

**Grow Asia Business Council Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting - 8 February 2023 15.30PM (UTC+8)**

Time and Place

The Grow Asia Business Council Meeting was held on Wednesday, 8 February 2023, at 15:30 hrs, via Zoom.

Attendance

Attendees	
Organization	Representative
Bayer Crop Science	Cherie Tan
Beanstalk AgTech	Justin Ahmed
Cargill	Colin D'Silva
Corteva Agriscience	Shoumo Mitra
Corteva Agriscience (observer)	Prelia Moenandar
Deloitte	Yvonne Zhang
East-West Seed	Mary Ann Sayoc
GROW	Joshua Soo
GROW (observer)	Vijey Ananda
Mars Wrigley	Fay Fay Choo
PISAgro	Harry Hanawi
Sinar Mas Agribusiness & Food	Anita Neville
Syngenta	Cindy Lim
Thai Wah	Ho Ren Hua
Trendlines Agrifood Innovation Centre	Anton Wibowo
Visa	Tareq Muhmood
Visa (observer)	Patsian Low
World Economic Forum	Noopur Desai

Apologies	
Organization	Representative
CP Produce	Sumeth Pinyosnit

Guests	
ADM Capital	Lisa Genasci
Food Action Alliance	Adam Gerstenmier
Golden Agri-Resources	Anita Neville
PepsiCo	Jirawat Poomsrikaew
Stonehaven	Aisha Ali
Stonehaven	Toby Tanner
Terrascope	Lia Nicholson

Secretariat Staff	
Beverly Postma	Grow Asia
Erin Sweeney	Grow Asia
Wei-Li Woo	Grow Asia
Reginald Lee	Grow Asia
Lucy Turner	Grow Asia
Fanny Perdu	Grow Asia
Chrissa Borja	Grow Asia

Secretariat Staff (cont.)	
Paul Voutier	Grow Asia
Amy Chua	PPSA Philippines
Insan Syafaat	PISAgro Indonesia
Sereyrith Ly	CPSA Cambodia
John Simango	Grow PNG

The meeting was co-chaired by Ms Mary Ann Sayoc, representing East-West Seed; and Mr Shoumo Mitra, representing Corteva Agriscience.

1. Call to Order and Competition Law Statement

The Co-Chairs opened the meeting, introduced themselves and welcomed all members, and declared a quorum was present.

The Co-Chairs 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.”

2. Approval of agenda

The agenda was duly approved with no further amendment.

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

The Co-Chair proposed that the meeting consider the Minutes of the Grow Asia Business Council, held on Monday, 17 October 2022.

RESOLVED: Upon a motion duly proposed (Cargill), seconded (Corteva Agriscience) and carried, the minutes of the 17 October 2022 was accepted as a true and correct record with the following amendment: Under “8. Upcoming events & meetings” – Change ‘Grow Asia Forum on 18 February’ to ‘Grow Asia Forum on 18 October’.

4. Executive Director’s Report

Grow Asia Executive Director welcomed new Members to Grow Asia’s Governance Councils.

- Partners’ Advisory Council: Nanyang Technological University, Rainforest Alliance, WWF
- Business Council: Beanstalk AgTech, Syngenta

According to Grow Asia’s [Constitution](#), Membership in both Councils is capped at 25 entities. Members were urged to advise the Grow Asia Secretariat of organizations that might still wish to be invited to join.

Grow Asia has been formally appointed as one of four regional delivery hubs of the World Economic Forum’s [Food Action Alliance](#). This recognition paves the way for Grow Asia to scale its partnership programs—from global commitments to regional policymaking, into country-level action and South-South impact. This is also a valuable pathway to support governments as they implement the UN Food Systems Summit commitments on the development of national pathways to food security.

Grow Asia bid farewell to U Ye Htut, Country Director in Myanmar, and welcomed Ly Sereyrith, the new Managing Director in Cambodia. Grow Asia is continuing to scale up its regional Secretariat and welcomes recommendations for candidates or secondees from Members.

The [Grow Asia Forum 2022](#), held last 18 October 2022, convened 171 senior leaders from 131 organizations across the region to discuss Asia’s most pressing food system challenges and explore avenues for sustainable growth. Grow Asia thanked all partners and sponsors who made the event possible. The next Grow Asia Forum will take place in September 2023. Members who wish to explore partnership options for this year’s Forum were urged to reach out to the Secretariat.

The four multi-donor [impact funds](#) unveiled at the Grow Asia Forum have elicited strong interest from various stakeholders. Grow Asia aims to raise a further US\$3 million of public and private blended investments in 2023. In particular, the Secretariat is seeking new investments and partners for GrowVentures, GrowHer, and GrowBeyond, targeting philanthropies and bilateral funds.

The team is finalizing project criteria for Impact Fund deployment, and identifying scalable technical assistance projects in Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and Viet Nam. The

Secretariat invited Members to share feedback on where the funds can meet the greatest need or deliver the greatest impact through blended finance and public-private partnership. In parallel, the Secretariat will continue to design verifiable indicators and data collection systems to measure sustainable impact of new and existing programs for all Flagships.

5. Upcoming Events & Meetings

The [4th Global Conference of the One Planet Network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme](#) will take place in Ha Noi, Viet Nam from 24-27 April 2023. The conference will contribute to the 2023 Stocktaking Moment of the UN Food Systems Summit follow-up process in July 2023. Grow Asia is partnering with the Food Action Alliance to build regional milestones and impactful programs.

Members were invited to consider a proposal to hold the next meetings of the Councils as an in-person event on 1 June. This will be a joint meeting of the two Advisory Councils.

It was also proposed that this year's Grow Asia Forum will be held on 11-12 September, either in Bali or Singapore.

RESOLVED: The meeting duly considered and unanimously resolved to hold the next Council Meeting as a Joint Council Meeting, and the next Grow Asia Forum on 11-12 September 2023.

6. Update on the Flagships and Impact Funds

The following are key highlights from each of the four regional Flagships.

GrowVentures – Agri-Food Innovation

The SEEDS Project is kicking off in Viet Nam with a focus on digitalization of agri-food value chains. The project will support the establishment of Viet Nam's Food Innovation Hub and will include human-centered design training to understand existing innovators' barriers to scale. Pilots planned in Viet Nam include rice, pepper, and coffee value chains. Concurrently, Grow Asia's popular Digital Learning Series will continue, with a focus on inclusive agri-finance for small and micro businesses in the agrifood value chain. Grow Asia welcomes interest from additional partners to match fund the Korean government's investment in the GrowVentures Impact Fund.

GrowHer- – Women's Economic Empowerment

GrowHer:Kakao is the newest addition to the Flagship, with Grow Asia as the lead grantee on a project jointly financed by GIZ and Mars, and delivered by Save the Children, PISA Agro, and Grow Asia. The project will deliver training and capacity-building to 4,000 women farmers and SMEs in South Sulawesi, linking existing work in these communities on child protection, and climate smart agroforestry practices. Grow Asia thanks GIZ and Mars for their contributions, and to the partnership with Save the Children.

GrowRight – Responsible Investing

Grow Asia successfully launched an accredited training program for an inaugural cohort of 50 learners as part of the ASEAN Academy on Responsible Investing. These mid-career learners represent businesses, government and NGOs who are involved in designing investments in ASEAN. Grow Asia unveiled the online e-learning platform, which will be hosted by the Nanyang Technological University (NTU). Participants will receive certificates of completion from NTU's Business School. Grow Asia thanks Members who have sponsored team members to join the pilot cohort and will launch the scholarship for Cohort 2 in the coming months.

GrowBeyond – Climate Change Resilience and Adaption

A sprint focused on climate finance for resilient food systems in Southeast Asia is being organized in collaboration with Bain, and the Milken Institute Asia Center. The sprint will build on the B20/G20 work

and insights from the Digital Learning Series. Grow Asia will kick off with an awareness campaign for investors, pilot solutions through its Country Partnerships, and publish findings at this year's Grow Asia Forum later this year.

Feedback and discussion

Members were invited to ask questions and share feedback on the updates provided. Members enquired about the details of the GrowBeyond sprint and target markets. This work is still in development, but the target markets are likely to be where Grow Asia has a physical presence through the country chapters, and where the work will have the biggest impact and opportunity for scale.

Members asked for further details on how the impact funds will function and the data that underpins them. The Secretariat explained that the funds will serve as a blended finance model for public-private investment into qualifying projects at a national or field level that require technical assistance, capacity-building, and improvements to the enabling environment. Each fund will be anchored by a public sector grant and matched with funding from companies based on identification of shared priorities. Country chapters have been invited to identify single or multi-country programs that require funding to remove barriers to scale. Grow Asia will use the Impact Funds to crowd in support for these projects. With regards to data used to monitor and evaluate the funds, Grow Asia is engaging with a range of companies on best-class models to measure a combination of livelihood improvement and a reduction in green-house gas emissions. The secretariat will continue to monitor global, regional, and country-level developments.

7. Other Business

Grow Asia's Country Chapter leaders were invited to provide brief updates to the Council. In Indonesia, PISAgrO is looking for opportunities to support the Indonesian Government in their chairmanship of ASEAN as well as the ASEAN Business Advisory Council. In the Philippines, PSAV is focused on providing a collaborative platform for farmers to better engage with each other, while conducting consultation sessions with partners. They are also looking at mapping activities to avoid duplication and identify cross-country collaboration with other country chapters. In Cambodia, CPSA is working to improve the business operation of agricultural cooperations, improving market connection and productivity with their network of 3,500 community members in partnership with Heineken and Khmer Enterprise.

The Secretariat promised to provide an extended opportunity at the next meeting for Council Members to learn more about Grow Asia's in-country programs and opportunities for partnership.

8. Close

There being no other business, the Co-chairs thanked Members for their time and declared the meeting closed at 16:46 hrs.