



CHAPTER 4:

ASEAN Health Cluster 4 on Ensuring Food Safety Work Programme 2026-2030

ENSURING FOOD SAFETY

Safe Food. Healthy People.
Trusted Systems.



ASEAN HEALTH CLUSTER 4
ENSURING FOOD SAFETY
WORK PROGRAMME 2026-2030

 ALIGNMENT WITH ASCC STRATEGIC PLAN	Strategic Measures:  4.1.4	
 ALIGNMENT WITH UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA	GOALS 	SDG Goal #1 Ending poverty SDG Goal #2 Zero hunger SDG Goal #3 Good Health and Well-being SDG Goal #6 Clean water and sanitation SDG Goal #8 Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all SDG Goal #12 Responsible Consumption and Production SDG Goal #17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (Targets 17.9, 17.16, 17.18)
 CLUSTER GOALS	1 To enhance and facilitate access to safe food to build resilient and effective food safety systems across the supply chain	2 To strengthen food safety risk analysis in ASEAN through enhancing capacities, advancing science-based approaches, data sharing, and fostering collaboration among AMS.
 CLUSTER STRATEGIES	 Provide scientific advice and risk assessment and enhance its use in developing evidence-based food safety risk management measures.  Strengthen effectiveness of national food control system elements through capacity building activities to minimize the gaps in AMS  Improve the utilisation of appropriate mechanisms for food safety.  Enhance integrated and multi-sectoral collaboration for strengthening of AMSs' food control system through ASEAN Food Safety Policy, ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Agreement, ASEAN One Health Initiative, Nutrition initiative, and other regional initiatives	



PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

Strategies	Programme Objectives
Strategy 1: Provide scientific advice and risk assessment and enhance its use in developing evidence-based food safety risk management measures	1. To expand ARAC's institutional capacity through strengthened governance and sustainability. 2. To enhance AMS capabilities and capacities in risk assessment.
Strategy 2: Strengthen effectiveness of national food control system elements through capacity building activities to minimize the gaps in AMS.	3. To provide capacity building activities for strengthening national food control systems.
Strategy 3: Improve the utilisation of appropriate mechanisms for food safety.	4. To enhance consumer empowerment, risk communication and engagement with stakeholders for effective control measures for food safety including promoting the use of technology.
Strategy 4: Enhance integrated and multi-sectoral collaboration for strengthening of AMSs' food control system through ASEAN Food Safety Policy, ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework Agreement, ASEAN One Health Initiative, Nutrition initiative, and other regional initiatives	5. To support ASEAN inter-sectoral, inter-pillar, and inter-cluster collaboration regarding food safety.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

Strategies

Strategy 1: Provide scientific advice and risk assessment and enhance its use in developing evidence-based food safety risk management measures

Strategy 2: Strengthen effectiveness of national food control system elements through capacity building activities to minimise the gaps in AMS.

Strategy 3: Improve the utilisation of appropriate mechanisms for food safety.

Strategy 4: Enhance integrated and multi-sectoral collaboration for strengthening of AMSs' food control system through ASEAN Food Safety Policy, ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework Agreement, ASEAN One Health Initiative, Nutrition initiative, and other regional initiatives.

Key Performance Targets

1. Enhanced ARAC governance through ASEAN policy instruments to sustain ARAC
2. Promotion and utilisation of the ASEAN Guidelines on the Harmonisation of Food Consumption Data (FCD) for Food Safety Risk Assessment
3. Strengthening regional capability for Food Hazard Concentration Data gathering and submission to international platform for food safety risk assessment through HR development
4. Promotion of information sharing on emerging food safety risks
5. Enhanced capability on implementation of pesticide residual monitoring strengthened through laboratory capacity building, exchange data, and development of evidence-based recommendations.
6. Enhanced capability on monitoring and evaluation of CPE programme.
7. Enhanced capability on implementation of food control measures.
8. Enhanced capabilities and capacities on responding to food emergency through better planning and preparedness, early detection and better risk communication.
9. More than 80% of AMS participated in capacity building and simulation exercise to improve readiness for responding to food safety hazards and conducting outbreak investigation
10. AHC 4 Website under AFSN is fully utilised by AMS.
11. By 2030, ASEAN Health Sector is fully participates in the TF AFSRF and AFSCC to foster the implementation of AFSRF Agreement





WORK PROGRAMME 2026 – 2030
ASEAN HEALTH CLUSTER 4 ON ENSURING FOOD SAFETY

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	PROGRAMME KEY PERFORMANCE TARGETS	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2026-2030	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	LEAD / CO-LEAD COUNTRY	TIMELINE	ASEAN INTER-PILLAR/ INTER-SECTORAL/ INTER-CLUSTER	SOURCE OF SUPPORT
CORE ACTIVITIES							
Strategy 1: provide scientific advice and risk assessment and enhance its use in developing evidence-based food safety risk management measures							
1. To expand ARAC's institutional capacity through strengthened governance and sustainability.	Enhanced ARAC governance through ASEAN policy instruments to sustain ARAC	1. Review the potential of the ASEAN policy instruments to sustain ARAC	• Report on the ASEAN potential instruments including recommendation • Development of the draft policy instruments	Malaysia	2027-2028 for the review and the report 2029-2030 for the draft policy instruments	Other ASEAN centres: • SOM-AMAF: ACCAHZ • ACDM: AHA Centre • ACB	ASEAN Secretariat and other partners
2. To enhance AMS capabilities and capacities in risk assessment	Promotion of information sharing on emerging food safety risks	2. Sharing scientific information on emerging risks (e.g. AMR, food fraud, chemical risks) to promote risk assessment (webinar)	• Webinar Report	Lead: Thailand Co-lead: ARAC	2028-2030	ASEAN One Health Network	FAO, WHO, and other partners

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	PROGRAMME KEY PERFORMANCE TARGETS	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2026-2030	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	LEAD / CO-LEAD COUNTRY	TIMELINE	ASEAN INTER-PILLAR/ INTER-SECTORAL/ INTER-CLUSTER	SOURCE OF SUPPORT
CORE ACTIVITIES							
Strategy 2: Strengthen effectiveness of national food control system elements through capacity building activities to minimize the gaps in AMS							
3. To provide capacity building activities for strengthening national food control systems	Enhanced capability on implementation of pesticide residual monitoring strengthened through laboratory capacity building, exchange data, and development of evidence-based recommendations.	Three-year pilot project on monitoring dietary exposure on pesticide residues from leafy and fruiting vegetables among AMS; 3. Identification of technical gaps and priority areas for capacity building 4. Training workshop and proficiency testing for laboratory personnel	• Increase capability in monitoring dietary exposure on pesticide residues from leafy and fruiting vegetables among AMS	Lead: Singapore Co-lead: Viet Nam	2026-2030	ASEAN Food Reference Laboratory for Pesticide Residues (AFRL-PR), through ACCSQ/PPFWG/ AFTLC, Expert Working Group on the Harmonisation of Maximum Residue, Limits (EWG-MRLs) of Pesticides among ASEAN Countries through, ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops (ASWGC)	ASEAN UK HSP Programme

AHC Work Programme Categories:

- a. **CORE** – activities that are agreed to be implemented commencing in 2026
- b. **ESSENTIAL** – activities that are agreed to be implemented in the mid-term
- c. **EXPANDED** – activities that are agreed to be implemented from the mid-term and after the reassessment





PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	PROGRAMME KEY PERFORMANCE TARGETS	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2026-2030	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	LEAD / CO-LEAD COUNTRY	TIMELINE	ASEAN INTER-PILLAR/ INTER-SECTORAL/ INTER-CLUSTER	SOURCE OF SUPPORT
CORE ACTIVITIES							
Enhanced capability on monitoring and evaluation of CPE programme.	Enhanced capability on monitoring and evaluation of CPE programme.	Monitoring and evaluation of CPE programme: 5. Conduct survey/ evaluation on CPE programme on Food Safety in each AMS 6. Strengthen Capacity Building of AMS in Conducting Monitoring and Evaluation of the CPE Programme 7. Follow-up Survey on Monitoring and Evaluation of the CPE Programme 8. Conduct Behavioural Science training on CPE programme	• Comprehensive evaluation report on CPE Programme in AMS • Developing ASEAN CPE Monitoring and Evaluation Modules and conducting the Regional Training Workshop • Survey Report and recommendation	Indonesia	2027-2028	None	Partners to be identified
			• Training Report and recommendation to develop ASEAN CPE Tool Kit	Indonesia	2029-2030	None	ASEAN UK HSP Programme

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	PROGRAMME KEY PERFORMANCE TARGETS	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2026-2030	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	LEAD / CO-LEAD COUNTRY	TIMELINE	ASEAN INTER-PILLAR/ INTER-SECTORAL/ INTER-CLUSTER	SOURCE OF SUPPORT
CORE ACTIVITIES							
Enhanced capability on implementation of food control measures.		9. Training workshop on risk-based inspection and certification for all AMS	• Training workshop report • Knowledge increase among trainees on the risk-based inspection and certification	Lead: Indonesia Co-lead: Philippines, Timor-Leste	2028	PFPWG (JSC MRA on PF), ASEAN Task Force on Codex (ATFC) CCFICS lead country Singapore, and ASEAN Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Contact Point Committee (ASCP) chair	WHO and other partners
		10. Conduct of the survey on best practices in import control measures for food safety	• Summary and recommendation best practice of strengthening import control measures in ASEAN countries	Lead: Thailand Co-lead: Lao PDR	2028-2030	PFPWG (JSC MRA on PF)	None

AHC Work Programme Categories:

- a. **CORE** – activities that are agreed to be implemented commencing in 2026
- b. **ESSENTIAL** – activities that are agreed to be implemented in the mid-term
- c. **EXPANDED** – activities that are agreed to be implemented from the mid-term and after the reassessment





PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	PROGRAMME KEY PERFORMANCE TARGETS	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2026-2030	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	LEAD / CO-LEAD COUNTRY	TIMELINE	ASEAN INTER-PILLAR/ INTER-SECTORAL/ INTER-CLUSTER	SOURCE OF SUPPORT
CORE ACTIVITIES							
Strategy 3: Improve the utilisation of appropriate mechanisms for food safety							
4. To enhance consumer empowerment, risk communication and engagement with stakeholders for effective control measures for food safety including promoting the use of technology.	More than 80% of AMS participated in capacity building and simulation exercise to improve readiness for responding to food safety hazards and conducting outbreak investigation	11. ASEAN FSER Simulation Exercise	• Knowledge increase among trainees	Indonesia	7-9 July 2026	ASEAN One Health Network, Focal Points of INFOSAN, IHR, ARASFF	WHO
		12. Training of Trainer Workshop on Investigation Foodborne Disease Outbreak	• Training Report is submitted	Viet Nam	2026	None	ASEAN China Cooperation Fund
		13. Improve and strengthening of AHC 4 food safety information sharing using ASEAN Food Safety Network (AFSN)	• AHC 4 Website updated by AHC 4 Focal points for AFSN	Thailand	2026-2030	None	None

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	PROGRAMME KEY PERFORMANCE TARGETS	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2026-2030	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	LEAD / CO-LEAD COUNTRY	TIMELINE	ASEAN INTER-PILLAR/ INTER-SECTORAL/ INTER-CLUSTER	SOURCE OF SUPPORT
CORE ACTIVITIES							
Strategy 4: Enhance integrated and multi-sectoral collaboration for strengthening of AMSs' food control system through ASEAN Food Safety Policy, ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework Agreement, ASEAN One Health Initiative, Nutrition initiative, and other regional initiatives							
5. To support inter-sectoral, inter-pillar, and inter-cluster collaboration regarding food safety.	By 2030, ASEAN Health Sector is fully participates in the TF AFSRF and AFSCC to foster the implementation of AFSRF Agreement	14. Collaboration with agriculture and trade sectors for development of protocols and other relevant meetings under the ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework (AFSRF) Agreement through the TF AFSRF/ ASEAN Food Safety Coordinating Committee (AFSCC)	● AHC 4 active participation in protocols development and other relevant meetings	TF AFSRF Vice Chair (Malaysia)	2026-2030	SEOM/SOM-AMAF	EU TAF GTEI

AHC Work Programme Categories:

- a. **CORE** – activities that are agreed to be implemented commencing in 2026
- b. **ESSENTIAL** – activities that are agreed to be implemented in the mid-term
- c. **EXPANDED** – activities that are agreed to be implemented from the mid-term and after the reassessment





PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	PROGRAMME KEY PERFORMANCE TARGETS	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2026-2030	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	LEAD / CO-LEAD COUNTRY	TIMELINE	ASEAN INTER-PILLAR/ SECTORAL/ INTER-CLUSTER	SOURCE OF SUPPORT
ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES							
Strategy 1: Provide scientific advice and risk assessment and enhance its use in developing evidence-based food safety risk management measures							
To enhance AMS capabilities and capacities in risk assessment.	Promotion and utilisation of the ASEAN Guidelines on the Harmonisation of Food Consumption Data (FCD) for Food Safety Risk Assessment	1. Monitoring of AMS promotion and use of the guideline and the availability of Food Consumption Data, biennially	Report on the status on promotion and use of the guideline and availability of Food Consumption Data in AMS	Malaysia	2026-2030	None	None
	Strengthening regional capability for Food Hazard Concentration Data gathering and submission to international platform for food safety risk assessment through HR development	2. Training/Workshops/ Webinars on submission of chemical/food hazard data to international platform (e.g. GEMS/ Food database and its quality criteria)	Knowledge increase among trainees on submitting chemical/food hazard data to international platform	Malaysia	2027 -2028	PFPPWG under SEOM and EWG on MRL under SOM AMAF	WHO and other partners
Strategy 2: Strengthen effectiveness of national food control system elements through capacity building activities to minimize the gaps in AMS							
[No Essential activity identified under this Strategy]							

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	PROGRAMME KEY PERFORMANCE TARGETS	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2026-2030	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	LEAD / CO-LEAD COUNTRY	TIMELINE	ASEAN INTER-PILLAR/ INTER-SECTORAL/ INTER-CLUSTER	SOURCE OF SUPPORT
ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES							
Strategy 3: Improve the utilisation of appropriate mechanisms for food safety							
To enhance consumer empowerment, risk communication and engagement with stakeholders for effective control measures for food safety including promoting the use of technology.	Enhanced capabilities and capacities on responding to food emergency through better planning and preparedness, early detection and better risk communication.	Promoting resilience through emergency planning, by conducting: 3. Capacity building for promoting resilience through emergency planning by detecting signals of food contaminations and foodborne diseases	Knowledge increase among trainees	Lead: Indonesia Co-lead: Philippines, Lao PDR, Cambodia	Capacity building: 2028-2029	ARASFF under AMAF, and ASEAN One Health Network	WHO
Strategy 4: Enhance integrated and multi-sectoral collaboration for strengthening of AMSs' food control system through ASEAN Food Safety Policy, ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework Agreement, ASEAN One Health Initiative, Nutrition initiative, and other regional initiatives							
[No Essential activity identified under this Strategy]							
AHC Work Programme Categories: a. CORE – activities that are agreed to be implemented commencing in 2026 b. ESSENTIAL – activities that are agreed to be implemented in the mid-term c. EXPANDED – activities that are agreed to be implemented from the mid-term and after the reassessment							
4. Information sharing on the AI utilisation in food safety control, food fraud and crime, and food safety surveillance system							
None							
2027							
AHC 4 Chair and Vice Chair							
UK Mission to ASEAN							

AHC Work Programme Categories:

- a. **CORE** – activities that are agreed to be implemented commencing in 2026
- b. **ESSENTIAL** – activities that are agreed to be implemented in the mid-term
- c. **EXPANDED** – activities that are agreed to be implemented from the mid-term and after the reassessment





Annex 1.

WORK PLAN 2026 – 2030

ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety (ARAC)

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2026-2030	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	LEAD / CO-LEAD COUNTRY	TIMELINE	ASEAN INTER-PILLAR/ INTER-SECTORAL/ INTER-CLUSTER	SOURCE OF SUPPORT
CORE ACTIVITIES						
1. To ensure ASEAN food safety decisions are based on scientific evidence	1. Risk Assessment, as commissioned by AHC 4, involving the following ARAC structure: a) Scientific Committee Meeting b) Scientific Panel Meeting c) ARAC Focal Point Meeting And Related Assessments through: d) Support to dietary exposure assessment in the Three-year pilot project on monitoring dietary exposure on pesticide residues from leafy and fruiting vegetables among AMS	Risk assessment/ scientific opinion report produced	ARAC	2026-2030	SOM-AMAF ACCSQ-PFPWG	FAO and other relevant partners
2. To streamline ARAC operations and ensure consistency in how scientific opinions are formed and managed	2. Development of ARAC Chairperson of Scientific Committee and Scientific Panel Handbook	Chairperson Handbooks developed	ARAC	2027-2028	n.a	

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2026-2030	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	LEAD / CO-LEAD COUNTRY	TIMELINE	ASEAN INTER-PILLAR/ INTER- SECTORAL/ INTER-CLUSTER	SOURCE OF SUPPORT
CORE ACTIVITIES						
3. To align ASEAN risk assessment practices with international standards and learn from established global food safety bodies.	[No Core activity identified under this Programme Objective]					
4. To enhance the capability of risk managers and assessors						
		1. Increase capability 2. Recommendation from the activities conducted to strengthen ARAC operationalisation	ARAC	2028-2030	n.a	UK Mission to ASEAN and other relevant partners
		3. Increase ARAC capability through strengthening networking with international risk assessment agency for the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panel, Risk Managers and ARAC Secretariat				
		4. Publication of the Executive Summary of Risk Assessment	Executive Summary	ARAC	2026-2030	n.a

AHC Work Programme Categories:

- a. **CORE** – activities that are agreed to be implemented commencing in 2026
- b. **ESSENTIAL** – activities that are agreed to be implemented in the mid-term
- c. **EXPANDED** – activities that are agreed to be implemented from the mid-term and after the reassessment





PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2026-2030	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	LEAD / CO-LEAD COUNTRY	TIMELINE	ASEAN INTER-PILLAR/ INTER-SECTORAL/ INTER-CLUSTER	SOURCE OF SUPPORT
ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES						
1. To ensure ASEAN food safety decisions are based on scientific evidence	<i>[No Essential activity identified under this Programme Objective]</i>					
2. To streamline ARAC operations and ensure consistency in how scientific opinions are formed and managed	1. Development of new standard of operating procedure (SOP) on publication of ARAC output	New SOP on publication of ARAC output developed	ARAC	2026-2027	n.a	
	2. Expand the pool of risk assessor	List of risk assessor updated	ARAC	2026-2030	n.a	
3. To align ASEAN risk assessment practices with international standards and learn from established global food safety bodies.	3. Outreach programme with other Organisations, agencies or sectoral bodies to strengthen operationalisation of ARAC	ARAC's networking increased	ARAC	2026-2030	SOM-AMAF ACCSQ-PFPWG	
4. To enhance the capability of risk managers and assessors	4. Organise ARAC Risk Assessment Conference	1. Increase ARAC visibility 2. Report of conference 3. Promotion of ARAC	ARAC	2028-2029	n.a	ASEC to identify relevant partners

AHC Work Programme Categories:

- a. **CORE** – activities that are agreed to be implemented commencing in 2026
- b. **ESSENTIAL** – activities that are agreed to be implemented in the mid-term
- c. **EXPANDED** – activities that are agreed to be implemented from the mid-term and after the reassessment