



**THE TWENTY FIRST 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**

**(21<sup>st</sup> AMAF PLUS THREE)**

**27 October 2021**

**JOINT PRESS STATEMENT**

1. The Twenty First Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three was virtually held on 27 October 2021. The Meeting was chaired by His Excellency Dr. Syahrul Yasin Limpo, Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Indonesia.
2. The Meeting was 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, biomass energy development, sustainable forest management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, animal and plant health and disease control, capacity-building and human resource development, enhancing productivity, quality and marketability of agricultural products, strengthening of information system and knowledge networking and exchange, and research and development.
3. The Meeting appreciated the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement, and commended APTERR's effort on the release of 5,029 MT of rice from Japan and the Republic of Korea to address emergency situations including the COVID-19 pandemic in Cambodia, Myanmar, and the Philippines. The Meeting noted the proposal to expand and strengthen the role of APTERR, after 10 years in existence, in supporting food security in the region, and tasked APTERR Council to consult with ASEAN and the Plus Three countries in their positions on the strengthening on the role of APTERR.
4. The Meeting noted the progress of the ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Information System (AFSIS) particularly in strengthening the region's capacity on food security information systems and human resource development. The Meeting welcomed the publication of the Agricultural Commodity Outlook Report and Early Warning Information to guide the ASEAN Member States on the current situations and prospects of five commodities, including rice, maize, sugarcane, soybeans, and cassava.
5. The Meeting appreciated the support for the implementation of the Action Plan Implementation Strategy for Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (ASEAN-RAI) that will ensure that the investment in food, agriculture and forestry in the region meet global standards and promote sustainable and responsible development.

6. The Meeting welcomed the development of the ASEAN Strategy on Sustainable Biomass Energy for Agriculture Communities and Rural Development in 2020-2030 and the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting the Utilisation of Digital Technologies in the Food and Agriculture Sectors aimed at enhancing the food supply chain resilience and food security in ASEAN.
7. The Meeting encouraged ASEAN Plus Three Countries to further enhance cooperation on regional activities to achieve innovative and sustainable agricultural production and food systems aiming to promote the application of digital technologies in agriculture, application of nature-based solutions in agriculture, forestry and climate change adaptation and mitigation and promoting circular economy in agriculture and forestry, as well biomass energy, while recognizing that there is no “one-size-fits-all” solution in achieving those goals.
8. The Meeting 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.
9. The Meeting expressed their appreciation to the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) for their support and contribution in conducting the research projects on the utilization of digital technologies for food value chain resilience and the development of the cold chain in ASEAN, including the conduct of the knowledge sharing workshops. The Meeting also thanked ERIA for the support in formulating the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting the Utilisation of Digital Technologies in the Food and Agriculture Sector and looked forward to the continued collaboration in other priority areas such as food systems and sustainable agriculture.
10. The Meeting agreed to convene the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of AMAF Plus Three in Lao PDR in 2022.
11. The Meeting expressed sincere appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for the excellent arrangement made for the 21<sup>st</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting.

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