

## Grow Asia Business Council Meeting

### Minutes of the Meeting - 17 October 2022 15.30PM (UTC+8)

#### Time and Place

The Grow Asia Business Council Meeting was held on Monday, 17 October 2022, at 15:30 hrs, at the Lotus Room, Shangri-La Singapore, 22 Orange Grove Road, Singapore 258350.

#### Attendance

Attendees	
Organization	Representative
Bayer Crop Science	Cherie Tan
Cargill	Colin D'Silva
Corteva Agriscience	Prelia Moenandar
Deloitte	Yvonne Zhang
East-West Seed	Mary Ann Sayoc
GROW	Joshua Soo
Mars Wrigley	Patrick Gantier
PISAgro	Arif Rachmat
PISAgro (observer)	Harry Hanawi
Sinar Mas Agribusiness & Food	Anita Neville
Trendlines Agrifood Innovation Centre	Anton Wibowo
Visa	Patsian Low
Visa (observer)	Gareth Parrington
World Economic Forum	Sean de Cleene

Apologies	
Organization	Representative
CP Produce	Sumeth Pinyosnit
SAIL Ventures	Johnny Brom
Thai Wah	Ho Ren Hua

Guests	
AGRA	Agnes Kalibata
Agri8	David Chen
Credit Suisse	Martin Smith
East-West Seed	Piyaka Hoa Duong
Food Action Alliance	Adam Gerstenmier
Olam	Shailendra Mishra
Unilever	Pameela Pattabiraman

Secretariat Staff	
Beverley Postma	Grow Asia
Pranav Sethaputra	Grow Asia
Erin Sweeney	Grow Asia
Wei-Li Woo	Grow Asia
Reginald Lee	Grow Asia
Amy Chua	CPSA Philippines
Insan Syafaat	PISAgro Indonesia
Sarin Tey	CPSA Cambodia
Thuy Cam Nguyen	PSAV Vietnam

The meeting was chaired by Grow Asia Executive Director, Beverley Postma

**1. Welcome and Quorum**

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed all members, and declared a quorum was present.

**2. Competition law caution**

The Chair reminded all participants of Grow Asia’s Anti-trust policy and read aloud the Competition Law Statement:

*“All meetings of the Grow Asia Business Council, including this one, shall be conducted in accordance with the relevant competition and antitrust laws. Members shall not enter any discussion, activity or conduct that may infringe any applicable law.”*

**3. Approval of agenda**

The agenda was duly approved with no further amendment.

**4. Grow Asia Programs and Impact Funds for 2022-2025**

Grow Asia Executive Director presented highlights and milestones since the establishment of Grow Asia in 2015. She summarised the progress made since the last Governance meetings in February 2022 and provided an update on Grow Asia’s strategic plan and Country programs.

Members were informed of the closure of Grow Asia’s Myanmar office in September due to the deteriorating political stability in the country. They were reassured that the 35+ partners in Myanmar will continue to be engaged and supported as part of the Grow Asia network.

[Grow Asia’s Annual Report 2022 Video](#) was unveiled, announcing the launch of four multi-donor impact funds totaling USD 20.2m to accelerate sustainable agricultural transformation in Southeast Asia. The impact funds will target the “hidden middle”—MSMEs that typically fall below the radar for investors and financial institutions.

The signing of a Collaboration Agreement between Grow Asia and [AGRA](#) was also announced with the intention to drive South-South Cooperation between Asia and Africa.

**5. Election of Co-Chairs of the Grow Asia Business Council**

In accordance with Grow Asia’s Constitution, nominations for two Co-Chairs were solicited from members of the Business Council, one multinational company, and one regional company. Following a discussion, the following nominees agreed to stand and ballot papers were distributed to all voting members:

**Multinational Company:** Bayer Crop Science, Cargill, Corteva Agriscience

**Regional Company:** East-West Seed

**RESOLVED:** Corteva Agriscience was duly elected as the MNC Co-chair by a majority vote; and East-West Seed was elected as the Regional Co-chair.

**6. Establishment of the Grow Asia Board**

The Executive Director reported that discussions with Grow Asia members and partners have highlighted the necessity for a strengthened Governance model that will ultimately have oversight for the management of Grow Asia’s impact funds.

It is envisaged that a formal Board will be established with high level oversight for the strategic direction of Grow Asia and the supervision of the regional Secretariat. The two advisory Councils will continue to monitor Grow Asia's Flagships and Impact Funds and provide guidance on program priorities and impact performance, while the Board will meet twice per year and oversee the multi-stakeholder governance function of the Councils and the Secretariat.

The Board will comprise:

- An Independent Chairperson;
- Four C-Suite leaders elected by the Business Council;
- Four senior officials or non-profit leaders elected by the Partners Advisory Council;
- Up to four expert members nominated by the Company Directors of Grow Asia

**RESOLVED:** The meeting duly considered and unanimously approved the proposed structure of the Grow Asia Board.

#### **7. Members' priorities for multi-stakeholder engagement**

The Chair invited Members to share their priorities for the year ahead. Key themes that emerged including scaling up knowledge transfer to smallholders; integrating value chains with a food systems approach; focusing on women's economic empowerment particularly women "agripreneurs" and women-owned businesses; digitalization to support growth and resilience; and increasing the absorptive capability of technology/innovations in the region.

#### **8. Upcoming events & meetings**

The Chair outlined upcoming events and meetings, including the Grow Asia Forum on 18 February, the B20 Summit in Bali from 12-14 November; the next meeting of the Grow Asia Councils in February 2023.

Members considered the dates and format for the next meeting of the Business Council and agreed that it should be held in February 2023. The Secretariat will coordinate a date, time, and agenda for the meeting in consultation with the new Co-Chairs.

#### **9. Close**

There being no other business, the Chair thanked members for their time and declared the meeting closed at 17:00 hrs.