

59th Workshop Meeting of Heads of NPOs

ROC Country Paper for Agriculture Transformation Committee

ROC's New Agricultural Policy

Agriculture is the foundation of economic development in the ROC. Thanks to the hard-working farmers, sound infrastructure, well-designed marketing system, multi-functional farmers' cooperatives, and advanced technology and variety innovation, there are some achievement being made by the ROC's agriculture sector for last decades. Nevertheless, like other APO member countries, we are now facing challenges such as trade liberalization, climate change, food security, food safety, small-scale and aging farmers etc. To cope with these challenges, our government has launched the "New Agricultural Policy" in 2016, aimed to increase the competitiveness and value of agricultural sector by introducing different measures of three pillars, namely establishing agricultural paradigm, constructing agricultural safety system and enhancing abilities of agricultural marketing.

Establish Agricultural Paradigm

Firstly, for establishing agricultural paradigm, it includes several strategies and plans such as adopting environmental payments on farmland, promoting agricultural insurance programs, upgrading livestock industry, enhancing fishery resources conservation, encouraging green energy, developing smart agriculture, and establishing more habitable and enjoyable rural areas and promoting humanities-friendly society. The agricultural authorities have been devoting to the agricultural innovation particularly in the fields of biotechnology, facility agriculture, green energy economy, IoT and big data integration, as well as capacity building of young farmers and rural regeneration. Meanwhile, for encouraging the youth to engage in farming activities, the government provides young farmers with necessary

assistances, including technical learning system, consultant mechanism for diagnosis, coach and advice, access of farmland and agricultural loan and new state-funded agricultural training classes for students to be successful farmers after their graduation. These measures are anticipated to enhance agricultural competitiveness and to maintain the multi-functions of agriculture in a sustainable way.

Construct Agricultural Safety System

The second pillar is designed to safeguard food security and ensure food safety by constructing agricultural safety system. It includes measures and action plans such as enhancing the use efficiency of farmland and agricultural water, implementing the “Big Granary Project”, establishing a comprehensive system of post-harvest and agricultural processing, promoting organic and environmentally-friendly farming, reducing the use of chemical pesticides and chemical fertilizers, increasing inspection frequencies of agricultural products, and establishing a trusted labelling system of agricultural products.

Enhance Abilities of Agricultural Marketing

The third pillar is to enhance the abilities of agricultural marketing. The policy aims to increase and diversify distribution channels for domestic and export agro-products, and to create agricultural added value. The government put efforts to robust small-scale farmers and support agribusiness by reforming farmers’ organizations, integrating small-scale farmers, establishing specialized agricultural production areas to exert cluster effect and economies of scale. Furthermore, it is also essential to establish agricultural export companies to make contracts with farmers and explore emerging markets, construct online trading platforms for agricultural products, as well as develop agriculture industrial clusters, in order to enhance the agricultural exports and therefore increase farmers’ incomes.

In addition to the “New Agricultural Policy”, it is also important to highlight that the local government has been implementing the “New Southbound Policy” since

2016. One of the important areas of such policy is to strengthen agricultural cooperation with our partners and hopefully the regional agricultural development and prosperity can be ensured. In this regard, we have shared the experiences and best practices on agricultural development and technologies with our new southbound partners. The projects include enhancing bilateral cooperation platforms, strengthening agricultural human resources and technologies exchanges, boosting bilateral agricultural trade and investment, as well as enhancing regional food security by setting up the demonstration farms and specific production bases of key agricultural productions. The initiative has already yielded concrete results such as carrying out many exchange programs on smart agriculture and other areas related to advanced technologies, establishing demo farm projects, and significantly increasing bilateral trade on agricultural products, materials, machinery etc.

From the ROC's perspectives, agriculture plays a significant role and provides multi functions such as economic development, food security, social stability and environment conservation. We wish to share our experiences in agricultural development and cooperate closely with all APO member countries to make a sustainable and prosperous future in this region.