



Joint Statement
between the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development of
the European Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's
Republic of China on the Establishment of an EU-China Project on
Capacity Building for Young Professional Farmers and Agricultural
Professionals

The Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China;

Expressing positive views on their successful and productive cooperation;

Having a common interest to deepen the overall relations between the EU and China in the agricultural sector;

Recognising the importance of the role of young farmers in maintaining the vitality of rural areas and promoting a more sustainable, competitive and modern agriculture;

Identifying similar challenges about policies and support measures to encourage the young generations to enter the agricultural sector and retain young farmers and professionals in this profession;

Building on the consensus reached between Mr Han Changfu, Minister of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, and Mr Phil Hogan, Member of the European Commission for Agriculture and Rural Development during their meetings in April and June 2016;

Have agreed to jointly establish an EU-China Project on Capacity Building for Young Professional Farmers and Agricultural Professionals.

I. Overall objective

The main objectives of the Programme are to

- 1) Facilitate effective sharing and dissemination of experiences and best practices;
- 2) Enhance capacity building in modern farming techniques and reinforce the concepts of green development, good environmental practices and enhance sustainable development and environmental protection practices in farming systems;
- 3) Produce recommendations to practitioners and policy-makers on sustainable farming practices;
- 4) Increase the mutual understanding between young professional farmers and agricultural

professionals from both sides, develop close collaboration and ties, and deepen the international cooperation and exchange in agriculture between China and the EU.

II. Partnership

The Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China and the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission are the competent authorities to oversee the Project. The Centre of International Cooperation Services of the Ministry of Agriculture is the implementing entity designated by China. For the EU side, the Project will be implemented through the Policy Support Facility of the Partnership Instrument.

III. Activities

It is proposed to carry out study visits for young professional farmers and agricultural professionals from both sides, to conduct exchanges and trainings in agri-businesses, innovative farms, governmental entities and local agencies, research institutes and universities, cooperatives, dealing with agriculture, etc... in the EU Member States and in China.

IV. Funding

The Project will be funded jointly by the EU and China.

V. Duration

The Project will be launched in 2017 and will last for 18 months. A final conference will be organised at the end of the Project. It will be the occasion to provide recommendations based on assessment and evaluation of outcomes and results and to look into possible extension of the activities.

This Joint Statement was issued in duplicate in both Chinese and English languages on 21 April 2017 in Brussels.

**Member of the European Commission
for Agriculture and Rural
Development**

**Minister of Agriculture of the People's
Republic of China**

Mr Phil Hogan

Mr Han Changfu