

Adopted at the 40th AMAF Meeting
11 October 2018
Ha Noi, Viet Nam



**PLAN OF ACTION OF THE ASEAN GENETICALLY
MODIFIED FOOD TESTING NETWORK
2018-2025**

**ASEAN GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD TESTING NETWORK
2018**

PLAN OF ACTION (POA) OF THE ASEAN GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD TESTING NETWORK (2018-2025)

INTRODUCTION

ASEAN Member States (AMSs) has recognized the need to develop a consistent, science-based approach towards regulating Genetically Modified Organism relevant to agro-food sectors since 1997 when the 19th AMAF agreed to work towards the harmonization of regulation for products derived from modern biotechnology. The 21st AMAF has further endorsed ASEAN Harmonized Guidelines on the Release of Agriculture-Related GMOs in 1999. Since then, AMSs have been collaborating to increase each other's capacity in minimizing the risk of unsafe genetically modified food as well as securing the benefits of biotechnology to improve agricultural productivity and ensure food security.

Recognizing the importance of having a platform to facilitate the exchange of information, consultation and collaboration on genetically modified food, the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) formally established the ASEAN Genetically Modified Food Testing Network (abbreviated as GMFNet) at its 25th Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2003.

The 37th Meeting of AMAF on 10 September 2015 in Makati City, Philippines endorsed the Vision and Strategic Plan of ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (SP-FAF), which is designed to guide ASEAN towards the completion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to achieve the related goals of the UN Zero Hunger Challenge.

To ensure that activities of the GMFNet are aligned with the SP-FAF (2016-2025), the 14th GMFNet Meeting, held on 27-28 July in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar agreed to develop the Plan of Action (PoA) of the GMFNet. The PoA was developed by taking into account the Terms of Reference of GMFNet and the Strategic Thrusts of SP-FAF (2016-2025), particularly the ST 1, 2, 3 and 6.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this PoA are to enhance the cooperation among AMSs on food safety assurance of genetically food; to promote the harmonization of agriculture-related GMO risk assessment practices and methodologies; to promote cooperation in GMO-related research, technology transfer and capacity building; to encourage private-public partnership on modern agricultural biotechnology; and enhance coordination and develop common approaches—on regional issues related to GM food.

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STRATEGIC THRUST 1 : ENHANCE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF PRODUCTION WITH SUSTAINABLE, ‘GREEN’ TECHNOLOGIES, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, AND MINIMISE PRE- AND POST-HARVEST LOSSES AND WASTE

ACTION PROGRAMMES	ACTIVITIES	SUB-ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY	TIMELINE	OUTPUT INDICATORS
1.6 Develop new and appropriate technologies, best practices and management systems to ensure food safety and address health/disease and environmental issues, particularly in the fast growing aquaculture, livestock and horticulture sub- sectors	1.6.1 Harmonization of ASEAN Laboratories testing approach through collaborative activities	1.6.1.1 Regional GMO Proficiency Test through the facilitation of ASEAN Food Reference Laboratory on Genetically Modified Organism	Malaysia	Q4 2020	Proficiency Test organized
		1.6.1.2 ASEAN Training Workshop on Genetically Modified Food Safety Assessment	Thailand	Q2 2020	Training/Works hop organized
		1.6.1.3 ASEAN Training Workshop on Genome Editing and Synthetic Biology	Thailand	Q2 2020	Training/Works hop organized

STRATEGIC THRUST 2 : ENHANCE TRADE FACILITATION, ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND MARKET ACCESS.

ACTION PROGRAMME	ACTIVITY	SUB-ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY	TIMELINE	OUTPUT INDICATORS
<p>2 Harmonize accreditation, inspection and certification so that uniform requirements will prevail ASEAN-wide, enabling the recognition of equivalence.</p>	<p>2.2.1 Facilitate the development and promote the adoption of ASEAN Harmonized Guideline</p>	<p>2.2.1.1 Develop ASEAN Guideline on GMO Detection</p>	<p>Singapore and Myanmar</p>	<p>Q2 2020</p>	<p>Draft Guideline is developed and submitted to SOM-AMAF</p>
		<p>2.2.1.2 Develop ASEAN Guideline for Methods Validation Proficiency Testing and Collaborative Trial on GMO Testing</p>	<p>Malaysia</p>	<p>Q2 2020</p>	<p>Draft Guideline is developed and submitted to SOM-AMAF</p>
		<p>2.2.1.3 Develop Guideline for Registration of Nationally and Regionally Developed Genetically Modified Crops for Food and Feed</p>	<p>Indonesia & Philippines</p>	<p>Q4 2020</p>	<p>Draft Guideline is finalized and submitted to SOM AMAF</p>
		<p>2.2.1.4 Develop ASEAN Guideline on Regulatory Framework for Genetically Modified Food and Feed</p>	<p>Vietnam & Myanmar</p>	<p>Q4 2021</p>	<p>Draft Guideline is finalized and submitted to SOM AMAF</p>

ACTION PROGRAMME	ACTIVITY	SUB-ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY	TIMELINE	OUTPUT INDICATORS
		2.2.1.5 Setting up ASEAN GMO testing Reference Material Depository for reference materials for use as positive and negative samples in quality control and methods validation.	Philippines, Malaysia, and Singapore	Q4 2022	Molecular register and depository for reference materials are established.
		2.2.1.6 Review the ASEAN Guidelines on Risk Assessment of Agriculture Related Genetically Modified Organisms	Philippines	Q4 2020	Review report of the guidelines is submitted to SOM-AMAF
2.7 Enhance regional and international cooperation to ensure that all major ASEAN food markets are integrated, and the food trading system is strengthened and utilized to provide stable food supplies	2.7.1 Engaging with international bodies intended for exchanges of experience and expertise on GMO testing best practices	2.7.1.1 Continue collaboration with European-Union Network of GMO Laboratories (ENGL)	Singapore	Q2 2018	Delegation Exchanged between ENGL and GMFNet
		2.7.1.2 ASEAN EU-JRC Training on GMO Quantitative Detection	Singapore	Q2 2018	Training organized
		2.7.1.3 ASEAN ICGEB Training on GMO Screening Detection	Vietnam	Q1 2025	Training organized

STRATEGIC THRUST 3: ENSURE FOOD SECURITY, FOOD SAFETY, BETTER NUTRITION AND EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION

ACTION PROGRAMME	ACTIVITY	SUB-ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY	TIMELINE	OUTPUT INDICATORS
3.8 Encourage adoption of standards on classification of food products to facilitate appropriate consumer choices and incentivize producers.	3.8.1 Harmonization of technical standard on GM Food product certification and labeling	3.8.1.1 Develop ASEAN Technical Standard on GM Food Product Certification and Labeling	Malaysia/Indonesia	TBI	Draft Guideline is finalized and submitted to SOM AMAF

STRATEGIC THRUST 6 : STRENGTHEN ASEAN JOINT APPROACHES ON INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ISSUES

ACTION PROGRAMME	ACTIVITY	SUB-ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY	TIMELINE	OUTPUT INDICATORS
6.1 Enhance coordination and develop joint approaches through consultations among AMS and related ASEAN bodies in regional and international fora	6.1.1 Setting up regional harmonized approach on recent development on Genetically Modified Food and Feed sector relevant to health, trade and environmental issues.	6.1.1.1 ASEAN Training Workshop on GM Food approach and response to Low Level Presence issues	Indonesia	Q3 2025	Workshop is organized.