

Beijing Statement

The Beijing Statement on the Development and Cooperation in Agricultural Science and Innovation is the significant component of the 1st Global Forum of Leaders on Agricultural Science and Technology (GLAST) on October 24-25, 2006, held in Beijing, China.

The Forum was sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) and supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and attended by the leaders of agriculture research organizations of all continents.

Recent development in agricultural science and innovation has brought a worldwide tide of scientific and technological changes bringing a major revolution. The further development of science and of the innovation is critical for advancing the global food safety and social stability.

Science and innovation are key for the healthy and safe socio-economic growth of each country. Increased and safe food production, environment health and natural resources preservation are actually the most common world-wide concerns in agriculture and in agricultural research. The solutions require to develop sustainable and comprehensive approaches through joint international multidisciplinary efforts. The development of new knowledge and its application into innovation are part of the political, economical and social agenda to guarantee food safety and economic growth of the citizens.

Innovation and access to knowledge and technologies are crucial as access to market for the sustainable development of many countries especially the rural areas. The breakthroughs in agricultural food and non-food processing technology and industrial development have become more and more important for value-added agriculture. Information technology has potential to transform agriculture from isolation to timely exchange of information and is fundamentally rebuilding and equipping agriculture.

Biotechnology is one of the new dynamic industries which greatly supports the agricultural production and development. At the same time, the global community is paying much attention to the development of agricultural technology. Relevant regulations and policies have been constituted, which greatly promote the development of agricultural science and innovation. Reinforcing cooperation among countries is an effective approach to meet the challenges of agriculture. These challenges include climate change and its impact on adaptation and mitigation.

GLAST is a platform to strengthen timely international dialogue and cooperation about issues and challenges in the development of agricultural science and innovation, and to promote the strategic use of science in addressing the world challenges in a context of sustainable development.