

**FRAMEWORK OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION FOR  
THE ASEAN COOPERATION ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE  
(2014 to 2017)**

**Background and Rationale**

The Declaration of the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint provides a roadmap for transforming the ASEAN into a single market and production base, highly competitive and fully integrated into the global market mechanism by 2015. Similarly, ASEAN has issued a Declaration on Environmental Sustainability, with a firm commitment to strengthen cooperation over a wide range of activities including highlighting the issues of conservation and sustainable management of natural resources.

Enhancing food security and food safety while ensuring environmental sustainability defines the scope and perspective in the development of the food and agriculture sector in ASEAN as outlined in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint. Under this framework, development of organic agriculture will be treated as equally important in both economic and environmental perspectives.

The Special SOM-33<sup>rd</sup> AMAF held on 9-10 July 2012 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia has agreed on the formation of a Special Experts Group to initiate an ASEAN Standard for Organic Agriculture. The initiative on developing an ASEAN Standard on Organic Agriculture and a corresponding Strategic Plan of Action are critical to ensure market competitiveness and to provide guidance on the quality determination in the international and/or regional markets.

**Strategic Approach 1: Establish a mechanism for the development of ASEAN Standard on Organic Agriculture**

**Goal:** Establishment of the Special Task Force on ASEAN Standard for Organic Agriculture

	Priority Action	Activities	Schedule	Responsible Agency/ Body/Country
1	Creation of mechanism for the establishment of the Special Task Force on ASEAN Standard for Organic Agriculture (TF-ASOA) to develop an ASEAN standard for Organic Agriculture	Endorsement of the creation of the TF ASOA to SOM-AMAF	9-10 July 2012, Yogyakarta, Indonesia	
		Develop the TOR of the Special Task Force	April 2013	AMS
		Endorsed TOR of the Special Task Force by the ASWGC	June 2013	MASHP

**Strategic Approach 2: Develop ASEAN Standard for Organic Agriculture**

**Goal:** Preparation of the draft ASEAN Standard for endorsement by AMAF through SOM-AMAF

	Priority Action	Activities	Schedule	Responsible Agency/ Body/Country
1	Development of the ASEAN Standard for Organic Agriculture	The 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Special-ASOA – Finalization of the Part I: General Requirements/Provision and Part V: Labelling and Claims	8-9 April 2013 Brunei Darussalam	AMSs
		Submission of AMS standards		AMSs
2	Establishment/Conduct of the Workshop	The 1 <sup>st</sup> Workshop in the Philippines - Consideration of the Outline of standard	21-23 October 2013	Philippines AMSs

	Priority Action	Activities	Schedule	Responsible Agency/ Body/Country
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consideration of the Codex, IFOAM, AROS and national standards to prepare the draft ASOA</li> </ul>		AMSs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Drafting of Section on Crop Production</li> </ul>		AMSs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Circulation of the second draft ASOA (including the relevant sections of AROS to be included in the Draft ASOA and the inputs of AMS on section of workers health and safety as well as traceability) and Draft SPA</li> </ul>	November 2013	Philippines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Circulation of consolidated list/matrix of Annexes and appendices</li> <li>- AMS to conduct</li> </ul>	November 2013	Philippines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review/comparative study on the submitted national standards</li> </ul>	November 2013	AMSs
		<p>The 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop in Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Submission of commented Draft ASOA by the AMS</li> <li>- Drafting of Sections 3-8 of the Draft ASOA</li> <li>- Finalization of the Annexes and Appendices</li> </ul>	17-19 December 2013	Thailand AMSs

	<b>Priority Action</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Responsible Agency/ Body/Country</b>
		- Discussion of commented draft SPA		
		Internal consultation of the Draft ASOA and SPA by the AMS	December 2013 to February 2014	AMSs
		The 3 <sup>rd</sup> Workshop in Philippines - Consideration of the Final Draft of ASOA and SPA - Plans and programs of the AMS on the promotion and implementation of ASOA - Development of additional tasks/responsibilities of the TFASOA should the TF be extended	March 18-20, 2014	Philippines AMSs
		Circulation of the Draft ASOA and SPA	March 2014	Philippines
		Adoption of Final Draft ASOA and SPA during the 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of TFASOA and endorsement to the TF MASHP	31 March- 1 April 2014 (endorsement to TF MASHP)	AMSs
		Endorsement by TF MASHP	2-4 April 2014	Philippines
		Endorsement to ASWGC and SOM-AMAF	End May 2014 (ASWGC)  July / August 2014 (SOM AMAF)	MASHP

	<b>Priority Action</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Responsible Agency/ Body/Country</b>
3	Development of Explanatory Notes for ASEAN Standard for Organic Agriculture (ASOA)	Workshop 1 - Philippines	November/December 2014	Philippines AMss
		Workshop 2 - Indonesia	February 2015	Indonesia AMSs

**Strategic Approach 3: Develop national standard on organic agriculture in the ASEAN Member States**

**Goal:** ASEAN Member States without existing national standards (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam) are to establish their national standards, which are aligned with the ASEAN Standard for Organic Agriculture

AMSs mentioned will have to conduct internal consultation and report the schedule and responsible agency to the ASEAN Secretariat prior to the ASWGC meeting

	<b>Priority Action</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Responsible Agency/ Body/Country</b>
1	Establishment of national organic standard for Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam	Submission of proposal to develop national organic standard is endorsed by the appropriate decision-making body in each country	To be consulted with the concerned AMS  Brunei: Will adopt the ASOA to be their national standard (~2015)	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam
		Establishment of management committee on the establishment of national organic standard		Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam

	<b>Priority Action</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Responsible Agency/ Body/Country</b>
		The 1 <sup>st</sup> National Workshop to discuss national organic standard assign task among national agencies, constraint, budget line, assistance from external funding and timelines		Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam
		Drafting national organic standard		Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam
		The 2 <sup>nd</sup> National Workshop to discuss the draft organic standard for refinement		Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam
		The 3 <sup>rd</sup> National Workshop to finalize the national organic standard		Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam
		Endorsement national organic standard by the appropriate decision-making body in each country.		Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam
2	Implementation and application of national organic standard in AMSs	Development of national organic standard on the management and implementation, including administration and financial process, certification process, and communication plan.		Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam
		Establishment of Implementation Team to carry out a national organic standard.		Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam

	<b>Priority Action</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Responsible Agency/ Body/Country</b>
		Conduct public awareness activities on national organic standard for all stakeholders		Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam
		Establishment of infrastructure and certification process in the country		Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam
		Organize organic training for trainers, extension officers, farmers and auditors		Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam

**Strategic Approach 4: Align national Organic Agriculture standard with the ASEAN Standards for Organic Agriculture**

**Goal:** ASEAN Member States with an existing national standard are to align their national Organic Agriculture standard with the ASEAN Standard for Organic Agriculture

	<b>Priority Action</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Responsible Agency/ Body/Country</b>
1	Development of equivalent assessment tool (matrix)	Review of the existing/available tool e.g. GOMA, ASEAN GAP and prepare a proposed draft for equivalent assessment tool	March 2014	Malaysia
		Consideration of the proposed draft in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> workshop - Draft tool was presented by	March 20, 2014	AMSs

	<b>Priority Action</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Responsible Agency/ Body/Country</b>
		Malaysia		
		Agreement of the proposed draft in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> special TF	1 Apr 2014	AMSs
2	Review or possibly modify the national organic standard to be equivalent with the ASOA	Review and modify the national organic standard to align with the ASOA	August – December 2014	AMSs
3	Conduct of AMS self-assessment (matrix) of their national standard against adopted ASOA using the agreed tool	Seminar/meeting to improve the understanding of AMS before using the adopted equivalent assessment tool)  To be conducted back-to-back with Workshop1 on Explanatory Notes of ASOA	November/December 2014	AMSs
4	Consider the result of self-assessment by peer review	Report of the self-assessment made by AMSs	February 2015 (during Workshop 2 of the Explanatory Notes)	AMSs
		Peer review of the self-assessment made by AMSs	February 2015 (during Workshop 2 of the Explanatory Notes)	AMSs
5	Report on progress of alignment of national organic standard with ASOA	Country report made during AWG OA meeting	2015	AMSs



	<b>Priority Action</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Responsible Agency/ Body/Country</b>
	(pending the approval of the proposed AWG OA)			

**Strategic Approach 5: Create awareness and knowledge on ASEAN Standard on Organic Agriculture**

**Goal:** Awareness on ASEAN Organic Agriculture by stakeholders within and outside the ASEAN Region is increased

**Goal:** Knowledge on ASEAN Organic Agriculture is increased for key personnel involved in developing and implementing Organic Programs in the Member States

	<b>Priority Action</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Responsible Agency/ Body/Country</b>
1	Promotional and training plans are implemented to increase awareness and knowledge of ASOA by stakeholders within and outside of the ASEAN region	Develop project proposal on regional training on organic agriculture for submission/approval of ASEAN dialogue partner	2015	Malaysia
		Promote ASOA at the Organic World Congress	2017	AMSs
2	ASOA Website	Improve and regularly update ASEAN Postharvest Horticulture Network Website	[2015]	[Thailand]

**Strategic Approach 6: Development of ASEAN Organic Agriculture Recognition Mechanism and Certification System**

**Goal:** Development of mechanism for organic products towards recognition of certification systems (e.g. Letter of Intent (LOI), Equivalency, Comparative Study, MRA)

	<b>Priority Action</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Responsible Agency/ Body/Country</b>
1	Establish a Task Force on the Development of MRAs for Organic Produce and Products	Propose establishment of a Task Force on the Development of MRAs for Organic Produce and Products	2015	TOR to be developed by Thailand  For discussion / submission to AWG OA or TFMASHP 2015
		Establishment of Task Force on the Development of MRAs for Organic Produce and Products	2015	AMSs
2	Develop common guide for organic certification	Desk review of existing norms for organic certification in AMS and internationally.	2016	AMSs
		Workshops (3) to draft ASEAN Guide for Organic Certification (AGOC) based on desk review findings.	2016 - 2017	AMSs  Workshop 1 – Mid year 2016 Philippines  Workshop 2 – December 2016 Thailand  Workshop 3 – 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2017 Malaysia / Indonesia

	<b>Priority Action</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Responsible Agency/ Body/Country</b>
		Final draft ASEAN Guide for Organic Certification (AGOC).	2017	AMSs
3	Develop peer review process	Workshops (3) to develop Peer Review procedures and check list.	2016 - 2017	AMSs Workshop 1 – Mid year Philippines Workshop 2 – December 2016 Thailand Workshop 3 – 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2017 Malaysia/Indonesia
		Conduct mock Peer Review exercise.	2016 - 2017	AMSs Workshop 1 – Mid year Philippines Workshop 2 – December 2016 Thailand Workshop 3 – 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2017 Malaysia/Indonesia
		Final draft Peer Review procedures and checklist.	2016 - 2017	AMSs Workshop 1 – Mid year Philippines Workshop 2 – December

	<b>Priority Action</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Responsible Agency/ Body/Country</b>
				2016 Thailand  Workshop 3 – 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2017 Malaysia/Indonesia
4	Develop criteria for equivalence recognition of other organic certification systems	Workshops (3) to develop criteria for equivalence recognition of other organic certification systems.	2016 - 2017	AMSs  Workshop 1 – Mid year Philippines  Workshop 2 – December 2016 Thailand  Workshop 3 – 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2017 Malaysia/Indonesia
		Final draft of Criteria for equivalence recognition of other organic certification systems.	2016 - 2017	AMSs  Workshop 1 – Mid year Philippines  Workshop 2 – December 2016 Thailand  Workshop 3 – 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2017 Malaysia/Indonesia