



## ABAC Sustainability Working Group 2024 ABAC Food Security Work Plan

### Background:

Food security is essential to fostering of an inclusive, healthy, and integrated regional economy. The APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) has been engaged in food security efforts since 1999 when APEC Leaders endorsed a plan for a unified APEC Food System. Such efforts culminated in the creation of the Policy Partnership for Food Security (PPFS) in 2011 to strengthen public-private partnerships and investments to ensure greater resilience in the region's food system.

With increasing concerns of food-related challenges including rising food prices and periods of price volatility, in 2021, the APEC economies jointly developed a *Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030* in line with the *APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040*. The following year, the economies endorsed an *Implementation Plan of the Food Security Roadmap 2030* which utilizes a whole-of-systems approach for food security across the region through four key action areas of **digitalisation and innovation, productivity, inclusivity, and sustainability**.

Section 18 of the *Food Security Roadmap* outlines the **importance of public private partnerships**, and APEC economies' commitment to work alongside the private sector – led by ABAC – to shape and enhance the functioning of the APEC food system. To this end, APEC is committed to the two actions of:

- a) **Promoting regular dialogue between public and private sectors** within each economy to advise PPFS on how to enhance the business environment for the food sector. (Lead Economy: Japan)
- b) **Reviewing the functioning and terms of reference (TOR) of the PPFS** to ensure a meaningful partnership with ABAC and the broader private sector, which better reflects the priorities and interests of the private sector and seeks to optimise their involvement. (Lead Economy: The United States)

### Objectives:

2024 will be a pivotal year for ABAC's role in PPFS to facilitate greater public private engagement. In efforts to enhance the functioning of the APEC food system, the ABAC Food Security Work Plan will have two objectives:

1. **Promoting private sector leadership in food security:** Create opportunities for the broader public sector including small and medium sized enterprises to share perspectives, opinions, and lessons learned on food security-related issues. This will be pursued through the **launch of an interview series and report** to compile private sector perspectives in the key action area of **digital and innovation**.
  - a. The 2023 Food Security Ministerial chair's statement encourages strengthening public private partnership in expanding digitalisation and promoting innovation within the APEC agri-food systems.
  - b. Building on lessons learned from ABAC 2023's Food Security-related project and discussions, the survey will **target 10 sustainable and innovative AgTech businesses** throughout APEC.
  - c. The interviews will be conducted through online and in-person surveys aiming to better inform policy makers by identifying private sector priorities and areas of interests in food security.
2. **Develop a set of ABAC recommendations on the PPFS TOR review** to revitalise the working relationship and achieve meaningful partnership between ABAC and PPFS.

### Expected Outcomes:

The interview series on private sector perspectives in the Food Security Roadmap's key action area of digitalisation and innovation is expected to inform the ABAC recommendations of the PPFS TOR. The survey will provide an opportunity to better understand private sector engagement in food security related issues at the PPFS and provide insights into fostering meaningful partnerships.

**Project Timeline:**

Activities	Description	Date
<b>ABAC I</b>	Seek endorsement of ABAC Food Security Work Plan at ABAC I.	February 14 to 16
<b>SOM I PPFS Meeting</b>	Present endorsed ABAC Food Security Work Plan to PPFS.	February 25 to 26
<b>Stakeholder Engagement</b>	Initial probe and discussions with 4 to 5 businesses to identify priorities and interests. This is expected to form the direction of the survey.	February and March
<b>ABAC II</b>	Present update and results of stakeholder engagement at ABAC II.	April 22 to 25
<b>Survey</b>	Conduct interview surveys with approximately ten businesses and consolidate results.	April to May
<b>Report</b>	Circulate survey report and collect feedback. Finalise report.	June
<b>PPFS TOR Review: ABAC Recommendations</b>	Utilise report findings to create recommendations for the PPFS TOR review. Circulate recommendations prior to ABAC III.	July
<b>ABAC III</b>	Present report findings. Seek Endorsement of ABAC Recommendations on PPFS TOR review at ABAC III.	August 1 to 4
<b>SOM3 PPFS Meeting</b>	Present ABAC Recommendations on PPFS TOR renewal issue at SOM3.	Between August 12 to 17 (TBD)
<b>CSOM and Leaders' week ABAC IV</b>	Provide final report to ABAC.	November 10 to 16