



**THE TWENTY-FOURTH 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**

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

**25 October 2024**

**JOINT PRESS STATEMENT**

Final

1. The Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three was held virtually on 25 October 2024 hosted and chaired by Myanmar.
2. The Meeting focused on the accomplishments made in implementing the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy (APTCS) for the period 2016-2025. This strategy focuses on several key areas, including sustainable agriculture, good agricultural practices, the integration and use of digital technologies, and strategies for adapting to and mitigating climate change. These priorities are vital for addressing regional challenges while fostering collaboration and strengthening ties between the ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three Countries. The discussions highlighted the importance of these areas in promoting sustainable development, improving food security, and ensuring ecological resilience, which are essential for the long-term prosperity and stability of the region.
3. The Meeting noted the implementation of various projects related to, among others, strategies for promoting crop insurance in ASEAN region through public-private partnerships, efforts to enhance the efficiency of regional irrigation water management, reducing harmful agrochemicals and crop burning, ensuring sustainable soil and water resources for agriculture, sustainable forest management, controlling African Swine Fever (ASF) and other significant transboundary animal diseases (TADs) in Asia, and Rice Value Chain Improvement, which aimed at supporting the region in ensuring food security and building a resilient and sustainable agri-food system. The Meeting appreciated the commitment from ASEAN Plus Three countries to continue improving the sustainability of food supply chains, enhancing human resource development and capacity building, enhancing collaboration on climate change, managing transboundary animal and plant pests, and strengthening the knowledge information exchange and research collaboration among countries. The Meeting encouraged ASEAN Plus Three countries to continue supporting the development of food, agriculture and forestry sector in the region.
4. The Meeting discussed the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement and noted that throughout 2023, nearly 3,000 MT of APTERR stocks under the Tier 3 program, contributed by Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK), were released in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and the Philippines. Japan's original initiatives, such as the pre-cooked rice assistance and the School Distribution Programme, were successfully implemented in Cambodia and the Philippines. Under China's in-cash contribution in 2023, 300 MT of rice was pre-

positioned in Lao PDR, while Myanmar released 200 MT of locally purchased rice, and the Philippines is procuring 375 MT of local rice to support disaster relief. Overall, these initiatives were crucial in addressing emergencies and bolstering food security across the region.

5. The Meeting expressed gratitude for the continued support from the Plus Three Countries for the 2024 Tier 3 pre-positioned program. China has donated an in-cash contribution of USD 800,000, equivalent to approximately 1,000 MT of rice. Japan has committed USD 720,000, providing around 620 MT of rice and 2 MT of pre-cooked rice; and the ROK has reaffirmed its support with a contribution of 10,000 MT of rice, all crucial for safeguarding food security among APTERR member countries. The Meeting requested the ASEAN Secretariat to collaborate with partners and stakeholders to further explore potential cooperation to enhance ASEAN's emergency response and ensure greater flexibility in managing food security crises

6. The Meeting discussed the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) and reiterated the importance of this system in providing essential information on food security in the ASEAN region. In 2023-2024, various significant reports were issued by the system, including the Early Warning Information (EWI) Report, Agricultural Commodity Outlook (ACO) Report, and Rice Growing Outlook (RGO) Report. These reports have provided valuable information and data for ASEAN countries to monitor food security in the region, enabling them to develop appropriate policies to closely observe the situation. The Meeting encouraged all relevant partners of ASEAN to collaborate with the AFSIS Secretariat to enhance the sharing of information and data. The meeting welcomed the endorsement of the Joint Understanding of the 22<sup>nd</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting for the Sustainability of AFSIS seeking to enhance AFSIS's role, function, and long-term viability.

7. Regarding the priorities for cooperation post-2025 in the food, agriculture, and forestry sectors, the Meeting agreed to advance sustainable and circular agriculture by aligning efforts with the ASEAN Vision for post-2025 and the region's priorities. These priorities include decarbonisation, digitalisation, reduction of harmful agrochemicals, reduction of crop burning, addressing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and promoting Biological Control Agents (BCA). The Meeting requested the ASEAN Secretariat to lead the development of the Action Plan for ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation for 2026-2030 and finalise the document by 2025.

8. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea for their continuous support and commitment to enhancing ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in food, agriculture, and forestry.

9. The Meeting extended sincere appreciation to Myanmar for the excellent arrangements made for the 24<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting.

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