

APEC Symposium on Inclusive Business in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation

Arequipa, Peru, May 08, 2016

Executive Summaryⁱ

1. In the framework of the APEC 2016 main theme of “Inclusive Growth and Human Development” and Peru’s identified priority of “Enhancing the Regional Food Market”, an “APEC Symposium on Inclusive Business in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation (PPFS 01 2016Sⁱⁱ)” was held in Arequipa, Peru on May 8, 2016, hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan and co-sponsored by Peru, with cooperation by APEC Secretariat. Fifteen (15) APEC economies and others participants from governments, international organizations, business, and academic sectors attendedⁱⁱⁱ. The Symposium was facilitated by Mr. Francis Rainsford, Honorary Consul, British Honorary Consulate in Arequipa, Peru. The Symposium program, including its agenda, is attached.

Session 1

2. Experts from International Organizations (IOs), and an APEC economy lead the discussions on Inclusive Business (IB) and its role for rural development, rural revitalization and poverty alleviation. This session highlighted the importance of joining farmers into Food Value Chains (FVCs) in order to increase the farmers’ income as well as to secure sustainable agriculture. Reviewing the working definition^{iv} of IB, it was recognized that IB would be an innovative solution to provide an opportunity for farmers to join FVCs. It was also understood that IB could ensure inclusive and sustainable growth. A number of experiences by IOs and public sector, such as in Africa, Indonesia, Peru and the Philippines, were shared. It was understood that the IB model was pro-poor and pro-business models, and suggested that economies should explore IB’s applicability to their local situations, acknowledging IB has been a private sector approach.

Session 2

3. Several practical experiences on IB for rural development, rural revitalization and poverty alleviation were shared. Three (3) concrete business cases in Peru were studied, namely: (i) local agribusiness projects by AGRORURAL, (ii) improvement of purple corn supply chain for increase of small scale farmers’ income by JICA Peru, and (iii) efforts on commercialization of highly nutritious products, such as camu camu, produced in rural areas by a private company. A potential business case of medical plants is also suggested while conserving mountain ecosystems by the Mountain Institute. Furthermore, the importance of promoting organic agriculture was shared. It was suggested, among others, that some of the

successful factors for IB were (i) farmers' understanding of roles and advantages of different actors in FVCs, and (ii) establishing mutual trust among FVCs' actors.

4. The Symposium was informative and useful for all the participants. They gained a better understanding of IB and its role for rural development, rural revitalization and poverty alleviation. Presentation materials as well as an Executive Summary will be uploaded at the Asia-Pacific Information Platform on Food Security (APIP), for further information sharing in the APEC region. In addition, the discussion at the Symposium will serve a great input to PPFS's on-going work on integrated APEC Initiatives on Rural Development for Food Security.
5. Japan's MAFF took this opportunity to carry out export promotion of Japan's agricultural products, and also encouraged the Symposium participants to join the APEC Cold Chains Forum.

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- i This Executive Summary is made by a principal organizer: Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.
 - ii PPFS: Policy Partnership for Food Security. Please refer to <http://www.apec.org/Groups/Other-Groups/Policy-Partnership-on-Food-Security.aspx>.
 - iii Participated APEC Members: Australia, Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, USA, and Viet Nam.
 - iv The working definition of "Inclusive Business" is as follows:
A private sector approach to providing goods, services, and livelihoods on a commercially viable basis, either at scale or scalable, to people at the base of the pyramid by making them part of the value chain of companies' core business as suppliers, distributors, retailers, or customers.
(Source: "G20 INCLUSIVE BUSINESS FRAMEWORK", <http://g20.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/G20-Inclusive-Business-Framework.pdf>)