

Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) 2025 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 (APA), 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.”
- Along the way, 2024 APEC Leaders’ Machu Picchu Declaration reaffirmed the importance of food security while recognizing the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for driving innovation and promoting sustainable economic growth. Simultaneously, support efforts that seek to ensure availability and access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food for all, taking into account the integration of all relevant economic actors into the formal economy and enabling their participation into regional and global markets. Also, reaffirm the urgency of accelerating clean, sustainable, just, affordable, and inclusive energy transitions through various pathways, consistent with global net-zero greenhouse gas emissions / carbon neutrality.
- Toward that end, in 2025, 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, prevention and control of natural disasters, resources scarcity, and shortage and aging in agricultural workforce on the agri-food systems in the region.
- Simultaneously, in 2025, the ATCWG will align its activities along with Host Economy Korea’s Policy Priorities and theme for APEC 2025: “Building a Sustainable Tomorrow: Connect, Innovate, Prosper.”, particularly on promoting innovation and the adoption of new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) to strengthen food security and foster inclusive economic growth and prosperity, 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, Golden Gate Declaration, Machu Picchu Declaration, Lima Roadmap to Promote the Transition to the Formal and Global Economies and Trujillo Principles for Preventing and Reducing Food Loss and Waste in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- In 2025, 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, promote the transition to the formal economy in the agricultural sector, sustainable biomass management through the BCG models, strengthening regulatory capacity in biosecurity, empowerment of smallholder, women and youth farmers, underserved groups, and sustainable agriculture and rural development, among others.

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- In 2025, 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 continue to be stressed. The ATCWG will strive to enhance women's capacities and 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 2025

- Participate in the ATCWG Fora Assessment in accordance with the SCE Standardised Sub-Fora Assessment process;
- Drafting of the ATCWG Terms of Reference 2026-2029;
- Drafting of the ATCWG Strategic Plan for 2026-2029;
- Drafting of the ATCWG's annual report for endorsement; and
- Commencing the ATCWG Lead Shepherd selection in June 2025.

Expected Deliverables in 2025

1. Hold the 29th ATCWG Annual Meeting

The 29th ATCWG Annual Meeting is currently scheduled to be held physically in August 2025 in Incheon, Korea during the Food Security Week of the SOM3 cluster. In this meeting, member economies are expected to share their previous outcome of the projects conducted after the 28th meeting till 2025, the latest agricultural innovations and policies, as well as possible upcoming ATCWG projects.

2. Hold ATCWG APEC Workshops:

a. ATC 02 2023S (AUS): Harmonising Biosecurity Regulatory Approaches in a Multilateral

Context – The hybrid 2025 Quarantine Regulators Meeting (QRM) will be co-hosted by Australia and the Philippines in Manila from 28 April to 2 May 2025. The theme of the 2025 QRM is 'The Evolution of Biosecurity Regulation: Past, Present and Future', allowing space for reflection on how domestic Plant Protection Organisations have had to amend their regulatory approach and discuss how we can collectively prepare for emerging biosecurity challenges in the Asia-Pacific region.

b. ATCWG_101_2024A (VN): Promoting APEC Cooperation for Scaling Up Best Practices on Women's Participation to Global Value Chain of Agricultural Products toward Sustainable Development

– The project aims to synthesize, review and analyse some best practices in terms of policies and actions in APEC region on women's participation to the global value chain of agricultural products toward sustainable development for possible scaling up by member economies. There will be a workshop in April 2025 to deepen understanding of the transition of agricultural value chains to become more inclusive, gender-responsive, and climate-positive

c. ATCWG_102_2024 (THA): Driving Technical Cooperation to Enhance Capacity Building for Promoting Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurial Leadership in Small-scale Women Farmers towards a Sustainable Future for All APEC Economies

– This workshop seeks to fill skills gap for equivalent processes in promoting women empowerment and entrepreneurial leadership that aligned with priorities for APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040. There

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is a pre-workshop survey by collecting data from governments and private sectors, a two-day workshop in July in Thailand, and a workshop report will come along after the workshop.

- d. ATCWG_103_2024 (ROK): Workshop on Digital Agricultural Technologies for Climate Change Adaptation and Enhancement of Food Productivity** – This workshop will be held from 5 August to 6 August 2025 in Korea to tackle with food insecurity caused by extreme weather conditions such as droughts, floods, and high temperatures. Climate change increases crop pests and livestock diseases, threatening food security. This workshop consists of an in-person workshop and a field trip (some facilities or institutes in Korea), sharing practical applications of digital technologies in areas such as early warning systems, pest control, plant factories, greenhouse gas reduction, and prediction of food production. The workshop will present best practices and introduce sites to help APEC member economies successfully apply digital agricultural technologies in their regions.
- e. ATCWG_202_2024 (CT): Reducing Food Loss and Waste through Packaging Innovations and Progress Review of Food Loss and Waste in the APEC Region** – Packaging innovations have gained ground over the years including proper labelling, intelligent packaging, smart labelling, packaging procedures and design adjustments, water-resistant air-tight containers, controlled-atmosphere containers, dehydration technology, and edible coatings. This hybrid workshop scheduled for June 2025 will be focusing on preventing food loss and waste (FLW) through packaging solutions.
- f. ATCWG_201_2024 (CT): Enhancing Net-Zero Carbon Emission Goals through Circular Agriculture: Best Practices and Innovations** – This hybrid workshop is planned to be held in October 2025. It aims to seek innovative opportunities to close nutrient loops, eliminate waste and pollution from agricultural production and food consumption, upcycle and recycle food by-products and minimize land, water and carbon footprints to benefit the APEC region. APEC members can align circular agriculture practices with net-zero carbon emission goals by integrating existing resources, developing and incorporating carbon-reduction innovations, and promoting agricultural resource recycling industry chains.
- g. ATCWG_2025 (PRC): APEC Workshop on Food System Transformation and Upgrading for sustainable Agricultural Development and Food Security** – This workshop is built on a series of initiatives on food systems at the recent 2024 APEC Leaders' Machu Picchu Declaration and relevant Ministerial Meeting on Food Security. It aims at practical cooperation among APEC members on promoting food system upgrading and sustainable development of food systems in the region. The issues of the workshop are related to PPFS, ATCWG and other relevant forums focusing on food security and sustainable development. The specific topics of the event are as follows: characteristics of the food system in the APEC region and its members, classic cases and experience sharing of food system upgrading and sustainable development in APEC member, and pathways for future APEC food system improvement and sustainable development cooperation. The workshop is planned to be held in October 2025, and lasting for 2 days online and onsite.

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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 and beyond APEC)
ECOTECH Medium-Term Priorities: Building on APEC's work on supporting MSMEs' and women's economic empowerment, and cooperate to further develop APEC's work on other groups with untapped economic potential, such as indigenous peoples as appropriate, people with disabilities, and those from remote and rural communities Host Year Priorities: Connect: Enhancing connectivity among APEC economies; Innovate: Promoting innovation and the adoption of new technologies; Prosper: Fostering inclusive economic growth and prosperity across the region.			
Promoting APEC Cooperation for Scaling up Best Practices on Women's Participation to Global Value Chain of Agricultural Products toward Sustainable Development (ATCWG_101_2024A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATCWG Strategic Plan for 2021-2025's priorities of strengthening regional food security; building agricultural value chain; building climate smart and resilient agricultural systems; and fostering sustainable agriculture systems. The Niigata Declaration on APEC Food Security. The Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030. Bangkok Goals 2022: Committed to building an environment where all, including MSMEs and women, are empowered to access economic opportunities and contribute to and benefit from our economy The APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 and the Aotearoa Plan of Action 	<p>Summarize the specific plans or activities for the project or initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project aims to synthesize, review and analyse some best practices in terms of policies and actions in APEC region on women's participation to the global value chain of agricultural products toward sustainable development for possible scaling up by member economies. Conduct a report on best practices of women's participation in global value chain of agricultural products toward sustainable development to generate better information for decision making through research on gaps, prevailing/best practices, and opportunities in promoting women's economic empowerment, and their roles and contributions towards transitioning to a low-carbon economy. Hold a workshop in April 2025 to deepening understanding of the transition of agricultural value chains to become more inclusive, gender-responsive, and climate-positive. Increase awareness of policymakers for gender-inclusive and gender responsive climate-smart policies by providing gender and climate inputs for regional /domestic roadmaps/policies. <p>La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and facilitate cooperation in the public and private sector to help ensure that women, including women of diverse backgrounds, and women-led micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), can access capital and assets, in both local and international markets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project aims to consult with PPFS and PPWE to have more comprehensive information and data to support the Study. Other forum might be consulted as well since gender is currently the top priority that required to be integrated in all policies and project design and implementation. This project plans to invite representatives from FAO, WEF/GA and private companies that are working on gender projects.
Driving Technical Cooperation to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATCWG 2021-2025 Strategic Plan of 	<p>Summarize the specific plans or activities for the project or initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project seeks to fill skills gap for equivalent processes in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project will have a close collaboration with the Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group

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Enhance Capacity Building for Promoting Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurial Leadership in Small-scale Women Farmers towards a Sustainable Future for All APEC Economies (ATCWG_102_2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> strengthening regional food security and food safety. APEC Leaders' commitments to promote women's economic empowerment by focusing on a two-pillar approach of Policy Partnership on Women Empowerment (PPWE). 	<p>promoting women empowerment and entrepreneurial leadership that aligned with priorities for APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project will conduct a pre-workshop survey by collecting data from governments and private sectors, a two-day workshop in July in Thailand, and prepare for a workshop report. <p>La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support training and skills development and access in a changing world of work, exchange experiences and best practices that can effectively increase the participation of women in local, regional, and global markets, advancing women's economic empowerment and improving access of women to leadership positions in decision making. 	<p>(SMEWG), the Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS), the Policy Partnership for Women Empowerment (PPWE), and the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) in ensuring that gender equality issues, and women's economic empowerment, in particular, are integral to all APEC activities and policy formulation processes. This project will build on the outcomes of the APEC funded project proposed by Peru under the ATCWG and PPFS on similar subject entitled "Study and Workshop on the Associativity as a Strategy to Improve the Competitiveness of Women in Small Scale Agriculture in APEC Economies."</p>
ECOTECH Medium-Term Priorities: 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			
Host Year Priorities: Connect: Enhancing connectivity among APEC economies; Innovate: Promoting innovation and the adoption of new technologies; Prosper: Fostering inclusive economic growth and prosperity across the region.			
Harmonising Biosecurity Regulatory Approaches in a Multilateral Context (ATC 02 2023S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATCWG 2021-2025 Strategic Plan to strengthen cooperation on prevention and control of animal and plant pests and diseases including sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues. Host year priorities: Connect, Innovate and Prosper Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 	<p>Summarize the specific plans or activities for the project or initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2025 Quarantine Regulators Meeting will support APEC's overarching mission to foster sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region by conducting awareness-raising activities that provide co-benefits of mitigating biosecurity risks to agri-food systems and food security challenges caused by pest incursions. The workshop intends to build on 2024 project efforts to harmonise biosecurity management and build capacity of the region through information and best practice sharing. <p>La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project supports the La Serena Roadmap by aiming to increase women's economic and technical participation in biosecurity regulatory activities in the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 on addressing biosecurity risks that threaten agriculture and the environment.
Workshop on Digital Agricultural Technologies for Climate Change Adaptation and Enhancement of Food Productivity (ATCWG_103_2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATCWG 2021-2025 Strategic Plan priorities to enhancing R&D and expanding smart agriculture (Agriculture 4.0) and building climate-smart and resilient agricultural systems. 	<p>Summarize the specific plans or activities for the project or initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With extreme weather conditions caused by climate change (droughts, floods, high temperatures, etc.), there has been an increase in crop pests and livestock diseases, threatening food security. This project is going to share digital technology information that enables proactive responses to climate change-induced extreme weather, threatening food security in the APEC region, and present best practices and introduce sites to help APEC member 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project will seek collaboration opportunities with the Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) and the Policy Partnership on Science Technology and Innovation (PPSTI). Additionally, the PO is ready to accept active participation and cooperation through feedback and review from related forums. Discussions are also underway for cooperation with the High-Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Security Roadmaps Towards 2030. 	<p>economies successfully apply digital agricultural technologies in their regions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project consists of an in-person workshop along with a field trip in Korea. There will also be a project summary report. <p>La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project will provide capacity building activities and opportunities for networking, mentoring, and digital skills-building, among other core skills, to increase women's business competencies and encourage their participation in the digital economy and innovation. 	
Reducing Food Loss and Waste through Packaging Innovations and Progress Review of Food Loss and Waste in the APEC Region (ATCWG_202_2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATCWG Strategic Plan 2021–2025 to strengthen regional food security & food safety by promoting activities and regional cooperation in the APEC region, such as through the reduction of food losses and waste; empowering farmers to improve their productivity and quality of product; facilitation of agricultural trade and investment. Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030, 17(e) The 25th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, paragraph 31 states, "We urge economies to work together to promote sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries to assess and reduce food loss and waste, enhance food safety..." 	<p>Summarize the specific plans or activities for the project or initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project is going to provides a workshop along with a field trip in June 2025 to reduce food loss and waste (FLW), focusing on packaging solutions. An APEC-wide survey to review the progress of its member economies on FLW will also be conducted and presented in the workshop in line with the APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030, 17(e). A project report will be published after the workshop. There will also be information sharing on the website of APEC-FLOWS. <p>La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project contributes to supporting small farmers and improving profitability of MSME, which can create employment opportunities and promote women's empowerment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant APEC groups such as PPFS, OFWG, SMEWG and APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) as well as international organizations will be invited to contribute to the project and to share the information of reducing FLW on food storage, processing & packaging, and review the progress of reducing FLW.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 5th APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security, paragraph 7 states, "... Reducing food loss and waste can also be an adaptive and mitigation option to reduce the food security risks of new climate scenarios ...", and paragraph 9 continues, "... raising awareness and building capacity; and developing robust policies to prevent and reduce food loss and waste. 		
APEC Workshop on Food System Transformation and Upgrading for sustainable Agricultural Development and Food Security (ATCWG_2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATCWG Strategic Plan for 2021-2025's priorities of strengthening regional food security; building agricultural value chain; building climate smart and resilient agricultural systems; and fostering sustainable agriculture systems. The Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030, preface 2024 APEC Leaders' Machu Picchu Declaration, "We encourage economies to continue to support efforts that seek to ensure availability and access to safe, nutritious, and 	<p>Summarize the specific plans or activities for the project or initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project aims to offer practical cooperation among APEC members on promoting food system upgrading and sustainable development of food systems in the region. Discussion on best practices of promoting food system upgrading and sustainable development of food systems in the region. Hold a workshop in October 2025 to deepening understanding of promoting food system upgrading and sustainable development of food systems in the region. The specific topics of the event are as follows: characteristics of the food system in the APEC region and its members, classic cases and experience sharing of food system upgrading and sustainable development in APEC member, and pathways for future APEC food system improvement and sustainable development cooperation. The workshop is planned to be held in October 2025, and lasting for 2 days online and offline. After the project, awareness of promoting food system upgrading and sustainable development of food systems could be more accepted by general public in the APEC region. <p>La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project supports the aims of the PPWE and the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth by increasing women's economic participation through innovation and technology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project will seek collaboration opportunities with the Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) and the Policy Partnership for Women Empowerment (PPWE). Additionally, the PO is ready to accept active participation and cooperation through feedback and review from related forums.

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	sufficient food for all, while fulfilling our commitments to address environmental challenges, innovation and cooperation to advance sustainable agricultural development and support sustainable fisheries.”		
ECOTECH Medium-Term Priorities: Promoting sustainable growth across sectors and the development of cost effective low and zero emissions technologies, sustainable finance and, if appropriate, carbon pricing mechanisms; ATCWG EPWG EWG EGILAT OFWG PPWE SMEWG TWG TELWG TPTWG PPSTI Structural Reform; Human security; Sustainable growth sustainable planet. Host Year Priorities: Connect: Enhancing connectivity among APEC economies; Innovate: Promoting innovation and the adoption of new technologies; Prosper: Fostering inclusive economic growth and prosperity across the region.			
Enhancing Net-Zero Carbon Emission Goals through Circular Agriculture: Best Practices and Innovations (ATCWG_201_2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATCWG 2021-2025 Strategic Plan to strengthening regional food security & food safety, as well as fostering sustainable agriculture systems. Aligning with the APEC Bangkok Goals and Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) model, Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030, and Peru 2024's priorities, this project focuses on promoting circular agriculture to achieving net-zero carbon emissions in agriculture. 	<p>Summarize the specific plans or activities for the project or initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural resource recycling is crucial for global green energy and sustainable development. This project addresses the efficient recycling of agricultural surplus resources through innovative technologies, integrating materials from agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and livestock industries. Through the practice of circular agriculture, carbon footprints could be reduced by applying the "reduce-reuse-recycle-remove" approach. This project aims to seek innovative opportunities to close nutrient loops, eliminate waste and pollution from agricultural production and food consumption, upcycle and recycle food by-products and minimize land, water and carbon footprints to benefit the APEC region. This project consists of a pre-workshop survey, a hybrid two-day workshop with an on-site visit in October 2025. A project summary report will also be followed through. <p>La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project supports the aims of the PPWE and the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth by increasing women's economic participation through innovation and technology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant APEC groups such as PPFS, OFWG, SMEWG and ABAC as well as global organizations will be invited to contribute to the project and to share the information regarding circular agriculture, particularly about innovative technologies to reduce carbon emissions.