

## **CICA Concept Paper on Implementation of Confidence Building Measures in the Area of Agriculture**

### **I. Background**

This Concept Paper is developed based on the new *CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures* adopted during the 6<sup>th</sup> CICA Ministerial Meeting in October 2021, as well as other basic CICA documents, with the aim of facilitating exchange and cooperation among CICA Member States in the area of agriculture.

Agricultural cooperation is an important component of CICA confidence building measures. CICA Member States are rich in agricultural resources and potential for agricultural development. Agricultural cooperation among Member States, which is consistent with the need of integrating into the international industrial chain and ensuring food security, is both relevant and promising.

### **II. Objectives**

Strengthen agriculture cooperation among Member States to promote agricultural transformation and upgrading; to increase agricultural output, irrigation water use efficiency and improve the processing of agricultural products; to guarantee employment and income generation in the rural area; to boost the international competitiveness of the region's agricultural sector and allocation of agricultural resources; and to enhance the ability for ensuring food security.

### **III. Principles**

1. Consensus;
2. Voluntary participation and equality;
3. Mutual benefit;
4. Science and technology first.

### **IV. Areas of Cooperation**

1. Crop breeding, cultivation and planting; conservation of plant

genetic resources, systematic botany, plant taxonomy and plant diversity;

2. Cross-border animal and plant disease prevention and control; exchange of experiences on regional management of animal epidemics in accordance with the relevant standards, guidelines or recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

3. Livestock and aquatic product breeding;

4. Dryland farming; efficient use of water in agriculture;

5. Storage, transportation, processing and trade of agricultural products;

6. Manufacturing, performance testing, popularization and application of agricultural machinery.

7. Quality safety of agricultural products; promotion on quality and standards of agricultural commodities.

8. Digital agriculture and agricultural intelligence;

9. Rural Development; agricultural economic policies and information;

10. Agricultural scientific research and personnel training.

## **V. Implementation Measures:**

1. Exchange agricultural policies, agricultural research, innovation results, experience and knowledge; disseminate practical agricultural technologies in different areas of agriculture; cooperation, capacity building and spreading awareness about sustainable land and water management and providing the necessary conditions for improving water use efficiency in line with sustainable consumption and production; establish investment partnerships and cooperation among Member States for agricultural research, especially using land and water to maximize the productivity under the situation of climate change and water shortage; exchange and sharing of knowledge in drainage optimization and cyclic irrigation to enhance water and fertilizer use efficiency.

2. Organize agriculture-related training courses or seminars; make presentation or exhibition on new agricultural technologies; Organization of

trainings and information sharing cooperation on agricultural mechanization, information technologies (IT), agricultural technologies and digital agriculture could be organized; Develop individual and group capability, organize staff training on agricultural digital technology and remote sensing.

3. Study and develop international agricultural cooperation and development projects, and promote the implementation of key international agricultural cooperation projects in the region; in comparison with imported products, strengthen cooperation on protecting, supporting and promoting local agricultural products, develop competitiveness of agricultural products processing industry; Promote discussion on reducing unnecessary barriers to trade between Member States.

4. Promote exchange of information on the quality and safety (QS) standards of agricultural products;

5. Encourage the development of digital agriculture and agricultural e-commerce;

6. Support partnership building between agricultural businesses of Member States;

7. Strengthen cooperation on seeds which are resistant to extreme climates such as drought, high-temperature and salt salinization to prevent and combat desertification;

8. Exchange of information and experience on developing smallholder farmers about regenerative farming practices to increase income by promoting agricultural output and to improve benefits by reducing costs.

9. Share information of phytogenic among Member States so that other countries are able to take necessary measures to prevent circulations of infected crops; Exchange experience on pest prevention and control, strengthen cooperation on eradication of pests; strengthen cooperation on developing pesticide and using modern technology to prevent and control pests; Work collaboratively to recognize the concept of pest or disease free areas and areas of low pest or disease prevalence in accordance with the CAC, OIE and IPPC standards, guidelines or recommendations.

10. Develop a roster of experts to facilitate information exchange and peer-to-peer skill sharing among Member States.