



**THIRTY SEVENTH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN MINISTERS ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
(37th AMAF)**

10 September 2015, Makati City, Philippines

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF), held our 37th Meeting on 10 September 2015 in Makati City, the Philippines, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Proceso J. Alcala, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture of the Philippines.

Moving Towards 2015 and Beyond

2. We were encouraged that ASEAN cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry significantly contributed to the successful realisation of the ASEAN Community 2015, with 90.9% of the measures related to food, agriculture and forestry under the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2015 have been implemented as of today. We are confident that the implementation of the remaining measures will be completed by December 2015.

3. Building upon the achievement of the ASEAN Community, we endorsed the Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2016-2025 to chart out directions for ASEAN cooperation in these areas in supporting the realization of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. Under this Strategic Plan, we envisioned *“A competitive, inclusive, resilient and sustainable Food, Agriculture, and Forestry (FAF) sectors integrated with the global economy, based on a single market and production base contributing to food and nutrition security, and prosperity in the ASEAN Community”*. This vision will be realised with comprehensive action programmes under seven (7) strategic thrusts, namely:

- i. Enhance quantity and quality of production with sustainable, ‘green’ technologies, resource management systems, and minimise pre- and post-harvest losses and waste;
- ii. Enhance trade facilitation, economic integration and market access;
- iii. Ensure food security, food safety, better nutrition and equitable distribution;
- iv. Increase resilience to climate change, natural disasters and other shocks;

- v. Assist resource constrained small producers and SMEs to improve productivity, technology and product quality, to meet global market standards and increase competitiveness;
- vi. Strengthen ASEAN joint approaches on international and regional issues affecting the FAF sector;
- vii. Promote sustainable forest management.

We envisioned that the implementation of action programmes under seven Strategic Thrusts will also contribute to the environmental stability.

4. We tasked our Senior Officials (SOM-AMAF) and the subsidiary bodies under AMAF to work out the concrete plans of actions and measures to implement this Strategic Plan. In this regard, we appreciated the contribution and support extended to ASEAN by various Dialogue/Development Partners and International Organisations, including the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the German Government through GIZ, the Swiss Government through the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and the European Union through the ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU (ARISE) Programme, in the development of this Strategic Plan.

5. We noted the on-going process of streamlining the existing organizational structure and mechanism under AMAF to support the next stage of ASEAN's integration efforts beyond 2015, with the objective to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation and realization of *Vision and Strategic Plan of Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2016-2025*. We tasked SOM-AMAF to complete the process and present the proposed streamlined structure and mechanism at the next AMAF meeting for our consideration and endorsement.

Food Security Arrangements

6. We reiterated our commitment to ensure sufficient supply of safe and nutritious food for the region through the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Food Security (SPA-FS) 2015-2020. We further acknowledged that ensuring supply of sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious food that meets the dietary requirements of the increasing population of the ASEAN continues to be a major future challenge for the region. In this regard, we issued the *Statement of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry on Food Security and Nutrition*, which sets out the key strategies for action at both the national and regional levels to effectively address the present and emerging threats to food security and to meet adequate nutrition for all populations in ASEAN.

7. We encouraged closed collaboration and partnership with dialogue partners, development partners and international organisations to foster coordination and implementation of activities under the AIFS Framework and SPA-FS 2015 – 2020 to address emerging threats of food security and promote a common and unified position to ensure sustainable food security and nutrition in the region.

Cooperation on Sectoral and Priority Issues

8. We commended our officials for further achievements made in the harmonisation of standards and development of ASEAN guidelines to ensure safe and good quality agriculture produce and to facilitate ASEAN trade of these produce. In this regard, we endorsed the following documents: (i) Intra-ASEAN Phytosanitary Guidelines for the importation of durian fruit and coffee bean for consumption;(ii) ASEAN Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for 5 pesticides, i.e. carbosulfan in eggplants, carbofuran in eggplant, fipronil in basil leaves, buprofezin in basil leaves, and buprofezin in stinking;(iii) ASEAN standards for dragon fruit, green mustard, spinach, water convolvulus, Chinese cabbage and fresh shiitake mushroom;(iv) Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Coordination Centre for Animal Health and Zoonosis (ACCAHZ); (v) Certificate of Approval of the Veterinary Biologics Assay Division (VBAD), Pakchong, Thailand; (vi) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Responsible Movement of Live Aquatic Animal in ASEAN; and (vii) Template on the Arrangement of the Equivalence of Fishery Products Inspection and Certification Systems (viii) ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain; (ix) ASEAN Regional Guidelines for Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture Practices; (x) ASEAN Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of the Ochratoxin A (OTA) Contamination in Cocoa Beans. We supported the promotion of organic agriculture in the region and agreed that the activities under the Strategic Plan of Action on Organic Agriculture should continue to be implemented under the existing mechanisms or working group.

9. We were pleased that various activities had been implemented to enhance capacity building and strengthening of agricultural cooperatives through sharing of knowledge, exchange visits, development of marketing chain system, development of business networks through strategic alliances projects, as well as through training and extension activities, such as the Training of Trainers on Meat and Dairy Products held on 14-26 September 2014 in the Small Ruminant Centre, the Philippines; the Seminar on Developing Young Farmers Entrepreneurs towards Commercializing the Agricultural Sector held on 24-28 November 201, in Kajang, Malaysia; and the Exchange Visit of Officials, Trainers and Farmers on Food Safety and Farm Accreditation to be held on 19-24 October 2015 to share information and experiences on food safety and farm accreditation in agriculture production.

10. We acknowledged the significant progress made in the forestry sector, particularly in (i) Promoting Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), (ii) International Forest Policy Process (iii) Timber Certification Initiative (v) Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (v) Herbal and Medicinal as well as forest products development (vi) Wildlife enforcement and CITES Cooperation (vii) Forest and Climate Change (viii) Social Forestry and (ix) Capacity Building Activities.

11. We welcomed the conduct of the Study on Mutual Recognition Models for the ASEAN Agricultural Best Practices under the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program Phase II to analyse the best options for the implementation of accreditation and certification mechanisms of the endorsed ASEAN standards and

agricultural best practices, namely: ASEAN Good Agricultural Practices (ASEAN GAP), ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices (ASEAN GAqP), ASEAN Good Animal Husbandry Practice (ASEAN GAHP), and ASEAN Standard on Organic Agriculture (ASOA). We encouraged closed collaboration with ASEAN Dialogue Partners for implementation of these ASEAN standards and best practices in the region.

12. We recognised that following the conclusion of the US-MARKET project in June 2015, Indonesia will serve as an interim secretariat for the ASEAN Public Private Taskforce on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture to continue the work of the taskforce through public private partnership among AMS.

13. We noted various activities related to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) carried out by the existing ASEAN mechanisms under AMAF, AEM, and ASEAN-DP FTAs. The activities are intended to ensure ASEAN agriculture products and commodities are safe and of high quality for consumption, which are key conditions towards ensuring success in both domestic and international trade, as well as to ensure consumer health.

14. We continued our support to promote competitiveness and to upgrade the quality and safety of ASEAN agricultural and forestry products through the implementation of Memorandum of Understanding on ASEAN Cooperation and Joint Approaches in Agriculture and Forest Products Promotion Scheme (2015-2019).

Moving Together with Partners towards 2015

15. We expressed appreciation to various Dialogue Partners and International Organisations for their valuable assistance and support extended for ASEAN cooperation on food, agriculture and forestry, particularly Australia, China, the European Commission, Germany, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, and the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF).

16. We were pleased with the progress made in the World Economic Forum (WEF) – Grow Asia Partnerships to enable sustainable and inclusive agricultural development in ASEAN countries through the implementation of annual plan 2015-2016, and requested WEF to collaborate with relevant working groups under AMAF for implementation.

17. We acknowledged the existing collaboration between individual ASEAN Member State and IFAD to support strengthening their integration of agri-food systems at the regional level, promoting co-investment and payments for environmental services and welcomed the collaboration with IFAD at the regional level, especially in supporting the implementation of AIFS Framework and SPA-FS 2016-2020. In this connection, we noted with appreciation EU's support to ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry.

18. We also welcomed collaboration with OECD on the development of regional integrated policies to support policy development in enhancing food security, food safety and trade of agricultural and forest products between ASEAN and OECD countries.

The 38th AMAF Meeting

19. We agreed to convene the 38th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Meeting in Singapore in 2016.

20. We expressed our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government and People of the Republic of the Philippines for hosting the 37th AMAF Meeting and for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

The Meeting was attended by:

- i. H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam
- ii. H.E. Dr. Ouk Rabun, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia
- iii. Mr. Hari Priyono, Secretary General, Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia
- iv. H.E. Dr. Phouang Parisak Pravongviengkham, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR
- v. H.E. Dato' Sri Ahmad Shabery Cheek, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia
- vi. H.E. U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
- vii. H.E. Proceso J. Alcala, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Philippines
- viii. Ms. Tan Poh Hong, Chief Executive Officer, Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority, Singapore
- ix. Dr. Wimol Jantrarotai, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand
- x. H.E. Dr. Le Quoc Doanh, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam
- xi. H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary General of ASEAN