



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

2007/SOM1/HLPDAB/013

Farmer Biotechnology Exchange Activity

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Philippines



**High Level Policy Dialogue on Agriculture
Biotechnology
Canberra, Australia
20-21 January 2007**

Background



Follow up of the pilot APEC farmer to farmer biotech workshop held on December 2003 in the Philippines. Participated by farmer-leaders from 7 country-member economies of APEC.

December 2003 highlights

- (a) We were given orientations about biotechnology-what is it, its benefits, regulations, challenges;
- (b) We exchanged farmer level experiences with agribiotech through study visits to biotech farms in Mindanao and academe;
- (c) Had opportunity to discuss with local government officials its role in S&T promotion especially in agbiotech;
- (d) We discussed role of farm-level groups in technology adoption.

Background



Two country **ASFARNET** networks were formed, **one in Indonesia and one in the Philippines**. Both facilitated farmers' understanding and appreciation on agricultural biotechnology, and made representations in their respective governments, in APEC and ASEAN conferences.

Lessons learned, tasks ahead



- Farmers need accurate and timely information on agribiotechnology in order to make informed choices
- Need to continue and sustain the goals and activities of ASFARNET or adopt the mission of ASFARNET in existing national farmer organizations where ASFARNET nodes are not yet in place
- Organize regional or national activities in order to establish our presence and generate resources
- Sustain annual farmer to farmer sharing of experiences within and among countries through workshops or study visits

From among participants..



- The workshop was effective, efficiently conducted and more importantly, highly relevant. We can only ask for more.



In Closing..



- We at ASFARNET are grateful for this opportunity to articulate our **position and opinion as farmers being the technology adopters and primary stakeholders** on the issue of agribiotechnology
- We reiterate our belief that *farmers should exercise the right to choose what crop to plant* and having alternative crop varieties broaden our options

our aspiration..



- We look forward to the sustained support of government, development organizations, and the international community in order to realize the vision and mission of farmers in the region thru ASFARNET

Thank you, 'Maraming salamat po!'