

**OECD-FAO-ASEAN Regional Conference on
Policies to Enable Food Security, Agricultural Productivity and Improved Nutrition**

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Session 1.

The session introduced and discussed current emerging challenges related to agriculture productivity, food security and nutrition in ASEAN. OECD presented the outlook and challenges for agriculture. Over the medium term, positive developments likely to occur in the region will not be enough to address food insecurity. Climate change will pose increased risks in the future. To address these issues government actions that underpin productivity growth, greater access to food for poor households and adaptation strategies are critical. These will require investments in R&D, the enabling environment, safety net systems and removing policies that distort market prices which can compound the risks for food security in the region. It was followed by FAO presentation on food security and nutrition challenges facing the region. The presentation underscored that despite impressive economic growth and reduction in extreme poverty, malnutrition remain a problem with high child stunting rate and rapidly increasing problems of overweight and obesity in many ASEAN countries. While the food availability is improving and diversifying, sustainability remain challenge. The access to adequate safe and nutritious food at affordably process specially by those who are poor and vulnerable is remain an issue. Different path to ensuring food security and nutritional wellbeing was discussed. ASEAN secretariat introduced the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and ASEAN Vision on Food, Agriculture and Forestry, it showed ASEAN political commitment for achieving food security and nutritional wellbeing and these important regional policy document are the guiding document for achieving the goal through better inter-sectoral coordination and by engaging different stakeholders.

Session 2: Round Table discussions on managing food insecurity risks

The session provided an overview of early results of OECD work that assesses policy impacts on food security in a risk-based framework on selected ASEAN countries as well as the World Bank's finding on rice price volatility and food security in ASEAN. Two kick-off presentations were followed by a roundtable discussion inviting GIZ, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, the Philippines, Viet Nam and APTERR. GIZ recommended to look at the outcome of the existing works and forums taken place after 2008-09 crisis and take into account more co-operative actions taken among ASEAN member states when similar high price event occurred in 2010. Enhancing the role of regional rice reserve initiative (APTERR) and agriculture/crop insurance programmes is discussed, taking into consideration the climate change impacts and other risks. Indonesia raised the importance of diet diversification away from rice following the traditional diet in the region.

Session 3. Enabling environment and innovation system for agricultural productivity growth

This session focussed on agriculture and the enabling environment for sustainable agricultural productivity growth. Speakers stressed the importance of a positive enabling environment for improving food security outcomes in the long term, including stable and non-distorting policies and investments in public goods. They stressed the importance of the enabling environment for farmers, including small-scale farmers and women, as well as agribusiness at all stages of the value chain. The OECD presented early results from its assessment of the enabling environment in ASEAN, and identified areas of strength and weakness. Speakers from SEARCA, GIZ, ADB and AFA then offered a range of options: for countries as well as ASEAN as a whole.

Session 4. Promoting sustainable management to improve food security and nutrition

During session 4, the OECD presented on-going work on the potential of fisheries and aquaculture to contribute to food security and nutrition in Indonesia and how public policies can help maximize this contribution by improving the sustainability of the sector and building an enabling environment conducive to responsible investment. The World Fish Centre presented fish foresight modeling results for the ASEAN region and comparing different scenarios recommended that for food security to improve, Aquaculture has to continue to grow, which requires investment, and capture fisheries management has to improve to avoid overfishing leading to declining captures in the future. The Michigan State University then analysed the importance of fish for nutrition, underlining the key role of micronutrients. He explained why aquaculture products are not perfect substitutes for wild fish nutrition wise and recommended supporting production of low value nutrient rich aquaculture products, caring more for fisheries in water management policies, and eliminating constraints on land use for farmers. AVRDC explained the importance of vegetables consumption for nutrition and described initiatives aiming to improve the efficiency of vegetable production and creating incentives for farmers to engage in such production. Followed by IFPRI who drew attention towards the challenge of implementing good policies and the critical need for capacity at country level to achieve the goals set by policy makers. Governance and human capital constraints were shown to be central.

Session 5. Promoting nutrition-enhancing agriculture development in ASEAN

This session discussed nutrition-enhancing agriculture in ASEAN. ASEAN Secretariat introduced ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and its Strategic Plan of Action have incorporated new component on nutrition-enhancing agriculture. There are number of programmes exist in ASEAN countries, and countries increasingly making their agriculture programme nutrition enhancing. The countries also presented their ongoing efforts in making their policies nutrition supportive and coordination mechanisms in supporting the implementation of nutrition-enhancing interventions. The ASEAN Road Map for Nutrition-enhancing agriculture development was introduced. The matrix for inter-sectoral coordination on Food Security and Nutrition was presented and discussed with the participants. The ASEAN countries have discussed on the modality of inter-sectoral collaboration by sharing national mechanisms and how these could be used at regional level. It was noted that information system related to Food Security and Nutrition is essential, these information system may need to expand and integrate other sectors indicators that affect food security and nutrition. These indicators could be information related to trade, education and social welfare. It was emphasized that ASEAN Road Map need to be translated into national action plans. The prioritization is deemed necessary. In order to operationalize and implement the road map through inter-sectoral collaboration there is further need to engage and discuss with partners and various stakeholders

Session 6. Multi-stakeholder collaboration for agriculture productivity and improved food security and nutrition

Interactive session included discussions with various stakeholders involved in food security and nutrition related activities. Country examples included multisectoral and multistakeholder mechanisms at country level. Having a high level coordinating mechanism will help in promoting integrated response to food insecurity and malnutrition. Lao PDR introduced their coordination structure and how different stakeholders are engaged. Having a good multistakeholder platform helped in maximizing the outcome of the interventions. Civil Society shared the different roles they play to include program implementation and delivery, financing and advising of rural peoples' initiatives and highlighted their role as governance actors thus their policy advocacy and movement building work. They reiterated the imperative of investing on building and strengthening farmers' organizations or cooperatives as they are core to development cooperation and are pillars in building community resilience. They also emphasized the importance of strengthening multi-stakeholder mechanisms and the institutionalization of spaces for dialogue with civil

society and farmers' organizations, and engaging private sectors in ASEAN. The private sector represented by Unilever presented their efforts in support of food security and nutrition. Unilever shared the strategy "Unilever sustainable living plan", the strategy to decouple the business growth with environmental impact, while increasing positive social impact. Specially, Unilever nutrition efforts are shared which look at better nutritional quality product development, improving diet (nutritious cooking) and better lives (improving livelihoods). With the SDGs and Paris Agreement, Unilever aims to make a different approach in supply chains against the deforestation, sustainable agricultural sourcing and water/sanitation. ILSI introduced the major work related to nutrition, among different activities, ILSI highlighted the importance of food composition, new technology to increase agricultural productivity/resilience/nutritional value and food safety as examples. IFPRI introduced policy research studies in support of ASEAN countries. In collaboration with ASEAN secretariat and jointly with SEARCA and Rajarathnam School of International Studies and funded by IFAD, IFPRI will build the capacity of small holder production systems to increase their productivity and market access through policy research studies, capacity development, and knowledge sharing for increasing the market access of smallholders in ASEAN region. IFPRI will support ASEAN through its Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System funded by USAID for conducting policy research, capacity building and knowledge sharing with member states.

Session 7: enabling trade and value chains for agricultural productivity and achieving food security and nutrition

The session explored the role that global value chains (GVCs) play in trade in agro-food products in the region. Trade is important for the supply of food across the region and for generating incomes for producers. The importance is also likely to grow over time as the pressures of climate change and demand changes. The session highlighted that there is significant scope to improve value chains within the region, including through public-private partnerships. The competitiveness of ASEAN agro-food inputs into GVCs can be enhanced through reforms that will increase the competitiveness and supply of supporting sectors providing industrial and service inputs. Policies should allow for the free flow of agro-food products across borders in the region, improve trade supporting infrastructure within countries, and critically, build food safety and accountability systems, including the through improving producer knowledge. These will ensure ASEAN produced goods can meet a range of regional and international standards. It is also important to ensure SPS and other standards imposed by ASEAN countries are transparent and contestable.

Outcomes and recommendations from the meeting

- The meeting appreciated support from FAO, OECD and ASEAN secretariat, and other key partners such as CSOs, the private sectors, academe and research/training institutions. It greatly acknowledged the contribution from GIZ, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, and IFPRI for their valuable inputs. The meeting is also very grateful for the hospitality provided by the host country, Myanmar.
- The meeting expressed great appreciation to the ASEAN secretariat for convening this important conference, and providing in-depth knowledge on key regional policies on Food Security and Nutrition in ASEAN, including highlighting the key areas of cooperation and joint activities for ASEAN multisectoral cooperation on Food Security and Nutrition.
- The meeting reinforced the Matrix "Key Areas of Cooperation and Joint Activities for ASEAN Multi-sectoral cooperation on Food Security and Nutrition", and underlined the importance of inter-sectoral collaboration of ASEAN sectoral bodies as an essential entry point for integrated responses to food security and nutrition. The meeting invites ASEAN member states to actively implement the matrix.
- The meeting underlined the importance of cooperation and partnerships with different stakeholders in the implementation of the identified key ASEAN strategies through multistakeholder engagement platforms.

- The meeting provided a mechanism for senior officials from key ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to engage in the ongoing work of the OECD under the Building Food Security and Managing Risks: A Focus on Southeast Asia project.
- While noting the early results of OECD study, the meeting underscored the opportunity to mainstream the recommended and suggested approaches into the AIFS Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action in order to help refine focus for future implementation and actions.
- The OECD will use the input provided during the meeting to refine the study, which is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2017.
- The final results and recommendations from the OECD project will be discussed at an event to be organised in the second quarter of 2017. These results will help to inform the focus of the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework.
- The meeting invites the key partners such as FAO, ADB, GIZ, WB and others, with input from the OECD as a knowledge partner, to support ASEAN member states in implementing ASEAN policies and strategic plan of actions related to food security and nutrition.