

# **ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2011-2015)**



one vision  
one identity  
one community





**ASEAN FRAMEWORK ACTION PLAN ON RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION  
(2011-2015)**

The ASEAN Secretariat  
Jakarta

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# PART I: INTRODUCTION, CONTEXT, AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

## BACKGROUND

1. Poverty eradication is a goal of the ASEAN which is being addressed in each of the three pillars of the ASEAN Community. The agenda of poverty eradication is one of the ASEAN's purposes as stipulated in Article 1 of the ASEAN Charter: "To alleviate poverty and narrow the development gap within ASEAN through mutual assistance and cooperation." The ASEAN Socio- Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint aimed at addressing socio-cultural disparities and poverty that persist across ASEAN Member States, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of eradicating poverty. Poverty in Southeast Asia is largely rural. Many of the poor are in the agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors. It is estimated that 70 per cent of the poor in South-East Asia live in rural areas. The growing urban poverty is rooted out of rural poverty (ADB).
2. As an ASEAN goal, poverty eradication is being addressed by the ASEAN Ministers and Senior Officials Meetings on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE and SOMRDPE) through the implementation of its two medium-term Framework Action Plans. It is also being addressed, to a certain extent, by the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) through the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM AMAF). Among others, the SOM AMAF has developed the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework - Strategic Plan of Action 2009-2013 towards addressing the long-term food security in the ASEAN region. Most recently, the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change was developed to facilitate ASEAN response to the global threat of climate change and food security. The AFCC, along with its focus on the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors, pursues a cross-sectoral programme approach for effective policy making and implementation.
3. ASEAN works with its Dialogue Partners, UN Agencies, international and regional organisations, and other stakeholders such as civil society organisations and the private sector. Their various contributions to rural development and poverty eradication goals in the region are building blocks towards the successful

implementation of the ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication.

4. SOMRDPE was established in 1997 and formulated the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 1999-2004 which was adopted at the Inaugural AMRDPE in October 1997. On 20 June 2003 the ASEAN Session on Revitalising Cooperation on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication was convened and recommended new priorities in the new ASEAN Framework Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication for 2004-2010. This framework plan has guided the work of the SOMRDPE during the period ending 2010. The 7th SOMRDPE on 26-27 January 2011 in Bangkok agreed that a new Framework Action Plan for the period of 2011-2015 needs to be developed.
5. The new Framework Action Plan aims to assist ASEAN Member States (AMS) in achieving the ASCC goals as reflected on the relevant Strategic Objectives and Action Lines of the ASCC Blueprint which was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at their 15th Summit in October 2009. It also aims to assist the AMS in their collaboration on RDPE, reaffirming the core elements of the ASCC's Plan of Action of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP 2004-2010), which aims to build a community of caring and sharing societies to address issues of poverty, equity and human development; manage the social impact of economic integration by building a competitive human resource base and adequate systems of social protection; enhance environmental sustainability and sound environmental governance; and strengthen the foundations of regional social cohesion towards an ASEAN Community.
6. This ASEAN Framework Plan of Action on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication for 2011-2015 (FAP) is with a backdrop of key regional challenges and trends outlines the priorities, strategic thrusts specific plan of action and operational strategies for the coming 5-year period.
7. The formulation of this FAP was participated by SOMRDPE Focal Points/representatives, private sector and CSO organisations from ASEAN Member States through national consultations and submission of written inputs between the period June and August 2011. Further inputs from ASEAN Member States were solicited during the Regional Workshop on the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication held on 29-30 September 2011 at the ASEAN Secretariat. The purposes of utilizing a participatory approach to the draft are the following:



- a) Mobilise the RDPE mechanisms of AMS and various stakeholders towards the implementation of the priority strategic thrusts identified in the new FAP 2011-2015;
- b) Strengthen the role of the SOMRDPE in the overall ASEAN efforts of poverty eradication under the socio-cultural pillar;
- c) Enhance the participation of CSOs and the private sector in the achievement of the goals and objectives of this framework action plan in recognition of their growing role in rural development and poverty eradication.

## **VISION**

8. AMRDPE and SOMRDPE are committed towards eradicating poverty, with particular emphasis on promoting the development of progressive, prosperous, and self-reliant rural communities, and thus contribute towards creating a caring society in ASEAN Member States.

## **GOAL**

9. This FAP aimed at supporting the sustainable development of rural areas and contributing to the eradication of rural poverty and food insecurity in the ASEAN region.

## **OBJECTIVES**

10. This FAP shall result to:
  - a. Improved rural poor households' access to and/or control of productive natural resources, financial and support services, and to social protection as a foundation to building capable, resilient and self-sustaining households and communities;
  - b. Enhanced policy making, programming, and implementation through the development of technologies and tools, use of researches and studies, and promotion of best practices on rural development and poverty eradication among AMS and other stakeholders;
  - c. Strengthened convergence of rural development and poverty eradication initiatives at the local, national, and regional levels through improved

coordination mechanisms, policy coherence, and the effective localization of RDPE programmes and actions.

## GUIDING REFERENCES

11. This FAP is guided by the following:

- a. Declaration of ASEAN Concord signed in February 1976 in Bali, Indonesia, which called for the elimination of poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy is a primary concern, and resolving to intensify cooperation in economic and social development, with particular emphasis on the promotion of social justice and on the improvement of the living standards of the people in ASEAN;
- b. The purposes and principles of ASEAN as well as the ASEAN mechanisms as stipulated in the ASEAN Charter which came into force on 15 December 2008. In particular, Article 1 of the ASEAN Charter calls AMS to alleviate poverty and narrow the development gap within ASEAN through mutual assistance and cooperation;
- c. The relevant Strategic Objective and Action Lines in the ASCC Blueprint which task the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies to improve the quality of life of the peoples of ASEAN by ensuring social justice, improving the quality of and access to social services and working towards the reduction of poverty;
- d. ASEAN Roadmap for the Attainment of MDGs which highlighted the importance of advocacy, sharing of knowledge, resources and expertise, as well as fostering regional cooperation with various stakeholders to support the achievement of national and regional goals in rural development and poverty. The Roadmap was developed as a follow-up action to the Joint Declaration on the Attainment of MGDs in ASEAN adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 14th ASEAN Summit on 1 March 2009 in Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand.
- e. Relevant international commitments that ASEAN Member States are parties to, including: the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); 1995 Beijing Platform of Action; 1996 Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action; 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; 1995 Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development;

Principles of the 1996 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development; and 1996 Istanbul Declaration at the Second United Nations Conference of Human Settlements (Habitat II);

- f. Strong recognition that empowerment and active participation of rural population, particularly of the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, plays a critical role in rural development within the framework of national development strategy, structure and system of AMS.

## **THE CONTEXT: POVERTY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

12. IFAD in its Rural Poverty Report 2011 (IFAD Poverty Report 2011) reported that 53% of the total population in Southeast Asia, with a population of around 569 million, lives poverty with less US\$2 a day. Around 18% of the total population lives in extreme poverty with less than US\$1.25 a day. Rural population is 54% of the total or around 306 million. Incidence of poverty in the rural areas is higher at 62% and the bulk of the poor are located in the rural areas. According to the World Bank (WB), Southeast Asia is second only to sub-Saharan Africa in the percentage of its people who live in poverty, and, with its larger total population, the number of impoverished people is actually higher than Africa's.
13. Those with access to resources or equipped with skills have been in a better position to make use of the opportunities brought by economic growth. The benefits of double digit growth should have percolated to the economically disadvantaged sections of society, which has not happened. Access to meaningful and affordable education, for one, continues to be an issue, and lack of physical infrastructure makes it difficult for the hinterland to be integrated with the market economy.
14. Maternal death ratio is high at 3 deaths per 100 pregnant mothers and infant mortality rate at 5 deaths for every 100 newly born infants. There has been a resurgence of tuberculosis as the top killer contagious disease. The World Health Organization estimated that there are 4.88 million prevalent cases and an annual incidence of 3.17 million TB cases. Southeast Asia carries onethird of the total global burden of TB disease.
15. Most of the malnourished children in the world live in Asia—not only due to the large population, but because Asia has the highest rates of malnutrition anywhere. Whether measured by low birth weight, child growth failure, women's malnutrition,

anemia, or other micronutrient deficiencies, much of the Asian population is badly affected. Chronic under-nutrition accounts for a large proportion of child deaths, mental disability, and lost productivity among earning Asians.

16. The limited rural economic opportunities within some of ASEAN Member States pushed increases in migration of skilled and unskilled labor from within Southeast Asia and or to other regions in the globe. In 2005 the UN estimated the population of migrants in the region at 5.6 million of whom probably more than 4 million are economically-active. Labor outflows reported by some countries of origin have recently been growing at about 6 percent a year, much faster than the growth of their labor force. Although, labor migration is related to economic limitations in the rural areas, migration has evidently contributed to the dynamism of the regional economies. Remittances sent by nationals of ASEAN Member States may already have exceeded US\$ 10 billion in 2005. These remittances have enabled migrants' families (most of whom come from low income) get out of poverty.
17. Private sector investments in agriculture have been increasing in Asia. Governments are partly responsible for this trend by providing policy and fiscal incentives with the view of improving local agriculture economy and reducing poverty. Unfortunately, the assumption that there is abundant unused land for agriculture development is unfounded. Increased land investments are putting great pressure on fertile, cultivable lands. Most of these investments have resulted to the conversion of agriculture, forest and foreshore lands into plantations, and commercial and industrial centres. Moreover, these agricultural investments, when unregulated, tend to undermine land occupants in the way deals are contracted, the type of agricultural production adopted and the technologies employed.
18. The number of poor and informal settlers in urban and urbanizing areas is growing, squeezing further scarce resources for the need to expand services for physical development, housing, safe water, electricity, sanitation and other services.

## **REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION TRENDS**

19. The Southeast Asian economic growth rate during the past 25 years averaged about 5.0 per cent per year, while the corresponding figures for Asia and the

world were about 3.9 per cent and 2.6 per cent respectively. Historically, growth has accompanied rapid poverty reduction, especially in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam. These achievements have not, however been uniform across countries in the region.

20. Uneven wealth distribution in the region has definite topographic dimensions, with geographical conditions, level of infrastructural development, and characteristics of economic sectors and labor markets shaping poverty patterns. Irrespective of the national income levels, poverty is consistently higher in rural areas than in urban areas in most of ASEAN Member States, with the highest incidence in remote, upland areas where ethnic communities live. Income disparities have become more differentiated across ASEAN Member States.
21. The progressive deterioration of farming income and its effects on rural economies is causing the disappearance of many family farms. Migration to urban areas and cities is a growing phenomenon and unless governments are able to offer alternatives to fight rural poverty, we foresee the dying of small holder and family agriculture which is the basis of a more sustainable food production system aimed towards food security and food sovereignty. Family farming is essential to sound environmental management of land and its biodiversity, the fountain of important cultural dimensions of rural peoples' lives.
22. Governance has been undergoing changes and reforms that respond to the increasing demand for accountability and greater challenge in the delivery of better services. The fiscal shocks brought about by the financial crisis have driven member states towards better, efficient, effective and accountable governance. The dramatic rise in public debts which have squeezed public spending also pushed governments to assume more responsibility in the protection of the low-income and vulnerable groups. Members are now more compelled to ensure that public policies regulating economic activities are effective in the face of increasing globalization of markets and trade. Furthermore, the socio-economic and political landscape in Southeast Asia has rapidly changed – demography and the growth of the middle class, urbanization and the globally connected media has ushered new political context and greater citizens' vigilance and activism.
23. Although agriculture share to the GDP of most ASEAN Member States is small, ASEAN agriculture continues to be a major source of employment in many

ASEAN Member States as substantial segment of many ASEAN countries natural productive resources are devoted to agricultural production. The natural productive resources, land, coastal/marine and forest resources are still largely inaccessible to many of the poor in the rural areas while there is a growing scarcity and deterioration of these productive resources which received less government attention. In the competition for the utilization of natural productive resources, agricultural food production has experienced the greater losses vis-à-vis, industry for raw materials, biofuels and demands for urbanization, spatial physical requirements and housing. For years, agriculture received less public investments, with weak domestic markets, poor rural infrastructure, inaccessible financial services, inadequate agricultural extension services and deteriorating natural resource base all contributed to the creation of an unfavorable environment that exposed small-scale farmers to too many risks, making them uncompetitive and unprofitable when they engaged with markets.

24. Rural communities, farmers, fishers and indigenous peoples are confronted with the threats of “mega projects” to include dams, mining, contract farming that would dislocate and displace them from their homes and livelihoods and destroy the immediate environment and natural productive resources. Rural communities have raised the issue of their compliance to social, cultural, environmental impact assessments, their rights to participate in the decision making processes involved and the periodic review of these mega-projects whether these have help eradicate poverty or increase the number of people in poverty.
25. Similar to the situation of urban poor communities, a significant number of rural poor are informal settlers. They built temporary shelters on lands that they do not own and are located in disaster prone areas with no access to electricity, safe water and sanitation facilities.
26. Coupled with low agricultural performance and productivity, many of the of the rural poor who have no access to natural productive resources and markets find very few opportunities in the non-farm rural economy either for wage employment or self employment that can provide them with a way out of poverty. With extreme difficulties finding non-farm opportunities, many of the rural youths are driven out of the rural communities to find livelihood options in the urbanizing and urban areas. Thus agricultural production is now increasingly under the older generations of farmers and agricultural workers.

27. There is a growing recognition and increasing utilization of sustainable agriculture technologies and methodologies among small holder agriculture in Southeast Asia. Experiences have shown that the utilization of sustainable agricultural practices have decreased production costs, reduced small holders' dependence on external fossil fuel-based chemical inputs, reduced negative impacts on the environment and contribute to better health among farmers who have limited knowledge and resources for protection against exposures to poisonous agricultural chemicals. There, however, remains the absence of clear-cut policies and increased investment in support of sustainable agriculture in most countries.
28. During the recent economic crisis, prices doubled and triggered devastating effects to the poor and the reversal of the years of all poverty alleviation efforts. Worst hit were the poor and vulnerable groups, especially women and children in food deficit areas. It was estimated that more than 100 million poor around the globe were pushed into the global hunger. The food price crisis is still a threat as food prices remained volatile.
29. Climate change has seriously affected agricultural performance and most aspects of the livelihood of the poor and limits rural and agricultural development options for the future. In the last few years, ASEAN countries have experienced an increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather resulting to droughts, floods and tropical cyclones exposing the poor and vulnerable groups to more risks. In particular, there is alarm over the vulnerability of coastal areas, fishers' communities and the fisheries sector to climate change. The 2020 scenario leading to further rise in sea level, further increased warming of sea surface temperature and more extreme weather events can greatly damage coastal ecosystems and displacement of fishing communities.
30. Trend of private sector investments in the region was increasing against a backdrop of increased agribusiness investments all over the world. ASEAN investment policies such as those under the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) are primarily geared towards increased liberalization. There are no safeguards and encompassing regulatory framework on investments in ASEAN and among Member States.

31. Current policies and programmes on trade liberalization of fishery products have not protected men and women in small-scale fisheries and instead give biased protection to investments that resulted to overfishing and further degradation of fishery resources.

## KEY CHALLENGES

32. Economic growth is an important instrument in poverty reduction. However, it only leads to a general improvement in the standards of living and a reduction of poverty if there is an accompanying accountable structure to ensure redistribution of the profits. The quality of growth is important given the overwhelmingly rural nature of poverty in Southeast Asia. There should be specific measures to ensure that economic growth contribute to rural poverty reduction and rural economy; e.g. improving access of the rural poor to opportunities, productive resources, capacity-building for a variety of livelihoods, investments in health and education and rural enterprises,.etc. that would complement and boosts domestic trade, exports and the over-all economic growth.

33. The current changes and reforms in government driven by demand for better services, efficient, effective and accountable governance, and squeezed financial resources due to rising debts provide a greater opportunity for multistakeholders partnership and joint cooperation between and among government agencies, private sector and civil society organizations towards the institutionalization of innovative delivery of health, capacity-building, on-farm and off farm services for the rural poor and smallholder agriculture.

34. An important regional priority relevant to cooperation on rural development and poverty eradication is ASEAN's own process of closer regional integration. Narrowing the development gap remains an important task which will ensure that the benefits of ASEAN's integration efforts are fully realized. Efforts to narrow the development gap should be aligned with the broader aspects of ASEAN's integration initiatives. With the acceleration of the realization of the ASEAN Community to 2015, these efforts have become even more urgent.

35. Agriculture remains to be the single-largest employer of the rural economy and therefore an important component in rural development and poverty eradication. SOM AMAF has initiated various measures that would help improve agriculture and enhance domestic as well as export agricultural trade. SOMRDPE can play a pivotal role in helping small-holder agriculture remove some of the risks by



facilitating links and access to markets, improve competitiveness by enhancing their bargaining capacities in the value chain including technical support in complying with market standards on product quality, food safety and other requirements. Profitable agricultural production by small-holder agriculture is seen to provide incentives for small-enterprises, generate rural employment and attract participation of the rural youth.

36. The growing deterioration and degradation of natural productive resources and the commons contributes to the increasing risks and vulnerability of rural communities. This requires localized interventions that should be able to mobilize local communities' participation in conservation and protection as stewards and managers of these important resources.
37. Food prices remained volatile. International food prices remained high and the crisis is still not over. In addressing long-term food security, the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework has laid down the scope and joint pragmatic approaches for cooperation among ASEAN Member States. This FAP on RDPE recognize the important initiatives SOM AMAF and the health sector, among others, in the improvement of the health status of the poor and vulnerable groups. The primary responsibility of improving access to rice as the ASEAN staple, through production, distribution and trade lies with the ASEAN Economic Community and SOM AMAF. SOMRDPE's primary role lies in building the resiliency of the poor and vulnerable groups against soaring food prices, malnutrition and food deficits. The challenge includes the production of a diverse food base that help ease out too much pressure in the production of rice. Diversified food crop production prevents rice-dominated diet and promotes consumption of diverse food that contributes to better health and nutrition.
38. Changes in rainfall patterns, extended dry periods, floods and the unpredictability of weather have seriously affected agricultural production and most of the livelihood of the rural poor. The ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change (AFCC) has laid down the over-all goal and framework on coordination and cooperation in the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation. This multi-sectoral framework covers agriculture sector in coordination with the environment, health and energy sectors. The AFCC is closely linked with the related issues on food security and the utilization of land, forest, water and aquatic resources. SOMRDPE's role on this regard lies in

building climate change resilient communities that are able reduce vulnerability to disasters and adapt measures that would help shield them from the negative impacts of climate change.

## OPTIONS AND STRATEGIC THRUSTS

39. The strategic thrusts for this FAP are geared towards overcoming the current challenges in rural development and poverty reduction are as follows:

- a) Support and promote initiatives to improve the rural poor's access to productive natural resources (marine, land, water, forests, seeds) for sustainable utilization, conservation and protection as well as improve access to financing and other support services.
- b) Promote greater interventions that would enhance men and women small-holder competitiveness, improve market access, enhance their bargaining position in the value chains of agricultural commodities and in building capacities to comply with market requirements and product standards. Small holder agricultural producers are the weakest stakeholder in any given agricultural value chain and vulnerable to exploitation and price manipulations by dominant and large players in the supply chain. A stronger position of small holders will level the playing field.
- c) Support and promote public (government) bulk purchases and procurements of agricultural products from organized rural and agricultural groups, rural/agricultural cooperatives and women and men farmers associations by creating public and farmers groups partnerships and building their capacities and creating local mechanisms and systems necessary for them to maximize available opportunities.
- d) Advocate food crop cultivation diversification strategies in agricultural production systems especially in resource poor and food deficit areas to include not only rice, but production of traditional food crops (white corn flint, cassava, sweet potato, taro and other root crops and tubers, cooking bananas, beans, high-nutrient/high protein vegetables, etc.) to supplement rice and prepare communities in the advent of rice shortages or soaring

prices of rice. This strategic thrust supports the AIFS SPA's call to include other important food crops as supplemental staple food in the implementation of the AIFS Framework and SPA to achieve food security and good nutrition.

- e) Advocate appropriate agricultural technologies and sustainable crop production intensification (SCPI)<sup>1</sup> as promoted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This means a productive agriculture that conserves and enhances natural resources and uses ecosystem approach that draws on nature's contribution to crop growth and application of appropriate external inputs at the right amount, in the right time.
- f) Support the development of rural productivity through the creation of sustainable rural livelihoods e.g. cottage industries and renewable smallscale energy technologies, towards creating vibrant rural socio-economies.
- g) Disseminate information and improve the knowledge, skills and competence of rural communities in appropriate climate change agricultural and livelihood adaptation and mitigation measures.
- h) To continue the development of a regional volunteer program and exchanges in the field of rural development and rural poverty eradication, with priority to the participation of the rural youth.
- i) Recognition of excellent organizations and leaders at the forefront of rural development and poverty eradication and documentation of best practices as input to policy and program development.
- j) Promote mechanisms for institutionalized participation of small-scale producers and CSOs working on rural development in RDPE processes.
- k) Promote mechanisms for localization of RDPE programs; Building capacity of civil society organizations in social services delivery and in facilitating and intensifying local community and/or local government roles in social safety and protection; transforming communities with strong self-reliance and resilience within the community, and where social services are accessible at the community level.

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<sup>1</sup> The management of ecosystem for SCPI is based on a set of principles that help to address the multiple dimensions of sustainability. [http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/corethemes/ theme/spi/scpi-home/framework/tools-and-guidelines-for-scpi/en/](http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/corethemes/theme/spi/scpi-home/framework/tools-and-guidelines-for-scpi/en/)

- l) Develop human resources that would propel the implementation of rural development and poverty eradication initiatives focusing on young farmers and rural women.
  
- m) Develop effective policy measures for improving social safety/protection measures with priority to the agricultural and rural sectors; and facilitate exchanges and policy discussion on innovating financial instruments to address new risks associated with efforts of small-scale producers to engage in value-chains e.g. “smart subsidy” scheme.

## PART II. PRIORITY AREAS

40. This FAP outlines the following five (5) components which have taken into consideration the emerging realities, trends and key challenges facing the region and has identified the following strategic thrusts and programme actions under five critical components, namely:

### Component 1: Sustainable Rural Development and Rural Economic Growth

#### **Strategic Thrust 1:**

Promotion of redistributive reforms in the ownership, access, control and management of the productive natural resources by the poor for food production and the efficient delivery of needed support services.

##### **Programme of Action 1.1**

##### **Country Coordinator: T.B.C**

Convene a regional forum of information sharing on the existing rural household's ownership; access, control and management of natural (forest and coastal) resources; bio-fuel promotion; and support services.

##### **Programme of Action 1.2**

##### **Country Coordinator: Thailand**

Conduct an ASEAN Regional Expo on Community Products (e.g. agricultural products, handicrafts, etc).

#### **Strategic Thrust 2:**

Cooperation on alternative financing for family farming and small-holder agriculture competitiveness, including the livestock and fisheries sectors.

##### **Programme of Action 2.1**

##### **Country Coordinator: Singapore**

Promote small-scale entrepreneurship / franchise products in collaboration with the relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, such as those handling women and youth

(e.g. the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs' Network which is being established by the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW)).

### **Programme of Action 2.2**

#### **Country Coordinator: Lao PDR**

Work towards establishing a regional network of microcredit / microfinance institutions and farmers' banks.

## **Component 2: Food Security and Food Sovereignty amidst Climate Change<sup>2</sup>**

### **Strategic Thrust 3:**

Cooperation on food crop cultivation diversification strategies in agricultural production systems that help build resiliency against rice deficits, soaring food prices and disasters and malnutrition.

### **Programme of Action 3.1**

#### **Country Coordinator: Viet Nam**

Undertake a regional study to document the existing climate change risk reduction and adaptation strategies in agriculture in ASEAN Member States aiming at piloting food crop cultivation diversification strategies.

### **Programme of Action 3.2**

#### **Country Coordinator: The Philippines**

Undertake a regional study to take stock and review responsive policies/strategies aiming at strengthening social protection floor to safeguard poor people/farmers from the risk of rice price spike which is potentially increasing due to climate change and natural disasters. The study will look into strategies to lower risks of food crisis and price spike. The study will analyse the linkages of the issues of hunger, food insecurity, and increasing vulnerability of the poor as a risk of rice price spike in future.

The study result can be discussed in a regional forum bringing together relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, international organisations, and other stakeholders. The study result will be published for information sharing.

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<sup>2</sup> Collaborate with SOM-AMAF on the climate change risk reduction programme for agricultural sector under the umbrella of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework-Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) 2009-2013.

## **Strategic Thrust 4:**

Improvement of knowledge, skills and competence of stakeholders in climate change adaptation.

### **Programme of Action 4.1**

#### **Country Coordinator: Myanmar**

Promote, in collaboration with the ministries of education and environment, studies and strengthen curricula on climate change, food security and agriculture in universities / faculties of agriculture.

### **Programme of Action 4.2**

#### **Country Coordinator: Myanmar**

Encourage the participation of ASEAN Member States in the existing trainings within and outside the region aimed at improving knowledge, skills and competence of stakeholders, especially rural women, on climate change adaptation strategies in agriculture and food security.

### **Programme of Action 4.3**

#### **Country Coordinator: Viet Nam**

Promote trainings to improve food production and agriculture competitiveness amidst challenges of climate change in collaboration with SOM-AMAF, particularly with its AWGATE in developing the proposed ASEAN people's field school.

## **Component 3: Social Protection and Safety Nets**

### **Strategic Thrust 5:**

Promotion of effective policies and programmes to improve social safety/ protection measures for agricultural workers including livestock workers and fishers, rural migrant workers and informal sectors.

### **Programme of Action 5.1**

#### **Country Coordinator: Viet Nam**

Undertake a regional study on different models of crops insurance aiming at identifying best practices, challenges (e.g. scale, ability to pay fees, monitoring mechanism), alternative agricultural and crops insurance, strategies to attract insurance companies to invest more on crops insurance, and strategies to leverage community-based funds to sustain crops insurance programmes.

The study is to be combined with a multi-stakeholder forum on this topic which will bring together government officials, insurance companies, and farmers' groups.

### **Programme of Action 5.2**

#### **Country Coordinator: Indonesia and The Philippines**

Conduct a capacity building programme to strengthen local governments' accountability in delivering social safety net / social protection programmes for rural communities that are responsive to local priorities and implemented through a participatory approach and inter-ministerial cooperation (e.g. PNPM Mandiri of Indonesia, KALAH I of the Philippines).

## **Component 4: Development of Infrastructure and Human Resources in Rural Areas**

### **Strategic Thrust 6:**

Optimum use of various forms of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as an important tool for rural development and poverty eradication.

#### **Programme of Action 6.1**

##### **Country Coordinator: Malaysia**

Convene a regional workshop aiming at sharing strategies to improve the content of broadcast media, radio or other suitable forms of ICT, especially in the CMLV countries, as an effective means of meeting the needs of local small-scale farmers, fishers, and their families in rural communities.

### **Strategic Thrust 7:**

Capacity building of the village leaders, rural youth and women towards more active participation in developing livelihood and income generating activities in the communities.

#### **Programme of Action 7.1**

##### **Country Coordinator: Malaysia**

Convene forums for sharing of best practices and knowledge, policy discussion; trainings; and exchange visits aiming at promoting informal sector, SMEs, entrepreneurship, micro credit schemes, micro equity, alternative schemes to micro finance schemes and agricultural loans, assets reform.



## **Strategic Thrust 8:**

Promotion of effective policies and strategies on infrastructure development contributing to livelihood of small farmers and people living in remote areas.

### **Programme of Action 8.1**

#### **Country Coordinator: Malaysia**

Convene a regional forum with development agencies to discuss strategies to promote constructions of infrastructures that give impacts to small farmers and people living in remote areas, and its sustainability plan.

## **Component 5: Constituency Building for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication**

## **Strategic Thrust 9:**

Development of an ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Leadership Awards as a regular feature of AMRDPE.

### **Programme of Action 9.1**

#### **Country Coordinator: Host country of the AMRDPE in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat and AsiaDHRRA**

Create an ASEAN RDPE Leadership Awards to recognise the contribution of NGOs to poverty eradication and rural development as a regular event of the AMRDPE starting from the 8th AMRDPE in 2013 in Indonesia.

## **Strategic Thrust 10:**

Promotion of volunteer movement in ASEAN focusing on sharing good practices on rural development and poverty eradication based on indigenous knowledge and cultures.

### **Programme of Action 10.1**

#### **Country Coordinator: Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam**

Develop an ASEAN volunteer exchange programme in rural development and poverty eradication.

## **Strategic Thrust 11:**

Promotion of mechanisms for institutionalized participation of small-scale farmers and fishers, private sector and CSOs in ASEAN RDPE processes.

### **Programme of Action 11.1**

#### **Country Coordinator: Host country of the SOMRDPE in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat**

Convene an ASEAN GO-NGO Forum as a platform for dialogue and sharing information among governments and NGOs towards closer relations and cooperation on shared RDPE agenda. The Forum will be convened annually back-to-back with the regular meetings of the SOMRDPE. Viet Nam expressed its readiness to host the First Forum will be convened back-to-back with the 9<sup>th</sup> SOMRDPE in 2012.

## **Strategic Thrust 12:**

Promotion of private sector's investment and social responsibility and philanthropists in rural areas which will reinforce the implementation of Component 1.

### **Programme of Action 12.1**

#### **Country Coordinator: Viet Nam**

Convene a regional forum of dialogue between government officials and private sector on the promotion of social responsibility of the private sector in poverty reduction and rural development within countries and beyond borders.

## **Component 6: Monitoring and Evaluation of the Poverty Reduction in the Region**

## **Strategic Thrust 13:**

Work towards the establishment of an ASEAN Statistics on Poverty.

### **Programme of Action 13.1**

#### **Country Coordinator: Brunei Darussalam**

Convene a regional workshop to discuss the development of regional statistics on poverty in collaboration with ACSS and UNDP by taking into account the UNDP's multidimensional measures of poverty. The Workshop will be convened back-to-back with the cross-sectoral workshop on MDGs in 2012 in collaboration with UNDP.

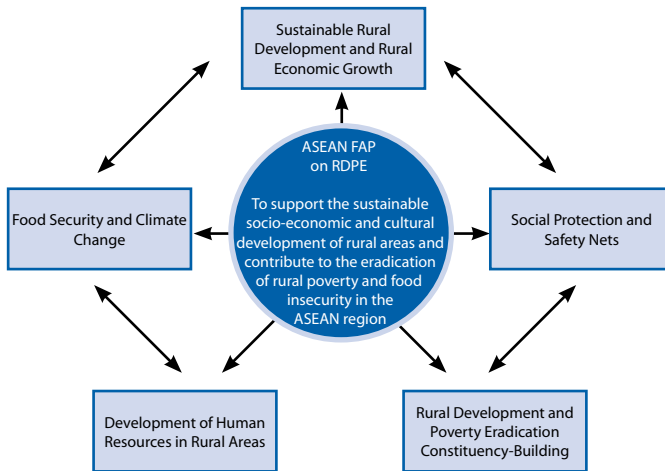
## **Programme of Action 13.2**

### **Coordinator: The ASEAN Secretariat**

Publish a qualitative assessment report of MDG attainment in ASEAN Member States based on the data in the biennial ASEAN MDG Statistical Report led by ACSS.

41. In brief, the core of the FAP 2011-2015 is the goal of supporting the sustainable socio-economic and cultural development of rural areas and contributing to the eradication of rural poverty and food insecurity in the ASEAN region.

## PART III. OPERATIONALISATION STRATEGIES



42. In the implementation of specific regional cooperation and programmes to achieve the goals and objectives set forth by this FAP, the following strategies have been identified:

### A. ASEAN Member State Shepherding in support of a membership driven approach

43. The Lead AMS shall champion the implementation of a selected Component. This could mean anchoring the detailing of the FAP operational plan, convening sub-clusters among AMS and other interested stakeholders for programme development/proposal writing, resource mobilization and implementation. It shall be responsible, in coordination with the ASEC for the monitoring of the progress of the implementation of the various Programme Actions/Activities identified in the anchored component. The Lead AMS may also be expected to anchor the implementation of a regional or cross-country (at least three AMS) cooperation.

## **B. Multi-stakeholders approach**

44. Interventions in RDPE must take into consideration national and local realities and a multi-stakeholder approach that requires collaboration and coordination among the three different pillars of the ASEAN Community, the ministerial and inter-ministerial meetings, the ASEAN Secretariat and the national ASEAN focal offices in each AMS, the ASEAN Dialogue Partners, donors, private sector and civil society organisations and grassroots communities. The involvement of other sectors and stakeholders outside of ASEAN from the planning stage to actual implementation of the RDEP FAP shall be of utmost importance in the approach. Donors, dialogue partners, CSOs shall be encouraged to identify areas of interest and coordinate with respective AMS lead anchor.

## **C. Multi-stakeholder convergence (on common response but differentiated by specific realities, interests and realities; including spatial integration)**

45. RDPE is an agenda of a wide range of stakeholders. The need for integration of efforts especially at the local and national level is a necessary approach. Convergence mechanisms at national levels already exist in some AMS. Some of RDPE Focal Points carry mandates and/or structured de facto as convergence agencies, bringing together various agencies concerned with RDPE for policy and/or programming action. The conscious linking and interaction with existing RDPE convergence initiatives will facilitate RDPE FAP's own agenda of greater localization and will promote the multi-stakeholder approach.

## **D. Knowledge management for capacity-building and programme development**

46. Stocktaking, benchmarking, and exchange of learnings from across the region, country and communities are key value-adding function at the regional level. Successes in poverty eradication maybe replicated, modified, adapted or scaled-up to fast track the achievement of the goals and objectives of poverty eradication. The RDPE FAP could benefit from the immense resource and wealth of experiences and wisdom that exist in the region. This shall be an important function of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, in collaboration with other interested stakeholders.

## **E. Constructive engagement processes among RDPE stakeholders**

47. Constructive engagement is a range of processes that brings together stakeholders to act on a concern put forward by the public in an organized fashion to produce reforms in governance resulting to increased development effectiveness - through improved public service delivery and informed policy design. It should also lead to the empowerment particularly of the poor people – by increasing their participation and aggregating their voice to increase chances of greater responsiveness from government to their needs. A relationship that is anchored on mutual respect and openness to dialogue and engage will stand the challenges of diversity and broad-based collaboration.

## **F. Meaningful participation of grassroots and civil society organisations**

48. The FAP shall promote the utilization of participatory processes among various stakeholders, especially recognizing the importance of rural men and women grassroots and civil society participation to achieve meaningful, quality and lasting results. In particular, closer coordination and cooperation shall be pursued with relevant international and regional organisations that share ASEAN's priorities for RDPE.

## **G. Cross-cutting agenda of building an ASEAN Identity in all RDPE programmes and processes**

49. All action programmes under the FAP shall be designed to respond to the cross-cutting agenda of helping build the peoples' consciousness about ASEAN. Existing materials and tools developed by the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Foundation and other stakeholders shall be fully utilized to advance this specific agenda.

## **H. Creation of a regional coordinative mechanism**

50. The mechanism shall ensure that the FAP is implemented in consultation with relevant bodies/stakeholders at the regional and national levels to obtain relevant inputs and ensure consistency between the regional and national vision and strategic thrusts and promote a greater sense of ownership among AMS and other stakeholders.

51. SOMRPDE shall be responsible for the tracking of the implementation compliance of RDPE partners, the overall monitoring and evaluation, and shall serve as the communication channel between SOMRDPE and partners. The ASEAN Secretariat shall have an important role in supporting this mechanism. Necessarily, it shall require financial, logistical, human and time resources to work effectively and focus on its specific functions.
52. SOMRDPE shall also be responsible for mobilising stakeholders' participation in the development of periodic plans with clear periodic objectives and targets. The achievement and realisation of the vision and goals of rural development and poverty eradication is long term and requires sustained interventions based on periodic breakdown of targets and the corresponding tasks into phases and specific planned steps. In this regard, SOMRDPE's partnerships and cooperation arrangements with the Dialogue Partners, UN Agencies, international organisations, private sector, civil society, and the wider community at the regional and national levels, shall be fostered.

## **I. Resource mobilisation**

53. The FAP shall initially be financed from the basic arrangement of costsharing among the ASEAN Member States. Additional financial support for its implementation shall be mobilized from ASEAN Dialogue Partners, international organisations, and other donor agencies. SOMRDPE may also consider support of its stakeholders, especially private sector and civil society organisations to assist SOMRDPE in the mobilization of funds. Joint or collaborative fund raising may be conducted based on shared agenda of stakeholders. Support shall also be mobilized from various internal ASEAN facilities such as the ASEAN Development Fund, the ASEAN Foundation<sup>3</sup>, etc.

## **J. Communication plan**

54. An effective communication programme will promote active ownership and participation among intended stakeholders of the FAP at the local, national and regional levels. The challenge of making RDPE as an important agenda within ASEAN will require regular and effective communication within ASEAN and among various ASEAN sectoral bodies of the progress of its implementation and its contribution to the over-all goal of ASEAN along poverty reduction in the region.

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<sup>3</sup> ASEAN Foundation – established by the ASEAN Leaders in December 1997 to bring about shared prosperity and sustainable future for the ASEAN member states. [www.aseanfoundation.org](http://www.aseanfoundation.org)

## **K. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation**

55. The FAP shall be reviewed periodically taking into account the fast and dynamic changes in regional and global developments. Targets and processes have to be calibrated according to the changing needs or agenda of the AMS. At least an Annual Forum or Conference on ASEAN RDPE Cooperation shall be aimed at, where a periodic review can be conducted during a multi-stakeholder forum. A mid-term review shall be conducted and an evaluation, alongside the review of ASCC commitments by 2015.
56. A clear regional mechanism is required to enable SOMRDPE in monitoring and evaluating the performance/compliance of AMS commitments to this FAP 2011-2015.



## Priority Areas of ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2011-2015)

No	Components	Strategic Thrusts	Program of Action	Country Coordinator	Potential Collaborators	Timeline
1	Sustainable Rural Development and Rural Economic Growth	<p>1. Promotion of redistributive reforms in the ownership, access, control and management of the productive natural resources by the poor for food production and the efficient delivery of needed support services</p> <p>2. Cooperation on alternative financing for family farming and small-holder agriculture competitiveness, including the livestock and fisheries sectors</p>	<p>1.1 Convene a regional forum of information sharing on the existing rural household's ownership; access, control and management of natural (forest and coastal) resources; bio-fuel promotion; and support services.</p> <p>1.2 Conduct an ASEAN Regional Expo on Community Products (e.g. agricultural products, handicrafts, etc)</p> <p>2.1 Promote social entrepreneurship/ franchise products in collaboration with the relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, such as those handling women and youth (e.g. the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs' Network which is being established by the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW)).</p> <p>2.2 Work towards establishing a regional network of microcredit / microfinance institutions and farmers' banks.</p>	TBC	UN Committee of Food Security	TBC
				Thailand	Private sector with CSR	December 2013
				Singapore	ACW SOMY	2013-2014
				Lao PDR	SOM-AMAF International and Asian Cooperative Alliance on Microcredit	2013

No	Components	Strategic Thrusts	Program of Action	Country Coordinator	Potential Collaborators	Timeline
2	Food Security and Food Sovereignty amidst Climate Change <sup>1</sup>	3. Cooperation on food crop cultivation diversification strategies in agricultural production systems that help build resiliency against rice deficits, soaring food prices and disasters and malnutrition	<p>3.1 Undertake a regional study to document the existing climate change risk reduction and adaptation strategies in agriculture in ASEAN Member States aiming at piloting food crop cultivation diversification strategies.</p> <p>3.2 Undertake a regional study to take stock and review responsive policies/ strategies aiming at strengthening social protection floor to safeguard poor people/farmers from the risk of rice price spike which is potentially increasing due to climate change and natural disasters. The study will look into strategies to lower risks of food crisis and price spike. The study will analyse the linkages of the issues of hunger, food insecurity, and increasing vulnerability of the poor as a risk of rice price spike in future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The study result can be discussed in a regional forum bringing together relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies,</li> </ul>	Viet Nam    The Philippines	SOM-AMAF   SOM-AMAF ACDM	2013   2012-2013

1 Collaborate with SOM-AMAF on the climate change risk reduction programme for agricultural sector under the umbrella of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework- Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) 2009-2013.

No	Components	Strategic Thrusts	Program of Action	Country Coordinator	Potential Collaborators	Timeline
			<p>international organisations, and other stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The study result will be published for information sharing.</li> </ul>			
		4. Improvement of knowledge, skills and competence of stakeholders in climate change adaptation	<p>4.1 Promote, in collaboration with the ministries of education and environment, studies and strengthen curricula on climate change, food security and agriculture in universities / faculties of agriculture.</p> <p>4.2 Encourage the participation of ASEAN Member States in the existing trainings within and outside the region aimed at improving knowledge, skills and competence of stakeholders, especially rural women, on climate change adaptation strategies in agriculture and food security.</p> <p>4.3 Promote trainings to improve food production and agriculture competitiveness amidst challenges of climate change in collaboration with SOM-AMAF, particularly with its AWGATE in developing the proposed ASEAN people's field school.</p>	Myanmar	SOM-ED, SEAMCO, AUN, ASOEN, SOM-AMAF, UNESCO	TBC
				Myanmar	SOM-AMAF Dialogue Partners	2013
				Viet Nam	SOM-AMAF AsiaDHRRA	2013-2014

No	Components	Strategic Thrusts	Program of Action	Country Coordinator	Potential Collaborators	Timeline
3	Social Protection and Safety Nets	5. Promotion of effective policies and programmes to improve social safety/ protection measures for agricultural workers including livestock workers and fishers, rural migrant workers and informal sectors	<p>5.1 Undertake a regional study on different models of crops insurance aiming at identifying best practices, challenges (e.g. scale, ability to pay fees, monitoring mechanism), alternative agricultural and crops insurance, strategies to attract insurance companies to invest more on crops insurance, and strategies to leverage community-based funds to sustain crops insurance programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The study is to be combined with a multi-stakeholder forum on this topic which will bring together government officials, insurance companies, and farmers' groups.</li> </ul> <p>5.2 Conduct a capacity building programme to strengthen local governments' accountability in delivering social safety net / social protection programmes for rural communities that are responsive to local priorities and implemented through a participatory approach and</p>	Viet Nam	SOM-AMAF Insurance Companies Farmers' Organisations	2013
				Indonesia	SOMDP SOMSWD World Bank AusAID	May 2013
				The Philippines		July 2013

No	Components	Strategic Thrusts	Program of Action	Country Coordinator	Potential Collaborators	Timeline
4	Development of Infrastructure and Human Resources in Rural Areas	<p>6. Optimum use of various forms of information and Communication Technology (ICT) as an important tool for rural development and poverty eradication</p> <p>7. Capacity building of the village leaders, rural youth and women towards more active participation in developing livelihood and income generating activities in the communities</p> <p>8. Promotion of effective policies and strategies on infrastructure development contributing to livelihood of small farmers and people living in remote areas</p>	<p>inter-ministerial cooperation (e.g. PNPW Mandiri of Indonesia, KALAHI of the Philippines).</p> <p>6.1 Convene a regional workshop aiming at sharing strategies to improve the content of broadcast media, radio or other suitable forms of ICT, especially in the CMLY countries, as an effective means of meeting the needs of local small-scale farmers, fishers, and their families in rural communities.</p> <p>7.1 Convene forums for sharing of best practices and knowledge, policy discussion; trainings; and exchange visits aiming at promoting informal sector, SMEs, entrepreneurship, micro credit schemes, micro equity, alternative schemes to micro finance schemes and agricultural loans, assets reform.</p> <p>8.1 Convene a regional forum with development agencies to discuss strategies to promote constructions of infrastructures that give impacts to small</p>	Malaysia	SOM-AMAF	2015
				Malaysia	SOMDP SOM-AMAF ACW SOMSWD ASOEN The +3 Countries UNDP International Cooperative Alliance on Microcredit	2015
				Malaysia	SOM-AMAF Dialogue Partners Development Agencies	2014-2015

No	Components	Strategic Thrusts	Program of Action	Country Coordinator	Potential Collaborators	Timeline
5	Constituency Building for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication	<p>9. Development of an ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Leadership Awards as a regular feature of AMRDPE</p> <p>10. Promotion of volunteer movement in ASEAN focusing on sharing good practices on rural development and poverty eradication based on indigenous knowledge and cultures</p> <p>11. Promotion of mechanisms for institutionalized participation of small-scale farmers and fishers, private sector and CSOs in ASEAN RDPE processes</p>	<p>farmers and people living in remote areas, and its sustainability plan.</p> <p>9.1 Create an ASEAN RDPE Leadership Awards to recognise the contribution of NGOs to poverty eradication and rural development as a regular event of the AMRDPE starting from the 8<sup>th</sup> AMRDPE in 2013 in Indonesia.</p> <p>10.1 Develop an ASEAN volunteer exchange programme in rural development and poverty eradication</p> <p>11.1 Convene an ASEAN GO-NGO Forum as a platform for dialogue and sharing information among governments and NGOs towards closer relations and cooperation on shared RDPE agenda. The Forum will be convened annually back-to-back with the regular meetings of the SOMRDPE starting from 2012 back-to-back with the 9<sup>th</sup> SOMRDPE in Viet Nam.</p>	<p>Host country of the AMRDPE in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat and AsiaDHRRA</p> <p>Indonesia</p> <p>Brunei Darussalam</p> <p>Host country of the SOMRDPE in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat</p>	<p>AsiaDHRRA NGOs in Member States</p> <p>Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY)</p> <p>Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)</p> <p>Asia DHRRA NGOs in Member States</p>	<p>Biennially, back-to-back with AMRDPE</p> <p>September 2012</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>Annually, back-to-back with SOMRDPE</p>

No	Components	Strategic Thrusts	Program of Action	Country Coordinator	Potential Collaborators	Timeline
		<p>12. Promotion of private sector's investment and social responsibility and philanthropists in rural areas which will reinforce the implementation of Component 1</p>	<p>12.1 Convene a regional forum of dialogue between government officials and private sector on the promotion of social responsibility of the private sector in poverty reduction and rural development within countries and beyond borders.</p>	Viet Nam	<p>ASEAN Foundation ASEAN CSR Network Private sector in AMS CSOs</p>	2013
6	Monitoring and Evaluation of the Poverty Reduction in the Region	<p>13. Work towards the establishment of an ASEAN Statistics on Poverty</p>	<p>13.1 Convene a regional workshop to discuss the development of regional statistics on poverty in collaboration with ACSS and UNDP by taking into account the UNDP's multidimensional measures of poverty.</p> <p>13.2 Publish a qualitative assessment report of MDG attainment in ASEAN Member States based on the data in the biennial ASEAN MDG Statistical Report led by ACSS.</p>	Brunei Darussalam	ACSS UNDP	2013
				The ASEAN Secretariat	ACSS UNDP	2012-2013

# TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ASEAN FORUM ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION

## A. Guiding Principles

1. The convening of a regular ASEAN Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (RDPE) is called for in the Strategic Thrust 11 of the Framework Action Plan on RDPE (2011-2015) which was adopted at the 7th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE) held on 2 November 2011 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.
2. As stipulated in the Strategic Thrust 11 of the Framework Action Plan on RDPE (2011-2015), the Forum is aimed at providing a platform for dialogue and sharing information among GOs and NGOs/CSOs towards closer relations and cooperation on shared RDPE agenda. The Forum is also aimed at supporting the priorities and work of SOMRDPE.
3. The Forum is a regular activity of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE), and shall be convened back-to-back with SOMRDPE, depending on the host country, to allow immediate submission of the Forum's outcomes to SOMRDPE and for cost efficiency.

## B. Organisational Arrangement

4. The Forum shall comprise the following delegates:
  - The GO Focal Points and respective delegations;
  - The NGO/CSO Focal Points and/or other national NGO/CSOs that may be invited by respective ASEAN Member States on a case-to-case basis depending on the topics to be discussed at the Forum;
  - Other NGOs/CSOs recommended by ASEAN NGO/CSO partners, including AsiaDHRRA, which is a regional NGO/CSO affiliated to ASEAN, and its national members in ASEAN Member States;
  - Expert speakers who may be invited to share knowledge and perspective on certain topics; and
  - The ASEAN Secretariat.



The proposed expert speakers and participants from regional and international organisations shall be consulted with SOMRDPE for approval.

5. The number of participating national NGO/CSO from each ASEAN Member States shall not be more than three organisations.
6. There shall be a list of GO and NGO/CSO Focal Points for the Forum which may be updated by ASEAN Member States from time to time as necessary.
  - a) The GO Focal Points may be assumed by the SOMRDPE Focal Points or their appointed representatives.
  - b) The NGO/CSO Focal Points shall be determined by the SOMRDPE Focal Points. The NGO/CSO Focal Points are from relevant organisations and/or private sector working on issues concerning the development of rural areas or poor/low-income communities, poverty eradication, small farmers and fishers, and other priority areas of the Framework Action Plan on RDPE (2011-2015) that are considered relevant by the concerned ASEAN Member State.
7. The Forum shall be co-chaired by the GO Focal Point and the NGO/CSO Focal Point from the host country.

### **C. Agenda**

8. The agenda of the Forum shall be prepared by the ASEAN Secretariat in close consultation with the host country for the consideration and concurrence of GO and NGO/CSO Focal Points. The agenda shall be developed in line with SOMRDPE's work priorities as stipulated in the Framework Action Plan on RDPE (2011-2015) and the theme of the Forum.
9. The theme of the Forum shall be determined by the host country and is usually in line with the theme of the back-to-back SOMRDPE and related Meetings.
10. Selected ASEAN Member States will be requested to share good practices, experiences and challenges encountered concerning certain issues to be discussed at the Forum. It is encouraged that the country presentation be prepared and/or presented jointly by the GO and NGO/CSO Focal Points of the concerned ASEAN Member State. The GO shall take the initiative in the preparation of the country presentation.

11. The country presentations will be delivered in a format of panel discussion with the involvement of discussants from other selected ASEAN Member States. The discussants can be either from GO or NGO/CSO Focal Points.
12. Experts from relevant UN Agencies or other organisations may be invited to the Forum as speakers/resource persons to share knowledge and perspectives on the determined topics.
13. The Forum may come up with recommendation which shall be endorsed by the delegates. The Forum's outcomes, including recommendation if any, shall be reported to SOMRDPE for consideration.
14. In case the Forum's recommendation is endorsed by SOMRDPE for follow-up actions by ASEAN Member States, there will be a session at the subsequent Forum to share information on any progress achieved by ASEAN Member States, at either national or regional level, on the key issues highlighted in those recommendations. Such information sharing will be done by ASEAN Member States on a voluntary basis.

#### **D. Responsibilities of the GO-NGO/CSO Focal Points**

15. The GO and NGO/CSO Focal Points shall, at the national level, communicate and coordinate with each other in between the Forums particularly concerning matters recommended by the Forum and the preparation, including country presentations, if applicable, for the next Forum.
16. The GO and NGO/CSO Focal Points may wish to make suggestions on the provisional agenda of the Forum for the purpose of enriching the topics of discussion and dialogue.

#### **E. Reporting to SOMRDPE**

17. In case reporting to SOMRDPE takes place at the Meeting, the GO Co-Chair and/or NGO/CSO Co-Chair of the Forum shall participate at the designated Agenda Item (open session) of SOMRDPE to report the Forum's outcomes, and exchange views with the Senior Officials concerning those outcomes.
18. The NGO/CSO Focal Points or their representatives may participate at the open session of SOMRDPE during which the Forum's outcomes are presented. The participating NGO/CSO Focal Points will be seated as part of their respective

SOMRDPE's country delegations.

19. Representatives of AsiaDHRRA and other regional affiliations may attend the open session of SOMRDPE as observers to the exchange views on the Forum's outcomes.

## **F. Financial Arrangement**

20. The Forum shall be hosted by the ASEAN Member State hosting the SOMRDPE and related Meetings. The organisational costs of the Forum shall be shouldered by the host country. The intention to host the Forum shall be indicated by the host country at the SOMRDPE Meeting in the year prior to the Forum.
  21. The participation costs of the GO and NGO/CSO Focal Points shall be self-funded.
  22. The ASEAN Secretariat and/or AsiaDHRRA could assist in exploring funding support from ASEAN Dialogue Partners or other external sources especially for the NGO/CSO Focal Points who are unable to secure funds for their participation costs and, if needed, the invited expert speakers. Funding support will only be available if assistance from external sources is secured. ASEAN Member States are encouraged to provide some support to enable their respective NGO/CSO Focal Points to attend the Forum.
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