

**3rd meeting of the EU-China Task Force in Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology
Research and Innovation (FAB)**

Beijing, 11 October 2013

Joint Conclusions

Under the presidency of Dr. Kongming Wu, Vice President, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) on the Chinese side and Mr Nikiforos Sivenas, Principal Advisor, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission on the EU side, the 3rd meeting of the EU-China Task Force in Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology Research and Innovation (FAB) took place in Beijing on 11 October 2013 and was co-chaired by Dr. Lubiao Zhang, Director-General of the Department of International Cooperation of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) on the Chinese side and by Mr Thomas Arnold, Advisor “Sustainable Bio-economy”, European Commission, Directorate General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) on the EU side.

The Task Force meeting followed the Joint Experts' Seminar of 10-11 October 2013 organised by DG for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) and DG for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) of the European Commission, together with the China Agricultural University (CAU) and CAAS. The main objective of the seminar was to contribute to developing an EU-China FAB Strategic Agenda and to help defining an EU-China research and innovation cooperation initiative in the field of Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology. The seminar has seen the participation of European and Chinese experts from research and industry, policy makers and other stakeholders. The Task Force welcomed the outcome of the EU-China Experts' Seminar which provided an important contribution to the further thematic targeting based on mutually beneficial objectives and leading towards programme-level cooperation activities with challenge-based topics of mutual interests.

The main objective of the Task Force meeting was to further discuss and agree on targeted priority areas, tools and modalities of future cooperation on the short and the longer term, based on the recommendations of the Joint Experts' Seminar and with a view to develop a EU-China FAB initiative to be announced at the forthcoming EU-China Summit.

The Task Force recognised that in the context of the new EU framework programme for research and innovation (Horizon 2020) and similar Chinese programmes such as the CAAS Agricultural Science and Technology Innovation Program (ASTIP), there is a promising window of opportunities to reinforce research and innovation cooperation in areas of mutual interests in a win-win approach.

The Task Force agreed on the following shared priority areas for cooperation to be pursued with their respective funding programmes:

- Food related science, including food waste
- IPM and biological control, organic and low-input farming system, water and soil management
- Animal health and production systems

- Urban agriculture (in synergy with the EU China Partnership on Urbanisation)
- Biotechnology.

The Task Force took note that a more strategic, focused and balanced cooperation between the EU and China is needed, in particular by developing joint and co-funded programmes, projects and initiatives with funds coming from both the EU through Horizon 2020 and China through relevant programmes, for example ASTIP. As these programmes will develop in parallel, they will be excellent tools to further define and implement these joint priorities.

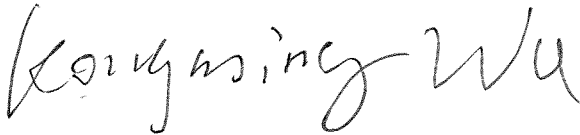
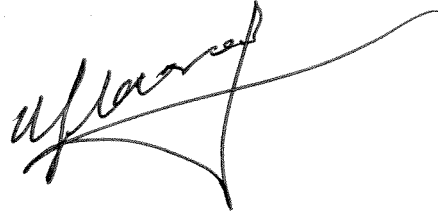
Both sides have agreed to the following actions:

- The EU side is looking forward to a fruitful participation of Chinese institutions in Horizon 2020 (which is fully open to Third Countries' participation).
- The Chinese side confirmed that they will provide the necessary support to ensure the active participation of Chinese research institutions in consortia selected under Horizon 2020 calls for proposals in the field of Societal Challenge 2 “Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research, and the bioeconomy”, and additionally “Biotechnology” under “Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies”.
- The EU side is considering to flag challenge-based topics in the 2014/15 Work Programme for EU-China collaboration, notably on the issues listed in the Annex to this Joint Conclusions and is considering to develop a specific topic for immediate reinforced cooperation with China on Integrated Pest Management.
- To ensure reciprocity, the Chinese side will facilitate access for European participants in relevant Chinese programmes.
- In the longer term the two sides will consider launching and funding joint/coordinated calls with a view to promote integrated collaboration between Chinese and European consortia of research institutions in areas considered of mutual interest.
- The Chinese side is also considering launching and funding parallel Chinese projects in relevant areas with a view to promote collaboration between these Chinese projects and the EU projects funded by Horizon 2020.
- The Task Force recognised the need for a strategic planning and reconfirmed the commitment to start preparing a planning of joint co-funded programme level initiatives and other appropriate mechanisms on the basis of the joint report of the experts’ seminar with a view to discuss progress at the Joint Steering Committee meeting of 2014.

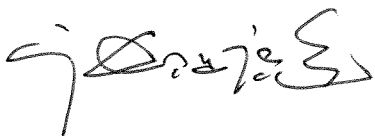
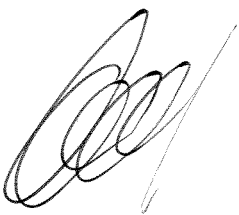
The Task Force members will continue to liaise closely in order to finalise the content of the FAB initiative expected to be announced at the forthcoming EU-China Summit.

Signed in two copies in Beijing, 11 October 2013

Chairs of China-EU Task Force

<p>Dr. Kongming Wu, Vice President, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)</p> 	<p>Mr Nikiforos Sivenas, Principal Advisor, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission</p> 
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Chairs of the meeting:

<p>Dr. Lubiao Zhang, DG, International Cooperation Department, CAAS</p> 	<p>Mr Thomas Arnold, Advisor “Sustainable Bio-economy”, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission</p> 
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Annex

CHALLENGE-BASED TOPICS FOR EU-CHINA COLLABORATION

- Reduction, recycling and reuse of food waste
- Integrated Pest Management
- Biological contamination of crops and the food chain
- Soil quality and function
- Sustainable livestock production
- Sustainable use of agricultural waste, co-products and by-products