

# 1979 MANILA CONSENSUS OF THE FIRST ASEAN AGRICULTURE MINISTERS MEETING

*Adopted in Manila, the Philippines on 29 August 1979*

**WE**, the Ministers of Agriculture of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, the Minister of National Development of Singapore, and the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Thailand:

**ATTENDING** a meeting of ASEAN Agriculture Ministers, in Manila on 28-29 August 1979 upon the invitation of His Excellency, Hon. Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. Ministers of Agriculture of the Republic of the Philippines and President of the World Food Council of the United Nations;

**RECALLING** the Declaration of ASEAN Concord of 24 February 1976 which provides for cooperative action in national and regional development programs, particularly in food and energy;

**REVIEWING** the food and agriculture situation in the ASEAN region as well as the world with its constraints in agricultural inputs, markets, external and internal resources, contributing to low food production and depressed agricultural sector;

**COGNIZANT** of the basically agrarian character of the region, with millions of small farmers and rural poor entirely dependent on agriculture;

**BELIEVING** that the responsibility for the development of food and agricultural production and the improvement of the quality of life of the small farmers and rural poor in the region rests with the government, and the people of ASEAN;

**DESIRING** to deliberately accelerate the pace of agricultural and rural development for the benefit of the small farmer, utilizing available and appropriate resources and technology within the existing framework of ASEAN in order to enhance present and future food security and meet present the challenge of the 1980s;

**DO HEREBY STATE** the following points on which we have reached consensus:

## **ASEAN FOOD SECURITY RESERVE AGREEMENT**

1. The Ministers affirm their concurrence to the ASEAN Food Security Reserve Agreement (Annex A) and furthermore, express their desire to have the Agreement put into to operation at the earliest possible time.
2. Cooperation and priority in the supply and procurement of fertilizer, pesticides, and other agricultural inputs.
3. Recognizing that fertilizer, pesticides and other agricultural inputs are vital to agricultural production, the Ministers agree that each member country will accord each other first priority in the supply and procurement of fertilizer, pesticides and other agricultural inputs, which may be produced in ASEAN, at prevailing world market prices. This is consonant with the spirit of the Bali Concord of 1976.
4. The Ministers agree to create a joint study group from the Committee on Food, Agriculture and Forestry (COFAF) and the Committee on Industry, Minerals and Energy (COIME) of the purpose of:

- a. Studying the feasibility of establishing an ASEAN pesticide plant in one of the ASEAN countries to meet the needs of the region.
  - b. Studying the feasibility of setting up other possible joint ventures in the non-urea fertilizer industry within ASEAN.
5. The Ministers also agree that in times of supply shortage, or when beneficial to ASEAN, joint efforts be undertaken by ASEAN member countries to procure fertilizer, pesticides and other agriculture inputs from outside the region as a temporary measure before achieving ASEAN self-sufficiency in these fields.

#### **ASEAN COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (ACAP)**

6. Recognizing that the adoption of common agriculture policies in selected aspects could strengthen the individual member countries, the Ministers agree on the following:

##### A. ASEAN Quarantine Ring: Common Plant and Animal Protection

7. The Ministers agree to establish a common ring of protection for plants and animals around ASEAN. This will include, among others, the strengthening and upgrading of quarantine facilities at all international points of entry into the ASEAN region and raising the standards to agreed uniform and acceptable ASEAN levels. The Ministers also agree that, while keeping the present internal quarantine rings around each member country, each country will work towards eventually removing these rings.
8. The Ministers further agree to adopt joint and massive action against the more destructive pests and diseases, whether plant or animal, to eradicate these within specified periods of time. Following such eradication, ASEAN can therefore negotiate with Third Country markets to lift quarantine restrictions of these disease and pest-free agricultural commodities.
9. In cases of emergency outbreaks of plant and animal diseases, the Ministers agree that the member countries will come to each other's assistance.

##### B. Pooling of Research and Technology

10. The Ministers in agreeing to adopt a joint policy on research and technology in food and agriculture decide that there shall be established a regional network of national research centers for the continuous exchange of information with the following institutions being initially nominated for the purpose:

Indonesia: Agency for Agricultural Research and Development.

Malaysia: Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute.

Philippines: Philippine Council for Agriculture and Resources Research.

Singapore: Department of Primary Production, Ministry of National Development

Thailand: Department of Agriculture.

11. The Ministers further agree to create ASEAN Agricultural Research Coordinating Board, which will be responsible for identifying research gaps and establishing priorities to be undertaken by member countries with relative resources advantages.

### C. Sharing of Training and Extension Resources

12. The Ministers agree to share the training and extension facilities in each of their member countries in the following manner:
  - i. The eight institutions of higher learning listed in Annex B would constitute the main centers of education for scientists and individuals requiring degree courses; and
  - ii. Additional training centers in each country will be identified for short term training needs, such as for trainers of extension workers. Each country will encourage the exchange of farmer groups and farmer leaders with member countries.

### **ASEAN STAND ON INTERNATIONAL MATTERS**

13. The Ministers agree after having exchanged views on international food and agricultural issues, to the following:
  - a. The formulation of national food strategies which shall form the basis for increased internal and external investments in food production and nutrition, in line with the World Food Council's Call to denote greater priority and resources to food production and nutrition in developing countries;
  - b. Urge the exertion of the requisite political will by all countries concerned, to speedily conclude a new International Grains Agreement, including a new Food Aid Convention and the establishment of an International Wheat Reserve, to replace the International Wheat Agreement of 1971; and
  - c. Recognize the need for countries which are able to do so to contribute and/or increase their commitment to the International Emergency Reserve in order to reach the 500.000 metric ton target in 1979.
14. The Ministers also agree that all ASEAN member countries would consult with each other on ASEAN nominees to various positions in international organizations and would adopt a common stand on each of these positions.

### **ROLE OF ASEAN COFAF**

15. The Ministers being primarily responsible for determining agricultural policy in the ASEAN region agree to confirm the existing COFAF organisation and structure and direct that COFAF should review its Organisation and structure with the view to implementing the decisions adopted at this meeting.