

## **Main Policies and Measures of China to Safeguard Food Security**

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Distinguished Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Dr. Trevor Nicholls, CEO of CABI,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to meet with you here in London Today, to attend opening ceremony of CABI Global Summit on Food Security and the 16<sup>th</sup> Review Conference. Given crawling global financial crisis, growing impact on the world real economy and agriculture, and mighty challenges in safeguarding world food security and fostering agricultural development, it is of great significance to convene this summit.

I would like to deliver my remarks in three aspects: 1). Main policy measures of China in fostering agricultural development and safeguarding food security; 2). Policy initiatives in enhancing global food security; 3). Bring into play the important role of CABI in safeguarding world food security.

**First, I would like to share with you main policy measures of China in fostering agricultural development and safeguarding food security.**

It is known to all that the Chinese Government succeeded in feeding its 1.3 billion people with domestic resources, and rendered substantive yet sustainable reduction of abject poverty population. China has been gaining bumper harvest in grain production for 5 years in a row since 2004. In 2008, grain output totaled 528.5 billion kg, with unit yield of 4950 kg per hectare, both setting historical record. China feeds 21% of the world population with 9% of the world farmland, making great contribution to the world food security.

Fostering agricultural development and safeguarding food security constitute a major component in the government's drive of expanding domestic demands, and enforcing proactive fiscal policies, while producing enough food for 1.3 billion people is the most important item in government's agenda. China introduced the following 5 measures in this regard:

First, offer more policy support. The Chinese Government further increased spending in agricultural subsidy from 103 billion Yuan in the previous year to 123 billion Yuan this year. Subsidy for superior varieties covered rice, wheat, corn and cotton. Subsidy for purchasing farm machinery rose to 13 billion Yuan and achieved universal access by all crop/animal production counties. Threshold grain purchase price was increased sharply – 0.2-0.22 Yuan per kg for wheat, and 0.26 Yuan per kg for rice. At the same

time, China further expanded the national grain reserve, promptly mobilized temporary storage, and provided stronger incentive to major grain-producing counties.

Second, try all means to maintain grain-sowing acreage. China enforced the most stringent farmland protection and conservation system, persisted to the bottom line of 120 ha farmland, and identified permanent basic farmland, aiming to maintain consistent acreage and use of basic farmland, and improve quality of farmland. In addition, the government employed several means such as policies, projects and market to guide and encourage farmers to grow quality grain, expanded acreage of high-yield and quality grain crop to better tap potentials of existing resources, and took effective measures to curb farmland idling, which helped to maintain the grain-sowing acreage of above 112 million hectare. The Government will further optimize structure of grain production, expanding acreage of high-yield crops such as rice and corn, and stabilizing production of wheat and soybean.

Third, Increase unit grain yield through science and technology. China has introduced 2050 national level demonstration farms on high-yield grains, to demonstrate new varieties with high yield, good quality and strong resistance, and disseminate a series of advanced, practical yet cost-effective key technologies, wishing to bring about balanced growth in difference regions. The Chinese Government has been actively launching outreaching programs on agricultural science and technologies – releasing 100 varieties and 60 technologies, encouraging agricultural research, education and extension institutions to deliver technical services for grain production, effectively improving accessibility of practical technologies, and working hard to increase unit yield and quality of farm produce.

Fourth, consolidate agricultural infrastructures. The Government invested more substantively in farmland infrastructures, to accelerate upgrading of medium and low-yield farmland, and improve farmland quality. Efforts have also been made to enhance systems for breeding of fine varieties, plant protection and technology extension services, and equip farms with more machinery, to improve comprehensive production capacity of grain. National strategic program on grain production was initiated, to build capacity for additional 50 billion kg, and to cultivate core grain-producing regions with favorable conditions, high productivity and large quantity of grain transfer.

Fifth, squarely enforce provincial governor accountability for food security. Tiered accountability system on food security at central and local level was established, to bolster consciousness of localities in safeguarding food security. Major producing regions shall work for full-fledged development of their grain industry, serving as the engine behind commercial grain supply in the country; major marketing regions and supply-demand balance regions shall stabilize grain acreage and self-sufficiency status, foster local reserve, and maintain general balance of grain supply and demand in their respective region.

## Second, Chinese policy initiatives in enhancing global food security

China actively offered donation to international institutions on food and agricultural within its capacity, and delivered food aid to some countries in face of food emergencies. Last year, the Chinese Government formally committed to contribute 30 million USD to FAO to set up a trust fund, aiming to help developing countries build capacity in grain and agricultural production. In the meanwhile, China kicked off 16 agricultural technology demonstration centers, some already completed, in counties in Asia, Africa and Latin America. By taking its agricultural technology advantages such as hybrid rice, China dispatched nearly a thousand agricultural specialists and technicians to the developing counties, to disseminate advanced agricultural technologies and deliver trainings to agricultural technicians. In September 2008, China decided to increase the number of China-aided agricultural technology demonstration centers to 30, and double the number of agricultural specialists and technicians dispatched overseas.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A proper solution to address world food security concerns and mitigate impact on agricultural development by the global financial crisis calls for concerted efforts of the international community. To this end, I would like to offer the following observations:

First, all countries in the world shall pay closer importance to food security, and attach greater importance to agriculture, so as to build a solid foundations for tiding over financial crisis and rendering economic recovery. Major grain producing countries shall make more efforts. Developing countries shall take effective measures to invest more in grain production and agriculture, consolidating agricultural infrastructures, enhancing agricultural scientific and technological research, development and application, supporting farmers to expand production, and working hard to improve self-sufficiency of grain.

Second, further engage in multi-level international cooperation in agricultural and grain. The international community shall shoulder common yet differentiated responsibilities, and promptly take coordinated and consistent actions. The international organizations and developed countries shall take more concrete actions to innovate funding mechanism, increase investment, and offer technical, financial and input support to developing counties, helping them enhance capacity in grain and agricultural production, and safeguard food security. The international community shall further enhance capacity in monitoring and early warning targeting global food security. Developing countries shall further advance south-south cooperation in food security, making it an important platform and mechanism for developing countries to jointly rise up to challenges in food security and financial crisis.

Third, appropriately guide development of biomass energy industry. An international cooperation mechanism shall be set up to review and assess long-term impact of biomass energy development, and work out guiding principles for policy-making. Food security shall always be given top priority, while technical research and cooperation may be intensified to bring about new breakthrough in the comprehensive use of agricultural wastes such as crop stalks.

Fourth, step up international cooperation in mitigating the impact of climate change on agricultural. Developed countries shall strictly fulfill their obligations in emission reduction, and expedite technology transfer in a spirit of common development, to help developing countries in capacity building for climate change adaptation. Developing countries shall take both current and long-term perspective, introduce effective measures, enhance utilization efficiency of agricultural resources, readjust production mix, regional distribution and production modes, and mitigate potential losses due to climate change.

Fifth, oppose trade and investment protectionism. All countries shall work wholeheartedly to oppose discriminative practices against foreign labors in the excuse of protecting domestic workforce, stand against all types of trade protectionism, oppose investment protectionism in all excuses to reduce market access and bagger thy neighbor, and jointly work against the abusive use of trade remedy measures. We hope the some countries will ease unreasonable export restriction against developing countries, and work hard to grow bilateral trade volume of agricultural products. The international community shall further improve international trade environment for agriculture, establish fair and reasonable international trade order for agricultural products, and protect initiatives of farmers in developing countries. All countries, developed countries in particular, shall demonstrate utmost sincerity to expedite Doha round talks, and work for a comprehensive and balanced outcome at an early date on the basis of the consensus reached in July 2008.

**Third, bring into play the important role of CABI in safeguarding world food security.**

Science and technology would be an important contributor to address world challenges in food security. As an important international organization in agricultural science and technology, CABI boasts distinct advantages and expertise in agricultural publication, knowledge transfer and management, research and consultancy, and makes important contribution to promoting sustainable agricultural development, safeguarding food security and alleviating poverty in the world. In the context of crawling global financial crisis and gloomy challenges in food security, CABI shifted its strategic focus of international developed to project development and implementation on food security, and enhanced relevant businesses such as consulting services, which is undoubtedly of strategic significance to CABI's development.

China began to cooperate with CABI in 1980 in agricultural information. Agricultural information of CABI, particularly literature information, played an important role in broaden horizon and enhance capacity of agricultural researchers in China. As ties between the two sides become closer, the areas of cooperation have been expanding to biological prevention and control, prevention and control of alien invasive species, IPM, microorganism agriculture, and insects and fungus. China formally became a member of CABI in 1995. In 2002, CABI set up a project office in Beijing, which was later upgraded into China Representation of CABI in 2009.

China values its cooperation with CABI. In the recent years, the two sides organized a series of events to foster strategic partnership between China and CABI. In 2006, the two sides mobilized “China-CABI Cooperation Strategy Study”, which systematically reviewed cooperation in the past 20 years, analyzed existing challenges, and proposed concrete ideas for enhancing cooperation. In the China-CABI Summit on Science and Technology Cooperation in 2007, the two sides signed MOU on further cooperation. Following the MOU, the two sides set up “China-CABI Joint Laboratory on Biosafety” in 2008. In the upcoming November, the two sides will also joint sponsor the “International Conference on the Prevention and Control of Invasive Species” in Fujian Province of China. Those activities were designed to build platform for cooperation among countries, especially member countries of CABI, to advance study and research in prevention and control of alien invasive species, GMO safety evaluation, mitigation and control of chemical residue pollution, and comprehensive management of hazardous organism, and to create conditions for trainings. Those activities will help to further enhance international academic exchange, promote agricultural science and technology cooperation among countries, and make active contributions to food security in China and the whole world.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,

As a member country of CABI, China is ready to continue its active and constructive role, further intensify cooperation with CABI and all member countries, and make our due contribution to better food security in the world. In the near future, we would like to focus on the following aspects:

1. Fully tap the potential of China-CABI Joint Laboratory on Biosafety, and squarely implement proposals in the China-CABI MOU on Science and Technology Cooperation, with emphasis laid on cooperation projects on food security, to foster food security in the world.
2. make more efforts, and in seeking financial support from international institutions, to jointly sponsor priority collaborative research programs, including those on prevention and control of foreign species, IMP, microorganism agriculture and information and knowledge management.

3. Enhance exchange and cooperation among member countries. Efforts will be made to launch more such activities, such as workshops and trainings, to share successful experiences in agricultural technology and management, disseminate agricultural research outcomes, and thus enhance comprehensive agricultural productivity and food security.

In essence, as a major developing country in the agricultural front, China is ready to work with CABI and member countries, to enhance cooperation, and work for higher agricultural productivity and better food security in the world.

In conclusion, I wish the CABI Summit and the 16<sup>th</sup> Review Conference a complete success.

Thank you.