FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND FORESTRY COOPERATION IN ASEAN

The ASEAN Secretariat
Food, Agriculture and Forestry Division
OUTLINE

- Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry, 2016-2025
- ASEAN’s structure for cooperation
- ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture
Vision

• A competitive, inclusive, resilient and sustainable Food, Agriculture, and Forestry (FAF) sector 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
Strategic Plan

There are seven Strategic Thrusts

- Enhance quantity and quality of production with sustainable, ‘green’ technologies, resource management systems
- Enhance trade facilitation, economic integration and market access
- Ensure food security, food safety, better nutrition and equitable distribution
- Increase resilience to climate change, natural disasters and other shocks
- Assist resource-constrained small producers and SMEs to improve productivity, technology and product quality, to meet global market standards and increase competitiveness
- Strengthen ASEAN joint approaches on international and regional issues affecting the FAF sector.
- Promote sustainable forest management
Structure of ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry

ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF)

Notes:
- ASWG: ASEAN Sectoral Working Group
- ARASFF: ASEAN Rapid Alert System on Food and Feed
- ASCP: ASEAN SPS Contact points
- ACCAHZ Prep COM: ASEAN Coordinating Central for Animal Health and Zoonosis Preparatory Committee
- ASWGAC: ASWG on Agriculture Cooperatives
- ASWG on ATE: Agricultural Training and Extension
- ATWG on ARD: Agricultural Research and Development
- ACEDAC Board: ASEAN Centre for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives
- AIGA: Avian Influenza Group in ASEAN
- AFSRB: ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board
- ATF: ASEAN Task Force
- EWG: Expert Working Group
- NFP: National Focal Point
- TF: Task Force
- -----: Technical bodies with support from partners
ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture

- Adopted by ASEAN in October 2022; These guidelines apply to sustainability in agriculture, aquaculture and animal husbandry systems, the incorporation of renewable energy systems, the interaction between the farmers, inputs, land, water and the environment as well as the greater total sustainability of the farms, the communities, and the economy.

- The guidelines were developed based on, Amongst others
  - UN’s Sustainable Development Goals
  - Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2025)
  - Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN region 2021-2025
  - Other docs such as GAP, GAqP and GAHP…
The 5 key principles that balance the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability:

- Improving efficiency in the use of our resources.
- Conserving, protecting, enhancing natural ecosystems, promoting and enhancing nature resources and communities.
- Protecting and improving rural livelihoods and social well-being.
- Enhancing the resilience of people, communities and ecosystems, and
- Promoting good governance of both natural and human systems.
Key Strategies, among others

1. **Improving overall soil health**: Reducing overfertilization of the soil base, applying targeted organic fertilizers and amendments, and reducing the overapplication of agrochemicals to meet optimum soil productivity

2. **Reducing greenhouse gases from agriculture-related activities**

3. **Collaborations along the agriculture and food chains**

4. **Improving biodiversity**

   - “Biodiversity is essential for sustainable development and human well-being. It underpins the provision of food and water: It mitigates and provides resilience to climate change: it supports human health, and provides jobs in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and many other sectors. Without effective measures to conserve biodiversity and use its components in a sustainable manner, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will not be achievable.”
5. Ensuring Food Security:

6. Promoting the use of smart and precision agriculture systems in sustainable food production

7. Connecting smallholders to markets:
   - ASEAN could discuss and adopt policies which would improve market access for smallholder farmers for sustainable agricultural produce. Smallholder farmers often lack access to profitable, value-added markets. In the absence of critical supporting functions – such as infrastructure and service provision, farmers struggle to shift from the less-demanding local markets to higher-value sustainable markets.

8. Supporting and setting up the support policies, rules and regulations necessary for the development of the entire sustainable and circular industry:
   - Input production
   - Farming systems and technologies
   - Processing technologies
   - Marketing
   - Education and training, and
   - Research and development
Some of the implementation plans and projects suggested which support some of the major areas of focus in sustainable and circular agriculture:

1. The Soil Health Card Portal:

The Soil Health Card was developed by the National Informatics Centre of India to providers. This was designed to help policy makers in the following areas: Policy recommendations to climate resilience, soil and nutrient management and Enhance food security through sustainable agricultural production.

2. Fertilizer recommendation book guidance for food crop, horticulture, plantation and feed crop

3. The problem of the increased development of Antimicrobial Resistance in ASEAN and the world
• To ensure the sustainable agriculture, ASEAN Secretariat is working with partners to focus on the following:

- On addressing the problem of open rice field burning and reducing plastic pollution, we are now working with our partners to support the project on improving the **Circularity of Rice Straw**, which aims to create a viable compostable replacement of plastic packaging from renewable rice straw, including the creation of organic fertilizer as a substitute to chemical fertilizers.

- To conserve the region’s carbon sinks, we are currently taking stock and synthesizing existing knowledge and best practices on **Nature-based Solutions** and their socio-economic benefits across the forest, bare land, and coastal ecosystems in the ASEAN region.
– We are taking stock on the use of agrochemicals in the ASEAN region by working closely with agricultural cooperatives, farmer organizations, fertilizer and pesticide companies to identify best practices and proven programs to reduce the use of pesticides. We hope to complement this activity with a Soil Health Card Portal to provide a system that analyses soil fertility and suggests the proper fertilization rate for crops.

– We are working with our Dialogue Partner to develop a project on improving the circularity and recyclability of fishing gears to help address marine debris in the region, particularly the problem of Abandoned, Lost, or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gears (ALDFG).
• We recognize that improper use of antimicrobials in the livestock and aquaculture sectors is a contributing factor to the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) posing a major threat to human, animal and environmental health. We welcome possible collaboration on improving the capacity of ASEAN Member States on AMR detection and risk analysis, stock taking on the use of antimicrobials in the region, and developing a regional monitoring and evaluation framework for implementation of prudent use of antimicrobials in aquaculture.

• Responsible investment in agriculture is essential for enhancing sustainable livelihoods. With the support from various dialogue and regional partners, a national pilot project will be conducted to support ASEAN Member States in aligning their national investment policy with the ASEAN Guidelines on Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (ASEAN-RAI).
• We continue to promote the scaling-up and scaling-out of Climate Smart Agriculture Practices through knowledge sharing of information and best practices among AMS to enhance climate resilience and improve agricultural productivity

• *Last, but not least*, the pandemic has accelerated the application of digital technologies in the agriculture and food systems. In this regard, the 43rd AMAF recently adopted the *Guidelines on Promoting the Utilization of Digital Technologies for the ASEAN Food and Agricultural Sector*, which outline conditions and actions needed to facilitate digital technology uptake for agriculture and food system improvements.
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