



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

**Independent Assessment of the
ECOTECH Implementation of
APEC Working Groups and SOM Taskforces:
Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group and High
Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology of APEC**

**Report to the APEC SOM Steering Committee
on Economic and Technical Cooperation**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2006, the SOM (Senior Officials' Meeting) Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) undertook an extensive review of all APEC Working Groups, Task Forces and Networks. The review recommendations were finalized at a special session of the SCE held during the SOM and endorsed by Ministers in November 2006.

One of the recommendations of the review was "Further consideration be given to merging the High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB) with the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG)".

Taking into account alternative suggestions, the SCE recommended that an independent assessment be conducted on the ATCWG in 2007 to review the ATCWG and its sub fora, including a critical assessment of the option to merge the ATCWG with HLPDAB.

1.0 The Independent Assessment

The major objective of the independent assessment was to improve the effectiveness of ECOTECH activities. More significantly, the assessment had the following specific objectives:

1. identify ways to enhance the ATCWG and HLPDAB abilities to propose initiatives that respond to the Leaders' priorities in a coherent and efficient manner and recommend whether the ATCWG and HLPDAB should be merged;
2. identify ways to make the fora's activities more efficient and relevant to economies in accordance with the ECOTECH priorities updated in 2006;
3. identify areas where ECOTECH activities can have the greatest impact on the fora and member economies;
4. assist the fora in undertaking a strategic review or priorities and directions for future work; and
5. identify opportunities for greater collaboration with other APEC fora, private sector, and other international organizations.

There were three basic research procedures done in the assessment. These research procedures all fall under an ATCWG and HLPDAB Assessment Framework developed by the study. The three research procedures were: in depth analysis of APEC published and unpublished reports, participatory observation, and the conduct of perception survey among Working Group members.

2.0 The ATCWG and HLPDAB Assessment

The assessment was made in terms of the forum's structure and achievements, meetings and projects. In terms of structure and achievements, both the ATCWG and HLPDAB are represented by respective experts from the 21 member economies. For the ATCWG, the expertise is focused in agricultural technical field and cooperation, while the HLPDAB experts are specialists in the field of biotechnology and its safe

dissemination. In terms of scope of work, the ATCWG covered a relatively wider area of topics in agriculture, whereas the HLPDAB is concentrated more in the area of agricultural biotechnology.

In order to support their respective objectives, the two fora have conducted various symposia, seminars, workshops and meetings on topics relevant to their respective mandates. From 1995 to 2008, ATCWG members have proposed a total of 86 projects including those which have already been completed, in the implementation phase, and those that are in the pipeline for implementation. Since the initiation of the HLPDAB in 2002, there were a total of 16 separate project activities related to agricultural biotechnology. In addition for 2009, a risk communication event is in the planning stages and two to three roundtable discussions on low level presence are being planned, as are additional bilateral exchanges.

The issues on structure and achievements are: Given their structure and performance over time, have the ATCWG and HLPDAB adequately achieved the main objectives according to their terms of reference? What are the impacts of these achievements on the APEC economies? What measures are needed to improve their efficiencies?

The two fora have different objectives and scope of work. Therefore given their structure and their time of creation, they will have different levels of achievements as well as different impacts if any. The ATCWG has very broad objective, i.e., to promote agricultural technical cooperation between APEC member economies. ATCWG also has at least seven priority areas; held several symposia; published 19 documents; and developed 86 projects. Off hand, one could say, for as long as there was “agricultural technical cooperation” in the process of achieving these, the ATCWG has successfully done its job.

However, the impact of these achievements to APEC member economies is a harder issue. It is difficult to measure the direct quantitative impact (e.g. increase in trade flows and enhanced agricultural productivity). The major reason is that there are no data bases to do the analysis. Indirectly, since most of these achievements were in the form of capacity building activities, it is safe to conclude that the major indirect qualitative impact of the ATCWG achievements was in the exchange of technical knowledge and understanding among APEC economies to strengthen their technical issues related to agriculture in the region.

In terms of meetings and participation, the ATCWG and HLPDAB have developed a predictable system of setting up annual meetings with corresponding agenda. These annual plenary meetings become avenues of information exchange, developing, maintaining, and strengthening networks and fund assistance with other APEC economies and other emerging issues on agricultural technical cooperation and agribiotechnology.

The HLPDAB in particular has developed its strong linkage with the private sector, and the forum becomes a venue in validating specific and in depth issues on agribiotechnology. The Policy Dialogue also seeks the collaboration of the RDEAB in providing background information on several key areas that are related to the work of HLPDAB.

Some delegates of the 12th Annual Plenary meeting of ATCWG in Bali, opined that there has not been much diversity and expansion of topics of interest to members (e.g. implications of emerging competing demands of food, feed and fuel to APEC broad goals) since its establishment in 1995. On the other hand, the HLPDAB has strong linkage with the private sector and RDEAB but has not explored collaboration with other working groups who handle similar issues on biotechnology (e.g. Industrial Science and Technology Working Group). Potential areas of collaboration between the HLPDAB and the Industrial Science and Technology Working Group (ISTWG) are through the three ISTWG projects that tackle issues on biotechnology. These projects are the APEC Center for Technology Transfer, APEC Climate Center and APEC Biotechnology Conference.

In terms of sustainability of meetings, concerns have been raised in the declining participation of APEC member economies in the ATCWG meetings. The lack of quorum was felt most during the past seven years (2002-2008) when a quorum was reached only in 2007.

In contrast, the HLPDAB had always quorum since 2002. A full participation of APEC member economies was achieved in Viet Nam in 2006.

A partial explanation on the relatively low participation of APEC member economies in attending ATCWG meetings was financial assistance. As a general rule, delegates attending APEC meetings should be funded by their own government. APEC, however, provides funding for two participants from eleven travel-eligible member economies to attend activities implemented via projects funded by APEC. This project-based arrangement is not sustainable considering that not all economies have yearly approved projects. In contrast, the HLPDAB through the United States Department of Agriculture provides full funding under the emergency market program, two delegates each of emerging member economies of APEC who are attending HLPDAB annual meetings.

Other plausible explanations on low turnout in ATCWG meetings as opined by ATCWG-USA are timing and location of meetings, and economies with little agricultural production activities like Singapore and Hong Kong do not usually attend ATCWG meetings.

The assessment also reviewed the projects developed by both the ATCWG and HLPDAB classified by types, by source of funds, by majority areas and by co-sponsoring economies.

The dynamics of designing projects and the process of having them approved are intertwined and follow basic, APEC standard procedures. The participation of member economies in co-sponsoring projects was the major indicator seen by the assessment reflecting that the TORs of the ATCWG and HLPDAB through projects are fulfilled. However, this is a very weak indicator. The participation of member economies in co-sponsoring projects responds to the BMC requirement to have at least two co-sponsor economies involved in the project. Proponents of projects in ATCWG and HLPDAB can design right subject matter projects, given the priorities of the fora. The ATCWG and HLPDAB approved projects have no project profiles and basic monitoring/evaluation input/output indicators to base an analysis whether these projects

are contributing to the attainment of the objectives of APEC, under any operational framework.

The assessment also tried to evaluate the past and present projects of ATCWG and HLPDAB if they contribute to AFS, using a set of rating criteria.

1. Based from the results of the rating system, ATCWG projects were generally weak in terms of incorporating the subcomponents of the AFS. Since the introduction of the AFS in 1999, the projects of the ATCWG from 2000 to 2009 were rated as weak, representing 76 percent of all projects. Six percent of projects had no relationship at all with the AFS during the same period. There were instances of moderate and strong relationship of ATCWG projects with AFS representing 13 and four percent of projects, respectively, during the same period.
2. On the other hand, four out of five HLPDAB projects were found to be moderately to very strongly related to AFS. One HLPDAB project that will be implemented starting 2009 had a weak relationship with AFS.
3. The results of the analysis should be interpreted with caution. These results refer to the assessment of ATCWG / HLPDAB projects if AFS is the only framework. They do not imply failure of the ATCWG / HLPDAB in fulfilling their terms of reference. On the contrary, the 66 projects considered as “weak” and “very weak” by theme are very relevant in providing information and knowledge on the technical aspect of agricultural cooperation. What the results of the analysis further imply are: a) The current state of projects design of ATCWG and HLPDAB are not effective in attaining the objectives of APEC via the AFS, and b) only 17 percent of the listed projects of ATCWG from 2005-2009, can contribute to the objectives of APEC via the AFS.

From the middle of June to September 30, 2008 a perception survey on ATCWG was also conducted by STRIVE Foundation, Inc. among delegates of member economies who attended the 12th Plenary Meeting of the ATCWG in Bali, Indonesia. Of the total 13 economies which attended the Bali meeting 10 (Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Chile, Korea, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Viet Nam and United States), or 77 percent responded to the survey. The questionnaire was sent to all the 46 delegates, but only 17 (37 percent) of the delegates responded to the survey.

The survey covered at least five topics: participation in annual ATCWG meetings, priority agenda setting, ATCWG projects, the APEC Food System, and linkages and coordination with other working groups.

The results of the 2008 STRIVE Survey were compared the survey made by GLOBALRICH, Inc., a research institution, in 2007, and came out with congruent points of interests:

1. The original seven ATCWG priority areas should be reframed within a larger strategic context. The refocusing of the ATCWG priority areas from seven to three or five is accepted by majority of ATCWG delegates responding to the surveys.

2. In view of rapidly changing sector environment, ATCWG priorities and plans must be flexible and subject to periodic reviews. A two to three year scheduling of these reviews is perceived to be an adequate timeframe to properly assess and evaluate ATCWG project impacts on APEC member economies.
3. Institutionalizing of the agreed upon draft priorities (Environmental Sustainability, Productivity and Diversification, Biotechnology, Regulatory Cooperation, and Structural Adjustment) into subgroups is widely accepted among ATCWG delegates responding to the survey.
4. Delegates expressed their concerns and dissatisfaction regarding the current system of evaluating and ranking project proposals. On the other hand, they are not amenable to creating an external (not of the ATCWG but still within APEC) review team that would review and evaluate ATCWG projects.
5. ATCWG members are in favor of further/closer linkages with other fora both within and outside of APEC.

3.0 Recommendations

1. Improvement of Project Information on APEC Project Database.

The independent assessor had difficulties in assessing the qualitative and quantitative impacts of the ATCWG and HLPDAB projects on APEC member economies due in part to inadequacy of monitoring and evaluation (M/E) impact indicators to base his analysis. A review of the “Guidelines for Evaluation and Reporting System for APEC Projects” (Annex G), “Questionnaire for APEC Projects which are in the Category of Seminar, Symposium and Short Term Training Course” (Annex G1), “Progress Report on APEC Projects” (Annex G2), and “Guidelines on How to Use the Assessment Monitoring and Evaluation (AME) Frameworks” (Annex G3), indicated comprehensiveness. The difficulty lies in accessing the results from these annexes in terms of M/E indicators. For example, from the Project information on APEC Project Database, one cannot determine whether Project Overseers (POs) and respective small groups (evaluation projects) of the ATCWG / HLPDAB are properly completing evaluation reports. This information is not available in the Project information on APEC Project Database.

It is recommended that the Guidelines on “How to Use the Assessment Monitoring and Evaluation (AME) Frameworks (G3), especially the roles of PO, small group and Lead Shepherd in AME should consider the logical framework (Logframe) to complement and enhance the impact assessment of APEC Projects. Simply put: INPUTS, and valid assumptions, will result to OUTPUTS; OUTPUTS and valid assumptions will have EFFECTS; and EFFECTS and valid assumptions will have IMPACTS. The Project “inputs-outputs-effects and impacts” continuum can be measured qualitatively and quantitatively for each project. These parameters can then be refined and put in the Project information on APEC Project Database.

2. Merge the ATCWG and the HLPDAB.

There are pros and cons of the structural merging. However, there are four basic protocols considered in merging of ATCWG and HLPDAB. These protocols and the relative strength of the two fora are shown below.

<u>Protocol</u>	<u>ATCWG</u>	<u>HLPDAB</u>
Technical	Strong	Weak
Policy	Weak	Strong
Private Sector Participation	Weak	Strong
Efficiency of Resource Utilization	Neutral	Neutral

The ATCWG's strength is the technical aspect of agricultural cooperation. However it is weak in policy and private sector participation. If the intention of APEC leadership is to achieve optimum interface, the technical aspects of agriculture must be combined with other factors such as agriculture / food policy frameworks for member economies to attain the objectives of APEC. In merging the two fora, HLPDAB will complement ATCWG because of its strength in High level Policy Dialogues and participation of the Private Sector.

Over the years, the ATCWG has concentrated on projects related to the technical aspects of agriculture cooperation. There is no doubt, that it has done a great job in developing the technical building blocks of agriculture. However, it is about time that ATCWG should transcend beyond simply understanding and exchanging information on the technical aspects of agriculture among APEC member economies to a new direction – enhancing the efficiency of the Region's food supply chain. The merged ATCWG and HLPDAB must also cover all agricultural cooperation issues.

The charting of this new development pathway is by no means simple. It involves individual development policy initiatives, among APEC member economies and their willingness to trade freely and thus enhancing trade flows in the Region. In this regard, tapping the HLPDAB's rich experience in policy dialogue on agribiotechnology, and with strong private sector participation, through the merger can immensely enhance the attainment of this new development pathway.

The merger will also allow broader policy dialogues that will cover not only agribiotechnology but main stream food products. Given that the full acceptance of biotech products is not yet in place in the APEC Region, the enhancement of trade flows in traditional foods, via the AFS can take place without losing sight on the policy advocacy for agribiotech products.

There are however anticipated difficulties in merging ATCWG and HLPDAB. Foremost is the need to revisit whether APEC economies are ready to accept the AFS as the framework of the merger. There is also a need to investigate further whether member economies are willing to rotate leadership in the merged ATCWG and HLPDAB. More importantly, will the present convener of HLPDAB continue to provide financial assistance and interest if HLPDAB and ATCWG are merged? If the answer to this question is yes, then the economies of scale can be attained by the merger and it might be a partial solution to solve the perennial problem of lack of quorum in the ATCWG meetings.

3. Revisit the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the merged ATCWG-HLPDAB and refocus its priorities from the original seven to five.

Currently the ATCWG has seven priority areas: conservation and utilization of plant and animal genetic resources, research development and extension of agricultural biotechnology, production, processing, and marketing, distribution, and consumption of agricultural products, plant quarantine and pest management, cooperative development of agricultural finance system, agricultural technology transfer and training, and sustainable agriculture, and related environmental issues. During the past decade, the 86 projects developed by the ATCWG were related to these seven priority areas.

There is however a growing awareness among ATCWG member economies for the need to reassess the seven priorities into sharper focus. During the 2008 12th ATCWG Plenary Meetings in Bali, Indonesia, delegates discussed five priority areas where ATCWG can focus its activities. These five areas, although not yet officially approved by the member economies are:

a) Productivity and Diversification

Including information exchange, technical assistance and capacity building on agricultural production technologies, postharvest losses, agricultural finance, organic agriculture, functional foods / nutraceuticals, marketing, food value chain development and coordination.

b) Environmental Sustainability

Including information exchange, technical assistance and capacity building on animal and plant genetic resources, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable land management for agricultural production, small holder farmers, food security / poverty alleviation, and development.

c) Structural Adjustment

Including exchange of information, technical assistance and capacity building on adjustments to such economic events as trade liberalization, sudden increase in input costs, exchange rate fluctuations, land reform and escalating food prices, as these events affect agricultural production, food security, poverty alleviation and small holder farmers.

d) Regulatory Cooperation

Including exchange of information, technical assistance and capacity building on agriculture related national regulations and international standards on food safety, plant and animal health and quarantine, sanitary and phyto-sanitary traceability and similar areas.

e) Biotechnology

Including science-based assessment of products of biotechnology, technical cooperation, transformation and information exchange, and capacity building. Technical work in this area is closely coordinated with the policy work of the High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology.

The first two are technical in nature while the last three are leaning more towards policy. Projects developed under these five priorities will have a balance of both technical and policy which can propel the newly merged ATCWG-HLPDAB.

4. Adopt as a Policy to make the AFS as the operational framework of the merged ATCWG-HLPDAB and other Working Groups related to Food and Science.

The AFS as a framework has to be reviewed first by the SOM before it is officially used as a filtering mechanism in attaining the objectives of APEC. In addition to the merged ATCWG-HLPDAB, other Working Groups such as the Fisheries Working Group (FWG), and the Industrial Science Working Group (ISWG), can use AFS as operational framework in attaining the objectives of APEC. Joint projects developed by Working Groups under the AFS should be given special project incentives (e.g. as special priority projects in the project assessment process).

5. Enhance the Participation of the Private Sector and International Organizations in the Newly Merged ATCWG-HLPDAB.

On a per need basis, international organizations such as, the Food Agriculture Organization (FAO), Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and International Service for the Acquisition of Agribiotechnology Applications (ISAAA) should be invited to attend the new forum. These organizations have a long history of doing technical and policy research, advocating for agricultural development and the application of agribiotechnology. They can act as resource agencies on a per theme basis by the newly merged working group. However, the participation of the private sector and international organizations should take place after consultations among government officials of member economies.

6. Initiate the Holding of Agriculture / Food Ministerial Meeting.

Agricultural Technical Cooperation per se may not reflect the direction of agricultural / food policies in an individual APEC economy. Meetings among agricultural technical people in the region may not draw the interest of some Ministers since most of them are political appointees and not technical. Their lack of interest in the technical aspects of agriculture can be one of the reasons why attendance in ATCWG meetings is low. Potential delegates may not be explicitly supported by their Minister of Agriculture.

The operationalization of the AFS and the merger of ATCWG and HLPDAB can open a window of opportunity to draw the interests of Agriculture / Food Ministers in the region to reconcile the technical aspects of agriculture technical cooperation and policy. A ministerial level meeting on agriculture / food must be initiated in this regard. Before a Ministerial Meeting is convened, however, it is suggested that the merged ATCWG-HLPDAB should hold first an agriculture senior officials' forum.

In the APEC systems, there are at least seven Working Groups that are venues to Ministerial meetings. The frequency of such meetings can be decided later depending on favorable results.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ABAC	APEC Business Advisory Council
ACS	Australian Customs Service
ATCWG	Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group
AFS	APEC Food System
AGGI	Advisory Group on Gender Integration
AME	Assessment Monitoring and Evaluation
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
AT&T	Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training
ATCEG	Agriculture Technical Cooperation Experts Group
BMC	Budget Management Committee
CGIAR	Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research
ECOTECH	Economic and Technical Cooperation
EWG	Energy Working Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FEEEP	Food, Energy, Environment, Economic Growth and Population
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HLPDAB	High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology
HRD	Human Resources Development
HRDWG	Human Resources Development Working Group
ID	Industry Dialogue
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
ISAAA	International Service for the Acquisition of Agribiotechnology Applications
ISTWG	Industrial Science and Technology Working Group
Logframe	logical framework
OA	Operational Account
OAA	Osaka Action Agenda
PO	Project Overseer
QAF	Quality Assessment Framework
RDEAB	Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology
SCE	Steering Committee on ECOTECH
SOM	Senior Officials Meeting
TILF	Trade and Investment Liberalization Facilitation
TOR	terms of reference
TWG	Tourism Working Group
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
WG	Working Group

1.0 THE INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT

In 2006, the SOM (Senior Officials' Meeting) Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) undertook an extensive review of all APEC Working Groups, Task Forces and Networks. The review recommendations were finalized at a special session of the SCE held during the SOM and endorsed by Ministers in November 2006.

One of the recommendations of the review was "Further consideration be given to merging the High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB) with the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG)".

Taking into account alternative suggestions, the SCE recommended that an independent assessment be conducted on the ATCWG in 2007 to review the ATCWG and its sub fora, including a critical assessment of the option to merge the ATCWG with HLPDAB.

The independent assessment started June 2007. As part of the plan, ATCWG agreed that the HLPDAB would hold back to back meetings in 2008 with the Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology (RDEAB) to tap HLPDAB's strong linkage with the private sector.

1.1 Objectives

The major objective of the independent assessment was to improve the effectiveness of ECOTECH activities. More significantly, the assessment had the following specific objectives:

1. identify ways to enhance the ATCWG and HLPDAB abilities to propose initiatives that respond to the Leaders' priorities in a coherent and efficient manner and recommend whether the ATCWG and HLPDAB should be merged;
2. identify ways to make the fora's activities more efficient and relevant to economies in accordance with the ECOTECH priorities updated in 2006;
3. identify areas where ECOTECH activities can have the greatest impact on the fora and member economies;
4. assist the fora in undertaking a strategic review or priorities and directions for future work; and
5. identify opportunities for greater collaboration with other APEC fora, private sector, and other international organizations.

1.2 Methodology

There were three basic research procedures done in the assessment. These research procedures all fall under an ATCWG and HLPDAB Assessment Framework developed by the study. The three research procedures were: in depth analysis of APEC published and unpublished reports, participatory observation, and the conduct of perception survey among Working Group members. These research procedures are described in the succeeding sections.

1.2.1 Assessment Framework

APEC Working Groups are made up of experts from each APEC Member Economy and work in specific sectors as directed by APEC Economic Leaders, Ministers and Senior Officials. There are eleven Working Groups under APEC. APEC also engages in close consultation with the business community through the ABAC, in some APEC fora, and various Industry Dialogues. These Dialogues improve mutual understanding of key imperatives for future policies and enhance the competitiveness of the industries. There are four existing Industry Dialogues since 1997.

The assessment framework includes the relationships of the ATCWG, HLPDAB and other working groups (WGs) and industry dialogues (IDs) in terms of current and potential linkage and coordination. There are several operational frameworks put forth within APEC that can be used to assess the contribution of different APEC fora to the APEC broad goals. These frameworks are the APEC Food System (AFS); the Osaka Action Agenda; the Food, Energy, Environment, Economic Growth and Population (FEEEP) Report; and the Osaka Action Agenda Part II (**Figure 1**).

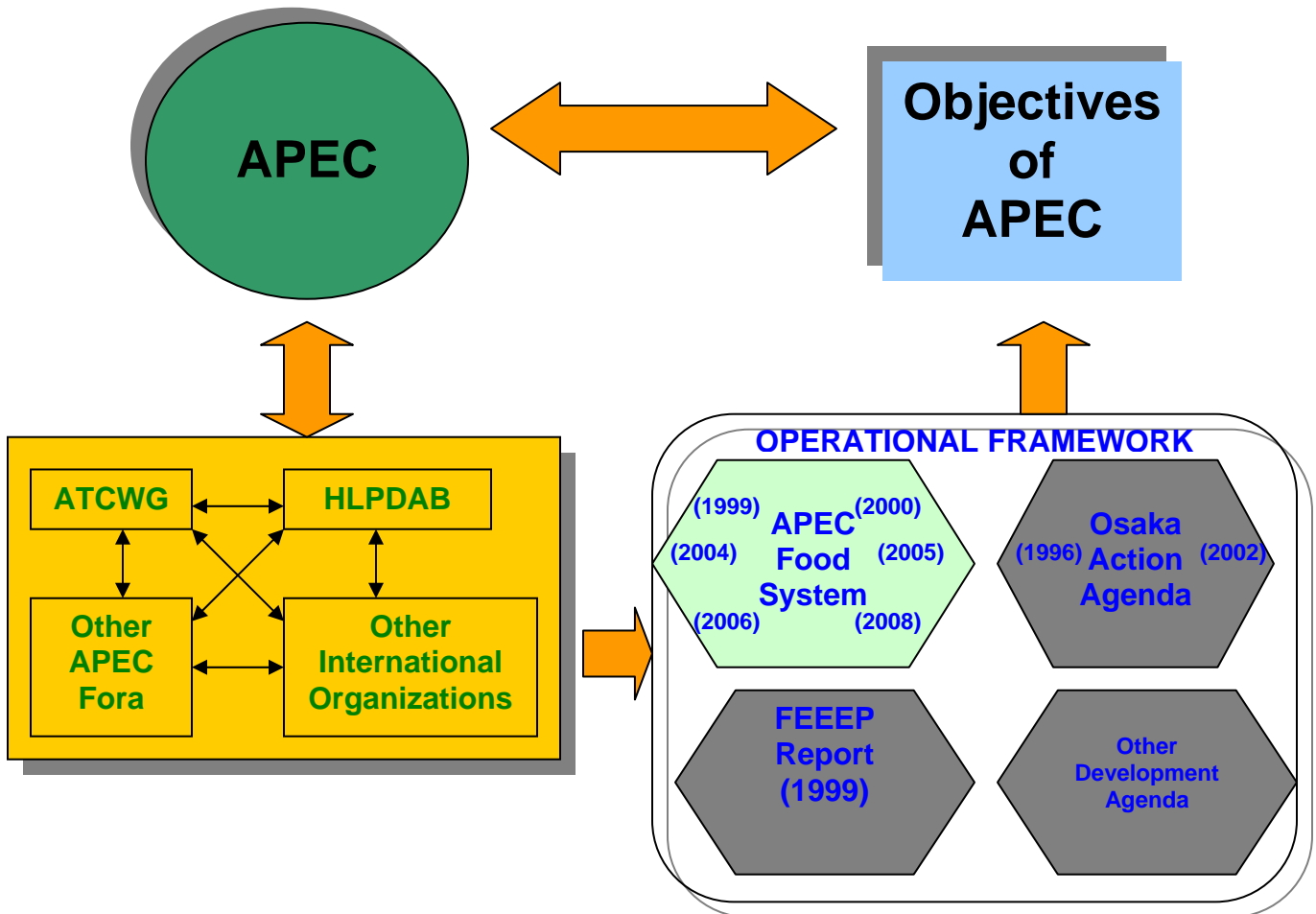


Figure 1. ATCWG AND HLPDAB Assessment Framework.

In the assessment of the ATCWG and HLPDAB, the AFS framework was chosen to be the major determinant for the following reasons:

1. The importance of agriculture (food) among the APEC economies. The global agriculture gross domestic product (GDP) was USD 1,352 billion in 2005. Of this total, the APEC economies shared USD 482 billion or 35.6 percent (WB, 2008). The share among APEC economies in agriculture GDP value is 60:40 in favor of industrial APEC members. However, the percent share of agriculture to total GDP among majority of the low and middle income economies of APEC averaged 15 percent implying the relative importance of agriculture (food) in the region. In terms of employment, an average of 35 percent of labor force accounts for the agriculture sector among low and middle economies of APEC.
2. As early as 1999 APEC leaders adopted the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Report and endorsed the AFS to operationalize the objectives of APEC . Subsequently the AFS was discussed by ATCWG during its annual meetings in 2000, 2001, 2005, 2006, and 2008 as an appropriate framework for ATCWG.
3. Recently, the ABAC Chair of 2008, reiterated the relevance of the AFS in lieu of global developments in basic food supply and prices in the Region.
4. The ATCWG and HLPDAB are two of the more relevant fora that can contribute to the operationalization of AFS since agriculture and agriculture-related activities are directly related to the food supply chain.
5. The full operationalization AFS is long overdue since its inception way back in 1999.

Projects and collaboration activities that support the three major components of AFS will likely lead to the attainment of the objectives of APEC of free trade and investment, business facilitation, enhanced trade flows, and technical economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. Attainment of the objectives of APEC will feed back into the 21 member economies of APEC (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 In-depth Analysis of APEC Published and Unpublished Reports

An in depth review of available APEC documents was made by the Independent Assessor on the ATCWG and HLPDAB. The review was first focused on the series of meetings the two conducted since their establishment. From the reports of the meetings, analysis was specifically done on the agenda setting, the strengths and weaknesses of these meetings and sustainability in terms of participation.

The review of APEC published and unpublished reports also enabled the assessor to have a deeper understanding of the projects undertaken by the ATCWG and the HLPDAB. From the data set, the types, design, participation of APEC member economies and sustainability of projects were analyzed.

The APEC's document review also provided the analysis of the framework of the APEC Food Systems and how it relates to the activities of the ATCWG and HLPDAB, and how to optimize linkages and coordination within and among WGs and other organizations.

1.2.3 Participatory Observation

The Independent Assessor was a “Participant Observer” of the workings of the ATCWG and HLPDAB fora. He participated in the back to back meetings of RDEAB and HLPDAB in Lima, Peru on February 25-28, 2008, and the 12th Plenary Meeting of the ATCWG in Bali, Indonesia on June 10-13, 2008.

1.2.4 Perception Survey

A perception survey was conducted by the STRIVE Foundation among participants of the 12th Plenary Meeting of ATCWG from June to September 2008. The survey was conducted to solicit from the ATCWG participants their thinking on the priorities and projects undertaken by the Working Group, and future directions of the ATCWG. The questionnaire used is shown in **Appendix 1**.

2.0 ATCWG AND HLPDAB ASSESSMENT

This section simultaneously evaluated the ATCWG and HLPDAB under the Assessment Framework developed by this study. The similarities and differences between the two fora were highlighted using various sets of criteria including general structure and achievements, meetings, projects, project relevance to AFS, and linkages and coordination. This was done to partly comply with the TOR of the independent assessment.

2.1 Structure and Achievements

Both the ATCWG and HLPDAB are represented by respective experts from the 21 member economies. For the ATCWG, the expertise is focused in agricultural technical field and cooperation, while the HLPDAB experts are specialists in the field of biotechnology and its safe dissemination. In terms of scope of work, the ATCWG covered a relatively wider area of topics in agriculture, whereas the HLPDAB is concentrated more in the area of agricultural biotechnology (**Table 1**).

In order to support their respective objectives, the two fora have conducted various symposia, seminars, workshops and meetings on topics relevant to their respective mandates. From 1995 to 2008, ATCWG members have proposed a total of 86 projects including those which have already been completed, in the implementation phase, and those that are in the pipeline for implementation. Since the initiation of the HLPDAB in 2002, there were a total of five project proposals related to agricultural biotechnology. Two current HLPDAB projects are under the implementation phase (**Table 1**).

2.1.1 Issues on Structure and Performance

The issues here are: Given their structure and performance over time, have the ATCWG and HLPDAB achieved their terms of reference? What are the impacts of these achievements on the APEC economies? What measures are needed to improve their efficiencies? For example, the HLPDAB's very focused agenda, longer term planning horizon and private sector participation are things that have enhanced its performance and can be emulated by the ATCWG.

The two fora have different objectives and scope of work. Therefore given their structure and their time of creation, they will have different levels of achievements as well as different impacts if any. The ATCWG has very broad objective, i.e., to promote agricultural technical cooperation between APEC member economies. ATCWG also has at least seven priority areas; held several symposia; published 19 documents; and developed 86 projects. Off hand, one could say, for as long as there was "agricultural technical cooperation" in the process of achieving these, the ATCWG has successfully done its job.

Table 1. Comparison of ATCWG and HLPDAB in Terms of Structure.

ITEM	ATCWG	HLPDAB
Membership	Government officials and experts from universities and the public and private sectors of the 21 member economies of APEC.	Government officials and experts from universities and the public and private sectors of the 21 member economies of APEC.
Objective	Promote agricultural technical cooperation between APEC member economies.	Work towards increasing the safe introduction of biotechnology products while obtaining public acceptance of these products.
Group Focus / Scope of Work	<p>According to its TOR, the ATCWG focuses on but is not limited to the following seven priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and Utilization of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources; • Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology; • Production, Processing, Marketing, Distribution and Consumption of Agricultural Products; • Plant and Animal Quarantine and Pest Management; • Cooperative Development of Agricultural Finance System; • Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training; and • Sustainable Agriculture and Related Environmental Issues. 	<p>Based on the HLPDAB 2007-2009 Work Plan, the HLPDAB focuses on the following areas of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy information exchange on agricultural biotechnology; • Public perception and understanding of agricultural biotechnology; • Legal considerations related to the use of agricultural biotechnology; • Public and private sector relationship in agricultural biotechnology; and • Effective collaboration with other APEC member economies.
Notable Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical cooperation and assistance among APEC member economies; • Various symposia, seminars, workshops and meetings on topics covered by the Working Group; • 19 published documents from 2003 to 2008. • 86 projects including those which have already been completed, in the implementation phase, and those that are in the pipeline for implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various symposia, seminars, workshops, and meetings on topics covered by the HLPDAB; • Submitted initiatives for consideration and approval of the Policy Dialogue plenary which focused on continued efforts to improve the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; • Published Public Perception of Agricultural Biotechnology: A Best Practices Guide, October 2007; and • Two current HLPDAB projects under implementation.

Source: APEC Secretariat, APEC at a Glance, 2008.

However, the impact of these achievements to APEC member economies is a harder issue. It is difficult to measure the direct quantitative impact (e.g. increase in trade flows and enhanced agricultural productivity). The major reason is that there are no data bases to do the analysis. Indirectly, since most of these achievements were in the form of capacity building activities, it is safe to conclude that the major indirect qualitative impact of the ATCWG achievements was in the exchange of technical knowledge and understanding among APEC economies to strengthen their technical issues related to agriculture in the region.

In the case of the HLPDAB, the indirect qualitative benefits of the activities done by the forum is a better dialogue and appreciation of the difficulties in introduction and acceptance of agribiotechnology products in the APEC Region. The private sector participation in the dialogue also encourages policy makers in the APEC economies to devise enabling policy instruments that will allow agribiotechnology to alleviate poverty and enhance food security in the region.

2.2 Meetings

2.2.1 Agenda

The ATCWG holds annual plenary meetings with collaborative workshops and symposiums to fulfill its mandate. Plenary meetings typically consist of several agenda following the format as shown in **Table 2**. Other matters that maybe included in the agenda are shown in **Table 3**. On the other hand, the HLPDAB held annual Plenary Meetings since its inception in 2002 to 2008. The Agenda Items of the HLPDAB have evolved through the years. In general, the annual meetings follow an Agenda outline as shown in **Table 4**.

In terms of annual meetings, the main agenda item of the ATCWG revolved around the progress and self-reviews of the seven priority areas, while HLPDAB meetings were focused on the activities (paper presentation, discussion and recommendation) of one to three session topics related to agricultural biotechnology. Both the ATCWG and HLPDAB held an annual plenary meeting since their inception. The APEC Secretariat was mostly present in all meetings of both fora. The responsibilities of the APEC Secretariat in both meetings are to brief meeting participants on the recent development within APEC, and to make delegates made aware of management issues like document/report preparation and submission and other operational aspects such as the submission and assessment of new project proposals (**Table 5**).

Table 2. General Structure of ATCWG Plenary Meeting Agenda.

AGENDA GROUPING	DESCRIPTION
Co-Chairs' Opening Remarks	Co-chairs express their gratitude to the participating delegates and the host government of the ongoing ATCWG plenary meeting. Well wishes and hopes for a fruitful meeting are expressed.
Adoption of the Agenda	Presentation of the current meeting is presented to the delegates for comments and eventual adoption.
Business Arrangements	Co-chairs or Lead Shepherds inform the delegates of relevant business arrangements for the meeting.
APEC Secretariats Report	The APEC Secretariat presents the delegates with a report outlining recent developments within the APEC since the previous ATCWG meeting.
ATC Related Issues in APEC	Emerging / current issues affecting APEC which are related to the ATCWG are brought to the delegates' attention for information and discussion.
Progress and Self review of the Seven Priority Areas	Lead economies of the seven priority areas present / submit progress reports for the delegates' information. ATCWG plenary meeting approve, makes suggestions or endorses the reports to the appropriate subgroup.
APEC Fund Seeking Project Proposals	Member economies present project proposals for comments / suggestions / endorsement for APEC funding.
Management Issues	Delegates are made aware of issues pertaining to ATCWG management such as document / report preparation and submission, information sharing, updating contact lists and other operational aspects of the ATCWG.
Adoption of Summary Report	Summary report of the concluded meeting is submitted for comments and adoption.
Other Matters	Dates and venue of the next meeting as well as document classification are discussed for delegates' information.
Closure of the meeting	Meeting is officially closed.

Source: APEC Secretariat, ATCWG Meeting Documents, 2008.

Table 3. Other Matters that Maybe Included in the ATCWG Plenary Meeting Agenda.

AGENDA GROUPING	DESCRIPTION
Designation of New Lead Shepherd	New Lead Shepherd is duly elected and inducted.
Review of the Scope of the ATCWG's Activities and All Aspects of its Operation	Reviews of ATCWG operational scopes and aspects are conducted as per ATCWG discretion.
Action Plans for Priority areas	Presentation of action plans for suggestions, endorsement or approval.

Source: APEC Secretariat, ATCWG Meeting Documents, 2008

Table 4. General Structure of HLPDAB Plenary Meeting Agenda.

AGENDA GROUPING	DESCRIPTION
Opening Remarks	Host economy welcomes guests and participants. Policy Dialogue Chair is introduced and delivers the Opening Remarks.
Overview of the Policy Dialogue	A brief overview of the HLPDAB is given focusing on its history and achievements.
Session 1 Topic	The first topic is discussed with a series of activities which may / may not include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper presentations related to the topic; • Open discussion about the paper presentations; and • General and / or specific recommendations related to the topic are made.
Private Sector Presentation	Representatives of the Private Sector Day deliver a report on their past activities and future plans.
Session 2 Topic	The second topic is discussed with a series of activities which may / may not include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper presentations related to the topic; • Open discussion about the paper presentations; and • General and / or specific recommendations related to the topic are made.
Summary of Proceedings on Topics 1 and 2	The Topics 1 and 2 proceedings are summarized.
RDEAB Presentation	Representatives of the RDEAB Day deliver a report on their past activities and future plans.
Session 3 Topic (7 th Meeting only, 1 st to 6 th Meeting only covered 1 to 2 topics)	The third topic is discussed with a series of activities which may / may not include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper presentations related to the topic; • Open discussion about the paper presentations; and • General and / or specific recommendations related to the topic are made.
Series of Short Presentations	A series of short presentations follows which may include 1 to 3 topics.
APEC Secretariat Updates	The APEC Secretariat updates the participants on technical issues related to the facilitation of communications within APEC.
Closure of the Meeting	Meeting is officially closed.

Source: APEC Secretariat, HLPDAB Meeting Documents, 2008.

The private sector is represented in the HLPDAB meetings and regularly delivers a report on their past activities and future plans. In contrast, ATCWG meetings have no private sector representation. Both ATCWG and HLPDAB meetings involve updates from the RDEAB on their on-going works. Project proposal presentations were done at the later part of ATCWG meetings. Based from the review of available meeting documents, HLPDAB meetings have no project proposal presentations (**Table 5**).

Table 5. Comparison of ATCWG and HLPDAB in Terms of Meeting Agenda.

ITEM	ATCWG	HLPDAB
Main Agenda Item	Progress and self-review of the seven priority areas	Paper presentation, discussion and recommendation related to one to three session topics
Number of Plenary Meetings	13 from 1995 to 2008	7 from 2002 to 2008
Number of Non-plenary Meetings (meetings, seminars, and other activities as indicated in the APEC Events Calendar 2003 to 2008)	51	18
APEC Secretariat Reporting	Yes	Yes
Private Sector Presentation	No	Yes
RDEAB Presentation	Yes	Yes
Project Proposal Presentation	Yes	No
Inclusion of AFS as Part of AGENDA	Yes (1999, 2000, 2001, 2005, 2006)	No
“Integration of Women” was included in the Agenda	Yes (2000, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005)	Yes (2007)
Meeting Attendance	6 out of 13 annual meetings had quorum	7 out of 7 annual meetings had quorum
Briefing of Member Economies on the Independent Assessment	Yes	Yes

Source: APEC Secretariat, ATCWG and HLPDAB Meeting Documents, 2008.

A framework for the integration of women in APEC was first introduced into ATCWG meetings as an agenda item in 2000. It was recommended that the Shepherds of each priority area think about how to incorporate gender considerations in their work activities. During the 2002 meeting, ATCWG members were briefed on the report submitted by the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Gender Integration (AGGI) to SOM II. During the same year, the project “APEC Regional Study on Gender and Globalization in Agriculture” was presented to ATCWG members. The status report of the project was reported in the 2003, 2004 and 2005 plenary meetings. On the other hand, the HLPDAB tackled the integration of women during one of the session topics in the 2007 meeting. A session topic presentation was about the public perception and understanding of biotechnology among men, women, the aged and low income consumer groups (**Table 5**).

The examination of meeting documents of ATCWG and HLPDAB revealed that at least 46 percent of annual meetings of ATCWG generated a quorum of 15 member economies. On the other hand, all the seven meetings of the HLPDAB from 2002 to

2008 were able to form a quorum. Finally, the results of past independent assessment of ATCWG are presented to the attending members of ATCWG for comments and suggestions. For the HLPDAB, this is the first time that an independent assessment will be made (Table 5).

2.2.2 Sustainability

ATCWG. The sustainability of ATCWG meetings is an important factor in determining whether this APEC working group will be continuously supported, disbanded, split-up or merged with other working groups. The sustainability of the ATCWG meetings in this case can be evaluated in three broad areas: level of participation, ability to apply up-to-date frameworks and working group consistency with broad APEC goals.

Participation. The overall level of participation in ATCWG meetings in terms of agenda may rest on the frequency of representation among member economies. During the last fourteen years of the annual ATCWG plenary meetings, there were only six years when ATCWG had a quorum (Table 6). Clearly, in order to encourage diversified lively discussions in the APEC region in terms of agricultural technical cooperation, all 21 member economies must send at least one participating delegate.

Framework. Also during the last 14 years, the SOM has recommended several frameworks to be followed and applied by the ATCWG to implement the Bogor Declaration. The major ones were Osaka Action Agenda (OAA), 1995 and Part II, 2002, Food Energy, Environment, Economic Growth and Population (FEEEP) 1999, and the APEC Food System (AFS).

Table 6. Participation in Meetings of ATCWG Member Economies, 1995-2008.

Year	Host	No. of Participating Economies
1995	Chinese, Taipei	18
1996	Australia	16
1997	The Philippines	12
1998	The USA	10
1999	Japan	16
2000	The USA	16
2001	China	15
2002	Mexico	13
2003	Canada	13
2004	Thailand	
2005	Korea	13
2006	Viet Nam	13
2007	Australia	15
2008	Indonesia	13

Source: APEC Secretariat, List of ATCWG Meeting Participants, 2008.

The Osaka Action Agenda is a framework introduced in 1995 for implementation of the Bogor Declaration through trade and investment liberalization, business facilitation, and sectoral activities underpinned by policy dialogues, and economic and technical cooperation. Operating under the basic principles of Comprehensiveness, WTO-Consistency, Comparability, Non-discrimination, Transparency, Standstill, Simultaneous start and differentiated timetables, flexibility and cooperation. The OAA was re-introduced in 2002 to pursue economic and technical cooperation in order to

attain sustainable growth and equitable development in the Asia-Pacific Region, while reducing economic disparities among APEC economies and improving economic and social well being, thereby facilitating the growth of trade and investment in the region. The OAA will adhere to basic concepts of common policy, joint activities and policy dialogues and will pursue economic and technical cooperation among APEC economies in the areas of Agricultural Technical Cooperation, Energy, Fisheries, Human Resource Development, Industrial Science and Technology, Infrastructure, Marine Resource Conservation, Small and Medium Enterprises, Telecommunications and Information, Tourism, Trade Promotion, and Transportation.

On the other hand, the Food Energy, Environment, Economic Growth and Population (FEEEP) 1999 outlines joint actions in the area of food, energy and the environment, including the establishment of an interdisciplinary network of research institutions. The FEEEP has the following programs: Food and Agriculture-Related Research and Development, Food and Rural Related Infrastructure, Reducing Import and Export Barriers to Trade in Food, Food and Agriculture Related Environmental Issues, and FEEEP Joint Actions Un-Related Task Force on Food.

Finally, The APEC Food System was introduced in 1998 by the ABAC to APEC Leaders to commit in developing an APEC Food System to improve the food sector's role in APEC broad goals. The APEC Food System (AFS) provides better linking of farmers, food processors, consumers and intermediaries. Its major objective is to ensure that resources in the APEC region can meet consumers' food needs more efficiently and securely than that at present. The AFS covers three broad areas:

- Investment in Physical and Human Rural Infrastructure,
- Transfer and Dissemination of New Farm and Food Technologies, and
- Promotion of International Trade and Investment in Food.

a. Investment in Physical and Human Rural Infrastructure. This area includes both physical and human investments in the rural areas. Physical capital needs are those covering utilities and various forms of transport and communication infrastructures that can improve efficiency in the supply chain. Human investment requires investment in basic education of farm households and investment in basic rural health care.

b. Transfer and Dissemination of New Farm and Food Technologies. This area suggests regional cooperation in the following areas:

- distributing information on more efficient and environmentally sound farm and food technologies,
- disseminating ways to enact and enforce legislation to better protect intellectual property rights, the environment, and consumers concerned with the safety of food so as to attract more private investment in technology transfer, and
- aiding governments in their support of those investments in farm technologies that are under-supplied by the private sector because the gains are too difficult for the innovator or disseminator to capture via the market.

c. *Promotion of International Trade and Investment in Food.* This area calls for APEC cooperation in terms of:

- facilitation of trade through harmonizing customs procedures and exchanging regulatory information to lower the cost of trading food products,
- provision of technical assistance to better assess sanitary and phytosanitary procedures where they are unduly limiting trade in food products,
- sharing of information on food safety and negotiate for the harmonization or mutual recognition of food safety standards adopted for the benefit of consumers, and
- fulfillment of trade reform commitments of APEC and WTO.

Consistency. The Annual Plenary Summary Report of the ATCWG meetings also mentioned the need to ensure the consistency of ATCWG activities with APEC broad goals. Cross-cutting issues of ATCWG with other APEC groups were first discussed in 1997. This topic was introduced in every plenary meeting in order to ensure that ATCWG activities are complementary and not duplicated by other working groups, in order to contribute to APEC broad goals. In 1998, APEC had six ECOTECH priority areas of interest such as: strengthening economic infrastructure; developing human capital; fostering safe, efficient capital markets; harnessing technologies for the future; promoting environmentally sustainable development; and encouraging the growth of small and medium enterprises. The ATCWG meetings, in turn, linked these six APEC priority areas with the seven priority areas of ATCWG. In 1999 and 2007, there were calls for self-review in evaluating the contribution of ATCWG to APEC goals and visions. Clearly, in terms of agenda, the ATCWG meetings raised concerns regarding the consistency of ATCWG and APEC broad goals. The consistency of ATCWG contributions to APEC broad goals can be sustained by including this topic as an agenda item during ATCWG plenary meetings.

HLPDAB. The sustainability of the HLPDAB in terms of its meeting agenda was evaluated in three areas: attendance and representation, topics/issues covered, and level of participation.

Attendance and Participation. The representation of member economies never fell below 15 (7th meeting in 2008), all within the 15 required to form a quorum. The Policy Dialogue has also attracted high level policy government representation during the past two to three years. The highest number of attendance in terms of number of member economies was 21 during the 5th meeting in 2006 (**Table 7**). It is important to ensure there is enough member economy representation in order to approve recommendations raised during the sessions. Also working groups or dialogues can be recommended for disbandment or merging with other groups by the APEC Ministers whenever a quorum is not reached in successive meetings.

Table 7. Participation in Meetings of HLPDAB Member Economies, 2002-2008.

Year	Host	No. of Participating Economies
2002	Mexico	18
2003	Thailand	18
2004	Chile	16
2005	Korea	17
2006	Viet Nam	21
2007	Australia	18
2008	Peru	15

Source: APEC Secretariat, List of HLPDAB Meeting Participants, 2008.

The HLPDAB is one of the fora of APEC with ample representation from the private sector and international organizations. During the last three plenary meetings of the HLPDAB, some of these international organizations include, among others, the International Grain Trade Coalition, Biotechnology Industry Organization, Asia Biobusiness, International Food Safety Consulting, Croplife Asia, and International Rice Research Institute. Not only are they present during the meetings but they are given ample time to present their views and contribute to the discussion. The private sector's presence in the dialogue is a great factor in the sustainability of HLPDAB.

Topics/Issues Covered. The HLPDAB has provided a broad range of topics in the annual plenary sessions. In fact, the 7th meeting was able to cover up to three topic sessions without sacrificing the quality of discussion among participants. This implies the effective management capability of the Dialogue in terms of topic and time management.

Open Discussion Participation. At the end of each presentation, open discussions are allowed in order to clarify issues related to the presentation. The level of participation in open discussion can only be described as lively and productive. At the end of the open discussion, general and/or specific recommendations are also provided. Clearly, positive results can be expected from such undertaking.

2.2.3. Issues on Meetings and Sustainability

Both the ATCWG and HLPDAB have developed a predictable system of setting up annual meetings with corresponding agenda. These annual plenary meetings become avenues of information exchange, developing maintaining and strengthening networks and fund assistance with other APEC economies and other emerging issues on agricultural technical cooperation and agribiotechnology.

The HLPDAB in particular has developed its strong linkage with the private sector, and the forum becomes a venue in validating specific and in depth issues on agribiotechnology. The Policy Dialogue also seeks the collaboration of the RDEAB in providing background information on several key areas that are related to the work of HLPDAB.

Some delegates of the 12th Annual Plenary meeting of ATCWG in Bali, opined that there has not been much diversity and expansion of topics of interest to members (e.g. implications of emerging competing demands of food, feed and fuel to APEC broad goals) since its establishment in 1995. On the other hand, the HLPDAB has strong linkage with the private sector and RDEAB but has not explored collaboration with other

working groups who handle similar issues on biotechnology (e.g. Industrial Science and Technology Working Group).

In terms of sustainability of meetings, concerns have been raised in the declining participation of APEC member economies in the ATCWG meetings. The lack of quorum was felt most during the past seven years (2002 – 2008) when a quorum was reached only in 2007.

In contrast, the HLPDAB had always quorum since 2002. A full participation of APEC member economies was achieved in Viet Nam in 2006.

A partial explanation on the relatively low participation of APEC member economies in attending ATCWG meetings was financial assistance. As a general rule, delegates attending APEC meetings should be funded by their own government. APEC, however, provides funding for two participants from eleven travel-eligible member economies to attend activities implemented via projects funded by APEC. This project-based arrangement is not sustainable considering that not all economies have yearly approved projects. In contrast, the HLPDAB through the United States Department of Agriculture provides full funding under the emergency market program, two delegates each of emerging member economies of APEC who are attending HLPDAB annual meetings.

The US has other explanations for the low level attendance in ATCWG meetings. To wit:

- “The timing and location of the ATCWG may hurt attendance. Generally, the ATCWG meetings take place in a location separate from the official APEC year economy (e.g., in 2008, Peru was the APEC host, but the ATCWG took place in Indonesia). Also, the ATCWG meetings frequently occur during a non-SOM month, potentially increasing travel time and costs for those wishing to attend the ATCWG meetings. Finally, the ATCWG meetings normally occur in June, which often coincides and conflicts with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) meetings. This was the case in 2008 and will occur again in 2009. For the past several years, FAO has been focusing its June meetings on food security, which often involves members of the ATCWG.
- Representatives attending the ATCWG generally possess backgrounds in agricultural production. Singapore and Hong Kong, however, do not have any significant agricultural production and therefore have been much less likely to attend the meetings.”

2.3 Projects

2.3.1 General Findings

Any member of the ATCWG or the HLPDAB can propose projects that can have relevant impact to the APEC broad goals. All proposed projects are evaluated using the Quality Assessment Framework (QAF). The QAF provides feedback to the project proponent by identifying areas of the proposal that need to be improved. After addressing the suggestions from the QAF, the project proponents submit their revised project proposals to the Budget Management Committee (BMC), which then

recommends the project proposals for approval by the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM). There are seventeen criteria used in the evaluation process, rated from a score of zero to three, where three is the highest.

An examination of the APEC database on ATCWG projects revealed that from 1995 to 2009, there were a total of 86 ATCWG projects. Sixty-four or 74 percent of these projects were approved, fifteen are for approval by the BMC while the remaining seven projects (9 percent) were rejected. Of the 64 approved projects during the same period, 35 (55 percent) have already been completed, 29 are in the implementation phase. On the other hand, the HLPDAB has a total of 5 projects as listed in the APEC Project Data Base, Project Information List. However, the US corrects this figure and claims that since 2002, HLPDAB had a total of 16 separate project activities (**Appendix 7**). In addition, for 2009, a risk communication event is in the planning stages and two to three roundtable discussions on low level presence are being planned, as are additional bilateral exchanges.

Table 8 shows the total number of projects and corresponding budget for both the ATCWG and HLPDAB. It also highlights the assessment of the relevance of projects with the subcomponents of the AFS. The ATCWG outnumbered the HLPDAB in terms of number of projects per year. For every HLPDAB project, the ATCWG proposed at least six projects for approval. ATCWG also has the edge in terms of project funding than the HLPDAB. The ATCWG proposed an average project cost US\$ 511,000 per year. Project proposals of the HLPDAB were comparatively lower at US\$ 72,000 per year.

Both fora have projects in the form of Seminar / Symposium and Short Term Training. Survey Analysis Research and those classified as Others were only covered by the ATCWG. Project sources from the Trade and Investment Liberalization Facilitation (TILF) Special Account and Operational Account (OA) were tapped by both fora. Some ATCWG and HLPDAB projects did not seek APEC funding. There was an influx of ATCWG projects in 2008 and 2009 representing 42 percent of all projects from 1995 to 2009. On the other hand, all five projects of the HLPDAB were within the last three years only. In terms of project participation represented by the number of co-sponsoring economies, 80 percent of ATCWG projects have at least one co-sponsoring economy, while all five projects of HLPDAB have at least one co-sponsoring economy. However, the number of co-sponsoring economies is a weak indicator of project participation. The ideal would be to assess the actual level of participation of total number of APEC member economies. However, the available data on APEC projects did not permit the possibility of such analysis (**Table 8**).

Table 8. Comparison of ATCWG and HLPDAB in Terms of Projects.

ITEM	ATCWG	HLPDAB ^a
Number of Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 86 projects from 1995 to 2009 • Average of 6 projects per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 projects from 2002 to 2009 • Average of 2 projects per year
Project Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US\$ 7.16 million total stated costing • Approximately US\$ 511,000 per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US\$ 507,000 total stated costing (for 5 projects only) • Approximately US\$ 72,000 per year
Types of Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminar / Symposium • Short Term Training • Survey Analysis Research • Other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminar / Symposium • Short Term Training
Project Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TILF • ASF • OA • Self Funded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TILF • OA • Self Funded
Time Frame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influx of projects in 2008 and 2009 (36 of 86 projects or 42 percent of all projects) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 projects with listed costs within the last 3 years (2007, 2008 and 2009)
Project Participation in Terms of Number of Co-sponsor Economies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69 of 86 projects with at least one co-sponsoring economies, 80 percent of all projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All projects have co-sponsoring economies

^a Please refer to Appendix 7

Source: APEC Project Database, Project Information List, 2008.

2.3.2 Types of Projects

Projects by Type. Projects can be classified into Seminar / Symposium, Short Term Training, Survey Analysis Research, and Others.

The 86 ATCWG projects were dominated by projects intended for information dissemination and sharing, and human resource development. These were accomplished through the holdings of various seminar/symposium and short term training. These type of projects make-up 66 percent of all ATCWG projects from 1995 to 2009 (**Table 9**).

The 16 HLPDAB projects can be divided into three types: short term training, bilateral exchanges, and seminar / symposia. All are in the implementation phase (**Table 9**).

Projects by Source of Funding. ATCWG and HLPDAB projects have multiple sources of funding. There are Self Funded projects and projects which receive APEC funding assistance from: Trade and Investment Liberalization Facilitation (TILF) Special Account, APEC Support Fund (ASF), and Operational Account (OA) (**Table 10**).

Table 9. ATCWG and HLPDAP Projects According to Project Type.

Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group					
Project type	Number of Projects				
	Imple- menting	Completed	BMC Approval	Rejected	Total
Seminar / Symposium	20	11	11	3	45
Short Term Training	3	6	1	2	12
Survey Analysis Research	2	2	2	2	8
Other	4	16	1	-	21
Total	29	35	15	7	86
High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology					
Project type	Number of Projects				
	Imple- menting	ACS Evaluation Group	Proposing Forum Approval	Draft	Total
Seminar / Symposium	10				10
Meetings / Bilateral Exchanges	5				5
Short Term Training	1				1
Total	16				16

Source: APEC Project Database, Project Information List, 2008., and HLPDAB-US

Fund sources of the 35 ATCWG completed projects were as follows: 13 out of 35 (37 percent) were Self Funded, 13 received funding assistance from OA, and nine from the TILF. On the other hand, the 29 ATCWG projects under implementation sourced their funding as follows: 13 out of 29 received funding assistance from the ASF, six from the OA, five from the TILF, and five were self funded. The 15 projects for BMC approval are to be funded by: ASF (9 out of 15) and OA (6 out of 15). The seven rejected ATCWG project proposals were seeking funding assistance from: OA (4 projects) and the ASF (3 projects) (**Table 10**).

HLPDAB projects, as with ATCWG projects, have multiple sources of funding. Of the five projects reported by the APEC website, one is funded by the TILF, one is seeking funding from the OA, and three are self funded mainly by the US (**Table 10**).

Table 10. ATCWG Projects According to Source of Fund.

Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group					
Source of Funding	Number of Projects and Costs				
	Imple- menting	Completed	BMC Approval	Rejected	Total
Trade and Investment Liberalization Facilitation (TILF) Special Account	5	9			14
APEC Support Fund (ASF)	13		9	3	25
Operational Account (OA)	6	13	6	4	29
Self Funded	5	13			18
Total	29	35	15	7	86
APEC support sought	2,124,488	1,081,579	1,183,330	441,671	4,831,068
APEC approved budget	1,355,657	1,081,579	0	0	2,437,236
High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology					
Source of Funding	Number of Projects and Costs				
	Imple- menting	ACS Evaluation Group	Proposing Forum Approval	Draft	Total
Trade and Investment Liberalization Facilitation (TILF) Special Account	1				1
Operational Account (OA)		1			1
Self-Funded			2	1	3
Total	1	1	2	1	5^a
APEC support sought	50,000	54,450	0	0	104,450
APEC approved budget	50,000	54,450	0	0	104,450

Source: APEC Project Database, Project Information List, 2008.

^a The actual costs of the other 11 projects claimed by HLPDAB-US can't be ascertained.

All project proposals submitted through the ATCWG and HLPDAB for assessment and eventual approval or rejection include an estimated costing for the proposed project. **Table 10** shows the financial support sought from APEC (in US\$) and APEC approved budget for the 86 projects under implementation, completed, approved, and rejected. The 86 ATCWG projects sought APEC fund support which totaled to US\$ 4,831,068. The APEC has approved and granted budgetary support to ATCWG projects in the amount of US\$ 2,437,236 (50 percent) from 1995 to 2008. On the other hand, the two out of the five HLPDAB projects sought and received APEC funding assistance in the amount of US\$ 104,450 (100 percent) from 1995 to 2008.

It is also worthwhile to note at this point that RDEAB, a subgroup of ATCWG is funded by APEC annually (e.g. approved project funding respectively for the 11th and 12th RDEAB meetings were US\$ 61,100 and US\$ 64,850). These annual project activities on agricultural biotechnology are not reflected in HLPDAB, but they constitute ATCWG activities.

Projects by Time Frame. According to the Project Information List on the APEC website, the ATCWG has been implementing projects since 1995 up to the present. The number of ATCWG projects per year is shown in **Table 11**. There was an influx of 36 projects in 2008, representing 42 percent of all projects from 1995 to 2008. Of the 36 projects of 2008, 12 projects have started implementation, seven were rejected, two will start implementation in 2009, and 15 are still to be approved by the BMC¹.

Table 11. Number of ATCWG and HLPDAB Projects Per Year.

Year	Number of Projects									
	ATCWG					HLPDAB				
	Closed	Imple- menting	BMC Approval	Reject -ed	To- tal	Imple- menting	ACS	Proposing forum	Draft	To- tal
2009		2	15		17					
2008		12		7	19	7				7
2007		8			8	4				4
2006		6			6	1				1
2005	7				7	1				1
2004	5				5	2				2
2003	4				4	1				1
2002	3				3					
2001	2				2					
2000	8				8					
1999	6				6					
No date		1			1					
Total	35	29	15	7	86	16	1	2	1	16

Source: APEC Project Database, Project Information List, 2008, and HLPDAB-US

¹ Updates from BMC are needed to put a timeline in approvals.

Looking only at the 64 projects that have been closed and projects under implementation, 12 projects were implemented in 2008, eight projects were started in 2000 and 2007, seven projects in 2005, six projects started in 1999 and 2006, with the remaining years garnering less than five projects or less (**Table 11**).

The HLPDAB, on the other hand, has been proposing projects since 2007, so far only one project has been implemented. The distribution of HLPDAB projects by year is as follows: one project has been implemented in 2008, one proposed in 2007 is still under ACS group evaluation, and three projects are tentatively set for 2009 (**Table 11**).

2.3.3 Project Design

ATCWG. ATCWG Projects are designed to fit the seven priority areas of ATCWG. In **Table 12**, projects are grouped according to the seven priority areas and status. For the 35 ATCWG completed projects; 9 out of 35 (25 percent) fall under the ATCWG priority area of Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training (ATT&T); 8 (22 percent) belongs to the Production, Processing, Marketing, Distribution and Consumption of Agricultural Products category; seven (20 percent) for Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology (RDEAB); three (9 percent) for those classified as Others; while the other remaining ATCWG priority areas each accounted for 6 percent (**Table 12**).

The distribution of the 29 ATCWG projects under implementation per ATCWG priority area is as follows: 10 out of 29 (35 percent) fall under Plant and Animal Quarantine and Pest Management; seven (24 percent) for ATT&T; three (10 percent) for both RDEAB, Production, Processing, Marketing, Distribution and Consumption of Agricultural Products; Others; Conservation and Utilization of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources; Production, Processing, Marketing, Distribution and Consumption of Agricultural Products; and Sustainable Agriculture and Related Environmental Issues each accounted for two (7 percent) (**Table 12**).

The 15 ATCWG projects for BMC approval are distributed as follows: 6 out of 15 (40 percent) are under Sustainable Agriculture and Related Environmental Issues; four (26 percent) for Plant and Animal Quarantine and Pest Management; two (13 percent) for Production Processing Marketing Distribution and Consumption of Agricultural Products; and one (7 percent) each for ATT&T, RDEAB and Cooperative Development of Agricultural Finance System (**Table 12**).

The seven rejected ATCWG project proposals are distributed as follows: three out of seven (43 percent) are under Production, Processing, Marketing, Distribution and Consumption of Agricultural Products; two (29 percent) Conservation and Utilization of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources; while ATT&T and Plant and Animal Quarantine and Pest Management each accounted for one (14 percent) (**Table 12**).

Table 12. ATCWG Projects According ATCWG Priority Areas.

Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group					
Priority Area	Number of Projects				
	Imple- Menting	Completed	BMC Approval	Rejected	Total
Conservation and Utilization of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources	2	2		2	6
Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology	3	7	1		11
Production, Processing, Marketing, Distribution and Consumption of Agricultural Products	3	8	2	3	16
Plant and Animal Quarantine and Pest Management	10	2	4	1	17
Cooperative Development of Agricultural Finance System		2	1		3
Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training	7	9	1	1	18
Sustainable Agriculture and Related Environmental Issues	2	2	6		10
Others	2	3			5
Total	29	35	15	7	86
High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology					
Priority Area	Number of Projects				
	Imple- menting	ACS Evaluation Group	Proposing Forum Approval	Draft	Total
Policy information exchange on agricultural biotechnology	1		1		2
Public perception and understanding of agricultural biotechnology		1		1	2
Legal Consideration Related to the Use of Agricultural Biotechnology			1		1
Total	1	1	2	1	5

Source: APEC Project Database, Project Information List, 2008.

HLPDAB. According to the 2007-2009 Work Plan of the HLPDAB, it will continue targeting activities related to agricultural biotech and provide useful tools for economies and government officials by focusing on the following areas:

1. Policy information exchange on agricultural biotechnology;
2. Public perception and understanding of agricultural biotechnology;
3. Legal considerations related to the use of agricultural biotechnology;
4. Public and private sector relationship in agricultural biotechnology; and
5. Effective collaboration with other APEC fora.

HLPDAB projects are designed to fit within the focus areas stated in the 2007-2009 HLPDAB Workplan. There are two (40 percent) projects under Policy Information Exchange on Agricultural Biotechnology. One is being implemented while another is awaiting proposing forum approval. Similarly, there are two (40 percent) projects under Public Perception and Understanding of Agricultural Biotechnology. One is already with the Australian Customs Service (ACS) evaluation group while the other is still a draft. Finally, one (20 percent) project is under Legal Consideration Related to the Use of Agricultural Biotechnology. This project is awaiting proposing forum approval (**Table 12**).

2.3.4 Participation

Project participation in this independent assessment was represented in terms of the number of sponsor and co-sponsor economies. Although the number of participating economies and the number of economies benefiting from the project are better suited as indicators of participation, the available documents gathered by this assessment from the APEC website did not permit such analysis.

ATCWG projects may either be initiatives of the ATCWG itself or sponsored projects. Sponsored projects are those that have been initiated by APEC member economies. **Table 13** shows the number of projects that have co-sponsors.

As indicated in the APEC ATCWG project database, twenty-nine percent (25 out of 86) of ATCWG projects have two co-sponsoring member economies. Seventeen out of eighty-six (20 percent) projects do not have entry for a sponsor or a co-sponsor member economy. Similarly, there are 17 (20 percent) projects having a sponsor member economy but no co-sponsoring member economy. There are also 17 (20 percent) projects with three co-sponsoring economies. The percentages of projects with four, five, one and seven co-sponsoring economies are six, two, two and one percent respectively. In summary, 52 or 75 percent of 86 projects have a co-sponsor economy ranging from one to seven, indicating that there was greater participation among member economies in co-sponsoring ATCWG Projects (**Table 13**).

HLPDAB projects listed in the APEC Project Database were sponsored by either United States (80 percent) or Canada (20 percent). Based on the APEC HLPDAB project database, two out of five (40 percent) have four co-sponsoring economies. HLPDAB projects having five, three and two co sponsoring economies account for one (20 percent) project each (**Table 13**).

Table 13. Number of ATCWG Projects by Number of Co-sponsoring Economies.

Projects	Number of Co-Sponsor Economies							Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	7	
ATCWG								
Implemented	4		12	9	4			29
Completed	10	2	3	1	1		1	18
BMC Approval			7	6		2		15
Rejected	3		3	1				7
Sub- total	17	2	25	17	5	2	1	69
No primary nor co-sponsor indicated								17
Total								86
HLPDAB								
Implemented					1			1
ACS Evaluation Group						1		1
Proposing forum								
				1	1			2
Draft			1					1
Total			1	1	2	1		5^a

Source: APEC Project Database, Project Information List, 2008.

^a No data on the APEC Information List on the 11 other projects claimed by HLPDAB-US

2.3.5 Issues on Projects

The dynamics of designing projects and the process of having them approved are intertwined and follow basic, APEC standard procedures. The participation of member economies in co-sponsoring projects was the only indicator seen by the assessment reflecting that the TORs of the ATCWG and HLPDAB through projects are fulfilled. However, this is a very weak indicator. Proponents of projects in ATCWG and HLPDAB can design right subject matter projects, given the priorities of the fora. The ATCWG and HLPDAB approved projects have no project profiles and basic monitoring/evaluation input/output indicators to base an analysis whether these projects are contributing to the attainment of the objectives of APEC, under any operational framework.

2.4 The APEC Food System², ATCWG and HLPDAB

2.4.1 Rating Projects Using AFS Framework

As mentioned in the methodology for assessment, there were several frameworks that can be used by the APEC Working Groups which can filter into the attainment of the objectives of APEC. However, the independent assessor felt that the more relevant determinant for ATCWG and HLPDAB was the AFS.

The relationship of ATCWG and HLPDAB with AFS can be bridged by rating past and current ATCWG and HLPDAB projects in terms of their contribution to the AFS. Based on a set of parameters, projects were rated using a set of criteria derived from the sub-components of the three broad areas of AFS. These ratings of projects were applied based on the assessment of project objectives, purpose, focus, activities and expected output.

It should be noted that the process of rating ATCWG projects strictly followed the sub-components enumerated in the original 1999 AFS document. The three broad areas of AFS were evaluated in four to five rating criteria. Each criterion has corresponding ratings ranging from zero to three (three being the highest), depending on the relevance of the project to the AFS³.

The summary of the ATCWG and HLPDAB project relationship with AFS is shown in **Table 14**. For the details of the rating exercise, please see **Appendix 4** for ATCWG projects and **Appendix 5** for HLPDAB projects.

Based from the results of the rating system, ATCWG projects were generally weak in terms of incorporating the subcomponents of the AFS. Since the introduction of the AFS in 1999, the projects of the ATCWG from 2000 to 2009 were rated as weak, representing 76 percent of all projects. Six percent of projects had no relationship at all with the AFS during the same period. There were instances of moderate and strong relationship of ATCWG projects with AFS representing 13 and four percent of projects, respectively, during the same period (**Table 14**).

On the other hand, four out of five HLPDAB projects were found to be moderately to very strongly related to AFS. One HLPDAB project had a weak relationship with AFS in 2009 (**Table 14**).

² For a background of the AFS Framework, please see **Appendix 2**. The description of the AFS Framework was partially condensed from Anderson, 1999.

³ For the details of the methodology used, please see **Appendix 3**.

Table 14. Summary of ATCWG and HLPDAB Project Relationship with AFS Components.

YEAR	ATCWG				HLPDAB		
	NUMBER OF PROEJECTS RATED AS:				NUMBER OF PROEJECTS RATED AS:		
	Very Weak	Weak	Moderate	Strong	Weak	Moderate	Very Strong
1995	1						
1999	1	3	1				
2000		8	1				
2001		2					
2002		2					
2003	1	2		1			
2004		3	2				
2005		4	1	1			
2006	1	5	1				
2007	2	5	1			1	
2008		16	2	1			1
2009	2	13	2		1	1	1
2000-2009	6 (8)	60 (76)	10 (13)	3 (4)	1 (20)	2 (40)	2 (40)
1995-2009	8 (9)	63 (74)	11 (13)	3 (4)			

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentage shares.

Source: Author's own design.

The results of the analysis in **Table 14** should be interpreted with caution. These results refer to the assessment of ATCWG / HLPDAB projects if AFS is the only framework. They do not imply failure of the ATCWG / HLPDAB in fulfilling their terms of reference. On the contrary, the 66 projects considered as “weak” and “very weak” in table 14 by theme (**Appendix 4**) are very relevant in providing information and knowledge on the technical aspect of agricultural cooperation. What the results of the analysis further imply are: 1) The current state of projects design of ATCWG and HLPDAB are not effective in attaining the objectives of APEC via the AFS, and 2) only 17 percent of the listed projects of ATCWG from 2005-2009, can contribute to the objectives of APEC via the AFS.

2.4.2 The AFS and Recent APEC Food Security Developments⁴

In response to the rise in regional food prices and recommendations by ABAC, the APEC Senior Officials initiated a process to review APEC activities in the area of food and agriculture which resulted in the APEC Food Security Work Plan, which was endorsed by APEC Ministers and welcomed by APEC Leaders at the November 2008 meetings in Peru.

In 2008, the U.S. and the APEC Secretariat undertook separate efforts to review APEC's activities in the food and agriculture area. Together, these reviews showed that APEC had undertaken a number of valuable activities that are consistent with the provisions/recommendations of the APEC Food System (AFS). These activities relate not only to food security, but also to food safety and food defense and therefore are

⁴ Mainly taken from HLPDAB-US.

conducted in range of APEC fora including the ATCWG and HLPDAB, but also many others.

Given these developments, it would be most desirable for APEC to put more projects on the ground to operationalize the ABAC recommendations. Major points of entry would be the merged ATCWG-HLPDAB, the Fisheries Working Group and the Industrial Science and Technology Working Group.

2.5 Optimizing Linkages and Coordination

2.5.1 ATCWG

Within Working Group. The linkage and coordination within the ATCWG was dictated by activities of the past seven priority areas. With the current proposal to merge the seven areas into five, it is expected that cooperation between priority areas will improve. It is also anticipated that the ATCWG will have better focus in implementing the APEC Food System (AFS).

The Sub-group on Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology (RDEAB) of the ATCWG, provides linkage and representation to the High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB).

Other Working Groups. The relationship of the ATCWG with the other Working Groups was reviewed in terms of the meeting documents and approved projects. The review included the activities of the Working Groups, past and current linkages, and potential areas of cooperation with ATCWG. Based on the review of available official meeting documents, there were no past and current linkage and collaboration between ATCWG and the other ten working groups of APEC.

In linking the ATCWG with other APEC working groups initially under the AFS framework, results showed different types of linkage between Working Groups and organizations that are both within and outside the APEC organization. The linkage maybe in the form of joint projects, collaborative workshops, representation to Ministerial Meetings or guest attendance to Plenary Meetings.

Using the AFS framework, potential areas of cooperation between ATCWG and the other ten Working Groups were identified. The goal of the identified potential linkages is to improve the supply chain efficiency of the AFS. Initial collaboration efforts should focus on the operationalization of AFS with the Fisheries Working Group (FWG) in order to address current issues on food (**Table 15**).

Table 15. APEC Working Groups' Past and Current Linkages and Potential Areas of Cooperation with ATCWG, Under the AFS Framework.

WORKING GROUP	PAST AND CURRENT LINKAGES	POTENTIAL AREAS OF COOPERATION WITH ATCWG
A. Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marine Resources Conservation Working Group - Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center - Asian Institute of Technology and the Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint project on sustainable livelihood practices in rural coastal areas - Exchange of ideas and expertise on aquaculture and agriculture food product supply chain - Joint discussion on trade-related issues on rising fish and agri food prices
B. Marine Resources Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fisheries Working Group - APEC Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group - UNEP – Office of the Global Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities - Partnership for Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia - Permanent Commission for the South Pacific - North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation - Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project on the sustainable utilization of marine and coastal resources in rural areas
C. Small and Medium Enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APEC Ministers Responsible for SMEs - Micro-Enterprise Subgroup - Pacific Islands Forum - Women Leaders' Network - Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of agriculture food producing small and medium enterprises in the rural areas
D. Human Resources Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human Resource Development Ministerial Meeting - APEC Education Ministerial Meeting - Social Safety Nets Capacity Building Network - Association of Pacific Rim Universities - World Bank Global Distance Learning Network - Pacific Economic Cooperation Council - Industrial Science and Technology Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint projects on improving market infrastructure and human capacity in rural areas
E. Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transportation Ministerial Meeting - Intermodal Multimodal Transport Association - International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association - Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific - Automotive Dialogue - Counter Terrorism Task Force - Tourism Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint project on improving the logistics efficiency of the food supply chain
F. Telecommunications and Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private sector - International Telecommunication Union - Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development - Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications and Information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of telecommunications and information expertise to ATCWG in order to increase the efficiency of the food supply chain
G. Industrial Science and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting - Human Resources Development Working Group - Energy Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are three projects of the Industrial Science and Technology Working Group that the ATCWG can collaborate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ APEC Center for Technology Transfer √ APEC Climate Center √ APEC Biotechnology Conference
H. Energy Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EWG Business Network - APEC Energy Ministers Meeting - International Energy Agency - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership - Industrial Science and Technology Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint project on the efficient use of energy to make the distribution of food products in the supply chain more efficient
I. Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APEC Health Ministers Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint activity on improving the basic health care in rural areas
J. Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tourism Ministerial Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint research activity on the sustainable use of agriculture resources in order to promote tourism in the rural areas
K. Committee on Trade and Investments, Market Access and Subcommittee on Standards and Conformance ^a		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issues related to non-tariff measures and food safety issues

^a Not a Working Group but suggested by Thailand to be included

Source: APEC Secretariat, Meeting Documents and Project Information List, 2008.

Other Organizations. A review of available meeting documents and projects of the ATCWG revealed a generally weak representation of the business sector and other international organizations. In other working groups, there exist active participation from the business sector and consistent attendance of other international organizations. Their representation cannot be overemphasized since they can make important contributions to the development and implementation of current and future activities of the ATCWG. Some of the international organizations that may be invited to the ATCWG meetings include: the Food Agriculture Organization (FAO), Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Grains Council (IGC), and International Service for the Acquisition of Agribiotechnology Applications (ISAAA).

2.5.2 HLPDAB

Within Working Group. There exists a strong linkage within the HLPDAB. Member economies, the private sector, RDEAB and guest participants (i. e. invited session topic speakers coming from different government agencies and other international organizations) all play an active role in order to fulfill the Dialogue's mandate. Participation is enhanced by lively and productive contributions during open discussions. Relevant recommendations are expected at the end of each open discussion.

Other Working Groups. Exclusive of the ATCWG through the RDEAB, the only Working Group with possible collaborative research on biotechnology is the Industrial Science and Technology Working Group. This group has a project on "APEC Biotechnology Conference". Collaborative activities can be explored by the Policy Dialogue and the Industrial Science and Technology Working Group on how to strengthen their activities in terms of contribution to AFS.

Strengthening HLPDAB and RDEAB Collaboration. Under the AFS framework, this independent assessment examined possible project collaborations between the HLPDAB and RDEAB. These potential projects came from the general and/or specific recommendations of the session topics covered in each plenary session. It should be noted that the session topics of the HLPDAB will not have any direct contributions to AFS unless the food product is fully commercialized. Session topics are therefore, in general, indirectly contributing to the AFS framework. This is very important considering the relatively few number of HLPDAB and RDEAB projects.

From the 13 session topics covered by the HLPDAB from 2002 to 2008, two potential projects are most popular in terms of frequency of coverage. These are "Projects on capacity building to encourage technology transfer and human resource development" and "Projects examining the costs and benefits and trade implications of implementation of the Cartagena Protocol for both agri food importers and exporters". These two topics were related to the second and third components of the AFS, respectively (**Table 16**).

Table 16. HLPDAB Session Topics, Relation to AFS and Possible Project Collaboration with RDEAB.

HLPAB SESSION TOPIC	RELATED TO AFS			POSSIBLE PROJECT COLLABORATION
	I. Investment in Physical and Human Rural Infrastructure	II. Transfer and Dissemination of New Farm and Food Technologies	III. Promotion of International Trade and Investment in Food	
Topic 1: Investment and Innovation in Biotechnology Research and Development	√	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational training of rural people on the benefits of agricultural biotechnology - Continuity of the RDEAB biotechnology workshops on capacity building and technical cooperation - Sustain the HLPDAB project on issues surrounding investment in agriculture biotechnology
Topic 2: Regulatory Practices and its Implications for Public Acceptance and Economic Impacts		√	√	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project on capacity building measures on risk assessment of biotechnology food products - Project on food trade traceability and labeling
Topic 3: Intellectual Property Rights		√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Related projects on capacity building to encourage technology transfer and human resource development
Topic 4: Capacity Building		√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Related projects on capacity building to encourage technology transfer and human resource development
Topic 5: Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety			√	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A project examining the costs and benefits and trade implications of implementation of the Protocol for both agri food importers and exporters
Topic 6: Intellectual Property Rights and its Role in the Effective Transfer of Technology		√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Related projects on capacity building to encourage technology transfer and human resource development
Topic 7: Biotechnology Policy Development, Implementation and Communication		√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Related projects on capacity building to encourage technology transfer and human resource development
Topic 8: Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety			√	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A project examining the costs and benefits and trade implications of implementation of the Protocol for both agri food importers and exporters
Topic 9: Public Perception and Understanding of Biotechnology		√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Related projects on capacity building to encourage technology transfer and human resource development
Topic 10: Legal Considerations Related to the Use of Agricultural Biotechnology		√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Related projects on capacity building to encourage technology transfer and human resource development
Topic 11: Commodity Trade and the Low Level Presence of Regulated Recombinant DNA Plant Materials in Trade			√	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harmonization of the technical aspects of regulation of biotechnology food products
Topic 12: Implications of Transparent Policies and Regulations on the Use of Agricultural Biotechnology		√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Related projects on capacity building to encourage technology transfer and human resource development
Topic 13: Key Concerns on Liability and Redress on Research and Trade			√	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A project examining the costs and benefits and trade implications of implementation of the Protocol for both agri food importers and exporters

Source: APEC Secretariat, HLPDAB Meeting Documents, 2008.

Since agribiotechnology is relatively a new technology, it faces two basic constraints towards full commercialization. One is the divided public perception of the anticipated costs and benefits of the technology as they relate to human and environmental risks. The second is the limited technical institutional capacity of most member economies to positively utilize the technology to address their food security problems. Despite these constraints, at the 2008 Leaders Meeting, APEC Leaders signed a statement supporting APEC's efforts to expand acceptance of agricultural biotechnology to improve regional food security.

The absence of a functional agency that handles biosafety risks assessments of agribiotechnology products before their commercialization is a major constraint among majority of APEC member economies. In this regard, the continuous human resource development and institutional capacity building projects of HLPDAB take added significance. These types of projects should be sustained until majority of the APEC economies are ready to accept agribiotech products in AFS.

Furthermore, the commercialization of agribiotechnology food products to support food security within the context of AFS, still remains a major challenge among APEC member economies. The assessment of the Investment Toolbox for Agribiotechnology for APEC member economies (Powell and Teng, 2007) indicated that only five member economies (China, Australia, Philippines, Japan and United States) have large scale commercialization of agribiotechnology and three economies (Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam) are in pre-commercialization stage (**Table 17**).

Table 17. Diversity of Agribiotechnology Experience among Selected APEC Member Economies.

Regulatory Systems?	APEC Member Economy	Contained Expts.	Field Expts.	Large scale precom / com
+	China	+	+	+
+	Australia	+	+	+
+	Indonesia	+	+	(+)
+	Philippines	+	+	+
+	Thailand	+	+	(+)
+	Vietnam	+	(+)	(+)
+	Korea	+	+	-
+	Japan	+	+	+
-	Malaysia	+	(+)	-
+	Singapore	+	-	-
+	United States*	+	+	+

Source: Powell and Teng, 2007.

* Was not included in their presentation but is indulged in large scale commercialization.

2.6 The ATCWG Independent Survey

From the middle of June to September 30, 2008 a perception survey on ATCWG was conducted by STRIVE Foundation, Inc. among member economies who attended the 12th Plenary Meeting of the ATCWG in Bali, Indonesia. Of the total 13 economies which attended the Bali meeting 10 (Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Chile, Korea, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Viet Nam and United States), or 77 percent responded to the survey. The questionnaire (**Appendix 1**) was sent to all the 46 delegates, but only 17 (37 percent) of the delegates responded to the survey.

The survey covered at least five topics: participation in annual ATCWG meetings, priority agenda setting, ATCWG projects, the APEC Food System, and linkages and coordination with other working groups. The complete analysis of the survey is in **Appendix 6**, but a summary of results is discussed below.

2.6.1 Participation in Annual Meetings

The results of the STRIVE survey indicated that 59 percent of the respondents were attending the Annual Plenary Meeting for the first time while 24 percent, and 18 percent had attended ATCWG annual meetings three times and above, and 18 percent twice, respectively. The respondents' motivations for attending meetings (63 percent) were basically venue for advancement of individual economies' policies and exchange of ideas and information covered by ATCWG.

2.6.2 Priority Setting

Majority of the respondents (88 percent) agreed to reprioritize the current seven sub groups of ATCWG into the five suggested priority areas during the 12th Plenary Meeting in Bali, Indonesia. They also ranked the new areas as follows:

Priority Area	Rank
Productivity and Diversification	1
Environmental Sustainability	2
Structural Adjustment	3
Regulatory Cooperation	4
Biotechnology	5

Also majority (89 percent) of respondents expressed willingness to institutionalize these new priorities. Majority (88 percent) of respondents further indicated that refocusing the seven original sub-groups into five will result to higher efficiency of the ATCWG. Likewise 88 percent of the respondents expressed their agreement in setting new priorities with implementation from two to three years, instead of the annual prioritization process.

2.6.3 ATCWG Projects

In terms of project benefits to own economy and other economies, majority (75 percent) indicated that project benefits of ATCWG, affecting their own economy ranged from networking / information / knowledge, human resource development capacity building and generation of policy options by member economies. These same benefits

cited above were also mentioned by 82 percent of respondents to have affected other member economies.

As regards to satisfaction of delegates, that responded to the survey conducted by STRIVE Foundation, with the current project proposal ranking system, only 35 percent were satisfied, majority (59 percent) were dissatisfied while the remaining six percent had no response. This may be a reflection of the level of understanding that the responding delegates have regarding the project proposal ranking and approval system used by APEC. It would be beneficial to APEC Delegates to be properly acquainted and informed regarding project proposal ranking, approval procedures and especially the main purpose of QAF.

2.6.4 The APEC Food System

A great majority (82 percent) of ATCWG delegate respondents expressed optimism that ATCWG will be able to provide assistance on the agricultural and technical dimension of the AFS. In contrast only 18 percent indicated otherwise.

Eighty percent of the responses advocated for ATCWG to provide assistance to AFS, while 20 percent of the responses indicated that such assistance is not warranted. Some of the reasons posed by respondents in favor of ATCWG assisting AFS include the following: ATCWG has a professional responsibility as a member of APEC and as a subject matter specialist; a group within APEC should facilitate technical information gathering which are relevant to AFS; and AFS should give ATCWG directions on what technical information it needs for ATCWG assistance. On the other hand, those who were not in favor of assisting AFS indicated that ATCWG and AFS should be separate given that ATCWG is not a forum to handle trade liberalization and facilitation problems.

The results of the ATCWG Independent survey showed that there are several agricultural technical challenges constraining the implementation of AFS in APEC member economies. These technical challenges can be grouped into three broad areas:

1. Lack of human resources and physical infrastructure that can support AFS;
2. Government's inability to support quality standards and other regulatory requirements as required in the AFS broad area of "Promotion of International Trade and Investment in Food"; and
3. Other challenges including limited land area for food production, lack of funding, impact of climate change, political problems, and lack of innovation and diversification in food production, among others.

The best that ATCWG can do to address the above constraints in relation to AFS is to propose projects concentrating on the three broad areas of AFS, namely:

- a. Investment in Physical and Human Infrastructure;
- b. Transfer and Dissemination of New Farm and Food Technologies; and
- c. Promotion of International Trade and Investment in Food.

A good starting point of relevant related projects to propose encompassing these constraints are the ATCWG projects evaluated through the AFS rating system in **Appendix 4**.

2.6.5 ATCWG Merger with Other APEC Fora

The respondents were asked their opinion if the RDEAB, a sub-group of the ATCWG is merged with the HLPDAB. Fifty three percent were amenable; 29 percent not in favor; and 18 percent of respondents abstained. The respondent's reasons for the merger included: increase in efficiency due to better cooperation, coordination and budget savings; the strategic focus of the two groups are the same; and avoids duplication of efforts. On the other hand, those not in favor of merger opined the following reasons: RDEAB deals in technical discussions while HLPDAB deals with policy; the specificity of the respective fields are best left to subject matter specialists of the respective groups.

2.6.6 Comparisons of Two ATCWG Surveys

GLOBALRICH Inc., a research organization, was also commissioned by ATCWG to conduct an internal survey of the ATCWG entitled "Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Agriculture Technical Cooperation Working Group: Survey of Member Economies". The survey was done between January to the end of February 2007. The purpose of the survey was to find out member's views on ATCWG work priorities and operating practices.

The STRIVE Foundation conducted a similar survey entitled "Question on the ATCWG". The survey was done between June and September 2008.

The results and findings of the surveys conducted independently by GLOBALRICH Inc. and STRIVE Foundation were congruent and in various instances supportive of one another.

Points of interest are as follows:

1. The original seven ATCWG priority areas should be reframed within a larger strategic context. The refocusing of the ATCWG priority areas from seven to three or five is accepted by majority of ATCWG delegates responding to the surveys.
2. In view of rapidly changing sector environment, ATCWG priorities and plans must be flexible and subject to periodic reviews. A two to three year scheduling of these reviews is perceived to be an adequate timeframe to properly assess and evaluate ATCWG project impacts on APEC member economies.
3. Institutionalizing of the agreed upon draft priorities (Environmental Sustainability, Productivity and Diversification, Biotechnology, Regulatory Cooperation, and Structural Adjustment) into subgroups is widely accepted among ATCWG delegates responding to the survey.
4. Delegates expressed their concerns and dissatisfaction regarding the current system of evaluating and ranking project proposals. On the other hand, they are not amenable to creating an external (not of the ATCWG but still within APEC) review team that would review and evaluate ATCWG projects.

5. ATCWG members are in favor of further/closer linkages with other fora both within and outside of APEC. This is just a reflection of the findings of surveys conducted by GLOBALRICH and STRIVE Foundation. The fora with which the respondents wish closer linkages with were not enumerated.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

From the analysis, the independent assessment recommends the following:

3.1 Improvement of Project Information on APEC Project Database.

The independent assessor had difficulties in assessing the qualitative and quantitative impacts of the ATCWG and HLPDAB projects on APEC member economies due in part to inadequacy of monitoring and evaluation (M/E) impact indicators to base his analysis. A review of the “Guidelines for Evaluation and Reporting System for APEC Projects” (Annex G), “Questionnaire for APEC Projects which are in the Category of Seminar, Symposium and Short Term Training Course” (Annex G1), “Progress Report on APEC Projects” (Annex G2), and “Guidelines on How to Use the Assessment Monitoring and Evaluation (AME) Frameworks” (Annex G3), indicated comprehensiveness. The difficulty lies in accessing the results from these annexes in terms of M/E indicators. For example, from the Project information on APEC Project Database, one cannot determine whether Project Overseers (POs) and respective small groups (evaluation projects) of the ATCWG / HLPDAB are properly completing evaluation reports. This information is not available in the Project information on APEC Project Database.

It is recommended that the Guidelines on “How to Use the Assessment Monitoring and Evaluation (AME) Frameworks (G3), especially the roles of PO, small group and Lead Shepherd in AME should consider the logical framework (Logframe) to complement and enhance the impact assessment of APEC Projects. Simply put: INPUTS, and valid assumptions, will result to OUTPUTS; OUTPUTS and valid assumptions will have EFFECTS; and EFFECTS and valid assumptions will have IMPACTS. The Project “inputs-outputs-effects and impacts” continuum can be measured qualitatively and quantitatively for each project. These parameters can then be refined and put in the Project information on APEC Project Database.

3.2 Merge the ATCWG and the HLPDAB.

There are pros and cons of the structural merging. However, there are four basic protocols considered in merging of ATCWG and HLPDAB. These protocols and the relative strength of the two fora are shown below.

<u>Protocol</u>	<u>ATCWG</u>	<u>HLPDAB</u>
Technical	Strong	Weak
Policy	Weak	Strong
Private Sector Participation	Weak	Strong
Efficiency of Resource Utilization	Neutral	Neutral

The ATCWG’s strength is the technical aspect of agricultural cooperation. However it is weak in policy and private sector participation. If the intention of APEC leadership is to achieve optimum interface, the technical aspects of agriculture must be combined with other factors such as agriculture / food policy frameworks for member economies to attain the objectives of APEC. In merging the two fora, HLPDAB will complement ATCWG because of its strength in High level Policy Dialogues and participation of the Private Sector.

Over the years, the ATCWG has concentrated on projects related to the technical aspects of agriculture cooperation. There is no doubt, that it has done a great job in developing the technical building blocks of agriculture. However, it is about time that ATCWG should transcend beyond simply understanding and exchanging information on the technical aspects of agriculture among APEC member economies to a new direction – enhancing the efficiency of the Region’s food supply chain. The merged ATCWG and HLPDAB must also cover all agricultural cooperation issues.

The charting of this new development pathway is by no means simple. It involves individual development policy initiatives, among APEC member economies and their willingness to trade freely and thus enhancing trade flows in the Region. In this regard, tapping the HLPDAB’s rich experience in policy dialogue on agribiotechnology, and with strong private sector participation, through the merger can immensely enhance the attainment of this new development pathway.

The merger will also allow broader policy dialogues that will cover not only agribiotechnology but main stream food products. Given that the full acceptance of biotech products is not yet in place in the APEC Region, the enhancement of trade flows in traditional foods, via the AFS can take place without losing sight on the policy advocacy for agribiotech products.

There are however anticipated difficulties in merging ATCWG and HLPDAB. Foremost is the need to revisit whether APEC economies are ready to accept the AFS as the framework of the merger. There is also a need to investigate further whether member economies are willing to rotate leadership in the merged ATCWG and HLPDAB. More importantly, will the present convener of HLPDAB continue to provide financial assistance and interest if HLPDAB and ATCWG are merged? If the answer to this question is yes, then the economies of scale can be attained by the merger and it might be a partial solution to solve the perennial problem of lack of quorum in the ATCWG meetings.

3.3 Revisit the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the merged ATCWG-HLPDAB and refocus its priorities from the original seven to five.

Currently the ATCWG has seven priority areas: conservation and utilization of plant and animal genetic resources, research development and extension of agricultural biotechnology, production, processing, and marketing, distribution, and consumption of agricultural products, plant quarantine and pest management, cooperative development of agricultural finance system, agricultural technology transfer and training, and sustainable agriculture, and related environmental issues. During the past decade, the 86 projects developed by the ATCWG were related to these seven priority areas.

There is however a growing awareness among ATCWG member economies for the need to reassess the seven priorities into sharper focus. During the 2008 12th ATCWG Plenary Meetings in Bali, Indonesia, delegates discussed five priority areas where ATCWG can focus its activities. These five areas, although not yet officially approved by the member economies are:

a) Productivity and Diversification

Including information exchange, technical assistance and capacity building on agricultural production technologies, postharvest losses, agricultural finance,

organic agriculture, functional foods / nutraceuticals, marketing, food value chain development and coordination.

b) Environmental Sustainability

Including information exchange, technical assistance and capacity building on animal and plant genetic resources, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable land management for agricultural production, small holder farmers, food security / poverty alleviation, and development.

c) Structural Adjustment

Including exchange of information, technical assistance and capacity building on adjustments to such economic events as trade liberalization, sudden increase in input costs, exchange rate fluctuations, land reform and escalating food prices, as these events affect agricultural production, food security, poverty alleviation and small holder farmers.

d) Regulatory Cooperation

Including exchange of information, technical assistance and capacity building on agriculture related national regulations and international standards on food safety, plant and animal health and quarantine, sanitary and phyto-sanitary traceability and similar areas.

e) Biotechnology

Including science-based assessment of products of biotechnology, technical cooperation, transformation and information exchange, and capacity building. Technical work in this area is closely coordinated with the policy work of the High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology.

The first two are technical in nature while the last three are leaning more towards policy. Projects developed under these five priorities will have a balance of both technical and policy which can propel the newly merged ATCWG-HLPDAB.

3.4 Adopt as a Policy to make the AFS as the operational framework of the merged ATCWG-HLPDAB and other Working Groups related to Food and Science.

The AFS as a framework has to be reviewed first by the SOM before it is officially used as a filtering mechanism in attaining the objectives of APEC. In addition to the merged ATCWG-HLPDAB, other Working Groups such as the Fisheries Working Group (FWG), and the Industrial Science Working Group (ISWG), can use AFS as operational framework in attaining the objectives of APEC. Joint projects developed by Working Groups under the AFS should be given special project incentives (e.g. as special priority projects in the project assessment process).

3.5 Enhance the Participation of the Private Sector and International Organizations in the Newly Merged ATCWG-HLPDAB.

On a per need basis, international organizations such as, the Food Agriculture Organization (FAO), Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and International Service for the Acquisition of Agribiotechnology Applications (ISAAA) should be invited to attend the new forum. These organizations have a long history of doing technical and policy research, advocating for agricultural development and the application of agribiotechnology. They can act as resource agencies on a per theme basis by the newly merged working group. However, the participation of the private sector and International Organizations should take place after consultations among government officials of member economies.

3.6 Initiate the Holding of Agriculture / Food Ministerial Meeting.

Agricultural Technical Cooperation per se may not reflect the direction of agricultural / food policies in an individual APEC economy. Meetings among agricultural technical people in the region may not draw the interest of some Ministers since most of them are political appointees and not technical. Their lack of interest in the technical aspects of agriculture can be one of the reasons why attendance in ATCWG meetings is low. Potential delegates may not be explicitly supported by their Minister of Agriculture.

The operationalization of the AFS and the merger of ATCWG and HLPDAB can open a window of opportunity to draw the interests of Agriculture / Food Ministers in the region to reconcile the technical aspects of agriculture technical cooperation and policy. A ministerial level meeting on agriculture / food must be initiated in this regard. Before a Ministerial Meeting is convened, however, it is suggested that the merged ATCWG-HLPDAB should hold first an agriculture senior officials' forum.

In the APEC systems, there are at least seven Working Groups that are venues to Ministerial meetings. The frequency of such meetings can be decided later depending on favorable results.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1
ATCWG Perception Survey Questionnaire

1. Name of Respondent: _____
 Position: _____
 Organization: _____
 Economy: _____
 E-mail Address: _____
 Telephone Number: _____

2. Participation in Annual Meetings

2.a How many times have you attended the ATCWG Annual Meeting?
 (Please check the appropriate boxes and fill the blanks).

Once	[]	Year	_____		
Twice	[]	Years	_____	_____	_____
Thrice	[]	Years	_____	_____	_____
Four/Above	[]	Years	_____	_____	_____

2.b What motivates you to attend the annual meeting of ATCWG? Please explain.

3. Priority Agenda Setting

During the 12th Plenary Meeting in Bali, the ATCWG economies agreed to refocus the WG's original seven subgroups into five priority areas (Environmental Sustainability, Productivity and Diversification, Biotechnology, Regulatory Cooperation, and Structural Adjustment)

3.a. Do you think these five priorities reflect the general needs of the member economies?

Yes [] Why? Please explain. _____

No [] Why not? Please explain. _____

3.b If you are asked to choose only three of these five priorities, which three apply most to the needs of your economy? Please rank, 1 as the highest and 5 as the lowest.

Five Priorities	Rank
Environmental Sustainability	_____
Productivity and Diversification	_____
Biotechnology	_____
Regulatory Cooperation	_____

Structural Adjustment _____

3.c Given the three priority areas you have chosen in 3.b for your economy, are you willing to support their institutionalization as subgroups within the ATCWG?

Yes Why? Please explain. _____

No Why not? Please explain. _____

3.d Do you think that the refocusing of the original seven subgroups into three to five priority areas can make the workings of the ATCWG more efficient?

Yes Why? Please explain. _____

No Why not? Please explain. _____

3.e Every year, the ATCWG does priority setting. Would you agree if a strategic priority setting is done every two to three years accompanied by an Implementation Plan?

Agree Please explain. _____

Disagree Please explain. _____

4. ATCWG Projects

4.a Has your economy proposed any ATCWG APEC funded and or self-financed Project over the past three years?

Yes (Please list projects) No

<u>Name of Project</u>	<u>Project Cost (US\$)</u>	
	<u>APEC Funded</u>	<u>Self-Financed</u>
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____

4.b Have these projects benefited your economy and other APEC economies? Please explain.

Benefits on own economy

Benefits on other economies

4.c Have there been other projects proposed by other economies that have benefited your economy?

No

Yes (Please list other Projects and benefits to your economy)

Project

Benefits to respondents' economy

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

4.d Are you satisfied with the current system of the ranking of project proposals within ATCWG?

Yes Please explain. _____

No Please explain. _____

4.e Would you be open in having an external technical group within APEC but outside ATCWG that would evaluate and rank your Project proposals?

Yes Please explain. _____

No Please explain. _____

5. The APEC Food System (AFS)

Recently, the ABAC is urging the full implementation of the AFS on an APEC wide basis.

5.a Do you think ATCWG can provide assistance on the agriculture technical dimensions of AFS?

Yes Please explain. _____

No Please explain. _____

5.b What are the technical challenges of agriculture in your economy that constrain the implementation of the AFS? (Please elaborate).

6. Linkages and Coordination with other Working Groups

6.a Currently, the ATCWG has seven subgroups with different sub foci. The RDEAB under ATCWG has the same strategic focus with the High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB). Are you in favor of merging RDEAB with HLPDAB?

Yes Please explain. _____

No Please explain. _____

7. Additional Comments

7.a Please provide additional comments of ATCWG and the assessment.

Thank you for your assistance in responding to the survey. Please e-mail or fax your response to the following address:

DR. LEONARDO A. GONZALES
E-mail Address: lag@strivefoundation.com
Telephone Fax No.: (+6349) 536-5535

Appendix 2

The APEC Food System Framework

In 1998, the APEC Business Advisory Council proposed that APEC leaders to commit in developing an APEC Food System to improve the food sector's role in APEC broad goals. The APEC Food System (AFS) provides better linking of farmers, food processors, consumers and intermediaries. Its major objective is to ensure that resources in the APEC region can meet consumers' food needs more efficiently and securely than that at present. The AFS covers three broad areas:

- Investment in Physical and Human Rural Infrastructure,
- Transfer and Dissemination of New Farm and Food Technologies, and
- Promotion of International Trade and Investment in Food.

a. Investment in Physical and Human Rural Infrastructure. This area includes both physical and human investments in the rural areas. Physical capital needs are those covering utilities and various forms of transport and communication infrastructures that can improve efficiency in the supply chain. Human investment requires investment in basic education of farm households and investment in basic rural health care.

b. Transfer and Dissemination of New Farm and Food Technologies. This area suggests regional cooperation in the following areas:

- distributing information on more efficient and environmentally sound farm and food technologies,
- disseminating ways to enact and enforce legislation to better protect intellectual property rights, the environment, and consumers concerned with the safety of food so as to attract more private investment in technology transfer, and
- aiding governments in their support of those investments in farm technologies that are under-supplied by the private sector because the gains are too difficult for the innovator or disseminator to capture via the market.

c. Promotion of International Trade and Investment in Food. This area calls for APEC cooperation in terms of:

- facilitation of trade through harmonizing customs procedures and exchanging regulatory information to lower the cost of trading food products,
- provision of technical assistance to better assess sanitary and phytosanitary procedures where they are unduly limiting trade in food products,
- sharing of information on food safety and negotiate for the harmonization or mutual recognition of food safety standards adopted for the benefit of consumers, and
- fulfillment of trade reform commitments of APEC and WTO.

Appendix 3 AFS Rating System

The rating criteria used are shown in **Table 1**. The three broad areas of AFS were evaluated in four to five rating criteria. Each criterion has corresponding ratings ranging from zero to three (three being the highest), depending on the relevance of the project to the AFS.

Table 1. Rating Criteria Used in the Evaluation of Past and Current ATCWG Projects with AFS.

AFS BROAD AREAS	RATING CRITERIA	RATING
I. Investment in Physical and and Human Rural Infrastructure	Project focuses on:	
	a. Physical investment in rural areas	3
	b. Human investment in rural areas	3
	c. Other topics related to investment	2
	d. Non-investment topics	1
	e. No relation to AFS at all	0
II. Transfer and Dissemination of of New Farm and Food Technologies	Project covers:	
	a. Sharing of information on agricultural technology	1
	b. a + technology transfer component	2
	c. b + has focus on food	3
	d. a + has focus on food	2
	e. No relation to AFS at all	0
III. Promotion of International Trade and Investment in Food	Project is about:	
	a. Trade issues focusing on food and investment	3
	b. Trade issues in agriculture in general related to food, no investment component	2
	c. Trade issues in agriculture in general not related to food, no investment component	1
	d. No relation to AFS at all	0

Source: APEC Broad Areas from Anderson, 1999; Rating value are Author's own design.

The first component of the AFS based from Anderson (1999) calls for "Investment in Physical and Human Rural Infrastructure". ATCWG projects were given a maximum rating of three if they have direct focus in either rural physical investment (e.g. postharvest infrastructure) or rural human investment (e.g. postharvest technology education of rural people). Other investment areas not directly targeting or benefiting rural areas were given a rating of two. Projects that have no semblance of physical or human investment in rural areas but maybe related to the first AFS component got a rating of one. Finally, projects were assigned a rating of zero if it was not related to the AFS at all. In this case, it may have contributing elements to the other areas of AFS (i.e. components two and three).

The second component of AFS is about the "Transfer and Dissemination of New Farm and Food Technologies". In order for a project to obtain the maximum possible rating of three, the said project must have all the three characteristics of 1) agriculture technology sharing, 2) agriculture technology transfer, and 3) focus on food. If there are only two characteristics present (e.g. project with information sharing and technology transfer not focused on food), the project was given a rating of two. If only one characteristic was spotted, a rating of one was applied. A zero rating was granted if the project did not contribute to the AFS second component at all. A zero rating, however, may imply that a project has relations to the other areas of AFS.

The third component of the AFS is on the topic of “Promotion of International Trade and Investment in Food”. ATCWG projects from 1995 to 2009 covered very diversified trade topics which may directly or indirectly relate to the third AFS component. The project rating procedure assigned the maximum possible rating of three on projects that engaged trade issues focusing on both food and investment. If the trade issue handled by project was about trade issues in general related to food but has no investment component, a rating of two was provided. A rating of one was assigned on projects with general trade issues but have no food and investment components. Zero rating was granted to projects that have no relevance to the third AFS component at all. However, projects with zero rating may have contributing factors in terms of the first two AFS areas.

It should be noted that the rating procedure followed a strict rating system of ATCWG projects derived from the original AFS Report. This implies that all components of ATCWG projects like objectives, purpose, focus, activities and expected output were considered in the evaluation process. The rating procedure also assigned heavy weights on direct relevance of projects to AFS as opposed to indirect relationships. In terms of the overall rating across the three AFS components, the rating range and corresponding interpretations are provided in **Table 2**. An overall moderate rating of three to four implies that the project is directly related to or fully covered one of three AFS components. If a project was indirectly related to or was lacking in addressing one of the AFS components, the result is an overall weak rating of one to two. Projects with overall moderate relationship plus marginal contributions in other AFS areas are said to have five to six overall strong relationship with AFS. Seven or more very strong rating means that at least two out of the three AFS components were related to the project. Finally, a zero overall very weak rating implies that the project and AFS framework are not related at all.

Table 2. Overall Rating Relationship Evaluation of ATCWG Projects with AFS.

RATING	RELATIONSHIP	IMPLICATION
0	very weak	no overall relationship at all
1-2	weak	project is indirectly related to or is lacking in addressing one of the AFS components
3-4	moderate	project is directly related to or fully covered one of three AFS components
5-6	strong	overall moderate relationship plus marginal contributions in other AFS areas
7 or more	very strong	at least two out of the three AFS components were related to the project

Source: Author's own design.

Appendix 4
ATCWG Projects and Relevance to the APEC Food System

Number	Project ID	Date	Project Name	Relationship with APEC Food System Components					
				Rating ^a				Overall Rating	Overall Relationship
				I. Investment in Physical and Human Rural Infrastructure	II. Transfer and Dissemination of New Farm and Food Technologies	III. Promotion of International Trade and Investment in Food			
1	1642	1995	Conservation of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources				0	Very Weak	
2	1646	1999	Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training		2		2	Weak	
3	1647	1999	Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology		2		2	Weak	
4	1648	1999	Cooperative Development of an Agricultural Finance System				0	Very Weak	
5	1649	1999	Sustainable Agriculture and Related Environmental Issues		1		1	Weak	
6	1650	1999	Production, Processing, Marketing, Distribution and Consumption of Agricultural Products	3			3	Moderate	
7	883	2000	APEC Institutional Linkage for Human Resources Development in Postharvest Technology	2			2	Weak	
8	909	2000	APEC Institutional Linkage for Human Resources Development in Postharvest Technology	2			2	Weak	
9	1551	2000	APEC Workshop on Animal Health risk Analysis		1		1	Weak	
10	1556	2000	The 3rd Workshop on the Conservation and Utilization of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources		1		1	Weak	
11	1557	2000	Workshop on Agricultural Biotechnology in APEC		2		2	Weak	
12	1558	2000	Production, Processing, Marketing, Distribution and Consumption of Agricultural Products (1)	3			3	Weak	
13	1559	2000	APEC Training on Agricultural Finance		1		1	Weak	
14	1560	2000	The 1st APEC Workshop on Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training		2		2	Weak	
15	1561	2000	The Symposium on Rural Issues in the APEC Region	3			3	Moderate	
16	289	2001	Workshop on Capacity Building, Risk Assessment and Communications in Agricultural Biotechnology		1		1	Weak	
17	869	2001	Workshop on Sustainable Agricultural Development and Technical training		2		2	Weak	
18	235	2002	Workshop on Technical Cooperation and Information Exchange on Safety Assessment in Agricultural Biotechnology		2		2	Weak	
19	826	2002	APEC Institutional Linkage for Human Resources Development in Postharvest Technology		2		2	Weak	

^a Based on the following range: 0 very weak, 1-2 weak, 3-4 moderate, 5-6 strong, => 7 very strong.

Appendix 4... Continued.

Number	Project ID	Date	Project Name	Relationship with APEC Food System Components					
				Rating ^a				Overall Rating	Overall Relationship
				I. Investment in Physical and Human Rural Infrastructure	II. Transfer and Dissemination of New Farm and Food Technologies	III. Promotion of International Trade and Investment in Food			
20	171	2003	Workshop on Technical Cooperation, Capacity Building, Risk Assessment/Management, and Emerging Issues in Agricultural Biotechnology		2		2	Weak	
21	771	2003	Seminar on Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training		2		2	Weak	
22	772	2003	Strengthening Cooperation in Post-harvest Technology Transfer within APEC economies	1	3		4	Strong	
23	773	2003	APEC Regional Study on Gender and Globalization in Agriculture				0	Very Weak	
24	100	2004	Workshop on Technical Co-operation, Capacity Building, Risk Assessment/Management, and Emerging Issues in Agricultural Biotechnology		2		2	Weak	
25	722	2004	Training Workshop on Agricultural Technology Transfer		2		2	Weak	
26	723	2004	Training Workshop on Agricultural Technology Transfer		2		2	Weak	
27	724	2004	APEC Training Program on Postharvest Technology and Quality Management of Agri-Food Products		3		3	Moderate	
28	725	2004	APEC Workshops on Sustainable Technical Cooperation in Post harvest Technology Education and Industry Development	3			3	Moderate	
29	10	2005	Capacity building for implementation of management systems for food safety and quality control of agricultural products in Vietnam and other APEC economies.		1		1	Weak	
30	12	2005	APEC Training on Improvement of Quality of Fresh Produce for Export Markets		2		2	Weak	
31	15	2005	Building agricultural biotechnology capacity in APEC economies in emerging issues, including animal biotechnology, risk management and communication.		2		2	Weak	
32	33	2005	Building Biosecurity Planning and Surveillance Capacity for APEC Member Economies		1	1	2	Weak	
33	663	2005	APEC Workshop on Supply Chain Management of Agri-Foods for Better Market Access by SMEs	3	2		5	Strong	
34	682	2005	Seminar on Networking of the Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training	1	2		3	Moderate	
35	8	2006	Capacity Building on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Developing APEC Economies		1		1	Weak	
36	419	2006	Building Capacity In APEC Economies In Agricultural Biotechnology On Emerging Research, Extension And Development Issues		1		1	Weak	
37	420	2006	APEC Trade capacity building for the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures			1	1	Weak	
38	421	2006	Market Liberalization and its relationship with Market Structure, Conduct and Performance of Selected Food Processing Industry of APEC Member Economies	1		2	3	Moderate	

^a Based on the following range: 0 very weak, 1-2 weak, 3-4 moderate, 5-6 strong, => 7 very strong.

Appendix 4... Continued.

Number	Project ID	Date	Project Name	Relationship with APEC Food System Components					
				Rating ^a				Overall Rating	Overall Relationship
				I. Investment in Physical and Human Rural Infrastructure	II. Transfer and Dissemination of New Farm and Food Technologies	III. Promotion of International Trade and Investment in Food	Overall Rating		
39	1169	2006	Workshop on the Utilization of the ATT&T Networking System				0	Very Weak	
40	1170	2006	Workshop on Effective Genebank Management for an Integrated System on Sustainable Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources in APEC Member Economies		1		1	Weak	
41	1362	2006	Capacity Building in Surveillance and Diagnosis for Leafminer, Whitefly, Thrips and Mealybug Pests in Developing APEC Economies for Improved Market Access		1	1	2	Weak	
42	422	2007	11th Workshop on Technical Cooperation, Capacity Building, Risk Assessment/Management and Emerging Issues in Agricultural Biotechnology		2		2	Weak	
43	1171	2007	Application of New Technologies to Improve and Harmonize Training Standards in the Management of Fresh Post-Harvest Quality of Fruit and Vegetables in Developing APEC Economies		3		3	Moderate	
44	1172	2007	Enhance capacity of small and medium enterprises in agricultural sector of APEC economies	2			2	Weak	
45	1173	2007	AFAS 2007 Symposium – Achieving improved quarantine treatment capability through the implementation of the AFAS approach			1	1	Weak	
46	1363	2007	Capacity Building in the Surveillance and Diagnosis of Leafminer, Whiteflies, Thrips and Mealybug Pests in Developing APEC Economies for Improved Market Access (Year 2)		1	1	2	Weak	
47	1364	2007	APEC Exercise Management Project				0	Very Weak	
48	1365	2007	Sharing experiences with the management of the avian influenza H5N1 threat		1		1	Weak	
49	1366	2007	Emergency Communication Network				0	Very Weak	
50	423	2008	12th Workshop on Technical Cooperation, Capacity Building, Risk Assessment/Management and Emerging Issues in Agricultural Biotechnology		2		2	Weak	
51	1174	2008	2008 Quarantine Regulators Seminar - Toward Implementing Harmonized Arrangements For Ensuring Effective Quarantine Treatments.		1	1	2	Weak	
52	1175	2008	Training for Quarantine Officials In Best Practice Auditing for Regulatory Purposes.		1	1	2	Weak	
53	1176	2008	Training Workshop on the Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training (ATT&T) Developed Agricultural Technologies and Agribusiness		1	1	2	Weak	
54	1177	2008	An analysis and research into the supply chain traceability and trade facilitation by applying RFID technology in agriculture production		1	1	2	Weak	
55	1178	2008	Impact of "One Village One Product" practice in APEC region - lessons and experiences	2			2	Weak	

^a Based on the following range: 0 very weak, 1-2 weak, 3-4 moderate, 5-6 strong, => 7 very strong.

Appendix 4... Continued.

Number	Project ID	Date	Project Name	Relationship with APEC Food System Components				
				Rating ^a				Overall Relationship
				I. Investment in Physical and Human Rural Infrastructure	II. Transfer and Dissemination of New Farm and Food Technologies	III. Promotion of International Trade and Investment in Food	Overall Rating	
56	1367	2008	Application of new technologies to improve and harmonize training standards in the management of fresh post-harvest quality of fruit and vegetables in developing APEC economies. Part II: development of multilingual training modules		3		3	Moderate
57	1368	2008	Sharing Experiences of Structural Adjustment Policies in the Agricultural Sector			1	1	Weak
58	1369	2008	Workshop on Innovative Agricultural Technology Transfer and Extension System for Enhancing Sector Productivity and Competition in APEC member economies		2		2	Weak
59	1370	2008	Workshop on Postharvest Technologies for Quality Maintenance and Food Safety of Fresh and Fresh-cut Produce in APEC Member Economies		2	3	5	Strong
60	1371	2008	Workshop on Understanding and Developing Risk Management Options for Market Access			1	1	Weak
61	1372	2008	Livestock Identification and Traceability Network			1	1	Weak
62	1373	2008	Training on Plant Genetic Resources Documentation and Information Management for APEC Member Economies in the Southeast Asian Region		2		2	Weak
63	1374	2008	Workshop on Laws, Policies and Agreements Governing Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for APEC Member Economies		2		2	Weak
64	1375	2008	Awareness and Facilitation of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in the Agricultural Sector		1		1	Weak
65	1376	2008	Development of organic agriculture in term of APEC food system and market access		3		3	Moderate
66	1377	2008	APEC Dialogue on Avian Influenza Risks in the Live Bird Market System		1		1	Weak
67	1652	2008	APEC-ATCWG Workshop on Capacity Building for Implementation of Risk Management Systems on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in APEC Member Economies		2		2	Weak
68	1654	2008	Practical Management Strategies for Avian Influenza		1		1	Weak
69	424	2009	Evaluation readiness of developing and applying traceability system in agricultural trade and production			2	2	Weak
70	1179	2009	Training for Quarantine Officials in Best Practice Auditing for Regulatory Purposes			1	1	Weak
71	1180	2009	Sharing Experiences of Mitigating Environmental Impacts and Sustaining Horticultural Cropping Systems in Highland Areas		1		1	Weak
72	1181	2009	Impacts of Climate Change on APEC Agriculture Production		1		1	Weak
73	1182	2009	Workshop on Agricultural Land Use and its Effect in APEC Member Economies		1		1	Weak

^a Based on the following range: 0 very weak, 1-2 weak, 3-4 moderate, 5-6 strong, => 7 very strong.

Appendix 4... Continued.

Number	Project ID	Date	Project Name	Relationship with APEC Food System Components					
				Rating ^a				Overall Rating	Overall Relationship
				I. Investment in Physical and Human Rural Infrastructure	II. Transfer and Dissemination of New Farm and Food Technologies	III. Promotion of International Trade and Investment in Food			
74	1378	2009	Sharing Experiences on Application of Hygienic Processing of Perishable Horticulture Produces to Small-Medium Scale Enterprises for Poverty Alleviation				0	Very Weak	
75	1379	2009	2009 Quarantine Regulators Seminar – Toward Implementing Harmonized Arrangements For Ensuring Effective Quarantine Treatments			1	1	Weak	
76	1380	2009	2009 Workshop on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Agricultural Technology Dissemination		1		1	Weak	
77	1381	2009	APEC Workshop on Developing Bio-energy and Conserving the Natural Ecosystem in APEC Member Economies		1		1	Weak	
78	1382	2009	Role of SME's on Poor Power Empowerment : Lesson Learned and Sharing Experiences				0	Very Weak	
79	1383	2009	APEC-ATCWG Symposium on the Implementation of Important OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards		1	2	3	Moderate	
80	1384	2009	Harmonization of Technical Criterion and Common Elements for Evaluation and Risk Assessment in GMO's Importation and Exportation in APEC Economies			3	3	Moderate	
81	1385	2009	The Approach of Organic Agriculture: New Markets, Food Security and a Clean Environment		2		2	Weak	
82	1386	2009	International Workshop on Greenhouse Gases from Livestock Industries in APEC Member Economies		2		2	Weak	
83	1387	2009	Workshop on Information Exchange about the Epidemics of Migratory Insect Pests and Diseases and its Effect on Food Security in APEC Member Economies		1		1	Weak	
84	1653	2009	Building Capacity in Structural Reform and Domestic Adjustment Policies in the Agricultural Sector in APEC Economies			1	1	Weak	
85	1655	2009	International Symposium on Agricultural and Biofuel policy Report			2	2	Weak	
86	1651	no date	TEL 03/2007						

^a Based on the following range: 0 very weak, 1-2 weak, 3-4 moderate, 5-6 strong, => 7 very strong.

Appendix 5 HLPDAB Projects and Relevance to the APEC Food System

Number	Project ID	Date	Project Name	Relationship with APEC Food System Components					
				Rating ^a				Overall Rating	Overall Relationship
				I. Investment in Physical and Human Rural Infrastructure	II. Transfer and Dissemination of New Farm and Food Technologies	III. Promotion of International Trade and Investment in Food			
1	DAB 01/2008T	2008	Bilateral Exchanges to strengthen Agricultural Biotechnology Policy Environments in APEC Economies	3	3	2	8	Very Strong	
2	HLPDAB 01/2007	2007	Workshop on Public Perception of Agricultural Biotechnology		3		3	Moderate	
3		2009	Bilateral Exchanges to strengthen Agricultural Biotechnology Policy Environments in APEC Economies-Phase I	3	3	2	8	Very Strong	
4		2009	Current issues Surrounding Liability and Redress and Article 27 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety			1	1	Weak	
5		2009	Consultative Forum on Crop Biotechnology Acceptance		3		3	Moderate	

^a Based on the following range:

- 0 very weak
- 1-2 weak
- 3-4 moderate
- 5-6 strong
- =>7 very strong

Appendix 6

An Independent Survey of Economies / Delegates of the 12th Plenary Meeting of the ATCWG

1. Background / Rationale

Established in 1996, the Agriculture Technical Cooperation Experts Group (ATCEG) is one of the eleven working groups of APEC tasked to promote agricultural technical cooperation among member economies outlined in the Osaka Action Agenda. The ATCEG forum was renamed Agriculture Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) in Brunei in 2000.

Government officials and experts from universities and the public and private sectors, from the 21 member economies of APEC, comprise the ATCWG.

The ATCWG aims to attain its objective of improving economic development and social welfare in the APEC region, by promoting agricultural technical cooperation between APEC member economies.

According to the terms of reference of the working group, the ATCWG focuses on, but is not limited to, the following areas:

- Conservation and Utilization of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources;
- Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology;
- Production, Processing, Marketing, Distribution and Consumption of Agricultural Products;
- Plant and Animal Quarantine and Pest Management;
- Cooperative Development of Agricultural Finance System;
- Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training; and
- Sustainable Agriculture and Related Environmental Issues.

During the 12th Annual ATCWG Meeting held in Bali, Indonesia on June 10-13, 2008, working group members recognized the seriousness of the food price issue and realized the need to re-align ATCWG's priorities accordingly. This includes ways to do its part to strengthen the APEC Food System, which fundamentally offers a long-term approach to regional food security.

During the meeting, ATCWG delegates agreed to re-focus its priorities and update its terms of reference to reflect priorities such as environmental sustainability; productivity and diversification; biotechnology; regulatory co-operation; and structural adjustment. The terms of reference are pending final approval from all ATCWG members.

The survey (mid June to September 30, 2008) was done to solicit the ATCWG delegates' views on ATCWG operations primarily ATCWG meetings, ATCWG priority and agenda setting, ATCWG project proposal evaluation and ranking, ATCWG involvement in the APEC Food System (AFS) implementation, inter APEC working group linkages and coordination.

2. Survey Results

Only 17 out of 46 delegates from the ATCWG representing 10 of 13 economies which attended the 12th Plenary Meeting of ATCWG in Bali, Indonesia responded to the survey. The following are discussions of information generated from the survey results.

2.1. Participation in Annual Meetings

2.2.1. Frequency of ATCWG Meeting Attendance

The respondents were asked how many ATCWG meetings have they attended for the past years since the working group's inception.

A clear majority, ten of the seventeen respondents (59 percent), indicated that they have attended the annual meetings only once. Three respondents (18 percent) indicated that they attended ATCWG annual meetings twice. Three respondents (18 percent) indicated that they have attended four meetings and only one (6 percent) respondent indicated that he attended three of the annual ATCWG meetings since 2005 (**Table 1**).

Table 1. Respondent's Participation in Annual Meetings.

Number of Annual Meetings Attended	Number of Respondents	%
Once	10	58
Twice	3	18
Thrice	1	6
Four / Above	3	18
Total	17	100

2.2.2. Respondents' Motivations for Attending ATCWG Annual Meetings

The seventeen respondents provided multiple answers as to the motivation behind their attendance in the ATCWG annual meetings. Eight out of twenty-two (36 percent) of responses indicated that the respondent's attendance was a matter of furthering their own government's policies regarding inter economy cooperation on agriculture. Twenty-seven percent of responses indicated that the respondents attended meetings for the exchange of ideas, opinions and information regarding topics covered by the ATCWG. Fourteen percent indicated that the respondents attended meetings in order to present progress reports or to propose projects to the ATCWG. Similarly, 14 percent indicated that respondents attended meetings in order to obtain funding or grants. Finally, two out of twenty two (9 percent) attended ATCWG meetings for networking purposes (**Table 2**).

Table 2. Respondent's Motivations for Attending ATCWG Annual Meetings.

Reason for Attending ATCWG Meetings	Number of Responses	%
ATCWG is a means / venue for the advancement of individual government policies regarding agricultural cooperation and other topics covered by the ATCWG	8	36
Exchange of ideas, opinions and information regarding issues covered by the ATCWG	6	27
Project progress reporting / proposals	3	14
Securing of funds / grants	3	14
Networking	2	9
Total	22	100

Note: Multiple responses

2.2. ATCWG Priority Areas Setting

During the 12th ATCWG Plenary Meeting in Bali (June 10-13, 2008), the member economies agreed to refocus the WG's original seven subgroups into five priority areas.

2.2.1. Refocusing the Original Seven ATCWG Priority Areas into Three or Five

Fifteen out of seventeen (88 percent) respondents concurred to refocus the WG's original seven subgroups into five priority areas (Environmental Sustainability, Productivity and Diversification, Biotechnology, Regulatory Cooperation, and Structural Adjustment). Two respondents (12 percent) indicated that they do not concur with the refocusing of ATCWG priority areas (**Table 3**).

The fifteen (88 percent) respondents that concurred with the shift of the ATCWG priority areas agree that this shift in priorities is a reflection of the results of successive reviews previously done up until the 12th ATCWG meeting. This shift in ATCWG priority areas is in accordance to the changing needs and priority directions of ATCWG **member economies** regarding agriculture technical cooperation and other issues covered by the ATCWG.

The two (12 percent) respondents that have reservations regarding the ATCWG change in priority areas indicated that they were unfamiliar with the scope of the five new ATCWG priority areas and suggest further clarification on this matter.

Table 3. Respondent Concurrence to the Five ATCWG Priority Areas.

Response	Number of Respondents	%
Yes	15	88
No	2	12
Total	17	100

2.2.2. Prioritization of the Refocused ATCWG Priority Areas

The respondents were asked to rank the top three of the five priority areas of the ATCWG. Seven out of 17 (41 percent) indicated that Productivity and Diversification should take top priority, followed by Environmental Sustainability (5 out of 17 or 29 percent), with Structural Adjustment (8 out of 17 or 47 percent) placing 3rd. Regulatory Cooperation takes 4th place and Structural Adjustment comes last, each garnering 6 out of 14 votes or 43 percent from the respondents (**Table 4**).

Table 4. Ranking of the Five Priority Areas of the ATCWG.

Priority Area	Respondents Ranking of Priority Areas				
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Environmental Sustainability	4	5	3	1	1
Productivity and Diversification	7	6	1	3	0
Biotechnology	1	1	4	2	6
Regulatory Cooperation	4	4	1	6	2
Structural Adjustment	1	1	8	2	5
Total	17	17	17	14	14

2.2.3. Institutionalization of Identified Priority Areas into Sub-groups

A clear majority, 16 out of 18 (89 percent) of responses were in favor of institutionalizing the priority areas into sub-groups as ranked by the respondents. Only two out of eighteen (11 percent) expressed reservations in supporting the institutionalization of the priority areas as sub groups (**Table 5**).

Table 5. Respondent's Willingness to Support Chosen Priority Areas.

Response	Number of Responses	%
Yes	16	89
No	2	11
Total	18	100

The respondents provided multiple reasons why they would support or not support the institutionalization of the priority areas into ATCWG subgroups. The 17 respondents provided 16 responses. Majority (87 percent) of the responses were in favor of supporting the institutionalization of ATCWG subgroups based on the five ranked priority areas. Two out of 16 (13 percent) were opposed (**Table 6**).

Forty-four percent of the responses indicated that the ranked priority areas were congruent with their own economy's priorities, 25 percent mentioned that sub group discussions / activities were more efficient than the current plenary session practiced by the ATCWG. And three out of the 16 responses simply indicate that the identified priority areas were areas of concern for the ATCWG.

Thirteen percent (two out of 16) of the responses indicated that the institutionalization of the priority areas into sub groups would present a logistical problem for the ATCWG.

Table 6. Reasons for Supporting the Institutionalization of Priority Areas as ATCWG Sub-groups.

Reason for Institutionalization of Priority Areas as ATCWG Sub-groups	Number of Responses	%
Yes		
Ranked priority areas are congruent with member government's present priorities, challenges and their ability to effect tangible growth and development in their respective economies.	7	44
Sub-group discussions/activities are more efficient than a plenary session of the ATCWG	4	25
The priority areas are areas of concern	3	18
No		
Logistical problem/s for ATCWG	2	13
Total	16	100

Note: Multiple responses

2.2.4. Effects of Refocusing Priority Areas on ATCWG Efficiency

Fifteen out of 17 (88 percent) respondents indicated that refocusing the original seven subgroups into three to five subgroups would be more efficient. On the other hand, 12 percent are opposed (**Table 7**).

Table 7. Will Refocusing the Seven Subgroups Into Five Affect the ATCWG's Efficiency?

Response	Number of Respondents	%
Yes	15	88
No	2	12
Total	17	100

Eighty three percent of the multiple responses cited that the respondent's belief that refocusing the seven original subgroups into three or five subgroups will have a positive effect on ATCWG efficiency. Thirty three percent of the responses indicate ATCWG efficiency will be increased due to easier management, 22 percent cited that fewer subgroups provide for more targeted outcomes for each priority area, 17 percent indicated that broader priority areas are easier to keep up with and 11 percent mentioned that fewer subgroups will ease the acceptance of project proposals / evaluations due to wider scopes (**Table 8**).

Seventeen percent of the responses indicated the respondent's belief that refocusing the original seven subgroups into three or five will decrease the effectivity of the ATCWG. Eleven percent mentioned that some priorities may be overlooked. While one out of 18 (6 percent) cautioned that subgroup activities may skew ATCWG's sense of direction (**Table 8**).

Table 8. Reasons for Increased / Decreased ATCWG Effectiveness with the Refocusing of Seven to Three or Five Subgroups.

Reasons for Increased ATCWG In/Efficiency	Number of responses	%
Increased effectiveness		
Ease of management (logistics, time, resources, man power etc.)	6	33
Targeted outcomes for more effective response to fewer / defined priority areas	4	22
Broader priority areas are easier to keep up with	3	17
Ease of project proposal / evaluation due to wider scopes	2	11
Decrease effectiveness		
Some priorities may be overlooked	2	11
Subgroup activities may refocus ATCWG direction	1	6
Total	18	100

Note: Multiple responses

2.2.5. Scheduling of ATCWG Strategic Priority Setting

The ATCWG currently sets its priorities on a yearly basis. Eighty-eight percent of responses agreed that priority setting for the ATCWG should be done every two to three years (with accompanying Implementation Plan). Thirty one percent of responses indicated that one year is too short a timeframe for ATCWG activities to show their impact. Nineteen percent mentioned that a two to three year timeframe provides for proper monitoring and evaluation of ATCWG accomplishments. Similarly, 19 percent of responses indicate that all projects under the priority areas must have their own implementation plan. One out of 16 (6 percent) mentioned that such an approach is only logical if member economies properly participate in ATCWG priority setting (**Table 9**).

One out of sixteen (6 percent) responses pointed out that more time should be devoted for the implementation of an agreed upon work plan. Similarly, 6 percent suggested that priority setting and implementation planning should be done in conjunction with a change in Lead Shepherds.

Table 9. Reasons for Agreeing / Disagreeing with ATCWG Priority Setting (With Implementation Plan) Every Two to Three Years.

Reasons	Number of responses	%
Agree		
Planning / priority setting on a yearly basis is counterproductive since 1 year is too short a timeframe for some ATCWG activities to show their impact	5	31
The time frame provides for proper monitoring, and evaluation of ATCWG accomplishments	3	19
Projects under each priority area must have individual implementation plans	3	19
Time frame provides ample time to adjust priorities according to emerging needs	2	13
Approach is only logical with proper participation of member economies	1	6
Disagree		
More time should be devoted to implementation of an agreed upon work plan	1	6
Priority setting must be done in conjunction with a change in Lead Shepherds	1	6
Total	16	100

Note: Multiple responses

Fifteen out of 17 (88 percent) respondents agreed to the suggestion that ATCWG priority setting be done every two to three years accompanied by an Implementation Plan, while the remaining 12 percent were opposed (**Table 10**).

Table 10. Strategic Priority Setting with Implementation Plan Every Two to Three Years.

Response	Number of Respondents	%
Agree	15	88
Disagree	2	12
Total	17	100

2.3. ATCWG Projects

The following table indicates the ATCWG projects implemented that the delegates were aware of in their respective member economies (**Table 11**).

Table 11. ATCWG Projects Proposed by Member Economies.

Member Economy	Project Title	Source of Funds	
		APEC	Member Economy
Brunei	None		
Chinese Taipei	1 APEC-ATCWG Workshop on Interaction of CBD and TRIPS Related Issues on the Plant Genetic Resources		US\$80,000
	2 International Training Workshop on the Conservation and Utilization of Tropical/Subtropical Plant Genetic Resources		US\$60,000
	3 APEC-ATCWG Workshop on Capacity Building for Development and Implementation of Risk Management Systems on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture		US\$60,000
	4 The Non-Performing Loans Disposition of Agricultural Finance Institutions and Implications for the APEC Region	- Did not indicate-	
Chile	1 Building agricultural biotechnology capacity in APEC economies in emerging issues, including animal biotechnology , risk management and communication	- Did not indicate-	
United States	1 Control of Avian Influenza in LBMS	80,000	20000

Table 11... Continued.

Member Economy	Project Title	Source of Funds	
		APEC	Member Economy
Malaysia	1 Workshop on Understanding and Developing Risk Management Options for Market Access	97,000	6,500
	2 Market Liberalization and its relationship with Market Structure, Conduct and Performance of Selected Food Processing Industry of APEC Member Economies	145,340	39,500
Thailand	1 APEC Training on Improvement of Quality of Fresh Produce for Export Markets	65,950	12,800
	2 Application of New Technologies to Improve and Harmonize Training Standards in the Management of Fresh Post-Harvest Quality of Fruit and Vegetables in Developing APEC Economies	101,000	8,000
	3 Application of new technologies to improve and harmonize training standards in the management of fresh post-harvest quality of fruit and vegetables in developing APEC economies. Part II: development of multilingual training modules	108,150	16,700
Papua New Guinea	None		
Vietnam	1 Gender in agricultural integration, Food Safety, Project - Development of organic agriculture in terms of APEC food system and market access	- Did not indicate-	
Canada	1 Sustainable Land management project (Canadian Project)	- Did not indicate-	
Korea	1 Workshop on innovative agricultural technology transfer and extension system for enhancing sector productivity and competition in APEC member economies	- Did not indicate-	
	2 Workshop on post harvest technologies for quality maintenance and food safety of fresh and fresh-cut produce in APEC member economies	- Did not indicate-	

2.3.1. ATCWG Project Benefits to Member Economies

ATCWG projects proposed by respondents own economy. ATCWG project benefits were grouped into six categories. There were twenty project benefit citations for respondent's own economy and seventeen project benefit citations for other member economies (**Table 12**).

In terms of the ATCWG project benefits to the respondent's own economy, networking, information, knowledge, best practices sharing and dissemination ranks the highest (45 percent). Human resource development ranks second (20 percent) followed by generation of policy options / recommendations for problems faced by member economies, analysis of problems faced by member governments, and economic support / own economy promotion each with 10 percent. Gender awareness came last with 5 percent (**Table 12**).

On the other hand, ATCWG project benefits for other member economies were as follows: Human resource development ranks highest with 35 percent followed by networking / information / knowledge / best practices sharing and dissemination (29 percent). Generation of policy options / recommendations for problems faced by member economies ranks 3rd with 18 percent. Problem analysis and social restructuring garnered 12 percent and 6 percent, respectively (**Table 12**).

Table 12. ATCWG Project Benefits to Member Economies.

Project Benefits	Own Economy		Other Member Economies	
		%		%
Networking / Information / knowledge / best practices sharing and dissemination	9	45	5	29
Human resources development / capacity building thru seminars and training	4	20	6	35
Generate policy options / recommendations for problems faced by member economies	2	10	3	18
Analysis of problems faced by member economy thereby creating public/government awareness	2	10	2	12
Economic support and own economy promotion	2	10	0	0
Social restructuring (gender awareness)	1	5	1	6
Total	20	100	17	100

Note: Multiple responses

ATCWG projects proposed by other member economy. ATCWG projects proposed by other economies, which benefited the respondents own economy, were grouped into four categories. Systems restructuring / improvement ranks the highest with 48 percent. Information / technology sharing comes in second with 29 percent, followed by inter economy collaboration (14 percent), and finally, capacity building with 10 percent of the multiple responses provided by the respondents (**Table 13**).

Table 13. ATCWG Projects of other APEC Member Economies which Benefits Respondent's own economy.

Project Benefits	Responses	%
Systems restructuring / improvement (postharvest and quarantine)	10	48
Information / technology sharing	6	29
Inter economy collaboration on issues of common interest	3	14
Capacity building	2	10
Total	21	100

Note: Multiple responses

2.3.2. ATCWG Project Proposal Ranking and Evaluation

All projects APEC working groups undergo evaluation prior to their approval and eventual implementation. APEC uses the Quality Assessment Framework (QAF) as a tool in evaluating and prioritizing projects submitted by APEC WGs.

Satisfaction with current project proposal ranking and evaluation process. Fifty-nine percent of respondents were dissatisfied with the ATCWG system for ranking project proposals. Thirty-five percent expressed their satisfaction while one out of 17 (6 percent) abstained (**Table 14**).

Table 14. Respondent's Satisfaction with Project Proposal Ranking System.

Response	Number of Respondents	%
Satisfied	6	35
Dissatisfied	10	59
Abstained	1	6
Total	17	100

Respondents gave multiple reasons for their dissatisfaction / satisfaction with the current process of ranking project proposals submitted to the ATCWG. Twenty nine percent of responses indicate that respondents were satisfied with the existing ATCWG

system for ranking project proposals while 71 percent of the responses indicated respondent's dissatisfaction with the existing system of project proposal ranking (**Table 15**).

Seventeen percent of responses showed that the current system has undergone numerous revisions, and is best suited for ATCWG purposes. Six percent indicated that the ranking system is both transparent and based on common interests of member economies (**Table 15**).

Forty two percent of responses suggested that the ranking system must be based on a “pre-set criteria” that is sound, transparent and clear to participating economies. Seventeen percent mentioned that the current system hinders other member economies from participating and 12 percent indicated that the current system is biased (**Table 15**).

Table 15. Reasons for Respondent's Dissatisfaction / Satisfaction with the ATCWG System of Ranking Project Proposals.

Reasons	Number of responses	%
Satisfied		
The project proposal ranking system has undergone numerous reviews and revisions. The current system is best fitted for ATCWG purposes	3	17
Ranking system is transparent	1	6
Ranking system is based on common interests of member economies	1	6
Dissatisfied		
Ranking must be based on a pre-set criteria which is economically / technically sound, transparent and clear to participating economies	7	42
Current system hinders other economies from participating	3	17
Current system is biased	2	12
Total	17	100

Note: Multiple responses

Proposal for an external team of experts (within APEC but outside ATCWG) for project proposal evaluation and ranking. The respondents were evenly split with those willing and not willing to have an external team of experts rank and evaluate ATCWG projects both garnering 47 percent each with one out of seventeen (6 percent) abstaining (**Table 16**).

Table 16. Willingness to Accept Project Ranking and Evaluation by an External Technical Group (non-ATCWG but within APEC).

Response	Number of Respondents	%
Yes	8	47
No	8	47
Abstained	1	6
Total	17	100

Forty four percent of responses indicated amenability to having an external review / evaluation team (not ATCWG but within APEC) for ATCWG project proposals. Fifty six percent of responses, on the other hand, are opposed to such an arrangement (**Table 17**).

Twenty seven percent of responses indicated that having an external review team may result to novel ideas for a project review / evaluation mechanism. Seventeen percent mentioned that having a review and evaluation team external to ATCWG will ensure project proposal meritocracy and an unbiased review team (**Table 17**).

Twenty two percent of responses indicated that possible differences in directions between ATCWG and the external review team might create misconceptions. Eleven percent perceived the current review and evaluation system professional and is in no need of changing. Eleven percent warned that the use of an external review and evaluation team might hinder other member economies from participating in the ATCWG. One out of eighteen (6 percent) responses indicated that the current system lends itself to member economy synergies, and lastly, 6 percent of responses warned that the timelines and commitments of external evaluators might be a problem (**Table 17**).

Table 17. Reasons for Non- amenability / Amenability to having an External Technical Group (within APEC not outside of ATCWG) Evaluate and Rank Project Proposals.

Reasons	Number of responses	%
Amenable		
An external review team (familiar with ATCWG directions) may have a different point of view / novel ideas for a project review and evaluation mechanism	5	29
A weighted proportion (50%) for external review and evaluation may ensure project proposal meritocracy and unbiasedness of review team	3	18
Not Amenable		
Differences between the directions of the ATCWG and an external review / evaluation team may result to misconceptions	3	18
An external review evaluation team may hinder other economies from participating	2	12
Current system is fairly professional (unbiased)	2	12
Current evaluation system lends itself to member economy synergies for project proposal, implementation and evaluation.	1	6
Timelines and other commitments of external evaluators may be a problem	1	6
Total	17	100

Multiple responses

2.4. APEC Food System

In the meeting of the Ministers Responsible for Trade in Arequipa, Peru, on June May 31-June 1, 2008, there was widespread concern among regional business over the impacts of shortages in the supply of basic food products and increases in prices. ABAC recognized that short-term programs are needed to cope with immediate problems. However, it emphasized that the underlying long-term problems are addressed and support the established framework for policy guidance - the APEC Food System (AFS). ABAC will put special emphasis on the AFS and food issues from now through the 2009 Leaders Meeting - a thorough review of the AFS.

2.4.1. ATCWG involvement in the AFS implementation

Eighty two percent of the respondents indicated that the ATCWG will be able to provide assistance on the agriculture technical dimensions of AFS. On the contrary, 18 percent indicated that the ATCWG will not be able to assist AFS (**Table 18**).

Table 18. Is the ATCWG in a Position to Provide Assistance on the Agriculture Technical Dimensions of AFS?

Response	Number of Respondents	%
Yes	14	82
No	3	18
Total	17	100

Eighty percent of responses advocated ATCWG providing assistance to AFS while 20 percent of the responses indicate that such assistance is not warranted (**Table 19**).

Nine out of fifteen (60 percent) of responses indicated that the ATCWG has a professional responsibility to assist in the AFS. Thirteen percent of the responses were suggestions that all relevant information / subject matter expertise, relevant to AFS, be gathered by a group within APEC. One out of fifteen responses (7 percent) pointed out that it is the AFS that needs to identify areas of interest where it needs ATCWG assistance (**Table 19**).

Twenty percent of responses indicated that the ATCWG and AFS should be separate given that ATCWG is not a forum to handle trade liberalization and trade facilitation problems (**Table 19**).

Table 19. Respondent's Reasons for Indicating that ATCWG is not in a Position / in a Position to Provide Assistance on the Agriculture Technical Dimensions of AFS.

Reasons	Number of responses	%
Yes ATCWG can assist in AFS		
ATCWG has a professional responsibility as member of APEC and as subject matter experts to assist AFS	9	60
A host group / organization within APEC should facilitate information / subject matter expertise gathering which are relevant to AFS	2	13
AFS is the one that needs to give the ATCWG directions on what subject matter/s the AFS needs ATCWG assistance on	1	7
No ATCWG need not assist in AFS		
ATCWG and AFS should be separate given that ATCWG is not a forum to handle trade liberalization and facilitation problems	3	20
Total	15	100

Note: Multiple responses

2.4.2. Technical Agricultural Challenges to Implementing AFS in Respondents' own Economy

Table 20 enumerates some of the agricultural technical challenges constraining the implementation of the AFS in the respondents' own economy.

Table 20. Technical Challenges of Agriculture in Respondent's Member Economy Constraining the Implementation of AFS.

Member Economy	Challenges
Malaysia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Limited land area suitable for food crop production due to competition for land area from industrial crop production, residential and industrial development. 2 Lack of manpower for agricultural production
Thailand	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Lack of funding for public awareness programs on food safety 2 Development of sustainable agriculture
Papua New Guinea	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Logistical and infrastructure problems affecting the economies food chain 2 Quality standards for food items 3 Inability of own government to adhere to quarantine and regulatory requirements of other economies hampers export of agricultural products
Vietnam	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Collection of market information relating to agricultural products 2 Forecasting the impact of climate change on agricultural production 3 Impact assessment of the integration to agriculture 4 Poor rural infrastructure
Korea	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Political
Brunei	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Human resource capability
Chile	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Innovation in enhancing productivity and diversification of the food production sector

2.5. Linkages and Coordination of ATCWG with other Working Groups within APEC

The ATCWG currently has seven subgroups, each with different sub foci. The Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology (RDEAB) under ATCWG have the same strategic focus with the High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB). There is speculation that merging the two groups in order to avoid duplication of initiatives and thereby improve efficiency (**Table 21**).

Fifty three percent of respondents were amenable to a merger between RDEAB and HLPDAB, 29 percent were opposed to such a merger, while 18 percent abstained (**Table 21**).

Table 21. Respondent's Amenability to a Merger between RDEAB and HLPDAB.

Response	Number of Respondents	%
Amenable	9	53
Not Amenable	5	29
Abstained	3	18
Total	17	100

The respondents provided multiple responses to their being not amenable / amenable to a merger between RDEAB and HLPDAB. Sixty two percent of responses implied respondent's amenability to the merging of RDEAB and HLPDAB while thirty eight percent were not amenable to such a merger (**Table 22**).

Twenty-three percent of responses implied an increase in efficiency if the two groups were to be merged into one. Similarly, twenty-three percent indicated that the strategic focus of both groups is the same. Two out of thirteen (16 percent) responses mentioned that merging the two groups would avoid duplication of efforts (**Table 22**).

Five out of thirteen (38 percent) responses indicated opposition to merging RDEAB and HLPDAB because the specificity of the respective fields are best left to subject matter specialists of the respective groups (**Table 22**).

2.6. Additional Comments

Six of the 13 economies specified additional comments ranging from communication, the QAF process, the importance of refocusing priorities of ATCWG and the holding of Agricultural Ministers' Meeting (**Table 23**).

Table 22. Respondent's Reasons for their Being not Amenable / Amenable to a Merger between RDEAB and HLPDAB.

Reasons	Number of responses	%
Amenable		
Increase in efficiency due to better cooperation, coordination and budget savings	3	23
The strategic focus of the two groups are the same	3	23
Avoids duplication of efforts	2	16
Not amenable		
RDEAB deals in technical discussions while HLPDAB deals with policy. The specificity of the respective fields are best left to subject matter specialists of the respective groups	5	38
Total	13	100

Note: Multiple responses

Table 23. Additional Comments.

Member Economy	Comments
Malaysia	I wish a better communication in the future, especially regarding materials to prepare in the annual meeting, i.e. project proposal, evaluation, agenda etc. The economies focal point / contact person in some cases do not know the relevant person responsible for ATCWG due to in Malaysia case changes / transfer of personal. They are from the ministry doing administrative works and often change their portfolio due to needs or promotion. Thus, a cc to the technical officers who are responsible to propose and conduct projects will improve communication.
Thailand	Since this is the first time that I attended this meeting, I quite not understand about the responsibility of ATCWG representatives and how the representatives from each economy are selected. Please explain more on QAF process. I think it's not clear at this point. For example, APEC sec. sent the e-mail to us and said that QAF will be done within July, 20. Why do they still have some proposals on the QAF process after that deadline?

Table 23 ... Continued.

Member Economy	Comments
Papua New Guinea	The independent assessment has come at time when the ATCWG is in the mode for reviewing its future focus. To date the ATCWG has done well in implementing programs and activities under the 7 sub groups. Some program areas were actively supported by member economies, while others were not. The review just recently done at the Bali meeting to re-focus on fewer areas is a step in the right direction. I hope the independent review would further elaborate this and substantiate the focal areas for the ATCWG in the next 3-5 years.
Canada	There is some incredibly valuable research and information sharing at the international level that takes place on an international scale through this group by means of its projects. I believe that it may require a slightly higher profile within APEC, given there are not Ag Minister's meetings.
Brunei	Would prefer the project implementation period covers a reasonable period of 3-4 years and involved most (if not all) of the economies.
Chile	I appreciate very much this ongoing effort to better focus on the work of ATCWG and I think the results of this process will benefit all Member Economies.
Canada	Canada is doing a commendable job in stewarding the ATCWG. Other APEC economies should endeavor to participate given the recent food price inflation issue.

3. Summary and Conclusion

The survey of APEC economies that attended the 12th Plenary Meeting of the ATCWG covered at least five areas: participation in annual meetings, priority agenda setting, ATCWG projects, the APEC Food System, and linkages and coordination with other working groups. Given that only 17 respondents from ten economies responded to the questions raised by the survey, results of the survey should be taken as indicative of the directions the ATCWG membership would like to pursue.

3.1. Participation in Annual Meetings

The results of the survey indicated that 59 percent of the respondents were attending the Annual Plenary Meeting for the first time while 24 percent, and 18 percent had attended ATCWG annual meetings three times and above, and 18 percent twice, respectively. The respondents' motivations for attending meetings (63 percent) were basically venue for advancement of individual economies policies and exchange of ideas and information covered by ATCWG.

3.2 Priority Setting

Majority of the respondents (88 percent) agreed to reprioritize the current seven sub groups of ATCWG into the five suggested priority areas during the 12th Plenary Meeting in Bali, Indonesia. They also ranked the new areas as follows:

Priority Area	Rank
Productivity and Diversification	1
Environmental Sustainability	2
Structural Adjustment	3
Regulatory Cooperation	4
Biotechnology	5

Also majority (89 percent) of respondents expressed willingness to institutionalize these new priorities. Majority (88 percent) of respondents further indicated that refocusing the seven original sub-groups into five will result to higher efficiency of the ATCWG. Likewise 88 percent of the respondents expressed their agreement in setting new priorities with implementation from two to three years, instead of the annual prioritization process.

3.3. ATCWG Projects

In terms of project benefits to own economy and other economies, majority (75 percent) indicated that project benefits of ATCWG, affecting their own economy ranged from networking / information / knowledge, human resource development capacity building and generation of policy options by member economies. These same benefits cited above were also mentioned by 82 percent of respondents to have affected other member economies.

As regards to satisfaction of delegates with the proposal ranking system, only 35 percent were satisfied, majority (59 percent) were dissatisfied while the remaining six percent had no response. A modal reason (42 percent) for dissatisfaction was “ranking was not based on a pre-set criteria which is economically / technically sound, transparent and clear to participating economies”.

In terms of the proposal to allow an external team of experts within APEC but outside of ATCWG to evaluate and rank proposals, respondents were equally split at 47 percent each in responding yes and no. Some of the reasons mentioned in favor of external review included: different point of view and novel ideas relative to the direction of APEC, and weighted proposition (50 percent) may ensure project proposal meritocracy and unbiasedness of review team. On the other hand, those anti-external program reviewer of ATCWG indicated that the difference between the directions of the ATCWG and external reviewers may result to misconceptions; may hinder other economies in participating; and current system is fairly professionally unbiased.

3.4. The APEC Food System

A great majority (82 percent) of ATCWG delegate respondents expressed optimism that ATCWG will be able to provide assistance on the agricultural dimension of the AFS. In contrast only 18 percent indicated otherwise.

Eighty percent of the responses advocated for ATCWG to provide assistance to AFS, while 20 percent of the responses indicated that such assistance is not warranted. Some of the reasons posed by respondents in favor of ATCWG assisting AFS include the following: ATCWG has a professional responsibility as a member of APEC and as a subject matter specialist; a group within APEC should facilitate technical information gathering which are relevant to AFS; and AFS should give ATCWG directions on what technical information it needs for ATCWG assistance. On the other hand, those who were not in favor of assisting AFS indicated that ATCWG and AFS should be separate given that ATCWG is not a forum to handle trade liberalization and facilitation problems.

Some of the technical agricultural challenges to implement AFS in selected respondents' own economy include the following:

Member Economy	Challenges
Malaysia	<p>Limited land area suitable for food crop production due to competition for land area from industrial crop production, residential and industrial development.</p> <p>Lack of manpower for agricultural production</p>
Thailand	<p>Lack of funding for public awareness programs on food safety</p> <p>Development of sustainable agriculture</p>
Papua New Guinea	<p>Logistical and infrastructure problems affecting the economies food chain</p> <p>Quality standards for food items</p>
	<p>Inability of own government to adhere to quarantine and regulatory requirements of other economies hampers export of agricultural products</p>
Vietnam	<p>Collection of market information relating to agricultural products</p> <p>Forecasting the impact of climate change on agricultural production</p> <p>Impact assessment of the integration to agriculture</p> <p>Poor rural infrastructure</p>
Korea	<p>Political</p>
Brunei	<p>Human resource capability</p>
Chile	<p>Innovation in enhancing productivity and diversification of the food production sector</p>

3.5. ATCWG Merger with other APEC Fora

The respondents were asked their opinion if the RDEAB, a sub-group of the ATCWG is merged with the HLPDAB. Fifty three percent were amenable; 29 percent not in favor; and 18 percent of respondents abstained. The respondent's reasons for the merger included: increase in efficiency due to better cooperation, coordination and budget savings; the strategic focus of the two groups are the same; and avoids duplication of efforts. On the other hand, those not in favor of merger opined the following reasons: RDEAB deals in technical discussions while HLPDAB deals with policy; the specificity of the respective fields are best left to subject matter specialists of the respective groups.

In conclusion, the indicative responses of the participating economies and delegates on the questions posed by the ATCWG survey can be integrated in the other aspects of analysis of the independent assessment.

Appendix 7 ⁵ List of HLPDAB Activities

- In December 2003, a 4-day farmer-to-farmer workshop was held in the Philippines for SE Asian economies. The purpose of the workshop was: to increase Southeast Asian farmers' awareness of the challenges and benefits of agricultural biotechnology; enhance farmer knowledge of policy issues based on stakeholders' experiences with agricultural biotechnology in the Philippines; provide first hand experience through visits to local farms planting traditional varieties and Bt corn; explore the potential role of the farmer or farm-level groups in technology adoption; explore effective communication techniques for farmers to communicate with specific audiences (other farmers, policy makers, regulators, media); and discuss possible formation of a farmer-to-farmer regional resource network.
- In August 2004, another farmer-to-farmer workshop was held in Latin America.
- In December 2004, a 3-day seminar for the APEC region was held in Malaysia titled, "Creating a Positive Environment for Investments in Agricultural Biotechnology". The objective of the seminar was to examine policy and economic factors that impact the environment for investments in agricultural biotechnology.
- In January 2006, a 3-day "Bio-safety Policy Options Symposium" was held in the Philippines. The goal of the conference was to facilitate dialog and sharing of experiences related to the cross-sector roles and implications of bio-safety policy on agricultural trade, research investment and technology development, public policy, and environment and health safety.

In June 2006, a 4-day course was held in Manila on "Commercialization of Biotechnology Crops in Asia". The objectives were to provide a comprehensive, in-depth understanding of the principles, approach, regulatory requirements, information needs, awareness-building techniques, and stewardship requirements for commercializing a biotechnology seed product for widespread farmer adoption, and to provide opportunities to network with experts and to become knowledgeable about supporting resources in the region and worldwide relevant to the commercialization of agricultural biotechnology.

- In September 2006, Senior Officials endorsed the 2007-2009 HLPDAB Work Plan which included a recognition that its work was complementary to that of the RDEAB. At the 2007 HLPDAB meeting in Canberra, members endorsed a proposal to hold concurrent meetings of the HLPDAB with the RDEAB in order to facilitate closer collaboration on biotechnology issues. In February 2008, the HLPDAB and RDEAB held their first back-to-back meetings. Additional future coordination between RDEAB and HOPDAB is being discussed by both groups.
- In September 2007 and in February 2008, two workshops were held Vietnam and Japan, respectively, on Liability and Redress as it relates to Article 27 of the Cartagena Protocol for Biosafety (CPB).

⁵ Submitted as part of the comments of the US Panel on the Draft Assessment of ATCWG/HLPDAB Report

- In March 2008, APEC members held side meetings with the liability and redress working group in Cartagena to discuss their positions on liability and redress. In May, Members, again, held side meetings at the Meeting of the Parties to the CPB (MOP/CPB) meetings in Bonn to further the discussion on this issue.
- In October 2007, a communication workshop was held in Peru that focused on addressing the public perception challenge for governments with respect to agricultural biotechnology. An important output from this workshop was the development of a “*best practices guide*”. The intent of the guide is to provide information on ways to study public perception; relevant factors affecting public perception, including the link between perception of agricultural biotechnology and perception of agriculture and government policies in general; and various methods for addressing public perception with respect to agricultural biotechnology. It draws from and builds upon the 2002 document “*Communicating about Agricultural Biotechnology in APEC Economies: a Best Practice Guide.*”
- In November 2007 and in January 2008, two Needs Assessment Workshops were conducted, in Peru and Singapore, respectively. The workshops analyzed current bottlenecks in the commercialization of agricultural biotechnology in APEC member economies and identified bilateral exchanges between APEC member economies to build capacity at the policy development, regulatory, and infrastructural levels.
- In June 2008, Chile and Australia held a bilateral exchange, which was based on the issues identified limiting development of the biotechnology sectors in Chile. The exchange allowed experiences to be shared between the two Economies.
- In September 2008, Vietnam held a bilateral exchange with the Philippines, which focused on the policy development process in the Philippines and the way the regulatory community interacts with the developers of the technology.
- In September 2008, Peru and the Philippines held a bilateral exchange to cover the whole process of taking a biotech crop product from the lab to market, emphasizing the key role that a sound regulatory environment plays.
- In November/December 2008, Vietnam held another bilateral exchange with the Philippines. The purpose of this exchange was to have key policy figures in the Vietnam National Assembly meet with farmers who are deriving benefits from the adoption of GM technology, to have exchanges with policy makers / regulators who oversee the regulatory framework, and to meet with researchers targeting production issues with GM solutions.
- In September 2008, a workshop to examine issues surrounding current weaknesses in biotech crop acceptance in the APEC region was held in Singapore. The goal of the workshop was to share information to create a common understanding of all the initiatives conducted by concerned stakeholders in the region, to develop a common understanding of the needs in the region and in specific key countries to accelerate agricultural biotechnology’s acceptance, to develop strategies for the region that recognizes the common and unique needs of each stakeholder, and to discuss and recommend mechanisms to maintain coherence among stakeholders in implementing activities aimed at biotech acceptance.

- At the 7th meeting of the Policy Dialogue, there was a recommendation for the Policy Dialogue to undertake work on harmonization of scientific approaches to low-level presence. In February 2009, there will be a first in a series of round table discussions on the issue of low-level presence.
- Also, in the planning stages are additional bilateral exchanges and a Risk Communication workshop is being developed.