Joint Consultative Meeting of the SOM-AMAF and SOMHD on “Integrating Nutrition in ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework”

31 January 2013
Bangkok, Thailand

1. The Joint Consultative Meeting of the Senior Officials Meeting-ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) and the Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) on Integrating Nutrition in ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework was conducted on 31 January 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was attended by delegations from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The list of participants appears as Annex 1.

Agenda Item 1 Opening Remarks

2. The Chairpersons SOMHD, Dr. Maria-Bernardita Flores, and SOM-AMAF, Mr. Xaypladeth Choulamany, provided the Meeting with their respective opening remarks. Both Chairs reiterated the need for the two sectors to identify enhanced collaborative activities based on the outcomes of the ASEAN High Level Consultative Meeting on Integrating Nutrition into the ASEAN Food Security Framework and its Strategic Plan of Action for Food Security. There was emphasis on the joint outcome of this Meeting that will be elevated to the respective sectoral bodies for further discussion and consideration. The respective copies of their opening remarks appear as Annex 2.

Agenda Item 2 Election of the Co-Chairpersons of the Meeting

3. The Meeting was co-chaired by the two sectoral bodies. Co-Chairs elected were also the respective SOM-AMAF Current Chair Lao PDR through Mr. Xaypladeth Choulamany; and the SOMHD Current Chair Philippines through Dr. Maria-Bernardita Flores.

Agenda Item 3 Adoption of Agenda

4. The Meeting adopted the proposed agenda. This document is attached as Annex 3.

Agenda Item 4 Consideration of the Key Outcomes of the Conference

5. The Meeting was informed that the Joint Consultative Meeting is an ad-hoc and one-off meeting by the involved sectoral bodies in line with the respective mandates of each sector. The Meeting was also presented with the ‘Consultative Meeting’s Summary’ of the ASEAN High Level Consultative meeting entitled as,

6. The Meeting noted the conclusions and recommendations contained in the ‘Consultative Meeting’s Summary’; and noted that this will serve as the basis for further consideration for joint collaborative efforts by the two sectors on food security and nutrition initiatives in ASEAN. The Meeting also commended the ASEAN Secretariat in coordination with FAO and other partners for coming out with the said document.

7. Clarifications made in the Meeting on the presented outcome document focused on the following:
   a. concerns on point 8 of the document with regard to ‘healthier rice varieties’. The Meeting proposed to modify the statement into ‘healthier rice and other crop varieties.
   b. articulation of commitment by parties involved in the formulation of the ‘Consultative Meeting’s Summary’ was raised. The Meeting was informed that specific implementation modalities and adoption of recommendations will be further discussed in Agenda 6.
   c. clarification on the engagement of CSOs and institutionalization of their participation as stated in point 10.h of the ‘Consultative Meeting’s Summary’. The Meeting agreed to re-phrase the statement to include “engage CSOs in collaboration with other stakeholders”.
   d. clarification on point 10.i original statement may be made more specific by stating “promote diversification of food production and consumption”. The Meeting agreed to rephrase into “promote and intensify diversity in agricultural production system”.

8. The Meeting was informed that the points of clarifications raised on the ‘Consultative Meeting’s Summary’ will be properly documented and shared to the respective sectoral bodies for further discussion and consideration. The documentation of these clarifications will also be shared together with the original documents from the 2-day Meeting.

Agenda Item 5  Synergising Existing Sectoral Frameworks of Cooperation

9. The Meeting was presented with the commonalities of the existing frameworks from the respective sectors. The ‘Matrix of Synergy or Convergence’ is attached as Annex 5.

10. The Meeting noted the common areas of initiatives from both sectors on promotion, advocacy, experience-sharing, information system, evidence-based policies/programmes. Further discussion of this ‘Matrix of Synergy or Convergence’ will be discussed in Agenda 6 together with the document presented in Agenda 4.
Agenda Item 6 Mainstreaming Nutrition and Strengthening Regional Cooperation on Food Security and Nutrition

11. The Co-chairs reminded the Meeting that in finalizing the common areas of collaboration of the two sectors in integrating food security and nutrition, the two aforementioned documents and the resulting discussions in Agenda 4 and 5 will be the basis of the intended output in this agenda.

12. The Meeting proposed the following common areas of collaboration in integrating food security and nutrition initiatives:
   a. Strengthen multi-sectoral coordination
   b. Promotion of nutrition sensitive agenda with multi-sectoral participation
   c. Joint advocacy on ensuring adequate, safe and nutritious food for all
   d. Documentation and sharing of reports, experiences and knowledge (i.e. best practices, exemplary models, experts, nutrient profiling, diet guideline, ASEANFOODS)
   e. Enhancing and improving existing sharing-information systems (eg. INFOSAN, AFSIS, AFSN)
   f. Evidence-based policies/programmes on food security and nutrition
   g. Building capacity for policy formulation and policy implementation, development of nutrition-sensitive intervention, program management, and specific skills along assessment of food insecurity, nutrient values of crops, risk assessment of diets among others
   h. Harmonization on farm to table pathway (value chain from production to consumption), and food waste management

13. The Meeting was informed that further discussions on identification of detailed activities or detailed implementation modalities; clustering of the common areas according to country needs and assessment; as well as corresponding implementation will be discussed separately. This will be done in the respective sectoral bodies and among their relevant subsidiary bodies in future collaborative meetings.

14. Based on the concurred 8 points of common areas of collaboration, the Meeting agreed to prioritize these areas according to the following:
   a. Concern is common among ASEAN Member States
   b. Area to be prioritized is doable and feasible given the time frame of the Strategic Work Plans of the two sectoral bodies and respective subsidiary bodies
   c. Short term results can be immediately achieved

15. The Meeting recognized that the agreed lists of common areas chosen are all equally important. However, given the criteria endorsed by the Meeting the top three criteria prioritized – according to ranking, will be:
a. Strengthen multi-sectoral coordination
b. Capacity building in the programmes and policy advocacy, assessing nutrient value of crops, risk assessment on total diet study
c. Documentation and sharing of reports, experiences, and knowledge (best practices, exemplary models, experts, nutrient profiling, diet guidelines, ASEANFOODS)

**Agenda Item 7: Way Forward**

16. The Meeting agreed that the first draft of the report will be circulated by ASEAN Secretariat immediately after the conclusion of the last agenda to all delegates. The circulation of the first draft will be done both through email and through hard copies that will be delivered to the respective rooms for initial feedback/inputs. Consolidation of initial inputs will be done and included in the revised draft report. The revised draft will be circulated again through *ad referendum* to the delegates of this Meeting. Feedback will be requested to be provided within one week from the time of the circulation of the revised draft.

17. The outcomes of the Meeting will be reported by the ASEAN Secretariat in the upcoming schedules of meeting of the SOM-AMAF in July 2013 and SOMHD in August 2013.

18. The two sectoral bodies will also be sought for concurrence in tasking relevant subsidiary bodies (i.e. technical working groups or task forces) in further assessing the recommendations of the Meeting and subsequently identify detailed/specific actions to implement the prioritized areas.

*Action: ASEAN Secretariat
AMS Delegates*

19. The Meeting also concurred to the proposal of developing a concept paper for a common ASEAN Position on Food Security and Nutrition. This will be developed by identified lead and co-lead countries from SOM-AMAF and SOMHD. The concept paper will be presented to the official meeting of the SOMHD and SOM-AMAF in July and August 2013, respectively. The lead/co-lead countries are:

a. SOM-AMAF
   i. Malaysia (i.e. in their capacity as volunteer lead country)
   ii. Lao PDR (i.e. in their capacity as current SOM-AMAF Chair)

b. SOMHD
   i. Indonesia (i.e. in their capacity as volunteer lead country)
   ii. Philippines (i.e. in their capacity as current SOMHD Chair)

*Action: Malaysia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Philippines
ASEAN Secretariat
AMS Delegates*
20. The timeline for developing the concept paper is as follows:
   a. First draft will be submitted to ASEAN Secretariat for distribution by 28 February 2013
   b. Circulation of the draft, gathering and consolidation of feedback and recirculation of the revised draft will be done within the month of March 2013
   c. The final concept note will be presented to SOM-AMAF in July 2013; and to SOMHD in August 2013.

21. The Meeting also proposed that joint SOM-AMAF and SOMHD meetings will be on an *ad hoc basis*. This will still be confirmed by the respective sectoral bodies in their formal meetings.

22. The Meeting agreed that involvement of other sectoral bodies on cross-cutting issues of integration of food security and nutrition will be decided by SOM-AMAF and SOMHD.

23. The Meeting also requested ASEAN Secretariat to explore with development partners for possible support for follow-up actions of the identified priority areas. This action is pending the directions to be set by SOM-AMAF and SOMHD.

   **Action: ASEAN Secretariat**
   **AMS Delegates**

**Agenda Item 8  Closing Remarks**

24. The Co-Chairs from SOM AMAF and SOMHD expressed their appreciation to all participants for their valuable contributions. The importance of the integration of food security and nutrition concerns were reiterated. Both Chairs acknowledged the exemplary effort and result of the initial consultations of the two sectors. Appreciation was also extended to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as well as the ASEAN Secretariat in the preparation and support provided in making the consultation a success.

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