2016-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION ON ASEAN COOPERATION ON FISHERIES

Adopted in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 16-18 February 2018

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# LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AEC ASEAN Economic Community

AFCC ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change

AIFS/SPA-FS ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework/ Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security

AMAF ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry

AMS ASEAN Member States

ASCC ASEAN Socio Cultural Community

ASWGFi ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries

ATF-FAF ASEAN Ad-Hoc Task Force on Development of Vision, Objectives and Goals for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry Towards 2020

CSO Civil Society Organisation

EU ARISE EU ASEAN Regional Integration Support

EWG Expert Working Group

FAF Food, Agriculture and Forestry

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GAqP Good Aquaculture Practices

GIZ Gesselschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit

MDG Millennium Development Goals

MU Ministerial Understanding

NTB Non-Tariff Barrier

NTM Non-Tariff Measure

PPP Public Private Partnership

SDG Sustainable Development Goals

SEAFDEC Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center SME Small and Medium Enterprises

SOM-AMAF Senior Officials Meeting for the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry

SPA FAF Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry

SPS Sanitary and Phytosanitary

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background

The Special SOM-34th AMAF, held on 13-14 August 2013 in Pakse, Lao PDR agreed on the need to develop a vision, objectives and goals of the ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry sectors towards 2020 (FAF), based on the review of the current Framework and Strategic Plan.

The Special SOM-35th AMAF, held on 18-19 August 2014 in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia agreed to adjust that timeline for the post 2015 Vision to 2016-2025 to align with the decision of the 26th Meeting of High Level Task Force on Economic Integration (HLTF-EI) on the adoption of a ten-year time period (2016-2025) for work plans under the AEC Pillar.

Following the assignment from SOM-AMAF, the ASEAN Ad-Hoc Task Force on Development of Vision, Objectives and Goals for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry Towards 2025 (ATF-FAF) had prepared the draft Vision and Strategic Plan of Food, Agriculture and Forestry (SP-FAF) (2016-2025), with the support from FAO, GIZ and EU ARISE. As part of the process, six background technical reports had also prepared on food, crops, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture, and forestry sub-sectors.

In its 3rd Meeting, held on 17-18 November 2014 in Bangkok, the ATF-FAF set a timeline for the preparation of the sub-sectoral SPAs of ASWGs. The sub-sectoral SPA will cover a 5- year time frame from 2016-2020 and should to be ready for adoption at the 38th AMAF in 2016.

The New Vision and SP-FAF 2016-2025 was endorsed by the 37th AMAF, held on 10 September 2015 in Makati City, Philippines. The SP-FAF (2016-2025) is designed to guide ASEAN towards the completion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the post- 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to achieve the related goals of the UN Zero Hunger Challenge.

## 1.2. ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries

Fisheries is an important sector within ASEAN, and contributes across the three pillars of the ASEAN Communities (Political Security Community, Economic Community and Socio- cultural Community). Fisheries (including both capture fisheries and aquaculture subsectors) has long been a main source of protein for the population of ASEAN Member States and play a very important role in national and regional economies as well as in livelihood support for millions of the region’s poor. Fisheries are critical to ASEAN food security and should be a major focus of regional cooperation.

During the past several decades, the growing international, regional and national demand for fish and fisheries products has led to continual development and modernization of fishing technology. Unfortunately this increased demand and the corresponding technology response has resulted in the over-exploitation of many fishery resources in Southeast Asia. It has been estimated that fishing stocks are roughly a tenth of what they were a decade ago, and continue to diminish at an alarming rate.

Aquaculture is one of the fastest growing sub-sectors and is increasingly supplying protein and food security in Southeast Asia. It was once thought that aquaculture production would compensate for the increasing gap between the demand and supply from capture fisheries, but although it can do this to some extent, aquaculture is also constrained by many factors, including limitations in available water, land and feeds, as well as unsustainable practices in some commodities and areas in Southeast Asia. It is therefore important that fisheries can also play role in ensuring food security in the region.

The AEC Blueprint 2025, Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2025), ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework (AIFS) and Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA-FS) 2015-2020, set the framework for the Fisheries Strategic Plans of Action for ASEAN Cooperation in Fisheries.

In the fisheries sector, ASEAN adopted a Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 (RES &POA) at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference in 2011. The document is also used as reference to develop SPA for ASEAN Cooperation in Fisheries.

Moreover in following the guidance on the new vision and strategic plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry as well as outcomes of streamlining of the SOM-AMAF/AMAF structure, the SPA was developed based on the current ASWGFi mandate, SP-FAF, existing/current SPA and policy direction from the Leaders. The SPA may be reviewed as necessary considering new development and agreement by AMS.

# 2. Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries, 2016-2020

The Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (SPA Fisheries) was developed to ensure the deliverables of the Vision and SP-FAF (2016-2025) that are relevant to fisheries sub sector within a 5 year time frame, covering the period of 2016 - 2020. The results-based SPA will include targets and indicators of achievement for programme implementation for monitoring and evaluation purpose.

The First Technical Working Meeting on the Development of Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (2016-2020), held on 11-13 November 2015, in Tangerang, Indonesia, agreed to elaborate the activities based on the Vision and SP-FAF 2016-2025, current SPA for ASEAN Cooperation in Fisheries, ASEAN Multi-sectoral Framework on Climate Change (AFCC), ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and its SPA (2015-2020) and Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN region Towards 2020. The following Strategic Thrusts (ST) under SP-FAF are relevant to the SPA for ASEAN Cooperation on fisheries (2016-2020):

1. ST 1: Enhance quantity and quality of production with sustainable, „green‟ technologies, resource management systems, and minimise pre- and post-harvest losses and waste;
2. ST 2: Enhance trade facilitation, economic integration and market access;
3. ST 3: Ensure food security, food safety, better nutrition and equitable distribution.
4. ST 4: Increase resilience to climate change, natural disasters and other shocks;
5. ST 5: Assist resource constrained small producers and SMEs to improve productivity, technology and product quality, to meet global market standards and increase competitiveness.
6. ST 6: Strengthen ASEAN joint approaches on international and regional issues affecting the FAF sector

ST3 and ST4 are driven by 2 multi-sectoral frameworks: i) ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework & Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security (SPA-FS) 2015-2020, and ii) the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change: Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry towards Food Security (AFCC). The relevant STs of these SPAs are incorporated and mainstreamed into the STs of the SPA for the ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (2016-2020).

The 2nd Technical Working Meeting in Developing Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (2016-2020) was held on 16-18 February 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The final draft of the SPA consists of 6 Strategic Thrusts, 19 Action Programmes, 40 activities and 62 sub-activities. The Meeting Agreed to the Final Draft SPA on ASEAN Cooperation in Fisheries (2016-2020).

## 2.1 Strategic Thrusts, Action Programmes and Activities

The Second Technical Working Meeting in developing SPA for ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (2016-2020) agreed to the action programmes and activities under each strategic thrusts as follow:

## Strategic Thrust 1: Enhance quantity and quality of production with sustainable, ‘green’ technologies, resource management systems, and minimise pre- and post-harvest losses and waste

*Action programme 1.1:*

Identify infrastructure investment and technology requirements to increase production and, promote technology adoption and capacity building programme to reduce post-production losses, and address investment needs.

Activities:

1.1.1 Promote efficient utilization of potential fisheries resources in order to improve the production and supply chain, and reduce post-harvest losses as well as cost.

1.1.2 AMS to report on adoption of technologies, best practices and management system to optimize the utilization of harvest, reduce post-harvest losses, wastes and discard.

1.1.3. AMS to report on efforts on infrastructure investment related to increased production and reduced post production losses.

1.1.4. Consultation with relevant stakeholders in identifying and addressing investment needs (sustainable production, management systems, post-harvest investment).

*Action programme 1.2:*

1.2 Develop new and appropriate technologies, best practices and management systems to ensure food safety and address health/disease and environmental issues, particularly in the fast growing aquaculture sectors.

Activities:

1.2.1 Promote the implementation of ASEAN Guidelines for the use of chemical in aquaculture and measures to eliminate the use of harmful chemical.

1.2.2 Enhance Collaboration on regional warning system on aquatic animal health and diseases to the OIE Focal Points to inform other AMS of relevant epidemiological events and to raise awareness of new diseases that might pose risks

1.2.3 Promote blue economy/FAO blue growth initiative in the development of marine and fisheries.

1.2.4 Promote the implementation of ASEAN Guidelines for Standard Operating Procedures for Responsible Movement of the Live Aquatic Animals

*Action programme 1.3:*

Development on adequate capacity among the member countries in analysing trade-offs and implementing specific measures to support more sustainable fisheries.

Activities:

1.3.1 Promote awareness on corporate and public responsibility with regard to sustainable fisheries practices

1.3.2 Identify future issues and specific measures to support mote sustainable fisheries

*Action programme 1.4*

Examine and improve policy settings as necessary to ensure that they do not distort incentives for output increases and new technology adoption while ensuring that they incorporate fully the value of environmental assets and costs of resource depletion.

Activities:

1.4.1 Update and strengthen national fisheries policy, legal and institutional frameworks through consultation and engagement of government agencies, the private sector, fishers, civil society and other relevant stakeholders [refer to POA 7]:

1.4.2. Enhance regional Fishery Information Systems and mechanisms to facilitate sharing, exchange and compilation of statistics and information that are required at the sub-regional and regional level and apply, where appropriate, regionally standardized definitions and classifications for statistical data to facilitate regional compilation, analysis and data exchange [POA 4]

1.4.3. Develop simple and practical indicators in support of planning and monitoring of sustainable fisheries [refer to POA 6]

## Strategic Thrust 2: Enhance trade facilitation, economic integration and market access

*Action programme 2.1:*

Identify and eliminate non-tariff measures (NTMs) that have no economic or scientific rationale and reinforce efforts to improve trade facilitation and revise, as appropriate, trade- impeding regulatory barriers to minimise adverse effects.

Activities:

2.1.1 Identify the NTMs that potential to be trade barrier.

*Action programme 2.2:*

Certification, inspection, accreditation and traceability

Activities:

2.2.1. Strengthen fish quality and safety management systems that support the competitive position of ASEAN fish products in the world markets (ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation of national fish inspection laboratories, strengthening capacity and acknowledging the recognized national laboratories, risk analysis and equivalence agreement such as the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)). [POA 61]

2.2.2 Harmonise of the accreditation, inspection and certification of aquaculture in enabling the recognition of ASEAN-wide, equivalent requirements.

2.2.3. Develop traceability systems, with mechanisms as needed to certify or validate the information, for the whole supply chain, and establish regulations and enforcement schemes in line with international standards.

*Action programme 2.3:*

Streamline and improve quarantine systems and procedures, and harmonize standards and regulations to facilitate trade.

Activities:

2.3.1 Involve the private sector in identifying priority products for harmonization of standards and regulations to focus scarce scientific and technical resources on high pay-off products.

2.3.2 Harmonise standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures as inputs for the establishment of the ASEAN Policy Guidelines on Standards and Conformance, to increase the competitiveness of fishery products on regional and international markets [POA 68]

2.3.3 Harmonise the quarantine and inspection/ sampling procedure and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS), bio-security measures for aquaculture products to secure food safety; and develop one stop inspection system

*Action programme 2.4:*

Enhance regional and international cooperation to ensure that all major ASEAN food market are integrated, and the food trading system is strengthened and utilised to provide stable food supplies.

Activities:

2.4.1 Establish business linkages among the potential fisheries cooperatives and fishers/farmers organization.

2.4.2 Promote strategic partnership with ASEAN Fisheries cooperatives and farmers organization, producers, consumers and traders.

## Strategic Thrust 3: Ensure food security, food safety, better nutrition and equitable distribution.

*Action programme 3.1:*

Strengthen the contribution of fisheries to food security and nutrition

Activities:

3.1.1. Improve food security and nutrition through diversifying food sources from fisheries and strengthening the quality and variety of food fish production and improving the food value chains.

*Action programme 3.2:*

Food Safety and Health.

Activities:

3.2.1 Strengthen national policy and accelerate the establishment of food safety and food quality standards and mobilise resources for effective ASEAN wide adoption.

3.2.2. Collaborate with relevant ASEAN bodies in finalizing and implementing the ASEAN Food Safety Policy, accelerate the establishment of food safety standards, and mobilize resources for effective ASEAN wide enforcement urgently.

## Strategic Thrust 4: Increase resilience to climate change, natural disasters and other shocks

*Action programme 4.1:*

Increase investment in R&D for technologies and management systems with a focus on resilience to facilitate climate smart/friendly agriculture, land use, and fishery in cooperation with research programmes and networks on the basis of best practices

Activities:

4.1.1. Promote collaboration between concerned AMS and Partners to focus on i) Climate resilient aquaculture/fisheries technologies and approaches; ii) Early warning systems/ indicators of climate impacts; iii) Climate Change impact mitigation and adaptation strategies for aquaculture

4.1.2. Promote the use of practical and simple indicators for aquaculture and capture fisheries within the national fisheries management framework, to facilitate adaptation to the effects of climate change.

*Action programme 4.2:*

Promote good aquaculture practices to minimize the negative effects on natural resources and reduce greenhouse gases

Activities:

4.2.1. Identify and promote green technologies for adoption, such as low greenhouse gas emission, carbon sequestration from marine waters technology for aquaculture, and Integrated Multi-trophic Aquaculture (IMTA)

*Action programme 4.3:*

Encourage sound management and maintenance of natural resources such as coastal and mangrove forests that bolster resilience

Activities:

4.3.1 Implement measures or strategies at national and local level to (i) monitor and regulate aquaculture operations; (ii) prevent uncontrolled development; and (iii) ensure that activities are carried out in an environment-friendly manner.

## Strategic Thrust 5: Assist resource constrained small producers and SMEs to improve productivity, technology and product quality, to meet global market standards and increase competitiveness.

*Action programme 5.1:*

Assist small scale producers and SMEs in the FAF sector to become viable and competitive enterprises by provision of better technology, inputs, finance and extension services, access to higher value markets, and by facilitating integration into modern value chains

Activities:

5.1.1. Assist small-scale producers from both capture fishery and aquaculture to comply with standards on safety and quality of fish and fishery products for securing and maintaining access to markets at the national, regional and international levels

*Action programme 5.2:*

Encourage larger scale enterprises to perform a mentoring role by linking with small scale producers and SMEs through mechanisms such as contract farming to foster adoption of innovations and participation in high value markets.

Activities:

5.2.1 Promote contract farming in the aquaculture sector on the basis of good governance.

*Action programme 5.3:*

Livelihoods and poverty alleviation of small-scale operators

Activities:

5.3.1 Ensure that national programs and policies on fisheries and aquaculture address social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture to improve food security, livelihoods, employment and poverty alleviation by (i) providing the mechanisms and enabling environment for good aquaculture practices and responsible fishing, efficient markets and fair trade; (ii) strengthening the capacity of small-holder fishers/farmers; and (iii) promoting inter-agency collaborations [POA 39]

## Strategic Thrust 6: Strengthen ASEAN joint approaches on international and regional issues affecting the FAF sector

*Action programme 6.1:*

Enhance coordination and develop joint approaches through consultations among AMS and related ASEAN bodies in regional and international fora in order to gain a better hearing for its views and proposals, and obtain more favourable outcomes in negotiations and agreements affecting FAF sector (vision/sp)

Activities:

6.1.1 Collaborate with SEAFDEC on assistance on Capacity Building in the region to address international trade related issues and develop joint approaches [FCG/ASSP Project 1]

*Action programme 6.2:*

Present ASEAN common position on the issues affecting fisheries sector (refer to vision/sp)

Activities:

6.2.1. Promote dialogue among AMS to establish the common position based on the Fisheries issues related to the ASEAN Region, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Codex Alimentarius Commission, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Office International des Epizooties (OIE), Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), World Trade Organization (WTO), and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

6.2.2 Increase participation and involvement of Member Countries in international fora and technical committees and promote ASEAN interest, recognizing that fisheries policies of relevance to the ASEAN region are increasingly discussed and agreed upon at the global level [refer to POA 76]

*Action programme 6.3:*

Engage with regional and international processes to enhance ASEAN cooperation to improve the governance of transboundary fishing and traceability of fishery products in order to combat IUU fishing. In particular, improve the regulation and control of fishing vessels through registries, the use of vessel monitoring systems and effective catch documentation schemes. (vision/sp)

Activities:

6.3.1. Foster cooperation among ASEAN Member Countries and with international and regional organizations in combating IUU fishing [POA 8]

6.3.2. Strengthen regional and national policy and legislation to implement measures and activities to combat IUU fishing, including the development and implementation of national plans of action (NPOAs) to combat IUU fishing, and promote the awareness and understanding of international and regional instruments and agreements through information dissemination campaigns [POA 21]

6.3.3. Establish and strengthen regional and sub-regional coordination on fisheries management and efforts to combat IUU fishing including the development of regional/sub-regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) networks. [refers to POA 22]

6.3.4 Build up the capacity among AMS including functions for regional and sub- regional cooperation, to effectively meet the requirements of Port State Measure and Flag State Responsibilities (POA 24).

6.3.5 Implement the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fisheries Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain

The Final Draft SPA on Fisheries appears in ***Appendix 1***.

The implementation of the SPA Fisheries will be carried out by the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWFi) and ASEAN Fisheries Consultation Forum (AFCF), pending the outcomes of the streamlining of SOM-AMAF/AMAF structure.

To date the Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region towards 2020 that was declared in 2011 are still relevant and complementary to the effort of strengthening ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries.

Based on the Resolution, the following objectives across the strategic thrusts are recognized and still relevant to the SPA of Fisheries (2016-2020).

## Strengthening of food security arrangements in the region

### Fisheries Management

1. Strengthen knowledge/science-based development and management of fisheries through enhancing the national capacity in the collection and sharing of fisheries data and information [RES 10];

2. Optimize the utilization of catch from water to market by reducing post-harvest losses and waste to increase fish supply and improve economic returns through promotion of appropriate technologies and facilities along the supply chain [RES 20];

### Livelihoods and poverty alleviation

3. Enhance resilience of fisheries communities to anticipate and adapt to changes in environmental conditions of inland and coastal waters, including those caused by climate change, which could adversely affect fisheries and aquaculture of fisheries communities [RES 9];

4. Promote inter-agency coordination of multiple uses of freshwater resources for sustainable development of the resources and conservation of freshwater habitats [RES 14];

5. Enhance the awareness that aquaculture makes to food security and sustainable livelihoods to deliver a responsible increase in aquaculture production that promotes aquaculture for rural development as means of rational use of land and water resources [RES 15];

6. Enhance the awareness of the contribution that inland fisheries makes to food security and sustainable livelihoods, and include consideration of fisheries stakeholders when undertaking development projects that may impact inland fisheries [RES 15];

7. Improve the working conditions of people engaged in fisheries activities, and strengthen measures for safety of fishing vessels taking into consideration regional specificity [RES 13];

## 2. Enhancement of international competitiveness of ASEAN food and agricultural products/commodities

Certification, traceability, food safety and health

1. Support the competitiveness of the ASEAN fish trade through the development of procedures and programs that would certify, validate or otherwise indicate the origin of fish to reflect the need for traceability, sustainable fishing practices and food safety, in accordance with international and national requirements [RES 19];

## 3. Enhancement of ASEAN cooperation and joint approaches on international and regional issues

### Markets and trade

1. Promote joint ASEAN approaches and positions in international trade in fish and fishery products indigenous to the region by harmonizing the standards, criteria and guidelines and developing mutually-recognized agreements on sustainability and safety management systems [RES 18];

### Regional fisheries management/IUU fishing

2. Further develop regional initiatives to promote a responsible fisheries management mechanism, taking into account the specific social, economic, cultural, ecological and institutional contexts and diversity of ASEAN and ASEAN fisheries in the spirit of the development of the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio- Cultural Community [RES 5];

3. Foster cooperation among ASEAN Member Countries and with international and regional organizations in combating illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing [RES 8];

### Best practice aquaculture

4. Promote cooperation among Member Countries and with international and regional organizations in encouraging responsible aquaculture practices through joint research, technology transfer and human resource development [RES 16];

## 4. Development and acceleration of transfer and adoption of new technologies

### Capture fisheries and aquaculture technology

1. Support ASEAN efforts to promote low carbon development by minimizing the contribution of the fisheries sector to green-house gas emissions, with emphasis on promoting energy efficiency and use of alternative energy sources [RES 12];

2. Improve and share technologies relating to the diagnosis and control of fish diseases, maintenance of healthy broodstock and seed and the development of new fish-meal free feeds in aquaculture [POA 44,45,47,47].

### Post-harvest technology

3. Improve technologies and facilities to ensure fish quality assurance and safety management systems, taking into account the importance of traditional fishery products and food security requirements, and promote the development of fishery products as an alternative supplementary livelihood for fisheries communities [RES 21];

## 5. Enhancement of private sector involvement

1. Further develop strategic partnerships and cooperation to maximize the synergies and complementarities between government and the private sector [RES 2];

## 6. Management, sustainable utilization and conservation of natural resources

### Ecosystem approach to fisheries

1. Implement effective management of fisheries through an ecosystem approach to fisheries that integrates habitat and fishery resource management aimed at increasing the social and economic benefits to all stakeholders, especially through delegating selected management functions to the local level and promoting co- management as a partnership between government and relevant stakeholders [RES 6];

2. Promote better management of fishing capacity and use of responsible fishing technologies and practices, recognizing the movement towards replacing the “open access” to fisheries resources with “limited access” through rights-based fisheries, and at the same time, secure the rights and well-being of inland and coastal fisheries communities [RES 7];

### Ecosystem approach to aquaculture

3. Mitigate the potential impacts of aquaculture on the environment and biodiversity including the spread of aquatic animal diseases caused by the uncontrolled introduction and transfer of exotic aquatic species and overdevelopment of aquaculture [RES 17];