Main Findings from Selected Country Reviews (<i>Shingo Kimura, OECD</i>) ● Widen Agricultural Market through E-commerce (<i>Luo Lin, International Government Affairs of Alibaba Group</i>) ● New Technologies in Tracking Animal Diseases and Residues (<i>Mischa Tripoli, FAO</i>) ● Guolian Group Supply Chain Innovation (<i>Zhao Hongmei, Guolian Aquatic Group</i>) <p><i>Discussant</i> (up to 10 minutes)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Silvia Sorescu, OECD</i></p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i> (30 minutes): all participants</p>
15:25-15:40	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:40-17:20	<p>Session IV: Rural revitalization – Country experiences</p> <p><i>Context and objectives of the session:</i> The global agri-food system is a complex network of stakeholders engaged in production, marketing, distribution and consumption. Rural regions are an important component of this network. China has been making significant efforts to advance a rural revitalization strategy, considering not only the wide scope of agriculture and food-related activities but also the broader context of rural non-farm opportunities and rural-urban linkages.</p>

	<p>This session will aim to discuss policy perspectives through country-specific approaches and experiences in agriculture and rural development. Potential questions for discussion include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering the wide scope of agriculture and food-related activities, contexts and stakeholders involved, what does a holistic approach to rural revitalization imply? • Looking deeper into the role of trade, how can participation in global markets help realise the growth potential of rural areas? • What are the links of these approaches to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? <p>Chair: <i>Silvia Sorescu, OECD</i></p> <p>Presentations (15 minutes each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Trade and Rural Revitalization in Zhejiang Province (<i>Yuan Yijun, Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs</i>) • Experiences on Rural Development in Korea: Focusing on Rural Industrial Policy (<i>Dr. Kim Yong Lyoul, Korea Rural Economic Institute</i>) • China Rural Revitalization Strategy (<i>Professor Cheng Guoqiang, Tongji University</i>) • The Impact of Rural Revitalization Strategy on Agricultural Trade (<i>Zhang Junping, ATPC</i>) <p>Discussant (up to 10 minutes) <i>Mischa Tripoli, FAO</i></p> <p>Open discussion (30 minutes): all participants</p>
<p>17:20-18:00</p>	<p>Wrap up and closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Silvia Sorescu, OECD</i> • <i>Georgios Mermigkas, FAO</i> • <i>Zhang Lubiao, DG ATPC</i>