

Memorandum of Cooperation among the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea on Agricultural Cooperation in Rural Revitalization

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as "the Participants"),

Recognizing that rural revitalization¹ can not only promote the prosperity of agricultural industries, prevent declining of rural vitality, but also maintain the village culture and foster new rural development paths that promotes harmonious coexistence between human and nature;

Realizing that green agricultural development² and the integration of rural industries³ are important components of rural revitalization, with the former being the philosophy and the latter being the means for rural revitalization;

Considering that, through closer trilateral cooperation in rural revitalization, the three countries can not only share best experiences to avoid difficulties, but also extend agricultural cooperation scope;

Have reached the following recognition:

I. The Participants will enhance agricultural cooperation in rural revitalization in line with the following principles:

1. All cooperative activities will be conducted on the basis of the principles of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit in a transparent and sustainable manner;

2. All cooperative activities will be subject to the domestic laws and regulations of the respective countries and will not impact the already existing cooperative relations between any agencies or individuals of the respective countries. The Participants intend to explore new areas of cooperation and avoid duplicate activities;

3. All cooperative activities will be implemented in support of and in coordination with activities of other international agencies wherever possible; and

4. The Participants will hold working-level consultations on a regular basis.

II. The areas of agricultural cooperation under this Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "this MOC") may include the followings, which will be decided at the working level consultations:

¹ A similar expression in Japan and the ROK is "Agricultural and Rural Revitalization".

² A similar expression in Japan and the ROK is "environment-friendly agricultural revitalization".

³ A similar expression is "the 6th Industrialization of Agriculture" referred to in the Joint Communiqué of the Second China-Japan-Korea Trilateral Agricultural Ministers' Meeting.

1. Sharing rural development policies;
2. Sharing experiences in rural industry development, such as the integration of rural industries and promoting cooperation on two-way investment;
3. Sharing information on agricultural equipment, the quality and safety of agricultural products, and agricultural scientific innovation;
4. Sharing experiences in promoting the brand names of agricultural products;
5. Sharing experiences in the development of smallholders;
6. Sustainable utilization of rural resources and the conservation of the rural ecosystem; and
7. Rural cultural exchanges including Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and rural tourism.

III. The forms of agricultural cooperation under this MOC may include the followings, which will be decided at the working level consultations:

1. Exchanging policies and sharing experience. The Participants will consider organizing a range of activities, including international workshops on rural revitalization, and mutual learning about the development of ecologically and environmentally friendly rural industries;
2. Enhancing capacity building of agricultural technicians in rural areas and organizing mutual visits of rural young leaders;
3. Encouraging businesses to conduct exchanges and cooperation and to invest in agriculture for the purpose of agricultural modernization; and
4. Supporting exchanges between non-governmental think-tanks that have the necessary operational capability.

IV. Any dispute arising from the implementation of cooperative activities under this MOC will be settled by the Participants through friendly consultation.

V. The cooperation under this MOC will commence on the date of the signature of this MOC and continue for five years. The Participants will conduct a review every five years before deciding whether to extend the duration of the cooperation under this MOC.

VI. The Participants may mutually decide to terminate the cooperation under this MOC prior the end of its duration.

VII. This MOC may be modified by consensus among the Participants.

VIII. This MOC is not intended to be legally binding.

Signed in triplicate in Beijing on 10 November 2018 in the English language.

The Ministry of Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries of
Japan

The Ministry of Agriculture
and Rural Affairs of
the People's Republic of China

The Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs of
the Republic of Korea
