



**ASEAN consultative meeting
on
Integrating Nutrition into ASEAN
Integrated Food Security Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on
Food Security (2015-2019)**

6-7 February 2014, Pattaya, Thailand

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The root cause of food insecurity and malnutrition in many countries is underdevelopment linked to political, economic, ecological and socio-cultural constraints and demographic dynamics. Specifically, the root causes involve both man-made and natural disasters. Man-made factors includes civil conflicts, population growth and pressure on natural resources leading to urbanization and infrastructural development, deforestation, lack of conservation of agricultural productive land and soils. Without the ability to further intensify production, agriculture has had to expand onto lands characterized by fragile ecological conditions, hence accelerated soil erosion, which minimizes future increase in food production.

More importantly investments in agriculture have declined over the long term, and what investments have been made, have largely been targeted to the production of cash crops for export rather than for food production. This has been accompanied by a serious deterioration of the publicly funded agricultural extension systems and the increased involvement of the private sector with focus on cash crop production rather than food crops. Natural disasters including drought, flood, land-slides, earthquakes, locusts and bush fires compound these problems.

Responding to the food crisis in 2008/2009 and in preserving food security in the region, the ASEAN Leaders demonstrated their commitment on food security enhancement through the announcement of the Statement on Food Security in the ASEAN region in the 14th ASEAN Summit in Thailand in 2009. During the Summit, the Leaders committed to adopt the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA-FS) that provides scope and joint pragmatic approaches for cooperation among ASEAN Member States in addressing food security in the region. Since the implementation of the AIFS Framework, gradual and significant achievements in accessibility and availability have been made.

Greater progress can be expected if nutrition objectives, concerns and considerations were to be explicitly integrated into agricultural and rural development policies and more specifically into regional and national food security policies, strategies and plan of actions.

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 which was held on 31 January 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, has concurred to the proposal of developing a concept paper for a common ASEAN Position on Food Security and Nutrition. SOM-AMAF has selected Malaysia to develop the

concept paper in their capacity as a volunteer lead country together with Lao PDR in their capacity as current SOM-AMAF Chairperson.

The meeting also agreed that existing ASEAN regional food security and nutrition strategies, frameworks and initiatives should be harmonized and implemented to meet the needs by delivering high-impact interventions for the prevention and management of food security and double-burden malnutrition among the most vulnerable population groups, and at the same time to meet the longer-term needs by strengthening food security and nutrition for enhanced resilience to climatic and economic shocks in the longer-term. Consequently, it was agreed to hold ad-hoc meeting of the SOM-AMAF and SOMHD officials to achieve this harmonization.

During the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (Special SOM-34th AMAF), it was proposed by SOM-AMAF that the second phase of SPA-FS should be able to accommodate some changes towards common goal on long-term food security and reflect the important contribution of Food, Agriculture and Forestry in the realization of ASEAN Community Building. The Meeting also suggested that the second phase of AIFS Framework - SPA-FS should address nutrition, food safety and poverty alleviation issues since they are in line with the ASEAN Roadmap on the AEC priorities deliverables and ASCC Blueprint Measures. The Meeting further suggested that the SPA of relevant Working Groups under AMAF should be reviewed to align with the second phase of SPA-FS. The Meeting further suggested enhancing collaboration with dialogue partners besides ASEAN Plus Three, as well as development partners in particular FAO in the implementation of activities under SPA-FS. In line with above, ASEAN secretariat with support of FAO is to jointly hold a meeting of SOM-AMAF.

Objective

The main objective of the meeting will be to integrate nutritional aspects into the draft 2nd phase of **Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN (2015-2019)** and review and finalize the SPA-FS 2015-2019.

Expected outputs

- Priority Actions for implementation of SPA-FS (2015-2019) identified.
- A road Map of priority actions with details, timeframe and implementation arrangements for integrating nutrition into the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security prepared.
- The draft Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN with explicit nutrition activities reviewed and finalized.
- The Common ASEAN Food Security and Nutrition Position prepared by ASEAN presented, discussed and finalized.

Participants

The meeting will be attended by the ASEAN SOM-AMAF officials, Ad-hoc Taskforce of SPA-FS (2015-2019), ASEAN relevant technical working groups (such as working group on fisheries, crops, livestock and etc.), FAO technical experts. It is estimated to have around maximum of 40 participants.

Venue and date

The meeting is proposed to be held in Pattaya, Thailand, and is tentatively proposed during 6-7 February, 2014.