



**THE SEVENTH ASEAN-INDIA MINISTERIAL MEETING
ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY (the 7TH AIMMAF)
26 October 2022**

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

(Final)

1. The Seventh ASEAN India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry was held virtually on 26 October 2022. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Dr. Phet Phomphiphak, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR and H.E. Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare of India.
2. The Meeting noted the significant progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership, through the implementation of various programmes and activities across the three ASEAN Community pillars, based on the current Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2021-2025), and welcomed the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-India relations.
3. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring ASEAN-India cooperation in agriculture and forestry, which substantially contributes to deepening the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership and supports the ASEAN Community building efforts.
4. The Meeting reiterated its commitment to continue efforts to implement post-pandemic recovery measures to address the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring the unimpeded flow of safe and nutritious agricultural produce in the ASEAN and India region.
5. The Meeting noted the progress made in the implementation of the Medium-Term Plan of Action for ASEAN-India Cooperation in Agriculture and Forestry (2021-2025), namely: i) outlining priorities and measures to deepen the cooperation in agriculture and forestry, particularly the priority projects relating to the ASEAN-India fellowship for higher education in agriculture, ii) exchange visits for farmers in ASEAN and India, iii) climate-smart agriculture, iv) application of robotics and drones in agriculture production and electromagnetic waves in food processing, v) promotion of post-

harvest technology for fruits and vegetables, and vi) transboundary diseases and health management in agriculture.

6. The Meeting agreed to further strengthen and deepen collaboration in the priority areas to address climate change, sustainable agriculture, conservation and nature positive agriculture, climate-resilient agriculture, and sustainable soil management to ensure the sustainability of the agro-ecological system. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed the initiative on the Centrality of Soil in Agriculture and Environment to support the ASEAN Member States (AMS) in reducing the over-fertilization of agriculture through the improvement of soil health and the implementation of smart farming (e.g. soil health card).
7. The Meeting agreed to convene the 8th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry in 2024.
8. The Meeting expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government of India for the excellent arrangements made for the 7th AIMMAF Meeting.
