

**ASEAN PLUS THREE COOPERATION  
STRATEGY ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND  
FORESTRY (APTCS)  
2016-2025**

## ASEAN PLUS THREE COOPERATION STRATEGY ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY (APTCS) 2016-2025

Based on the successful implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy on Food, Agriculture and Forestry (APTCS) 2011-2015, AMAF Plus Three decided to continue implementing the APTCS for the period 2016-2025. The APTCS (2016-2025) is developed to provide scope and joint actions for APT cooperation on food, agriculture and forestry with the aims of ensuring food security and livelihoods, promoting sustainable development of agriculture and forestry sectors, enhancing trade of agricultural and forestry based products, and addressing issues and challenges facing agriculture and forestry sectors of the APT countries. The new cooperation strategy is envisioned to contribute towards the realization of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and advancing the APT collaboration in priority areas of shared interest.

The APTCS (2016-2025) takes into account the emerging measures identified in the new Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation on Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2025), ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework (IAFS) and SPA on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (2015-2020), ASEAN Plus Three Bioenergy and Food Security Framework (2015-2025) and ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Statement on Promoting Sustainable Development Cooperation in 2016.

### **Strategic Areas of Cooperation**

In order to continue enhancing and deepening the cooperation, the APT countries will continue to pursue the nine strategic areas of cooperation along with knowledge sharing, technology transfer and some activities concerning investment and cooperation. At the same time, seven priorities of cooperation and relevant action programmes stipulated under the Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry, 2016-2025 could be considered to implement, with a focus on: (i) regulatory and institutional changes, (ii) harmonisation of procedures on the development of standards of technical regulation and (iii) food safety related initiatives, including strengthening laboratory competencies.

#### **Strategic Area 1: Strengthening Food Security**

- Continue to support activities of APTERR through further implementation of the Tier 3 Program and encouragement of the utilization of Tier 1 Program.
- Continue the ASEAN+3 Roundtable Meeting on Food Security Cooperation Strategy a platform for knowledge sharing about improved food and nutrition security.
- Continue to support the sustainable development of agricultural heritage systems through mobilizing regional and national recognition and conducting capacity building activities.
- Strengthen the quality and variety of food production and improve the food value chain.
- Develop capacity to mainstream nutrition-enhancing food, agriculture and forestry policies/programs.
- Encourage greater investment in food, agriculture, and forestry-based industry through public-private or public-community partnership.

#### **Strategic Area 2: Biomass Energy Development**

- Continue to hold the ASEAN+3 Forum on Biomass Energy to facilitate exchanges on sustainable biomass energy development.
- Support the implementation of activities under the APT Bioenergy and Food Security Framework (2015-2025) focusing on enhancing bioenergy policy and investment, sustaining bioenergy production and utilization, and improving data and information system.

Strategic Area 3: Sustainable Forest Management

- Enhance capacities and human resources, including research and development institution in the forestry sector of AMS.
- Collaborate on forest product development and trade.
- Strengthen Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG).
- Promote the exchange of knowledge on implementing sustainable forest management and improve forest governance.

Strategic Area 4: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

- Continue to support capacity development and institutional strengthening for Green House Gas (GHG) mitigation and adaptation in the agriculture sector, including approaches that strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity of small-scale farmers and rural communities to respond to climate change.
- Forge closer cooperation in the development, transfer and diffusion of climate smart agriculture and aquaculture technologies and best practices.
- Promote to support the development of climate-friendly agriculture.
- Promote greater protection of the environment, addressing the challenge of climate change, and sustainable management of natural resources

Strategic Area 5: Management of Animal Diseases and Plant Pests

- Continue to develop capacity in transboundary animal diseases and plant pests, prevention and control i.e. diagnosis, surveillance, quarantine, treatment, biosecurity measures.
- Continue supporting the establishment of Greater Mekong Sub-region Transboundary Animal Disease Control System
- Enhance collaboration on regional warning system on animal and plant health and diseases to improve the notification system for animal and plant epidemics, and strengthen the joint prevention and control of major transboundary animal diseases and plant pests.
- Strengthen regional efforts to address the threat of antimicrobials resistance through improving public awareness, developing capacity for surveillance and monitoring, promoting good practices and responsible use of antimicrobials, and policy development support.

Strategic Area 6: Enhancement of Capacity-building and Human Resource Development

- Continue to promote human resource development cooperation in food and agricultural areas with universities in ASEAN countries, and capacity building project in the agriculture sector of ASEAN countries.

- Promote and strengthen cooperatives and farmers organizations to better integrate small producers in the value chains, and to provide collective platforms to deal with production and market risks.
- Expand and promote farmer's knowledge beyond agriculture to include capacity-building program in agri-business and entrepreneurship.

*Strategic Area 7: Enhancement of Productivity, Quality and Marketability of Agricultural Products*

- Continue the development of food value chain in ASEAN countries, and pilot demonstration fields for high quality and yield crops showcasing technological innovation in agriculture.
- Continue to engage in the meetings and training courses of the East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum.
- Continue to hold forums, workshops, exhibits and training courses on seed development, high quality fruit promotion, and food quality and safety.
- Promote technologies, innovations, best practices and management system to improve productivity, and optimize the utilization of harvest, reduce post-harvest losses, and minimise wastes and discard.
- Dissemination and utilization of GAP certification of international level.
- Promote and strengthen the protection of geographical indications.

*Strategic Area 8: Strengthening of Information and Knowledge Networking and Exchange*

- Continue to strengthen the agricultural production data collection and improve data accuracy. Establish real-time early warning and monitoring mechanisms on food security in the region, including the strengthening capacity building.
- Promote the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in agriculture.
- Facilitate sharing, exchange and compilation of agricultural statistics, market information and agro-food value chain statistics.
- Support rural and community development by encouraging relevant agencies to conduct information and expertise exchanges, capacity building activities and pilot projects in land use, planning, development and management

*Strategic Area 9: Strengthening Collaboration on Research and Development*

- Facilitate on-the-job research capacity building for sustainable agriculture.
- Promote Public-Private Partnership in research and development and diffusion of agricultural technology.
- Develop new technologies and best practices to improve agricultural productivity, address health/disease and environmental issues, and minimize post-harvest losses in agriculture, livestock and fisheries.
- Strengthen problem-oriented exchanges on advanced and applicable technologies.
- Organise workshops on modern agriculture-related topics

**Implementation Arrangement**

The SOM-AMAF/AMAF+3 will coordinate the implementation of the APTCS (2016-2025), while relevant government agencies will be responsible for overseeing the preparation and implementation of more detailed action plans and projects at the national level.

Projects will be approved by SOM-AMAF+3 (based on ASEAN Project Appraisal and Approval process). Projects should be regional in nature and of benefit to the ASEAN+3 Countries. As much as possible, projects should involve the participation of all Member Countries. A monitoring and evaluation mechanism should be included and strengthened to assess the efficiency of the related projects/activities being implemented at national/regional level and including the cooperation mechanism to provide accountability of the deliverables under each project/activity.

The main funding modality to support the implementation of APTCS (2016-2020) is through cost-sharing among ASEAN+3 Countries. Additional funding support could be sought from Dialogue Partners, International Organizations and Donor Agencies.

Cooperation arrangements with International Organizations, Donor Agencies, private sector, and industry associations at regional and national levels are encouraged for successful implementation of various projects.

Progress in the implementation of the APTCS (2016-2025) will be reported to SOM-AMAF+3 annually. The ASEAN Secretariat will review and monitor compliance of such implementation.

### **Review**

The APTCS and the SPA will be reviewed periodically taking into account dynamic regional and global developments and evaluated after the end of year period in 2025.