



**THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE ASEAN MINISTERS ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY AND THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

**(20<sup>th</sup> AMAF PLUS THREE)**

**21 October 2020**

**JOINT PRESS STATEMENT**

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministers of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held our Twentieth Meeting virtually on 21 October 2020 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Veng Sakhon, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia.
2. We exchanged views on the COVID-19 pandemic situation and were deeply concerned about its unprecedented impacts on the lives of people and economies, including the disruption of the food supply chain in the region. We reaffirmed our commitment to ensuring sustainable food sources and the unimpeded flow of food in the region. We recognised the important role of ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR), and the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) in reducing excessive price volatility of food, and agreed to continue our efforts to effectively implement the APTERR and AFSIS to ensure a stable supply of emergency rice reserves, including the provision of timely and accurate market information during and after the pandemic.
3. We were pleased with the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy (APTCS) 2016-2025 in the strategic areas of strengthening food security, sustainable forest management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, animal and plant health and disease control, capacity-building and human resource development, strengthening of information system and knowledge networking and exchange, enhancing productivity, quality and marketability of agricultural products, and research and development.
4. We appreciated the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement and urged remaining APTERR Parties to expedite the submission of the Instrument of Ratification to further progress the effective implementation of the APTERR Agreement.
5. We supported the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry to ensure that the investment in food, agriculture and forestry in the region meet global standards and promote sustainable and responsible development.

6. We noted the serious threat of Fall Armyworm to agriculture and food security of the region and encouraged the ASEAN Plus Three countries to support the implementation of the ASEAN Action Plan on Fall Armyworm 2020 - 2025.
7. We congratulated the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) on 60 years of service to the countries of the region, and for its highly valuable contribution of rice varieties, rice research and capacity building for the region. Noting the changed governance arrangement for the IRRI under the One Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR) reforms, we acknowledged the importance of sustained investment in rice research for development given the importance of rice as a backbone of food security for this region.
8. We appreciated the progress of the Research Project on Cold Chain Development and Application of Digital Technologies to FVC, towards Higher Value Added of ASEAN Agri-products that the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) is implementing, and noted the utilisation of digital technology is one of the important cooperation areas for further development of the food value chain in ASEAN.
9. The ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry extended their appreciation to the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea for the continuous support and commitment to enhancing the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry.
10. We will meet again at the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of AMAF Plus Three in Indonesia in 2021.
11. We expressed our sincere appreciation to the Government of Cambodia for the excellent arrangement made for the 20<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three 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. Syahrul Yasin Limpo, Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia
- iv. H.E. Dr. Linkham Douangsavanh, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR
- v. H.E. Datuk Seri Dr. Ronald Kiandee, Minister of Agriculture and Food Industries (MAFI), Malaysia
- vi. H.E. Dr. Aung Thu, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar
- vii. H.E. Dr. William Dar, Secretary of Agriculture, Philippines
- viii. H.E. Dr. Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Sustainability and the Environment, Singapore
- ix. H.E. Mr. Narapat Kaoethong, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand

- x. H.E. Le Quoc Doanh, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam
- xi. H.E. Ma You Xiang, Chief Livestock Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, People's Republic of China
- xii. H.E. Nogami Kotaro, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan
- xiii. H.E. Lee Jae-ouk, Vice Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Republic of Korea
- xiv. H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN.