



**THE FORTY SECOND MEETING OF  
THE ASEAN MINISTERS ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY  
(The 42<sup>nd</sup> AMAF)  
21 October 2020, Cambodia  
Video Conference**

**JOINT PRESS STATEMENT**

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1. We, the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF), held our 42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting virtually on 21 October 2020, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Veng Sakhon, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia.

**AMAF's responses to the outbreak of the COVID-19 to ensure food security, food safety and nutrition**

2. We expressed our deep concern over the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), which has affected the lives of people and economies, including food, agriculture and forestry sectors in ASEAN and globally. In this regard, we reiterated the importance of the Statement of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry in Response to the Outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) to Ensure Food Security, Food Safety and Nutrition in ASEAN that was released on 15 April 2020.

***Policy framework related to ASEAN cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry***

3. We expressed satisfaction on the progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan of Food Agriculture and Forestry (SP-FAF) 2016-2025, including the achievement of key deliverables in 2020. We endorsed the Mid-Term Review of the Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (SP-FAF), 2016-2025 and its Sectoral Plans of Action (SPAs), 2016-2020, which highlighted the key challenges, opportunities and recommendations for the sector in the years to come. In this regard, we noted with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the key deliverables for the food, agriculture and forestry sector in 2020, and adopted 10 indicative deliverables across livestock, crops, fisheries and forestry in 2021, among others the development of the Regional guidelines for prudent use of antimicrobials in aquaculture and ASEAN Handbook on Legal Cooperation to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade.

***Food Security and Nutrition***

4. We endorsed the new ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Food Security (SPA-FS) 2021-2025 to further ensure long-term food security and nutrition, to improve the livelihoods of farmers in the ASEAN region. The AIFS Framework and SPA-FS will offer guidelines and recommendations for catalyzing coherent action at the regional and country levels by the full range of stakeholders, while highlighting the responsibility of governments to combat food insecurity in the region. A number of emerging challenges in food security, food safety and nutrition should jointly be addressed by AMS, among

others: (i) meeting the food and nutritional needs of rural populations, (ii) Increasing sustainable agricultural production and productivity, and (iii) Finding solutions and recommendation to address food and nutrition insecurity during the pandemic or outbreak of diseases.

### ***Food Safety, Handling and Product Quality***

5. We commended our sectoral bodies for their efforts and achievements made in the harmonisation of standards and development of guidelines to support trade facilitation of agricultural products in ASEAN, and adopted the following documents, among others:

- ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action for Cooperation in Livestock, 2021-2025
- ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action for Cooperation in Crops, 2021-2025
- ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action for Cooperation in Fisheries, 2021-2025
- ASEAN Plan of Action for Fall Army Worm Control, 2020-2025
- ASEAN Regional Guideline for the Implementation of International Standards related to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures

### ***Sustainable Natural Resources Management***

6. We noted the importance of having cooperation framework for information sharing and capacity building among ASEAN Member States in combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and adopted the Cooperation Framework, Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of ASEAN Network for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. This framework could complete and support the existing platforms in the effort to combat IUU Fishing activities in the ASEAN region.

7. We adopted the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030, which outlines the priority actions for improving food security, facilitating poverty alleviation and improving the livelihoods of ASEAN people dependent on the harvesting, farming and marketing of fish and fishery products. The Plan of Action also covered the issues of environment to support sustainability of fisheries sector in the ASEAN Region.

8. As the ASEAN is going through a process of harmonization of standards for various products, including forestry products, and standards for non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are still in the early stages in many countries, protocols for sustainable harvest and management of NTFPs are crucial in order to meet quality standards. As a result, we endorsed the ASEAN Guidelines for Sustainable Harvest and Resource Management Protocols for Selected NTFPs. These guidelines will serve as a primary reference for NTFP management protocols in the region to further guarantee the sustainable management of NTFP resources for markets and relevant stakeholders.

9. We reiterated the importance of the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (ASEAN-RAI), and encouraged our ASEAN partners to provide support on the implementation of the Guidelines at the national and regional levels to promote investment in food, agriculture and forestry in the ASEAN region that contributes to regional economic development, food and nutrition security, food safety and equitable benefits, as well as the sustainable use of natural resources.

10. We noted the on-going efforts of strengthening the sectoral collaboration on conservation agriculture and sustainable soil management initiatives to ensure the sustainability of agroecological system in the ASEAN region.

### ***Trade and Joint Promotion for Agriculture and Forest Products***

11. In the context of globalization, in which international trade offers many market opportunities as well as competition challenges, many ASEAN Member States (AMS) have been promoting economic restructuring, sustainable rural economic development in order to achieve the goals of poverty reduction, social security and environmental protection. In this regard, we adopted the Concept Note on Promoting the Network for ASEAN Rural Product Development on One Village One Product Model to promote cooperation, partnership and network activities to stimulate local rural potentials and advantages, promote community creativity in developing rural industries and rural SMEs, improve income for rural residents and contribute positively to the socio-economic development of countries.

### ***Moving together with Dialogue Partners and International Organisations***

12. We acknowledged and thanked the ASEAN's Partners, particularly Australia, China, Germany, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Russia, and New Zealand for their valuable contribution and support in advancing cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry in ASEAN region through close collaboration in various areas, including food security, food safety and products quality, SPS, trade facilitation of the agriculture and forestry products, sustainable resources management and climate resiliency.

13. We appreciated the support extended by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and Grow Asia Partnerships in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food Agriculture and Forestry 2016-2025.

14. We congratulated the International Rice Research Institute on 60 years of service to the countries of the region, and for its highly valuable contribution of rice varieties, rice research and capacity building for the region.

15. The endorsement by the 41<sup>st</sup> AMAF meeting of the ASEAN RiceNet continued the strong and constructive engagement of IRRI with the ASEAN and Plus 3 rice-producing countries. Noting the changed governance arrangements for the International Rice Research Institute under the One Consortium of International Agricultural Research Group (CGIAR) reforms, we stressed the importance of sustained significant investment in rice research for development by the CGIAR and its System Council donors given the significant challenges in nutrition, sustainability, livelihoods and climate change resilience that face the region, and the importance of rice as a backbone of food security for South East Asia and other regions of the world.

16. We recalled the Chairman's Statement of the 36<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and the Special ASEAN Summit on COVID-19 to strengthen food security, food safety, and nutrition in the response to COVID-19 and agreed in principle to Thailand's Initiatives on ASEAN New Normal Plant-based Food Hub to ensure food security, through innovation, sophisticated technology and sustainably balance agricultural resource and environment and strengthen the resiliency and sustainability of regional supply chains, especially for food and commodities.

### ***The 43<sup>rd</sup> AMAF Meeting***

17. We agreed to convene the 43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry in Indonesia in 2021.

18. We expressed our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government and People of Cambodia for hosting the 42<sup>nd</sup> AMAF Meeting and for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

***The Meeting was attended by:***

- i. H.E. Dato Ali Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Brunei Darussalam
- ii. H.E Veng Sakhon, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia
- iii. H.E. Dr. Syahrul Yasin Limpo, Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia
- iv. H.E. Dr. Linkham Douangsavanh, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR
- v. H.E. Datuk Seri Dr. Ronald Kiandee, Minister of Agriculture and Food Industries (MAFI), Malaysia
- vi. H.E. Dr. Aung Thu, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar
- vii. H.E. Dr. William D. Dar, Secretary of Agriculture, Philippines
- viii. H.E. Dr. Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Sustainability and the Environment, Singapore
- ix. H.E. Mr. Narapat Kaoethong, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand
- x. H.E. Le Quoc Doanh, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam
- xi. H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN