



**THIRTY NINTH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN MINISTERS ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
(39th AMAF)
28 September 2017, Chiang Mai, Thailand**

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF), held our 39th Meeting on 28 September 2017 in Chiang Mai, Thailand under the Chairmanship of H.E. General Chatchai Sarikulya, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kingdom of Thailand.
2. We exchanged views on regional development in implementing the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025 and the progress made in the food, agriculture and forestry sector in 2016-2017.
3. We are pleased with the successful implementation of the initiatives related to food, agriculture and forestry cooperation in supporting the Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (SP-FAF) 2016-2025. We noted the development of the Data Mapping of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to identify necessary sources of information/data as part of monitoring of the implementation of SP-FAF.
4. We concluded the streamlining of the Sectoral Working Groups/Expert Groups under SOM-AMAF/ AMAF Mechanism to ensure efficient use of resources to implement the SP-FAF and to meet the goal of ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry in the following areas: food security, food safety and nutrition, harmonisation of agricultural standards, agricultural research and development, agricultural training and extension, agricultural cooperatives, sustainable forest management, economic integration, and market access and trade facilitation.

Food Security

5. We noted the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Food Security (SPA-FS) 2015-2020 and supported the implementation of the Matrix of Key Areas of Cooperation and Joint Activities for ASEAN Multi-sectoral Cooperation on Food Security and Nutrition.
6. We endorsed the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Food Security and Nutrition Policy as a general framework to help AMSs build stronger food security and nutrition cooperation and integration in the region.

Food Safety and Agricultural Product Quality

7. We are pleased with the progress and achievements made in the harmonisation of standards of foods, agriculture and forestry products in ASEAN to ensure safe and good quality agricultural produce and to facilitate ASEAN trade of these products. We endorsed 10 documents related to food safety and agriculture products quality. Some of the key documents are: (i) Seven ASEAN Harmonised MRLs, (ii) ASEAN Standards for horticultural produces and other food crops, (iii) Mechanism for the ASEAN Registration of Animal Vaccine, and (iv) ASEAN Animal Identification and Traceability Systems. We are also pleased with the establishment of the ASEAN Task Force for the Development of Instrument for Implementation of ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework (AFSRF).

8. We welcomed the initiative to protect human and animal health from the expansive and adverse impact of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in agriculture on public and animal health, livelihoods, food security and safety. We endorsed the ASEAN Guidelines on Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in Livestock and welcomed Singapore's initiative on the ASEAN Cooperation Activities for AMR in Aquaculture Sector.

9. We endorsed the ASEAN Public Private Partnership Regional Framework for Technology Development in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sector to increase collaborative investments in sustainable technology development, adoption and dissemination throughout whole value chain in the FAF sector in ASEAN.

10. We welcomed the development of the Second Volume of ASEAN Regional Guidelines for Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture Practices, covering integrated farming system, rice-shrimp farming, agricultural insurance and climate information services for agro-advisories and encourage its implementation by the ASEAN Member States.

11. We endorsed a collective ASEAN position to the United States Department of Agriculture calling for a science-based assessment of submitted position papers of affected ASEAN Member States to justify the retention carrageenan in its National List of Allowed Ingredients in processed products labelled as "organic" or "made with organic-specified ingredients or food groups", consistent with Appendix 3 (Permitted Additives, Processing Aids for Production of Organic Food) of the ASEAN Standard for Organic Agriculture (ASOA).

Forestry

12. We are pleased with the progress made by the ASEAN cooperation in forestry in the areas of enhancing Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), Forest Certification, Herbal and Medicinal Plants, Forest Products Development, Wildlife Enforcement and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), issues on

International Forest Policy Processes, Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG), Social Forestry as well as Forest and Climate Change.

13. We endorsed the revised ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests to promote sustainable forest management practices and to further the development of a healthier and more productive forest resources base.

14. We welcomed the development of the Manual for Assessing FLEG implementation in ASEAN and ASEAN Guidelines on Agro-Forestry as key deliverables for ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry for year 2018.

Fisheries

15. We are pleased with the progress made in the fishery sector, focusing on aquatic animal health management, combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, sustainable small-scale fisheries, resource rehabilitation and enhancement, climate change and fisheries, traceability of fisheries and aquaculture products, promotion of good aquaculture practices, and sustainable utilization and management of fisheries resources.

16. We endorsed the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme for Marine Capture Fisheries as a fisheries management tool for enhancing the traceability of fish and fishery products for intra- and inter- regional trade, and for preventing the entry of fish and fishery products from IUU fishing activities into the supply chain of ASEAN Member States.

Cooperation with Dialogue Partners and International Organisations

17. We are pleased that cooperation with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, particularly Australia, China, Germany, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Russia, has been further strengthened in the areas of food security, food safety and products quality, trade facilitation of agriculture, fisheries, and forestry products, sustainable forest management, and climate resiliency.

18. We also appreciated the valuable support extended by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and World Economic Forum (WEF) – Grow Asia Partnerships for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture, and Forestry 2016-2025.

The 40th AMAF Meeting

19. We agreed to convene the 40th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Meeting in Viet Nam in 2018.

20. We expressed our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government and People of Thailand for hosting the 39th 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, the Kingdom of Cambodia
- iii. H.E. Dr. A. Amran Sulaiman, Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Indonesia
- iv. H.E. Dr. Liane Thykeo, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao People's Democratic Republic
- v. H.E. Dato' Nogeh Anak Gumbek, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Malaysia
- vi. H.E. Dr. Aung Thu, Union Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Republic of the Union of Myanmar
- vii. H.E. Ariel Cayanan, Under Secretary for Operation of the Department of Agriculture, Republic of the Philippines
- viii. H.E. Dr. Koh Poh Koon, Senior Minister of State for National Development & Trade and Industry, Republic of Singapore
- ix. H.E. General Chatchai Sarikulya, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kingdom of Thailand
- x. H.E. Dr. Le Quoc Doanh, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
- xi. H.E. Lim Hong Hin, Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN