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**AMAF'S APPROACH TO GENDER MAINSTREAMING  
IN THE FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SECTORS**

**ASEAN TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE AND  
RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT (ATWGARD)  
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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

ACW	ASEAN Committee on Women
AMAF	ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry
AMS	ASEAN Member States
ASCC	ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
ASEAN	The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASOF	ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry
ASWGL	ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock
ASWGC	ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops
ASWGFi	ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries
ATWGARD	Agricultural Research and Development
AWGCC	ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
FAO	The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FES	Friedrich- Ebert-Stiftung
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
GSVC	Gender-Sensitive Value Chain
HPA	Hanoi Plan of Action
IDS	Institute of Development Studies
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
SPA	Strategic Plan of Action
SSF	Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNDRIP	UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
VAP	Vientiane Action Programme
WTO	World Trade Organization

## **PREFACE**

The AMAF'S Approach to gender mainstreaming in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors were completed by the ASEAN Technical Working Group on Agricultural Research and Development (ATWGARD), with support from the ASEAN Working Groups on Livestock, Crops and Fisheries and ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF) and the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW).

AMAF'S Approach to gender mainstreaming in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors is defined as public measures that apply a gender perspective which as a result affect the behavior of different stakeholders (amongst other producers, farmers and regulators). The gender policy covers key elements to be integrated into a set of policies and programs to ensure women working in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors in ASEAN are empowered.

Recognising that gender inequalities permeate the food, agriculture and forestry sectors and that public policies and frameworks yield significant gendered impacts on the three sectors; the AMAF's Approach aim to set out recommendations that serve as reference guides for AMS in their efforts to promote gender equality in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors. The AMAF's Approach is not intended to be a full or binding statement on gender. The AMAF's Approach will help increase AMSs' awareness of the importance of gender policies in the food, agriculture and forestry sector, with a view to stimulating the development of best practices and enhancing cooperation between ASEAN Member States.

The AMAF's Approach to gender mainstreaming in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors, which are public document, will be a living reference as ATWGARD will update them frequently to reflect any changes and development in ASEAN, and international/regional best practices.

The AMAF'S Approach to gender mainstreaming in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors were adopted by the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) at the 40<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting in 2018 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Gender Equality in ASEAN**

Under the contexts of ASEAN, gender inequality is socially constructed in myriad dimensions in which not only impedes human development but also deepens social conflicts and vulnerabilities. Gender inequality reflects that women possess limited power in many spheres of life namely inequality in accessibility of basic facilities, professional inequality, ownership and household inequality puts women in cycle of disadvantage and vulnerabilities. Pursuant to the definition of gender equality defined as “equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities of women, men, and girls and boys” (UN, 2001), the governments of ASEAN countries have made efforts in integrating gender issues into development variedly through legislative reform and gender-specific policies including establishing specific governmental bureaus as the main mechanism in advancing women’s status and gender equality.

On the occasion of 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit in the Philippines, the Heads of States or Governments of ASEAN has adopted the “ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals”. They declared their commitment to ensure the realisation of a people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN where all women and girls are able to reach the fullest of their potentials.

As a result, with regional integration and a market capacity of more than 600 million people representing vast opportunities, ASEAN countries’ governments should strengthen women’s capacity, widen their accessibility and support their contribution towards the formal economic sphere. An increasing level of formal economic participation will enable women to possess equal access to resources, opportunities and facilities as their male counterparts which would eventually bring about women’s empowerment and a narrowed gender gap.

In a recent study “Projected Gender Impact of the ASEAN Economic Community” conducted by the UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Friedrich- Ebert-Stiftung (FES), in partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat, and with the support of the Australian Government, the findings suggest that without targeted policy and programmatic interventions, it is likely that large sectors of women will be excluded from the direct benefits of the boost in trade, investment and skilled labor integration. The research finds that liberalization measures will impact unevenly because of existing inequalities including based on income, gender, geography, or ethnicity, access to resources and asset ownership will limit women’s potential gains from trade.

### **1.2. Women in the food, agriculture and forestry sector in ASEAN**

Agriculture is a major export sector in six out of ten ASEAN Member States: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, and Viet Nam. While the major agricultural dominant countries are at varying stages of socio-economic development, there are remarkable similarities in the constraints faced by women in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors. Nearly 75 per cent of women in Cambodia are engaged in agriculture, 69 per cent of women are agricultural workers in Myanmar, followed by 48 per cent in Viet Nam, and 51 per cent in Lao PDR.

Despite growing industrialization, agriculture and agro product subsectors like livestock and forestry largely employ women. Women participate at equal levels of the value chain but do not necessarily reach the export level equally.

Since the food, agriculture and forestry sector is very vulnerable to climate variability and

climate change, from a gender perspective, women and youths are more vulnerable to climate change. Women farmers face several challenges in moving beyond subsistence level to access export markets in the ASEAN Member States. Rural poverty level is high and women shoulder disproportionate amounts of physical workloads, both within households and at the farm.

Despite women's significant involvement in agriculture, land ownership and titling and ownership of other productive assets remains largely with the men. Poor access to markets and over dependence on middlemen makes it difficult for women to access outside markets and receive a fair price for their products. Compounding this, is the fact that credit for agricultural purposes is hard to access for women because their lack of asset ownership and low education levels in some ASEAN Member States.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

The AMAF's Approach to gender mainstreaming in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors were developed to help ASEAN Member States:

- Provide guidance in understanding and introducing gender-responsive policies and programmes at the regional level
- Promote and advocate for gender equality in food, agriculture and forestry policies, programmes, systems and structures at the regional and national levels.
- Strengthen and build the capacity of policy makers, field workers and farmers on appropriate approaches to integrating gender in agriculture and climate change
- Promote gender-equitable research supporting climate-smart agricultural technologies.

The AMAF'S Approach to gender mainstreaming in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors, is a non-binding endeavour to help in the process of building stronger gender cooperation and integration in the region, by acting as common reference guide for future cooperation to enhance gender equality in the food, agriculture and forestry sector in ASEAN. The AMAF's Approach takes into account regional and national contexts and circumstances.

## **3. AMAF'S APPROACH TO GENDER MAINSTREAMING**

### **3.1. AMAF's Statement of Policy**

Acknowledging that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls are at the center of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and that gender equality is recognised and affirmed as a precondition for the realisation of sustainable development, AMAF reaffirmed the need to mainstream a gender perspective and analysis, which include targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of policies, plans and programmes of all the food, agriculture and forestry sector in ASEAN. These are aligned with the commitments laid out in the ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

AMAF further encouraged more investments to close resource gaps for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

AMAF agreed to promote women's equal access to and full participation in decision-making bodies and mechanisms involved in the implementation of all goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food,

Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2025) including its policy, plan and programme formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation for the sub-sectors of livestock, crop, fisheries and forestry.

AMAF strongly encouraged relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to promote the implementation of the AMAF's Approach in relation to the food, agriculture and forestry sectors.

### **3.2. Food, Agriculture and Forestry Cooperation in ASEAN**

The overall gender issues that should to be considered in food, agriculture and forestry sectors are:

- Ensure equal participation of women and men in all policy discussion, capacity building activities and participation in all national and regional activities.
- Ensure the collection of gender data for all data collection during the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation phase of all projects/activities.
- Provide opportunity for women to access different financial services such as credit, savings, remittances and insurance schemes in order to provide them with opportunities to scale up food, agriculture and forestry initiatives.
- Encourage and facilitate women's access to education as well as their participation in training aimed at improving women's marketing, trading and business skills.
- Provide leadership training to strengthen and amplify women's voices and leadership.
- Ensure equal participation of women and men in all decision making processes.
- Coordinate with other ASEAN bodies to advocate for gender mainstreaming.

#### **3.2.1. Livestock**

The livestock sub-sector makes important contribution to national output, employment and food security in the ASEAN region though its relative importance varies across the ASEAN Member States. Under ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry, the ASEAN Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL) was established to provide a mechanism to develop ASEAN Standards in Livestock for Vaccines, Good Animal Husbandry Practices and other related activities in the sub-sector. In ASEAN, the major livestock products are poultry and pork. Although production growth has been rapid, the region as a whole is a net importer of both meat and dairy products. Only Thailand is a significant net exporter of meat (primarily poultry). In the case of meat, however, imports are only a small (around 5%) though increasing fraction of the total consumption. The expansion of the livestock industry has also resulted in higher imports of animal feed. Share of agriculture in national output is declining in the more advanced AMS while the share of livestock within agriculture is increasing. While intensive and larger scale production and processing are emerging in the more advanced states, smallholder livestock still dominates in the less developed AMS where they play key roles in poverty alleviation, food security and nutrition and gender equality.

It is estimated that approximately 50-85 percent of total livestock production in AMS can be attributed to smallholders. The percentage varies among and between countries depending on several factors. At the smallholder level, the production system is mainly subsistence or small market oriented enterprises, which largely depends on household feed resources and labour. The systems often have poor production. Women play an important role in feeding, cleaning and management of livestock, especially pigs, backyard poultry and small ruminants, apart from undertaking other routine day-to-day activities related to their

reproductive role in the household. Unlike many other regions, women in Southeast Asia are also involved in retailing of livestock products, especially fresh meat. Men are mainly involved in buying farm inputs, selling of livestock and livestock products, and managing larger animals like cattle and buffalo. The involvement of men increases with the increasing agricultural intensification and herd size.

Gender issues related to livestock throughout ASEAN are largely similar, with some variation depending on culture and tradition. The main constraints that women face in the livestock production and marketing system include, but are not limited to:

- Limited access to extension services, credit, technologies, trainings and information
- Lack of control in decision making at the household, community, and local institutions levels
- Limited control over income and asset and frequent loss of majority of the income to men, who do not reinvest in the household
- Poor access to, control and ownership over natural resources, particularly land
- Poor access to market
- Higher risk to food-borne and zoonotic disease because they are the primary handlers of raw animal products.

While women are involved in care of livestock, men are the ones generally invited to attend trainings, talk with extension workers/decision makers etc. In the process, men have access to knowledge and skills related to livestock that are usually not shared with the women, resulting in poor transfer of knowledge and technologies. Low representation of women in local social institutions and service delivery mechanisms of government and non-governmental agencies also makes access to knowledge and services for rural women difficult. Because of little or no ownership of land among women, it is difficult for them to access credit, resulting in limited scope for scaling up and scaling out their activities. It appears that women in Southeast Asia have more varied bargaining capacity in the market depending on location, tradition and culture. However, in the case of market access, rural women face a number of constraints due to their lower literacy level and marketing skills, as well as limitations to move outside the house premises (customary practices that prevent them to leave the house, poor driving skills). This needs to be addressed to enhance their access as well as their bargaining power in the marketplace.

Men have greater control over the income and assets deriving from livestock than women, resulting in reduced opportunities for women to gain economic independence within the family. On some occasions, income received from livestock are misused by men, and do not benefit the family. There is also a need to increase the involvement of women in decision making, not only at the household but also at the community level. Enhanced decision making choices would encourage the formation of a more conducive environment for women to have equal choices to that of men. With the emergence/re-emergence of zoonotic diseases, women are more at risk to diseases (e.g. brucellosis, tuberculosis) because of closer association with livestock that are managed under poor bio-secure environments and the handling/preparation of raw livestock products.

According to the FAO, there are seven categories of key challenges that smallholder farmers and especially women farmers face: Access and control over natural resources; Distribution of roles and responsibilities based on sex and age; Access to technologies, training and extension services; Access to financial services; Access to markets; Participation and decision-making power; Occupational health and safety (FAO 2013)

The SPA for ASEAN Cooperation in Livestock 2016-2020 Strategic Thrust 4: Support

smallholder livestock for poverty alleviation, improved nutrition, food security and gender equality, includes some activities focusing on gender equality. The following gender issues should be considered in accordance to the FAO seven categories of challenges when formulating policies/programmes under the SPA for ASEAN Cooperation in Livestock 2016-2020:

- Strengthen women's technical skills by facilitating their systematic inclusion in training in husbandry practices, processing and marketing of livestock products, ensuring that training sessions are also provided in villages and small rural communities.
- Provide opportunity for women to access different financial services such as credit, savings, remittances and insurance schemes in order to provide them with opportunities to scale up their livestock production.
- Encourage and facilitate women's access to education as well as their participation in training aimed at improving women's marketing, trading and business skills.
- Provide leadership training to strengthen and amplify women's voices and leadership within farmers' cooperatives and producers' organizations
- Acknowledge gender dimensions of occupational health and safety risks such as exposure to zoonotic diseases, such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and other hazards associated with the handling of raw meat and dairy products.

### **3.2.2. Crop**

The ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops (ASWGC) is one of subsidiary bodies under SOM-AMAF that oversees the ASEAN Cooperation on Crop Sub-Sector. Having a goal to promote the development in this sub-sector, the ASWGC has carried out activities and projects in accordance with its strategic objectives, reflected in the Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) on Crops. A number of activities/ projects have been successful implemented and many are continuing through networking arrangement as well as supported by dialogue and development partners. The scope of the ASWGC covers: i) policy framework, ii) intra-and-extra-ASEAN trade in crops commodities, iii) plant pest and disease control, iv) standards development and its promotion, v) environment protection in crops production, and vi) food security, food safety and nutrition.

Women's increasing role in food and crop systems positions them as an essential player and partner in this process. In ASEAN, women comprise over 50% of agriculture labor force. Women and men farmers have different roles related to crop production, but against a backdrop of changing economic opportunities and environmental conditions, the gender division of labour may change. Women and men farmers often have different criteria for choosing crops and varieties and performing activities such as selecting seed, cultivating, harvesting and processing. These criteria may be based on differences in taste, storage characteristics, time required for food preparation, labour requirements and marketability. Women also often lack secure tenure and resource rights, access to resources, such as land, finance, information, extension services and technology. Closing the gender gap in access to and use of productive resources and services would unlock the agricultural productivity potential of women, increasing farm output substantially. Studies on the yield gap between male and female farmers provide estimates of a gap of 20-30 per cent on average, and most attribute this to lower input use by women. According to FAO estimates, the productivity gains resulting from ensuring equal access to fertilizer, seeds and agricultural tools for women, could raise total agricultural output in developing countries by an estimated 2.5 to 4 per cent, thereby reducing the number of hungry people by between 100 million and 150 million (FAO, 2011)

The following gender issues should be considered when implementing the projects/activities under the SPA for ASEAN Cooperation in Crop 2016-2020:

- Conduct gender analysis within all projects, programs and policies to assess the implications and benefits of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) technologies and practices on men and women.
- Provide specific support to women led SMEs and cooperatives to improve productivity, technology and product quality, to meet global market standards and increase competitiveness.
- Provide training to both women and men on CSA technologies and practices, and gender awareness.
- Facilitate women's access to land and credit through transforming laws and local practices.
- Enhance the capacity of the women and men members of farmer organization and institutions women and men farmers to engage with the private sector.

### **3.2.3. Fisheries and aquaculture**

The fisheries sector plays an important role in the economic development of the ASEAN Member States. Six ASEAN Countries- Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Viet Nam, Thailand and Malaysia are among the world's top fish producing countries, while four countries- Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia and Viet Nam are among the world's top seaweed producing countries. Approximately 60 million people are employed in fisheries-related ancillary services such as boat manufacturing, fishing gear making, fish processing and marketing. The per capita fish consumption (33.4 kg/y) in ASEAN region is remarkably higher than the world's average (19.2 kg/yr) and about 38% of animal protein consumed in the region is derived from fish, which highlights the importance of fisheries in nutritional and food security in the region. The ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF) is tasked to oversee the identification, formulation, monitoring and reporting of fisheries cooperation among AMS.

Acknowledging these gender issues the Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines include gender equity and equality as one of its 13 guiding principles and gender is also considered in the more detailed section on responsible fisheries and sustainable development (FAO 2015). The SSF Guideline recognizes that women and men's fisheries labor are often given different cultural and economic value, with women's work often going uncounted and not considered in fisheries governance, despite being vital to small-scale fisheries. It also acknowledges the centrality of gender to other intersecting issues, particularly human rights and well-being, food security, and climate change and it also highlights how gender differences in power and decision making exist in small-scale fisheries contexts and how those differences influence representative, fair, and sustainable small-scale fisheries governance. Interventions which limit women's role in fisheries and aquaculture systems based on their reproductive and existing economic roles may actually maintain a status quo which may be highly inequitable for rural and indigenous women.

The following gender issues should be considered when implementing the SPA for ASEAN Cooperation in fisheries 2016-2020:

- Empower women in community based fisheries management through capacity building on various technical and legal issues.
- Provide fishers with access to fishing resources, markets, financial, and marketing resources
- Encourage advocacy of equal pay for fisheries labor.

- Encourage strengthening capabilities of women's unions and organizations through resource allocation mechanisms and by increasing their management responsibilities.
- Encourage women to participate in other non-land based and downstream aquaculture-related activities such as seed production and the collection and processing of feed and aquatic products.
- Monitor changes in resources management to assess the extent to which existing formal and informal frameworks enable women's agency, voice, claims and opportunities in fisheries to determine priorities for change.
- Ensure support for research on gender in fisheries.

#### **3.2.4. Forestry**

Forests play an important role in the production of wood and other products and provide a home to a diminishing, yet significant number of people in the sub-region and offer employment in, among other things, production of furniture and other wood products, protected area management, and plantation development. Forests are important for local, indigenous and rural people as they provide foods, energy and shelters to millions of them in ASEAN region.

The ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF) is responsible body for forestry cooperation in ASEAN. ASOF has set up vision of cooperation of which "Forest resources are sustainably managed at the landscape level to meet societal needs, both socio-economically and culturally, of the present and future generations, and to contribute positively to sustainable development". The goal for the forestry sector in ASEAN is to "enhance sustainable forest management for the continuous production of forest goods and services in a balanced way and ensuring forest protection and conservation of biological diversity, as well as optimise their utilisation, compatible with social and ecological sustainability.

Across Southeast Asia, 300 million people live in rural areas and up to 70 million people rely on forests for their livelihoods, nutrition and food security. Men and women often differently use and depend on non-wood forest products, with women often disproportionately relying on these products. Women contribute to the forest sector in many ways, both formal and informal, including through agroforestry, watershed management, tree improvement and forest protection. Women make up a significant proportion of the labour force in forest industries worldwide, especially in tree nursery work but also in activities ranging from logging to wood processing. Although women contribute substantially to the forest sector, their roles are not fully recognized or documented, and their wages and working conditions are usually inferior to those of men. Moreover, women rarely have equal involvement to men in the formulation, planning and implementation of forest policies. There are also gender differentiated impacts of deforestation: for men, deforestation may lead to a loss of income, while for women, it may increase their labour burden, especially in the time taken to gather fuelwood.

The economic, social, cultural, political and legal settings can differentially affect the rights of women and men to control forest resources and own land. Even where women have ownership rights to forests, they may not have equal access to opportunities for forest-generated income. Commonly, women may have access to NTFPs but not to wood resources, which is often the domain of men and also the most commercially valuable product in most forests. This gender differentiation has major implications for forest management and also genderbased power structures in communities. A study conducted by the World Bank found that giving women a bigger say in managing forest significantly improved conservation outcomes (World Bank 2012).

Another important stakeholders are the indigenous communities living in forest areas who

depend on forest for their survival. World Bank estimates there are about 60 million forest dependent indigenous peoples, which researchers believe is an underestimation (Tauli-Corpuz, 2011). The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) fully recognizes the importance of land, territories and resources for Indigenous Peoples. This is further emphasized by the recognition of Indigenous Peoples right to Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as requirement to safeguard our right over our land, territories and resources and our right to self determination. Indigenous women are the most vulnerable to climate change effects and the significance of their traditional knowledge, values and practices, and the need to collectively build on what is left to foster community resilience, both for the present and future generations.

The following gender issues should be considered when implementing the SPA for ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry 2016-2025:

1. Encourage AMS to express gender responsive forestry policies in tenure, access rights, representation in capacity-building opportunities.
2. Initiate dialogue and organize consultation meetings at national and subnational levels to discuss relevant gender issues and gaps in existing forest policies and practices
3. Engage civil society organizations, community based organizations government institutions and relevant women's networks to ensure inclusive approaches to the development and implementation of gender-responsive forest policies
4. Organize gender-awareness seminars and workshops for forestry officials, including decision-makers and policy committee members, to ensure a deeper understanding of the relevance of the concerns of women in forest policies and programmes
5. Strengthen the capacities of institutions working in gender and gender focal points within institutions to engage at a substantive level in forestry-related consultations and in policy review and development processes
6. Encourage consultation with stakeholders in existing management structures to determine gender power imbalances and to facilitate the creation of more gender-balanced forestry institutions. This is important to increase women's representation in leadership roles and their participation in decision-making
7. Analyze employment trends between men and women, specifically the percentage of women with a forestry-related education, as well as the recruitment and retention rates of women in the forestry sector.
8. Ensure equitable sharing of benefits (for e.g. payments for environmental services) between women and men, where relevant.
9. Empower women by building their capacity to participate in forest land rehabilitation/restoration schemes.
10. Monitor forest policies through gender lens in emerging forest governance frameworks.

### **3.2.5. Climate change**

Southeast Asia is highly vulnerable to climate change as a large proportion of the population and economic activity is concentrated along coastlines; the region is heavily reliant on agriculture for livelihoods; there is a high dependence on natural resources and forestry; and the level of extreme poverty remains high. Women in developing countries are particularly vulnerable to climate change because they are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood. Women charged with securing water, food and fuel for cooking and heating face the greatest challenges. Women experience unequal access to resources and decision-making processes, with limited mobility in rural areas. It is thus important to identify gender-sensitive strategies that respond to these crises for women.

Women and men have different access to the resources (land, credit, agricultural technology etc.) to cope with the impacts of climate change: where women have fewer resources than men, this increases their vulnerability and undermines their capacity to adapt to a changing climate. Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures (for e.g. social protection mechanisms, weather-based insurance schemes, seasonal climate forecasts and measures related to forests or soil carbon storage) often do not address gender issues and specifically, women's constraints to participating in these measures. Women commonly face higher risks in responding to natural hazards and greater burden from the impacts of climate change. Although they have intimate local knowledge and are managers of common natural resources, they are often left out of the picture when decisions on climate action are made.

Member States at the annual Conference of the Parties (COP23), convening from 6 – 17 November 2017 in Bonn, Germany, adopted a new roadmap to incorporate gender equality and women's empowerment in climate change discourse and actions. The creation of a "Gender Action Plan" was agreed upon by the Parties at COP22, to bolster the role of women in climate action. The aim of the Gender Action Plan is to ensure that women can influence climate change decisions, and that women and men are represented equally in all aspects of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as a way to increase its effectiveness. The Gender Action Plan sets out, in five priority areas, the activities that will help achieve this objective.

- Increasing knowledge and capacities of women and men through workshops and information exchanges
- Increase equal and meaningful participation of women in national delegations
- Increase integration of the gender considerations—such as addressing women's specific vulnerability to natural disasters as well as understanding women's role in agriculture and food production, and supporting women entrepreneurs in the energy sector—into the areas of work of all Parties to the Convention
- Increase climate-related financial resources that integrate gender priorities and reflect the needs of women and girls.
- Improve tracking of the implementation of the gender-related decisions.

ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC) was established to oversee the implementation of the relevant action lines in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint. One of the objective of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 is to realise a resilient community with enhanced capacity and capability to adapt and respond to social and economic vulnerabilities, disasters, climate change as well as emerging threats, and challenges.

The following gender issues should be considered when implementing the ASCC Blueprint 2025

- Conduct an in-depth and evidence-based analysis of women's and men's roles in sectors impacted by, and their strategies for coping with climate change
- Integrate gender perspectives throughout climate change programming in order to effectively address both women's and men's needs and priorities, ensure the full and meaningful participation of women and achieve gender-equitable outcomes
- Ensure mitigation and adaptation efforts to address sources of gender-based vulnerability, gender inequality and poverty
- Incorporate gender perspectives into national and international climate change finance mechanisms and strategies.

### **3.2.6. Food security and nutrition**

ASEAN has sought to ensure food security for the region, enhance agricultural productivity, and maintain sustainability of natural resources. In recognition of the rapid changes in the global market and their impacts on the agriculture and forestry sectors, as well as of the structural changes within these sectors, as the result of industrialization, the Hanoi Plan of Action (HPA) and its successor Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) on the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors, has called for “Enhance Food Security and Global Competitiveness of ASEAN’s Food, Agriculture and Forestry Products through developing appropriate technologies to increase productivity and by promoting intra- and extra-ASEAN trade and greater private sector investment in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors”.

Food and nutrition insecurity is a gender justice issue. Low status and lack of access to resources mean that women and girls are the most disadvantaged by the inequitable global economic processes that govern food systems and by global trends such as climate change. Evidence shows strong correlations between gender inequality and food and nutrition insecurity. Gender relations between and among men and women are important in determining vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition. Gender discrimination in the allocation of household resources, including those related to nutrition, may result in an increased incidence of malnutrition among women and girls: this may be compounded in times of crises. Greater vulnerability to food insecurity in times of crisis compounds the problems of food insecurity

The analysis by Institute of Development Studies (IDS 2014), on Gender and Food Security emphasizes that the need for those designing food and nutrition security policies and programmes to go beyond a focus on the first pillar of ensuring the availability of food in poor countries through ‘short-term’ strategies of food assistance and longer-term strategies focused on boosting agricultural production, which are reliant on industrial models and trade liberalisation. The ‘four pillars’ of food security – availability, access, utilisation and stability – that were identified at the World Summit on Food Security in 2009 provide useful entry points for a more comprehensive analysis of the problem of food insecurity and for addressing the current, insufficient, policy responses.

The following gender issues should be considered when implementing the ASEAN integrated Food Security Framework SPA on Food Security 2015-2020:

- Enhance coherence between policies on gender, agriculture, nutrition, health, trade and other relevant areas, through national and regional processes;
- Recognise and respect the local knowledge of farmers, including women farmers, for developing locally relevant food and nutrition security solutions which are gender just;
- Develop ecologically sound approaches to food production, such as agro-ecology, that promote sustainable farming and women’s empowerment;
- Promote the implementation of all people’s rights to food and, in particular, women’s rights to other resources, such as land, at the local level; and
- Engage women and men members of farmer cooperatives and SMEs in challenging the inequitable distribution of food

### **3.2.7. Integrating gender into food, agricultural and forestry value chains**

Closing the “gender gap” in agriculture can result in major production gains: the FAO report on The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-2011 determined that women’s yields could grow

by 20–30 percent if the gender gap in accessing agricultural inputs were closed, an increase that could raise total agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5–4 percent, which could in turn reduce the number of food insecure people in the world by 12–17 percent (FAO, 2011). Within this context, integrating gender considerations into the development of agrifood value chains is not only necessary from a human rights perspective; it is also a prerequisite to ensuring sustainable growth in areas of intervention.

Value chain programs designed with gender equitable principles can encompass both competitiveness and gender equality and lead to poverty reduction. It is important to map gender relations and roles along the value chain. The process is based on an accurate understanding of existing gender relations in a specific country context and for specific food, agriculture and forestry products. It should include mapping man's and women's participation and benefits along the chain and identifying the factors that shape the gender patterns in value chain operations. Gender dynamics are inextricably bound up with the value chain development cycle: value chain efficiency is highly dependent on strong linkages and positive collaboration among actors, and women are important stakeholders all along value chains, though they are often invisible or overlooked.

The FAO Gender-Sensitive Value Chain (GSVC) Framework focuses on the individual level and looks into the gender based constraints which are the underlying causes of value chain inefficiency. The aim of GSVC is to identify gender based constraints at every node of the value chain, such as participation in the chain, access to and control over productive resources and access to and control over benefits (FAO 2016)

The following gender issues should be considered when integrating gender into agricultural value chains:

- Conduct research to understand man's and women's roles and responsibilities in agricultural value chains
- Address the capacity building needs of women in the agriculture value chain
- Support women's economic advancement
- Promote gender equitable market-driven solutions
- Design equitable benefit-sharing mechanism
- Include women in defining the problem and solution
- Provide opportunities for women to gain access to inputs and market information
- Assist women's group to purchase equipment to expand processing
- Assist women to overcome mobility constraints and social barriers
- Encourage more women-owned enterprises to join trade association
- Address safer working environment/work space for women's wellbeing

## **4. REGIONAL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

### **4.1. Mainstreaming gender in food, agriculture and forestry**

There are important gender perspectives in all aspects of food, agriculture and forestry. Gender inequalities in access to resources, including land, credit, extension services, information and technology, must be taken into account in developing food, agriculture and forestry policies, programmes and activities. Women make up a large number of the poor in communities that are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood and are disproportionately vulnerable to and affected by climate change. Women in rural areas in developing countries have the major responsibility for household water supply and energy for cooking and heating, as well as for food security, and are negatively affected by drought, uncertain rainfall and deforestation. Because of their roles, unequal access to resources and

limited mobility, women in many contexts are disproportionately affected by natural disasters, such as floods, fires, and mudslides. It is important to identify gender-sensitive strategies for responding to the environmental and humanitarian crises caused by climate change.

ASEAN Member States should be encouraged to mainstream gender perspectives into their national policies, action plans and other measures on sustainable development and climate change, through carrying out systematic gender analysis, collecting and utilizing sex-disaggregated data, establishing gender-sensitive indicators and benchmarks and developing practical tools to support increased attention to gender perspectives. Consultation with and participation of women in climate change initiatives should be considered and the role of women's groups and networks strengthened.

#### **4.2. Framework for a strategy for mainstreaming gender in food, agriculture and forestry**

The gender mainstreaming approach in food, agriculture and forestry identifies the overall strategic objective as: "To facilitate and promote resilience agricultural policies, structures and programmes to promote gender equality towards sustainable development by 2025".

##### **4.2.1. Approach and advocacy**

The objective is to promote and advocate for gender equality in food, agriculture and forestry policies, programmes, systems and structures at the regional and national levels. The following activities may be considered:

- Intensify relevant collaboration and information sharing with regional and national bodies, organisations and development partners working in the area of gender
- Advocate for gender equality in food, agriculture and forestry policies with top-level management in relevant ASEAN sectoral working groups
- Promote the sharing of experiences and lessons learnt by awarding opportunities to women to take part in relevant regional and international forum on food, agriculture and forestry
- Ensure effective participation of gender experts and women's organisations in consultative processes for the formulation on adaptation and mitigation strategies and policies in food, agriculture and forestry
- Promote conservation agriculture and climate smart agriculture and (sustainable agriculture) related activities that integrate male and female smallholder farmers designed to address gender disparities
- Promote the production of materials and publications with the objective of addressing gender based stereotypes and cultural injustice in food, agriculture and forestry
- Promote an enabling environment for gender mainstreaming in food, agriculture and forestry.
- Identify existing policies on gender in the regional and national levels

##### **4.2.2. Capacity Building**

The objective is to strengthen and build the capacity of policy makers, field workers and farmers on appropriate approaches to integrating gender in agriculture and climate change. The following activities may be considered:

- Conduct assessment to identify the capacity needs of all stakeholders

- Support Member States to develop training modules on climate smart agriculture and gender
- Support Member States to develop capacity for gender impact assessment mechanisms.
- promote training of female agricultural extension agents
- Facilitate the development of gender-sensitive data bases and systems to consolidate women's knowledge and experience in sustainable resource use and in particular on agricultural production systems
- Facilitate the capacity building of team of trainers/focal persons on climate smart agriculture and gender.

#### **4.2.3. Institutional Framework**

The objective is to strengthen linkages between regional organisations and national institutions responsible for gender, agriculture and climate change at regional and national levels. The following activities may be considered:

- Develop a situation analysis of selected regional and national institutions to determine their capacity to integrate a gender perspective into agriculture and climate change initiatives.
- Promote exchange of best practices of institutions and organisations that support female farmers' leadership in farmer cooperatives and association
- Strengthen the increased participation of national gender machineries and mainstreaming of gender in the development of the national agriculture and investment frameworks
- Strengthen the organisational structure from the national to the local level, harmonization and localization of plans, and enhancement of monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

#### **4.2.4. Building and strengthening strategic partnership**

The objective is to create and strengthen strategic partnerships and tripartite relations at international and regional levels including public private partnerships. The following activities may be considered:

- Conduct study tours/visits to learn and share experiences on gender, agriculture and climate change initiatives
- Provide a platform to identify and engage potential fund sources specific to gender mainstreaming activities

#### **4.2.5. Information, Communication and Publicity**

The objective is to establish an information management system focusing on gender, agriculture and climate change. The following activities may be considered:

- Improve awareness and avail adequate agriculture and climate change information especially targeting women, youths and men
- Develop knowledge-based information management system focusing on gender, agriculture and climate change
- Establish and disseminate gender sensitive information and materials on agriculture and climate change

#### **4.2.6. Research, Innovation and technology**

The objective is to promote gender-equitable research supporting climate smart agricultural technologies. The following activities may be considered:

- Conduct baselines on gender, conservation agriculture practices and technologies in the Member States.
- Strengthen research to obtain more comprehensive data on gender aspects of agriculture and climate change to support climate smart agriculture.
- Intensify collaborative and participative research and development including the upgrading of relevant and appropriate technologies, information and knowledge systems to ensure that gender equality issues are addressed.

## **5. IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS**

The recommendations in the AMAF's Approach serve as reference guides for AMS in their efforts to promote gender equality in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors. SOM-AMAF, with support from ATWGARD, ASWGL, ASWGC, ASWGFi, ASOF and other relevant Working groups may accordingly be guided where relevant by the recommendations in the AMAF's Approach. The ATWGARD, in close coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat may need to seek support from ASEAN partners and different stakeholders in the implementation of the AMAF's Approach as reference guides.

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## Annex 1: Recommended gender intervention in sectoral SPAs

*The following SPAs were reviewed to formulate the recommendations for the approach.*

### Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016- 2025)

Strategic Thrust	Description	Activities	Gender Interventions
ST1	Enhance quantity and quality of production with sustainable, 'green' technologies, resource management systems, and minimise pre- and postharvest losses and waste	1.13. Standardise and harmonise concepts, methods and presentation of national statistics and strengthen technical capacity of AMS to conduct multi country studies and undertake accurate situational analysis and planning.	Develop harmonized concept and methods on integrating gender in Food, Agriculture and Forestry sectors
ST2	Enhance trade facilitation, economic integration and market access	2.5. Established business linkages among the potential agricultural cooperatives and farmers organisation.	Assure participation of women cooperatives and organizations
ST3	Ensure food security, food safety, better nutrition and equitable distribution	3.5 Improve food security and nutrition through diversifying food sources and strengthening the quality and variety of food production and improving the food value chains.	Participation of women in the decision making and implementation of this activity is crucial.
ST4	Increase resilience to climate change, natural disasters and other shocks	4.7 Integrate gender issues into climate friendly agriculture, fishery and forestry practices to reduce the higher vulnerability of women to the social and economic impact of natural disasters and climate change.	Build capacity to integrate gender

ST5	Assist resource constrained small producers and SMEs to improve productivity, technology and product quality, to meet global market standards and increase competitiveness in line with the ASEAN Policy Blueprint on SME Development	5.5 Implement competition policies to ensure a level playing field for producers and SMEs and to prevent unfair exploitation by large firms with market power in integrated supply chains.	While considering the level playing field, there is need to consider gender equity issues as well.
ST6	Strengthen ASEAN joint approaches on international and regional issues	6.2 Present ASEAN common position on the issues affecting FAF sector in regional and global fora	Present ASEAN common position on the gender equality in food, agriculture and forestry issues affecting FAF sector in regional and global fora
ST7	Promote sustainable forest management	7.3 Promote dialogue with the private sector about improving quality & efficiency of the timber industry and processing of other forest product	Promote regional dialogue on gender issues in sustainable forest management

**SPA for ASEAN Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Development  
2016-2020**

Strategic Thrust	Description	Activities	Gender Interventions
ST1	Enhance quantity and quality of production with sustainable, 'green' technologies, resource management systems, and minimise pre- and post-harvest losses and waste	1.2 Increase private sector participation in policy discussions, programme and project formulation, research and development (R&D) and provide incentives and foster an enabling environment for public-private partnerships (PPPs) towards enhancing productivity and quality	Recognize that 'private sector' also includes women owned SMEs
		1.6 Increase investments in collaborative R&D activities, and strengthen existing regional collaboration among AMS	Conduct collaborative research on gender and agriculture in AMS.
ST3	Ensure food security, food safety, better	3.1 Promote nutrition education and consumer	Focus on women as agents of change for

	nutrition and equitable distribution	awareness of healthy diets	advocating healthy diets and consuming micronutrient-rich foods
ST4	Increase Resilience to Climate Change, Natural Disasters and Other Shocks	4.1.1 Build the capacity of ATWGARD in proposal writing to explore funding support from the climate funds.	Build their capacity to integrate gender into the proposals.
		4.4 Integrate gender issues into climate friendly agriculture, fishery and forestry practices to reduce the higher vulnerability of women to the social and economic impact of natural disasters and climate change. (SPFAF 4.7)	Build capacity to integrate gender into the existing and new programs and policies.
ST6	Strengthen ASEAN joint approaches on international and regional issues	6.2 Present ASEAN common position on the issues affecting FAF sector in various Regional and International Fora	Engagement of ATWGARD to present ASEAN common position on the issues affecting Gender and FAF

**SPA on ASEAN Cooperation in Livestock  
2016-2020**

Strategic Thrust	Description	Activities	Gender Interventions
ST1	Enhance intra- and extra ASEAN trade in livestock commodities	1.1 Improved policy and regulatory environment to facilitate trade	Advocate appropriate authorities to address social and specifically gender issues of livestock production and processing.
ST2	Disease control and food safety to expand trade and protect human health		
ST3	Sustainable productivity improvement, natural resources management and livestock impact on the environment and climate change	3.1. More productive and globally competitive livestock sector	Undertake research on gendered impact on livestock sector due to climate change.
ST4	Support smallholder livestock for poverty alleviation, food	4.1. Livestock serve as an important pathway for poverty alleviation,	Activity 4.1.1. Make policy advocacy for low interest livestock credit

	security, nutrition, and gender equality	improved nutrition and gender equality	accessible to the poor, especially women, through micro-credit, SME and other programmes designed for poverty alleviation.
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**SPA on ASEAN Cooperation on Crops  
2016-2020**

Strategic Thrust	Description	Activities	Gender Interventions
ST1	Enhance quantity and quality of production with sustainable, 'green' technologies, resource management systems, and minimise pre- and post-harvest losses and waste;	1.6 Provide institutional mechanisms and appropriate incentives for PPP in R&D and technology diffusion, collaborating with the private sector to identify priority, high pay off research issues, and utilise it as a channel for both technology generation and diffusion.	Collaborate with private sector to develop 'Business Case for Gender Equality in this fast growing crops sub-sectors'
ST2	Enhance trade facilitation, economic integration and market access		In accordance with the WTO's Buenos Aires Declaration on Women and Trade 2017, ensure equal participation in trade related issues.
ST3	Ensure food security, food safety, better nutrition and equitable distribution	3.4 Improve food security and nutrition through diversifying food sources and strengthening the quality and variety of food production and improving the food value chains	Engage with women groups and SMEs to advocate for diversification of food sources.
ST4	Increase resilience to climate change, natural disasters and other shocks	4.2 Promote access to climate finance resources to support climate smart/friendly agriculture	Build capacity on integrating gender into proposals to access climate finance.
ST5	Assist resource constrained small producers and SMEs to improve productivity, technology and product quality, to meet global market standards and increase competitiveness.		Similar to the Livestock SPA, Advocate for low interest credit accessible to the poor, especially women, through micro-credit, SME and other programmes designed for poverty alleviation.

ST6	Strengthen ASEAN joint approaches on international and regional issues	6.2 Present ASEAN common position on the issues affecting Crop sector in regional and international fora	Coordinating and strengthening joint positions on gender issues at international and regional fora and organizations
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**SPA on ASEAN Cooperation in Fisheries  
2016-2020**

Strategic Thrust	Description	Activities	Gender Interventions
ST1	Enhance quantity and quality of production with sustainable, 'green' technologies, resource management systems, and minimize pre- and post-harvest losses and waste	1.1.4. Consultation with relevant stakeholders to identify and address investment needs (sustainable production, management systems, post-harvest investment).	Gender equal participation of fishers and women leaders of private sectors in the stakeholder discussions
		1.4.1 Update and strengthen national fisheries policy, legal and institutional frameworks through consultation and engagement of government agencies, the private sector, fishers, civil society and other relevant stakeholders [refer to POA 7]	Ensure equal participation of women and men
ST2	Enhance trade facilitation, economic integration and market access;	2.4.2 Promote strategic partnership with ASEAN Fisheries cooperatives and farmers organization, producers, consumers and traders.	Include Women farmer groups and organizations
ST3	Ensure food security, food safety, better nutrition and equitable distribution	3.2.2. Collaborate with relevant ASEAN bodies in finalizing and implementing the ASEAN Food Safety Policy, accelerate the establishment of food safety standards	Collaborate with ASEAN bodies such as ASCC Gender equal engagement on the Food Safety Policy
ST4	Increase resilience to climate change, natural disasters and other shocks;	4.1.1. Promote collaboration between concerned AMS and Partners	Conduct research on gender and climate change issues in the fisheries sectors.

ST5	Assist resource constrained small producers and SMEs to improve productivity, technology and product quality, to meet global market standards and increase competitiveness.	5.3.1 Ensure that national programs and policies on fisheries and aquaculture address social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture to improve food security, livelihoods, employment and poverty alleviation	Emphasize gender issues while discussing social issues.
ST6	Strengthen ASEAN joint approaches on international and regional issues affecting the FAF sector	6.2.1. Promote dialogue among AMS to establish common positions on Fisheries issues that impact the ASEAN Region	Include AMS common positions in gender issues in fisheries.

**SPA for ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry  
2016-2025**

Strategic Thrust	Description	Activities	Gender Interventions
ST1	Enhance quantity and quality of production with sustainable, 'green' technologies, resource management systems, and minimise pre- and post-harvest losses and waste;	1.3. Enhancement of Forest Management involving Community living within and surrounding the Forest for the Sustainability of the Forest and Prosperity of the People.	While reviewing customary and statutory tenure arrangements, highlight gender equality and equity issues.
		1.4 Adoption of Sustainable Management Practices for Non-wood Forest Products, such as Medicinal Plants, Rattan, Bamboo, etc.	In most communities women have indepth knowledge of Non-wood Forest Product therefore it is imperative to involve them in the design of the sustainable management practices.
ST2	Enhance trade facilitation, economic integration and market access	2.2. Enhancement of Co-operation in Forest Products Development.	Conduct a value chain assessment on forest products with a gender lens. Involve women in the assessment to capitalize on their knowledge and skills for Forest Product Development.
ST3	Ensure food security, food safety, better nutrition and equitable distribution	3.1 Integration of Climate Change in the Forestry Sector	Assess the gendered impacts and risks of planned climate change mitigation and adaptation in the

			forestry sector.
ST4	Increase resilience to climate change, natural disasters and other shocks	4.2. Enhancement of Sharing Experiences and Lessons Learned.	Facilitate cross-learning among AMS in gender, forestry and climate change, ASEAN Working Group on social forestry
ST5	Assist resource constrained small producers and SMEs to improve productivity, technology and product quality, to meet global market standards and increase competitiveness in line with the ASEAN Policy Blueprint on SME Development;	5.2. Enhancement of ASEAN Joint Approaches in Addressing Regional and International Forestry Issues.	Adopt and articulate ASEAN common positions on Gender and Forestry and influence the outcomes of the deliberations at international and regional fora

**ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (2015- 2020)**

Strategic Thrust	Description	Activities	Gender Interventions
ST1	Strengthen Food Security, including Emergency/ Shortage Relief Arrangement	1.2. Sustainability of the food supply chain with enhancement to the seed industry	Create platform for sharing social and gender issues in seed industry
ST2	Promote conducive food market and trade	2.1.3. Gather data and conduct analysis thereof to support the AFSRB technical meetings, such as policy scenarios for the rice market, impact assessment of contract growing on small-scale farmers, and related studies	Analysis can focus on gender issues on food market and trade, specifically in rice and fish.
ST3	Strengthen integrated food security information systems to effectively forecast, plan and monitor supplies and utilization for basic food commodities	3.1.3. Conduct timely, periodic assessment of the state and outlook for rice and other key food commodities in ASEAN	The assessment can also include social and gender issues related to rice and other key food commodities in ASEAN
ST4	Promote sustainable food production	4.1.7. Expand and promote farmers' knowledge beyond agriculture to include agribusiness and entrepreneurship	Capacity development on gender issues in agribusiness and entrepreneurship

ST5	Encourage greater investment in food and agri-based industry to enhance food security	5.1.1. Prepare roadmaps for demand-oriented agri-based and food regional value chains	Equal participation women groups, cooperatives and SMEs in preparation of the roadmap.
ST6	Identify and address emerging issues related to food security	6.1.1. Conduct a study on the long-term implications of bio-energy development and food security in AMS.	Study should also include section on social, gender implication.
ST7	Utilize Nutrition Information to support evidence-based food security and agriculture policies	7.1.1. Conduct regional workshops to identify/define key nutrition information and indicators, collection/compilation methodologies required for regular food security monitoring and policy development	This workshop should integrate gender issues in nutrition.
ST8	Identify policies, institutional and governance mechanisms for nutrition-enhancing agriculture development in AMS	8.1. Awareness and recognition on importance of nutrition by key stakeholders of food, agriculture and forestry	Participation of women is critical in these awareness raising activities.
ST9	Develop and strengthen nutrition-enhancing food, agriculture and forestry policies/programs and build capacity for their implementation, monitoring and evaluation	9.1. Nutrition-enhancing food, agriculture and forestry policies and programmes developed and strengthened	Build capacity to integrate gender into the Nutrition-enhancing food, agriculture and forestry policies and programmes