



**THIRTY FIFTH MEETING OF  
THE ASEAN MINISTERS ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY  
(35<sup>th</sup> AMAF)  
26 September 2013, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

**JOINT PRESS STATEMENT**

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1. We, the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry held our 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) Meeting on 26 September 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry of Malaysia.

***Moving Towards 2015 and Beyond***

2. We noted with satisfaction the on-going progress and achievements made in the ASEAN cooperation in food, agriculture, and forestry to contribute towards the realisation of the ASEAN Community. In order to ensure the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) deliverables in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry sectors by 2015, we agreed to focus our efforts and resources on the achievement of the identified key deliverables and prioritised measures. In this regard, we requested all subsidiary bodies under our purview to review their respective current Strategic Plans of Actions (SPA) to achieve the approved key deliverables and prioritised measures.

3. Building on the good progress and achievement made in the sector, we agreed to initiate the work on a post-2015 vision to support positioning ASEAN in the evolving regional architecture, as mandated by the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit. We tasked the Senior Officials to develop a vision, objectives and goals of the ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry sectors towards 2020, based on the review of the current framework and Strategic Plan of Action, and submit appropriate recommendations to our meeting in 2015 for adoption.

***Food Security Arrangements***

4. We noted the on-going progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Food Security (SPA-FS) 2009-2013, and expressed our appreciation to the ASEAN Dialogue and Development Partners for their valuable support in achieving this progress. To move forward, we agreed to develop a second phase of SPA-FS to accommodate some changes towards the common goal of long-term food security and

reflect the important contribution of the Food, Agriculture and Forestry sectors in the realisation of the ASEAN Community. In this connection, we appreciated the contributions and support by Development Partners such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in the development of the new SPA-FS.

5. We acknowledged the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security (AFCC), particular in the fisheries and forestry sectors. We appreciated the contribution and support extended to ASEAN by the Dialogue Partners through various programmes/projects, particularly the ASEAN-German Programme on Climate Change: Agriculture, Forestry and related Sectors (GAP-CC), the ASEAN-Swiss Partnership Programme on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC) and the ASEAN-U.S Project on Maximizing Agricultural Revenue through Knowledge, Enterprise Development and Trade (MARKET), which made this progress possible.

### ***Cooperation on Sectoral and Priority Issues***

6. We reviewed the cooperation in the individual area of food, agriculture and forestry, and commended our subsidiary bodies for their efforts and achievements made in their respective areas. As a result, we considered and endorsed the following documents to provide a basis for ASEAN joint approaches in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry sectors and to facilitate trade of agricultural products in the region and beyond:

- (i) List of Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) for six pesticides: i) carbofuran (asparagus); ii carbosulfan (asparagus) iii) fenvalerate (broccoli [Chinese](#), brassica oleracea var. alboglabra); iv) fipronil (yard long bean); v) chlorpyrifos (soybean immature); and vi) azoxystrobin (carambola) as ASEAN Harmonised MRLs. We agreed to support the recommendation for ASEAN Member States to adopt ASEAN MRLs as part of the national regulatory framework and to submit ASEAN Supervised Pesticides Residue Field Trials (SPRT) data to the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) to enable the recognition of ASEAN MRLs as Codex MRLs;
- (ii) ASEAN Standards for: i) Cabbage (ASEAN Stan 30 : 2013), ii) Coffee Beans (ASEAN Stan 31 : 2013), iii) Turmeric (ASEAN Stan 32 : 2013), and iv) Yard-long Bean (ASEAN Stan 33 : 2013);
- (iii) Regional Strategy for Epidemiology Capacity Building in ASEAN;
- (iv) Regional Strategic Framework for Laboratory Capacity Building and Networking in Southeast Asia;
- (v) Intra-ASEAN Phyto-sanitary Guidelines for Importation of Citrus-fruit;
- (vi) Guidelines for the Use of Chemicals in Aquaculture and Measures to Eliminate the Use of Harmful Chemicals.

7. We were encouraged with the significant progress made in enhancing the competitiveness of agricultural commodities through the development and implementation of ASEAN best practices, namely Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP), and Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP). We supported the initiative to establish an ASEAN certification and accreditation mechanism to support the implementation of these best practices.

8. We noted the continued efforts to strengthen capacities and capabilities of ASEAN to prevent, control, and eradicate highly pathogenic emerging diseases (HPEDs). We also noted the progress in establishing the ASEAN Coordination Centre on Animal Health and Zoonoses (ACCAHZ) and tasked the relevant ASEAN bodies to intensify their efforts. We appreciated the collaboration and support made by the Dialogue and Development Partners, namely FAO, OIE, EU and Australia, through the relevant animal health programmes and projects.

9. We noted the development of the ASEAN Animal Health Collaboration Website ([www.asean-animalhealth.org](http://www.asean-animalhealth.org)) as a platform that will facilitate dissemination and sharing of relevant information related to animal health initiatives among the Member States, and with stakeholders and relevant partners, and hereby expressed our support to its launching, and sustenance by the Member States. We appreciated the support made by FAO, through the European Union-funded Programme on HPEDs, FAO Component for the website development.

10. We agreed on the necessity to review the Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) of ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry by carrying out an impact assessment study of the implemented programmes and activities to identify necessary actions and measures to further strengthen cooperation in this area.

11. We commended the continuous ASEAN work and cooperation towards the attainment of sustainable forest management. Significant progress and achievement have been reached and further enhanced in several areas, among others ASEAN cooperation and common position in international forest policy processes and negotiations.

12. We acknowledged the arrangement of an exhibition on ASEAN Herbal and Medicinal Plants with engagement of the private sector to showcase and display the achievement and contribution of Herbal and Medicinal Plants and the collaborative R&D Project to ASEAN Community Building.

13. We noted the implementation progress of the various cooperative programmes and activities in fisheries, including projects and activities to support the implementation of AIFS and AFCC. We further noted the implementation of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Scheme and welcomed the initiative to establish a Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) as a tool to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region.

14. We noted and supported the role of ASEAN SPS Contact Point (ASCP) to coordinate and monitor the progress of SPS-related works being undertaken by various working groups (WGs) under AMAF as well as liaising with other SPS-related bodies/mechanisms in ASEAN. The ASCP, under its Work Programme 2013-2015, will also promote cooperation and mutual support in SPS capacity building activities, including human resources development and enhancing technical capacities between and among the relevant WGs under AMAF.

***Country initiatives for programmes/ projects on food, agriculture and forestry***

15. We supported with particular appreciation the programmes and projects initiated by Member States to further enhance cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry, namely (i) ASEAN Genetically Modified Food Testing Network (ASEAN GMF Net), (ii) ASEAN Food Safety Network (AFSN), (iii) ASEAN Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed, (iv) Collaboration of ASEAN Research and Development in Sericulture and (v) Conservation Agriculture.

***Moving Together with Partners towards 2015***

16. We expressed our appreciation for the assistance and support rendered by various Dialogue Partners and International Organisations, including Australia, China, the European Commission, Germany, 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, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), in advancing cooperation on food, agriculture and forestry in ASEAN region,

17. We launched the ASEAN-FAO MOU on Strengthening Cooperation in Agriculture and Forestry, which followed by three projects namely (i) TCP/RAS/3406(E) on Emergency Assistance for Surveillance of Influenza A (H7N9) Virus in Poultry and Animal Populations in Southeast Asia (ii) TCP/INT/3402(E) Emergency Support to Global and Coordinated Response to Influenza A (H7N9) Virus in Poultry and Other Animal Population, and (iii) Strengthening the capacity of ASEAN in coordination and monitoring of the implementation of ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework (AIFS) and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security (SPA FS).

18. Together with the Minister of Agriculture of China, we signed the MOU between ASEAN and China on Food and Agriculture Cooperation, in which ASEAN and China agreed to strengthen cooperation in important issues such as food security, food safety, farm mechanization and machinery, agriculture extension and technology transfer training and extension and biotechnology.

### **36<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting**

19. We agreed to convene the 36<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Meeting in Myanmar in 2014.

20. We expressed our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government and People of Malaysia for hosting the 35<sup>th</sup> 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. Mr. San Vanty, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia
- iii. H.E. Dr. Suswono, Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia
- iv. H.E. Dr. Phouang Parisak Pravongviengkham, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR
- v. H. E. Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia
- vi. H.E. U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar
- vii. H.E. Mr. Jose Eduardo E. Malaya III, the Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia, Philippines
- viii. H.E. Dr. Mohamad Maliki bin Osman, Minister of State for National Development and Defence, Singapore
- ix. H.E. Mr. Yukol Limlamthong, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand
- x. H.E. Dr. Nguyen Thi Xuan Thu, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam
- xi. H.E. Dr. AKP Mochtan, Deputy Secretary General, Community and Corporate Affairs, ASEAN Secretariat