



**THE FORTIETH MEETING OF
THE ASEAN MINISTERS ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
(40th AMAF)
11 October 2018, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF), held our 40th Meeting on 11 October 2018 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Nguyen Xuan Cuong, Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam.

2. We exchanged views on regional development relating to the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025 and the progress made in the food, agriculture and forestry sector in 2017-2018. We are pleased with the successful implementation of the initiatives related to food, agriculture and forestry cooperation in supporting the Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (SP-FAF) 2016-2025.

Policy framework related to ASEAN cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry

3. We noted the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Food Security (SPA-FS) 2015-2020. In this connection, we endorsed the Multi Sectoral Framework on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food and Nutrition Security and Achievements of SDGs (MSFCC) to contribute to food security through sustainable, efficient and effective use of land, forest, water and aquatic resources by minimizing the risks and impacts of climate change.

4. We are pleased with the achievements made in the harmonisation of standards of foods, agriculture and forestry products in ASEAN, and adopted five (5) key documents to ensure the safety and quality of agricultural produce and to facilitate ASEAN trade of these products, namely: (i) 17 ASEAN Harmonised MRLs and 750 reviewed ASEAN MRLs; (ii) ASEAN Guidelines for Organic Certification; (iii) ASEAN Standards for Mature Coconut, Soursop and Taro; (iv) ASEAN Diagnostic Protocol for South American Leaf Blight; and (v) ASEAN Standards on Animal Vaccines (the 3rd edition).

5. We appreciated the timely completion of the six (6) key deliverables of the food, agriculture and forestry sector in 2018, consisting of: (i) the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry, (ii) AMAF's Approach to Gender Mainstreaming in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors, (iii) ASEAN MRLs and ASEAN Standards, (iv) Policies to promote inter-sectoral cooperation between forestry and other sectors, (v) ASEAN Good Animal Husbandry Practices (ASEAN GAHP) for Pigs, and (vi) ASEAN Roadmap for Enhancing the Role of Agricultural Cooperatives in the Global Agricultural Value Chains 2018-2025.

6. We adopted the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry to promote investment in food, agriculture and forestry in the ASEAN region that contributes to regional economic development, food and nutrition security, food safety and equitable benefits, as well as the sustainable use of natural resources.

7. We adopted AMAF's Approach to Gender Mainstreaming in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors to assist ASEAN Member States in promoting and advocating for gender equality in food, agriculture and forestry policies, programmes, systems and structures at the regional and national levels, and in strengthening and building the capacity of policy makers, field workers and farmers on appropriate approaches to integrating gender in agriculture and climate change.

8. We adopted the ASEAN Roadmap for Enhancing the Role of Agricultural Cooperatives in the Global Agricultural Value Chains 2018-2025 to serve as a framework to harmonize agricultural cooperatives' legal structures and institutional arrangements within and among ASEAN member countries and share best practices.

Forestry

9. We are pleased with the progress made by the ASEAN cooperation in forestry in the areas of sustainable forest management (SFM), timber certification, herbal and medicinal plants, forest products development, wildlife enforcement and CITES, forest law enforcement and governance (FLEG), social forestry and forest and climate change. For SFM implementation, we encouraged AMSs to improve SFM practices, develop joint initiatives and enhance joint research and development, capacity building with relevant institutions.

10. We endorsed the ASEAN Guidelines for Agroforestry Development to promote the role of agroforestry in simultaneously achieving economic, environmental and social outcomes at farm, household and landscape levels and help ASEAN Member States achieve their targets related to food security, sustainable growth, reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions, land restoration, watershed protection, gender equality, social/community forestry, climate-change adaptation and mitigation and, more generally, the Sustainable Development Goals.

11. We endorsed the Manual for Assessing Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) Implementation in ASEAN Member States that provides the framework to facilitate description, diagnosis, assessment and reporting on the state of FLEG implementation in ASEAN Member States, as well as progress, changes and trends in its implementation over time. The Manual will also provide a systemic approach to identifying areas of strength and weakness, and devising and implementing related suitable responses, including continuing adaptation and learning to ensure progress.

Fisheries

12. We are pleased with the progress made in the fisheries sector focusing on the development regional mechanism for warning system for aquatic health and diseases, implementation of regional approaches to combat IUU Fishing and manage fishing capacity, development of conservation and management measures for fishery resources, promotion of sustainable small-scale fisheries, development of measures to address climate change impacts on fisheries and aquaculture, and promotion of good aquaculture practices.

13. We agreed on the establishment of the Expert Working Group on ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices (EWG-ASEAN GAqP) to support the implementation and management of ASEAN GAqP and ASEAN Shrimp GAP and the establishment of the Ad Hoc Task Force to

conduct a Feasibility Study on the development of the ASEAN General Fishery Policy (AGFP). We endorsed the Policy Paper on the Establishment of ASEAN Regional Eco-Labeling Scheme to ensure sustainable use of tuna resources and responsible social practices.

Cooperation with Dialogue Partners and International Organisations

14. We are pleased that cooperation with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, particularly Australia, China, Germany, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Russia, has been further strengthened in the areas of food security, food safety and products quality, trade facilitation of the agriculture and forestry products, sustainable forest management, and climate resiliency.

15. We appreciated the support extended by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and World Economic Forum (WEF) – Grow Asia Partnerships for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture, and Forestry 2016-2025.

The 41st AMAF Meeting

16. We agreed to convene the 41st ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Meeting in Brunei Darussalam in 2019.

17. We expressed our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government and People of Viet Nam for hosting the 40th AMAF Meeting and for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

The Meeting was attended by:

- i. H.E. Dato Ali Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Brunei Darussalam
- ii. H.E. Veng Sakhon, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia
- iii. H.E. Dr. A. Amran Sulaiman, Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia
- iv. H.E. Dr. Liane Thykeo, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR
- v. H.E. Dato' Salahuddin bin Ayub, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia
- vi. H.E. Dr. Aung Thu, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar
- vii. H.E. Ariel T. Cayanan, Undersecretary for Operations and Agriculture Mechanisation, Department of Agriculture, Philippines
- viii. H.E. Sun Xueling, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry for Home Affairs and Ministry for National Development, Singapore
- ix. H.E. Luck Wajananawat, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand

- x. H.E. Dr. Nguyen Xuan Cuong, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam
- xi. H.E. Dr. Aladdin D. Rillo, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community.