

U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance

Input for the 2016 Strategic Agricultural Innovation Dialogue

As the United States Government (USG) sets goals for the 2016 Strategic Agricultural Innovation Dialogue (SAID) the USBCA urges the USG to continue conversations with China that seek to establish a transparent, predictable and practical approach to both biotechnology approvals and imports of grains and oilseeds that may contain crop biotechnology. It is important that conversations with China maintain momentum in the next year to position the 2016 SAID to address serious food, environmental, and economic challenges in the strongest possible manner over both the short term and longer term.

As the USG continues preparations for the 2016 SAID, we welcome the opportunity to suggest thematic topics and ideas related to the adoption and use of innovative agricultural technologies. The most critical component to the 2016 SAID for the USBCA is the continued discussion of enabling trade and allowing for innovation of crop biotechnology. However, we understand the importance of having a theme that facilitates a well-rounded discussion on topics important to both the USG and China. As such, the USBCA suggests using the tag line *Harnessing Science and Technology to Sustainably Enhance Food Security* to represent the goals of the 2016 SAID. This theme would allow the SAID to cover major topic areas such as climate change, food security and rural development, and discuss it within the context of its regulatory environment and practices, trade policy, trade facilitation, investment climate, capacity building, communication and public acceptance.

The USBCA views agricultural production practices and trade as playing a key role within each of the themes – climate change, food security and rural development. For example, a climate change working group discussion could focus on how trade can help optimize the use of precious resources and how crop biotechnology can help growers in both China and the US mitigate and adapt to environmental concerns. With respect to food security, working group discussions could cover options to preserve the fungibility of supply and provide access to markets. The focus would be on trade facilitative, science-based and flexible policies that result in compatible national regulatory regimes and a stronger Sino-US trade relationship.

As in the past, the USBCA is prepared to assist the USG in making the SAID as productive as possible. USBCA greatly appreciates our continued strong working relationship with the USG representatives on this critical effort.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Seed Trade Association
American Soybean Association
Biotechnology Industry Organization
Corn Refiners Association
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Corn Growers Association
National Grain and Feed Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
North American Export Grain Association
North American Millers' Association
U.S. Canola Association
U.S. Grains Council
U.S. Soybean Export Council