JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

THE TWENTY-SIXTH 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

(26th AMAF PLUS THREE)

30 October 2026, Singapore

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1. The Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (26th AMAF Plus Three) was held on 30 October 2026 in Singapore, hosted by the Government of Singapore. The Meeting was attended by 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, together with the ASEAN Secretariat.

2. The Meeting reaffirmed the strategic value of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in safeguarding regional food security and supporting sustainable development. It recognised that climate change, natural disasters, supply-chain disruptions, market volatility, transboundary pests and diseases, and pressure on land, water and marine resources require deeper regional solidarity, improved information-sharing and coordinated action across the entire food, agriculture and forestry system.

From Strategy to Coordinated Implementation

3. The Meeting reviewed the initial implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy (APTCS) on Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2026-2035 and reaffirmed its alignment with the ASEAN Vision for Food, Agriculture and Forestry towards 2045 and the ASEAN Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectoral Plan 2026-2030. It identified four policy directions for the period 2026-2030, namely building resilient, safe and connected regional value chains; strengthening emergency preparedness and food-security information; accelerating sustainable and low-emission production; and scaling digital and scientific innovation for smallholders.

4. The Meeting called for the APTCS to be translated into a focused implementation programme with clear regional outcomes, designated lead agencies, timelines, financing arrangements and measurable indicators. It encouraged priority for multi-country programmes involving ASEAN and all

three Plus Three countries, where regional cooperation creates additional value beyond multilateral activities, including relevant ASEAN Member States-led initiatives that are aligned with the APTCS and have potential for regional cooperation or scaling-up**.** SOM-AMAF Plus Three and relevant sectoral bodies were tasked to strengthen coordination, address implementation gaps and report regularly on results.

Strengthening the Regional Food-Security Architecture

5. The Meeting commended the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) for distributing 15,405 metric tonnes of rice contributed by China, Japan and the Republic of Korea to Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand, benefiting nearly two million people affected by emergencies. It welcomed the enhancement of the automatic release of pre-determined quantities of rice, the continued maintenance of pre-positioned stocks, and the development of an integrated concept of three initiatives, including 'Sub-Regional Hub', public warehouse and Tier3 FLEX, which enable faster and more predictable humanitarian response, and the fuller use of Tier1 and Tier 2 mechanisms.

6. The Meeting welcomed progress under the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS), reaffirmed AFSIS as a critical regional platform for evidence-based policy, preparedness and timely collective response, and requested AFSIS to consider progressively expanding its information coverage to include key agricultural inputs, such as fertilisers, feed and energy-related inputs, and to support the ASEAN Ad Hoc Network for Fertiliser Information-Sharing and Monitoring in coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat. AFSIS was encouraged to explore practical options for strengthening AFSIS's institutional sustainability, financing arrangements, and cooperation with Plus Three countries and other development partners of ASEAN.

Accelerating Sustainable, Digital and Resilient Transformation

7. The Meeting appreciated the substantial programmes implemented by China, Japan and the Republic of Korea under the APTCS 2026-2035. These include support for agricultural machinery and post-harvest processing, smart and precision farming, modern horticulture, remote sensing, resilient value chains, aquatic food safety, fisheries development, forest-fire management, and the prevention and control of transboundary plant pests and animal diseases.

8. The Meeting directed future cooperation to move successful technologies from demonstration to adoption at scale. Technology transfer should respond to needs identified by ASEAN Member States, build on relevant national systems and initiatives where appropriate, be affordable and adaptable to diverse production systems, strengthen service providers, and deliver verifiable gains in productivity, incomes and resilience. Digital solutions should be accompanied by training, interoperable systems and responsible data governance so that smallholders, cooperatives, women and youth can participate fully.

9. The Meeting identified decarbonisation and climate resilience as one of central areas for practical ASEAN Plus Three cooperation. It encouraged wider application of greenhouse-gas mitigation technologies such as alternate wetting and drying in rice production, biomass and agricultural-residue utilisation and water-efficient production. It also called for stronger cooperation on sustainable forest and mangrove management, forest-fire prevention, sustainable fisheries, and reduction of marine plastic pollution.

10. The Meeting underscored the importance of regional biosecurity and a One Health approach. It called for enhanced surveillance, stronger laboratory networks, science-based risk assessment, timely information sharing, joint capability building and coordinated responses to transboundary animal diseases, zoonoses, plant pests and aquatic animal-health threats. Cooperation should reinforce national systems while enabling rapid regional action and safe, science-based trade.

Building Effective Partnerships and Accountability

11. The Meeting agreed that Plus Three-supported activities need coordination through the ASEAN Secretariat and relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, and should be mapped clearly against the Strategic Thrusts of the APTCS 2026-2035 and designed to avoid duplication. Project proposals should demonstrate regional demand, complementarity with existing initiatives, participation across countries, a credible path to sustainability and clear benefits for intended users.

12. The Meeting encouraged governments, public and private financial institutions, businesses, research organisations and development partners to mobilise finance, technology and expertise for scalable regional programmes. Public-private partnerships should promote responsible investment, resilient infrastructure, value-chain modernisation and market access while applying appropriate environmental and social safeguards and ensuring that risks and benefits are shared fairly with smallholders and communities.

13. The Meeting issued a collective call for engagement: governments should provide policy leadership and reliable data; the Plus Three countries and development partners should align long-term support with ASEAN priorities; the private sector should invest responsibly and transfer appropriate technology; research institutions should convert science into usable solutions; and farmer, fisher and forest-dependent community organisations should help shape and monitor implementation. Effective ASEAN Plus Three cooperation must be inclusive, practical and accountable to the people it is intended to serve.

Looking Ahead

14. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the Philippines for its leadership in advancing ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in 2026 and strong support for Singapore's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2027. It agreed to maintain momentum by prioritising implementation of the APTCS 2026-2035 strengthening APTERR and AFSIS, and developing a pipeline of coordinated regional programmes with clear financing and results.

15. The Meeting expressed its sincere appreciation to Singapore for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for the 26th AMAF Plus Three Meeting, and to the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea for their continued partnership and commitment to regional food security and sustainable development.

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