

**Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation Meeting of the  
International Center for Applied Biosciences (CABI)**

**Opening Remarks**

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Respected Mr. Roger Horton , Chair of CABI Board ,

Respected Dr. Trevor Nicholls, CEO of CABI ,

Delegates from CABI member countries of the Asia-Pacific region ,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning.

In this golden autumn of October, I am very pleased to attend this CABI Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation Meeting in the occasion of 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MARA-CABI Joint Laboratory for Biosafety. First of all, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), I would like to extend my warmest welcome to all delegates and experts attending the meeting.

China has been cooperating with CABI for more than 30 years. The two sides have carried out fruitful cooperation in many fields and have created innovative ways in terms of cooperation methods and mechanisms. In 2008, the MARA-CABI Joint Laboratory for Biosafety was established at the Institute of Plant Protection of CAAS. In the past ten years, the joint laboratory has made remarkable achievements in introducing advanced technologies and concepts, planning and implementing international cooperation projects, conducting academic exchanges and technical training, as well as building research and innovation teams. It has become a successful example of agricultural cooperation between China and international organizations. The keys to this success can be summarized in the following three points:

- 1) China and CABI adhere to the concept and practice of cooperation, mutual benefit, openness and inclusiveness, and bring together the resources from MARA , CAAS

and CABI through a powerful and capable Joint Steering Committee, which strengthens the organizational commitment and coordination between the three parties; 2) China and CABI make utmost effort to mobilize financial, human and in kind capital for international cooperation projects. Since 2008, Chinese government's donation to the CABI Development Fund (CDF) has increased year by year. Currently, 400,000 US dollars are earmarked for the operation and R&D activities of joint laboratory. 3) The innovation teams play an important role. The close cooperation between excellent domestic teams led by Academician Wu Kong Ming and DG Zhou Xueping and foreign teams led by Dr. Ulli Kuhlmann, winner of the China Friendship Awards, builds a solid foundation for productive outcomes. The strong coordination of liaison secretaries is also indispensable to the efficient work of the Joint Lab. .

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of China's reform and opening up. At the beginning of last month, in his keynote speech at the Beijing Summit of the Forum on

China-Africa Cooperation, President Xi Jinping clearly stated that China is willing to work with countries around the world to build a community of shared future, develop global partnership, expand friendly cooperation, and embark on a new path of state-to-state exchanges with mutual respect, fairness, justice, cooperation and win-win result. Faced with the theme of global development, China is willing to work with international partners to expedite the green, peaceful, open and innovative development in pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative.

Just now Mr. Roger Horton introduced the background and agenda of this meeting. I think that the timing of this meeting is very good and fits the new situation of the international trend. In recent years, the global pattern for agricultural development has been fundamentally changed. Climate change exerts greater impact on major grain producing areas; international agro-product markets and global trade suffers from more uncertainties. Global food security and poverty remain as problems for many developing countries. About 795 million people

endure chronic hunger and 2 billion suffer from malnutrition. Inadequate momentum for sustainable growth in agriculture and the significant changes in the supply and demand structure of agricultural products have become new problems and challenges that all countries in the world need to face together. We urgently need to promote agricultural sustainable development through agricultural cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

CAAS gives high importance to international cooperation and communication in agricultural science and technology, which have played a pivotal role in the promotion of CAAS's scientific innovation. CAAS has established collaborative relations with more than 80 countries and over 30 international organizations including CABI. The agricultural science and technology cooperation with the countries along the "Belt and Road" has entered into a new stage of substantive communication, deep-level exchanges and multi-field cooperation from initial contact and mutual understanding. For example, in terms of technology

promotion, application and transfer, the Institute of Plant Protection of CAAS and CABI have adopted a “participatory” approach in addressing the plant pest and disease problems in Laos and Myanmar. Biological control and IPM technologies were transferred to local areas and helped protect farmland biodiversity, realizing a sustainable management of local crop pests and diseases.

The theme of this meeting is *Working in partnership for a sustainable future*. The Asia-Pacific region is one of the most dynamic regions in the world today. We shall seize the opportunity, follow the trend of times and embrace the concept of sustainable development. As the host country of this meeting, China is willing to continue to work with CABI and its Asia-Pacific member countries to jointly address the major challenges in regional and global agricultural development to achieve a sustained future for agriculture and to build a new vision with CABI for multi-lateral cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, here I would like to share with you three expectations for the further cooperation between China and CABI:

First, to jointly build a vision for development. Through CABI's multilateral consultation mechanism, we shall reach consensus in the priority areas for food security and agricultural development in the Asia-Pacific region, jointly address global challenges, and provide policy support to the implementation of international cooperation.

Second, to strengthen agricultural science and technology cooperation. We shall strengthen knowledge sharing, technology transfer, information communication and personnel exchange among Asia-Pacific member countries through multiple channels. To meet the needs of countries and major challenges of global agricultural development, such as digital smart agriculture, cross-border plant diseases and the spread and control of alien invasive species.

Third, to work together to enhance the platform for cooperation. We shall make full use of the Joint Lab as an open platform and constantly improve its functions, explore more cooperation activities with CABI member countries under the backdrop of the Belt and Road Initiative, improving financing mechanism of the Joint Lab and building it into a forward-looking and open platform for efficient agricultural science and technology cooperation.

Finally, I wish this consultation meeting a great success and all of you good health and good stay in Beijing.

Thank you.