

## **ASEAN PLUS THREE COOPERATION STRATEGY (APTCS) ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY**

**2011-2015**

### **BACKGROUND**

The ASEAN Plus Three (APT) cooperation began in December 1997 with the convening of an informal Summit among the Leaders of ASEAN and their counterparts from East Asia, namely China, Japan and Republic of Korea, at the sidelines of the Second ASEAN Informal Summit in Malaysia. The APT process was institutionalised in 1999 when the Leaders issued a Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation at their 3<sup>rd</sup> APT Summit in Manila. The APT Leaders expressed greater resolve and confidence in further strengthening and deepening East Asia cooperation at various levels and in various areas, particularly in economic, social, political, and other issues of common concern.

Since then, a number of key documents have been adopted to set the direction for APT cooperation. Currently, there are 48 mechanisms under the APT process, coordinating 16 areas of APT cooperation, which include economic, monetary and finance, political and security, tourism, agriculture, environment, energy, and ICT.

At the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit held in November 2007 in Singapore, the Leaders of APT countries adopted the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation, which includes the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017). The Work Plan serves as the ten-year master plan to enhance APT relations and cooperation in a comprehensive and mutually beneficial manner. This Work Plan, which includes food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry under the Economic and Financial cooperation area, also supports the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015.

The ASEAN Plus Three cooperation on food, agriculture and forestry was formalised at the 1<sup>st</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting on 5 October 2001 in Medan, Indonesia. AMAF Plus Three cooperation aims at strengthening policy dialogue, coordination and collaboration on food, agriculture and forestry issues of common interest. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting in 2001, Six cooperation areas have been promoted under AMAF Plus Three cooperation that include the following: 1) Alleviating Poverty and Strengthening Food Security in the Asian Region; 2) Research and Development on Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; 3) Human Resources Development in Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; 4) Coordination and Cooperation in International and Regional Issues in Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; 5) Agriculture Information Networking and Exchange; and, 6) Trade Facilitation

To complement the above decision, the SOM-9<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three held on 9 November 2009 in Bandar Seri Begawan agreed to the following proposals for strengthening AMAF Plus Three cooperation: a) To focus future AMAF Plus Three cooperation in the following strategic areas: food security, biomass energy development, plant variety protection, animal health and disease control, capacity building, research and development, networking on forestry, etc.; b) To adopt and implement the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation, and the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan adopted by the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Directors-General Meeting; and, c) To establish Special SOM-AMAF Plus Three, to be held back-to-back with the Special SOM-AMAF. Furthermore, with the view to provide a cooperation framework to be used as a basis for medium-term project identification, formulation, implementation and evaluation, the Meeting agreed to the following strategic areas of cooperation: i) Strengthening food security;

ii) Biomass energy development; iii) Sustainable forest management; iv) Animal health and disease control; v) Mitigation and adaptation of impacts of climate change; and, vi) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures.

During the Special SOM-9<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three on 4 August 2010 in Bandar Seri Begawan, the ASEAN Secretariat was requested to develop a detailed proposal on the cooperation framework for submission for consideration at the SOM-10<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three, taking into consideration the following: a) Linkages should be made to the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017) as well as subsequent decisions made by the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders related to agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors; b) Objectives of the cooperation framework should be clarified; c) To include the following as cross-cutting issues in the above strategic areas of cooperation i.e. sustainability and productivity in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, information and knowledge networking and exchange, capacity building, research & development; and, d) To include monitoring and evaluation in the cooperation framework.

### **THE ASEAN PLUS THREE COOPERATION STRATEGY (APTCS)**

To ensure greater complementarity of initiatives and closer partnership among ASEAN and Plus Three Countries, this ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy (APTCS) is developed to provide a cooperation framework as a basis for medium-term project identification, formulation, implementation and evaluation.

The APTCS provides Goal, Objectives, Guiding Reference and Principles, and Strategic Areas.

#### **GOAL**

The goal of APTCS is to ensure long-term food security and to improve the livelihoods of farmers in the ASEAN and Plus Three Countries.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

To achieve the goal, the APTCS has the following objectives:

- a) To promote sustainable development of agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors;
- b) To promote trade facilitation of agro-based/fisheries and forestry products;
- c) To promote cooperation and partnership through joint approaches at relevant international fora; and
- d) To address emerging issues and challenges facing the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors.

#### **GUIDING REFERENCE AND PRINCIPLES**

To support the formulation and implementation of the APTCS and SPA, the following guiding references and principles are taken into consideration:

- Conclusions of the World Food Summit in 1996, which adopted the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action, and the objective confirmed by the World Food Summit: five years later, of achieving food security for all through an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries; the Declaration adopted at the FAO High-level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate change and Bioenergy held in June 2008 as well as our commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

- Bali Concord II that establishes an ASEAN Community based on three pillars, namely ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community within 2020 and the decision of the ASEAN Leaders at the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Cebu, Philippines to accelerate the realization of an ASEAN Community by 2015;
- The goals and objectives set forth in the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation: "*Building on the Foundations of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation*", adopted by the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Plus Three countries on 20 November 2007, this Work Plan is formulated to serve as the master plan to enhance ASEAN Plus Three relations and cooperation in a comprehensive and mutually beneficial manner for the next ten years (2007-2017)
- To make ASEAN and Plus Three Countries dynamic, resilient and cohesive regional cooperation for the well-being of its Member States and people with a balance given between economic growth and social development in order to reduce and not to create negative impacts to food security; and
- The need of enhanced ASEAN Plus Three cooperation as a means to ensure food security through sustainable food production, post-harvest, marketing and trade, especially by strengthening ASEAN Plus Three initiatives/measures already existing as well as a strategic pursuit of actions to be developed/enhanced based on strong commitments and cooperation.

## STRATEGIC AREAS OF COOPERATION

The APTCS comprises of six Strategic Areas, which are distinctive but inter-related in nature to facilitate cooperation in addressing food security in the ASEAN Plus Three Countries. The APTCS Strategic Areas are supported by nine corresponding Strategic Thrusts as follows:

### **Strategic Area 1: Strengthening Food Security**

#### Strategic Thrust 1: Strengthen global and regional food security arrangements

Activities include:

- Support establishment and implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Reserve (APTERR)
- Develop and promote best practices in agricultural production

### **Strategic Area 2: Biomass Energy Development**

#### Strategic Thrust 2: Development of biomass energy to reduce agricultural cost and provide greater access to rural energy

Activities include:

- Support implementation of the proposed ASEAN Plus Three Comprehensive Strategy on Food Security and Bioenergy Development

### **Strategic Area 3: Sustainable Forest Management**

#### Strategic Thrust 3: Strengthen cooperation arrangements in tackling the challenges of forest management in Asia

Activities include:

- Promote sustainable forest management through the Asian Forest partnership
- Promote forest product development
- Promote social forestry network

#### **Strategic Area 4: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**

Strategic Thrust 4: Fostering cooperation in mitigation and adaptation of impacts of climate change to agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors

Activities include:

- Support sector-specific approaches and objectives of the UNFCCC
- Collaborate in enhancing technology development and transfer to support action on mitigation and adaptation
- Cooperate in developing innovative means (resources) of assisting vulnerable sectors to the adverse impacts of climate change in meeting the costs of adaptation

#### **Strategic Area 5: Animal Health and Disease Control**

Strategic Thrust 5: Strengthen cooperation in the control and eradication of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) including those of zoonotic in nature

Activities include:

- Encourage greater cooperation under the FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs)
- Support current regional programmes on priority diseases such as SEACFMD, HPAI, CSF, Rabies, FETPV, RRLs, etc.
- Support establishment of a regional coordination mechanism on animal health and zoonoses (RCM)

#### **Strategic Area 6: Cross-Cutting Issues**

Strategic Thrust 6: Enhancement of capacity-building and human resource development

Activities include:

- Accelerate transfer and adoption of new and appropriate technologies
- Provide venue for short- to long-term learning opportunities to improve overall skills of farmers and farmers' organisations
- Provide appropriate resources for information technology and infrastructure development

Strategic Thrust 7: Strengthening of information and knowledge networking and exchange

Activities include:

- Support programmes of AFSIS in the systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of food security-related information, including early warning information system

- Develop knowledge-sharing networks/platforms to facilitate exchange of experiences, best practices and new technologies related to agriculture, fisheries and forestry

Strategic Thrust 8: Enhancement of productivity, quality and marketability of agriculture and agricultural products

Activities include:

- Support initiatives to improve productivity and minimise post-harvest losses of main agricultural products
- Support adoption and implementation of international agreements and quality standards to ensure safety of food and agricultural products for consumers (e.g. GAP, HACCP, SPS, Codex Alimentarius, OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes, IPPC, etc)

Strategic Thrust 9: Strengthening collaboration on research and development

Activities include:

- Activities include: Identify and support priority research needs and in key areas of mutual interest
- Invest on support mechanisms to enhance R&D capacity of APT Countries

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

AMAF Plus Three and its SOM-AMAF Plus Three where appropriate in consultation with other relevant ASEAN Plus Three Sectoral Bodies, will coordinate the implementation of the APTCS, while relevant government agencies will be responsible for overseeing the implementation and preparation of more detailed action plans at the national level. Partnership and cooperation arrangements with the international organisations, donor agencies, private sector, industry associations and the wider community at the regional and national levels will also be actively sought where required to ensure participation of all stakeholders in the implementation process.

For the successful implementation of the APTCS, the necessary institutions or mechanisms, resources, capacity and political will be accorded to the implementation process.

### IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

To allow for effective implementation of the APTCS, partnership and cooperation arrangements with international organisations and donor agencies i.e. FAO, World Bank, IRRI, IFAD, ADB should be promoted.

Progress in the implementation of the APTCS by the APT Countries needs to be monitored, reviewed and reported to relevant stakeholders annually. The ASEAN Secretariat shall review and monitor compliance of such implementation.

### RESOURCES

As for the financial resources, the basic arrangement to support the implementation of the APTCS and the SPA is by cost-sharing among the ASEAN Plus Three Countries. Additional financial supports for implementation of activities should be sought from Dialogue Partners and international organisations and donor agencies.

Research and capacity building support is to be mobilised from various facilities such as the ASEAN Plus Three Development Fund, etc.

### REVIEW

The APTCS and the SPA shall be reviewed periodically taking into account dynamic regional and global developments and evaluated after the end of year period in 2015.

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