

**AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION  
IN THE AREA OF SANITARY AND  
PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

**BETWEEN**

**THE FEDERAL VETERINARY OFFICE  
(FVO)  
OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION**

**AND**

**THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF  
QUALITY SUPERVISION, INSPECTION  
AND QUARANTINE (AQSIQ) OF THE  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

The Federal Veterinary Office (FVO)<sup>1</sup> of the Swiss Confederation and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the People's Republic of China, hereinafter individually referred to as a "Party" or collectively as the "Parties";

With a view to strengthening the bilateral economic relations between Switzerland and China;

Recognising that the strengthening of bilateral technical cooperation reduces barriers to trade and produces mutual benefits for Switzerland and China;

Recognising the significant importance to carry out capacity building to further strengthen bilateral sanitary and phytosanitary cooperation, and promote bilateral trade in agricultural products and food;

Reaffirming the importance of international standards to enhance trade; and

Desiring to facilitate access to respective markets and further the implementation of the Chapter Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the Free Trade Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the "Free Trade Agreement");

Have reached the following Agreement to strengthen technical cooperation in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary measures:

## ARTICLE 1

### *Cooperation*

The Parties agree, through the Sub-Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures established in Article 7.9 of the Free Trade Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "SPS Sub-Committee") to:

- (a) share knowledge and experience, including possible exchanges of officials;
- (b) coordinate positions in the activities of regional and international organisations;
- (c) carry out joint research and share the results of such research in important areas, such as:
  - (i) animal and plant disease surveillance;
  - (ii) animal and plant pest and disease prevention and control;
  - (iii) detection methods for pathogenic micro-organisms in food;
  - (iv) surveillance and control of harmful substances and agri-chemical and veterinary medicine residues and other food safety issues; and

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<sup>1</sup> Due to changes in structure and responsibilities within the Swiss Government, the Federal Veterinary Office (FVO) will be renamed as Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) on 1 January 2014.

- (v) any other food safety, phytosanitary and zoosanitary issues of mutual interest;
- (d) cooperate on certificates in the SPS field, in particular on:
  - (i) the development and use of electronic certificates; and
  - (ii) the introduction and revision of SPS certificates;
- (e) exchange information on:
  - (i) regulatory systems; and
  - (ii) domestic practices and programmes for food safety activities; and
- (f) carry out other forms of cooperation.

## ARTICLE 2

### ***Means of Cooperation***

The Parties shall promote within the limits of their resources:

- (a) the providing of training programmes and internships for government officials;
- (b) the providing of training programmes for technical personnel, including but not limited to inspection and testing technical personnel, and standardisation personnel;
- (c) the exchange of information, transfer of expertise and training;
- (d) the implementation of joint actions such as seminars and workshops;
- (e) technical and administrative cooperation;
- (f) the information of stakeholders about the other Party's regulations; and
- (g) any other forms of cooperation decided by the SPS Sub-Committee.

## ARTICLE 3

### ***Confidentiality of Information***

The Parties shall treat as confidential information submitted by the other Party which that Party has designated as confidential.

ARTICLE 4

***Final Provisions***

1. The SPS Sub-Committee shall oversee the cooperation activities under this Agreement.
2. This Agreement is concluded pursuant to and in conjunction with the Free Trade Agreement and is one of the side agreements referred to in Article 7.11 of the Free Trade Agreement.
3. This Agreement enters into force on the same date as the Free Trade Agreement. A Party may terminate this Agreement at any time upon six months' written notice to the other Party. Established cooperation activities may continue independently of a Party's withdrawal from this Agreement.

Signed in Beijing on 5th July 2013 in two originals each in the English, Chinese and French language, each text being equally authentic. In case of divergence between the language versions, the English text shall prevail.

For FVO

For ACSIQ

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