

2009 BEIJING INITIATIVE ON REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY COOPERATION AMONG ASEAN, CHINA, JAPAN AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Adopted in Beijing, China on 22 April 2009

Food Security underlies sustainable agricultural development and stable economic growth, and plays a significant role in political and social stability. The World Food Summit Plan of Action stated that “Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet dietary needs and food preferences for a healthy and active life”. The world and regional food security situations have remained unstable, as agricultural commodity prices have fluctuated from sharp rise to dramatic decline over the past years. There are also concerns to put long-term food security at risk, which requires further efforts to be made nationally, regionally and globally to ensure world food security. In this respect, food security in East Asia – the most populated region in the world – must be ensured through cooperative commitments of regional countries.

To this end, under the framework of AMAF+3, aiming at strengthening agricultural cooperation and exchanges among the ASEAN+3 countries, promoting national comprehensive food productivity in the region, and ensuring regional food security, agricultural authorities of ASEAN+3 countries, namely Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, agree to jointly launch the following initiative in Beijing, China on April 22nd, 2009:

1. We confirm that actions should be taken to actively respond to the UN Millennium Development Goals, promote comprehensive food productivity, and make joint efforts in eliminating threats against global and regional food security, eradicating hunger and poverty, and improving people’s nutrition, especially of the poor, consistent with ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Comprehensive Framework for Action of the High Level Taskforce on World Food Security Crisis (CFA).
2. We share the common recognition that national governments should place agricultural development and food security to a strategic position of more prominence by maximizing the use of its own resources to achieve greater agricultural production in a sustainable manner, finding a balance between farmers’ interests and the greater welfare of the country, advancing agricultural technologies, protecting farm land, fresh water resources, bio-diversity and local germplasm, increasing investment and resource allocation to agriculture, and proactively improving comprehensive food productivity.
3. We confirm that development of bio-energy industry should be guided in a manner which will ensure the compatibility with food security.
4. We reaffirm that measures should be taken in achieving sustainable food production, extending improved varieties and advanced technologies, promoting energy-saving patterns of production, strengthening control over plant and animal diseases, harmonizing quarantine procedures, enhancing the capability of agricultural production in adapting and mitigating to climate changes, strengthening food supply chain and fostering ecosystem services by farmers.
5. We also reaffirm that joint efforts should be made in conducting closer and multi-dimensional agricultural cooperation, enhancing the existing ASEAN+3 model of cooperation, and vigorously collaborating and coordinating in areas of food production technologies, agricultural trade policies and food aid.

6. We emphasize that cooperation should be encouraged to develop regional information system on food security so as to respond timely and appropriately to food crisis which could happen in the region.
7. We confirm that further actions should be taken in improving agricultural trade environment, expanding food trade, opposing trade protectionism and achieving a win-win goal through cooperation, so that sustainable agriculture and rural development and food security in all countries in this region will be achieved.
8. We also confirm that attention should be paid to increase inputs to agricultural technological research and encourage agri-business to play a constructive role in agricultural technology extension, and strengthening exchanges and cooperation among agricultural enterprises in the region.
9. We share the view that a long-standing dialogue should be maintained to ensure regional food security by improving the efficiency of cooperation, and enhancing knowledge and understanding of each other's agricultural situations.
10. We also recognize that efforts should be made to maintain active contacts with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Food Program, Asian Development Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations Development Program, and World Bank, and seek support from the above-mentioned organizations and other development partners as part of our cooperation on food security in East Asia.

Finally, we confirm that such a dialogue as this Roundtable on East Asia Food Security Cooperation Strategy should be encouraged to be held regularly for continuous and in-depth discussions on issues related to our regional food security cooperation in East Asia, where the participation of agri-enterprises is strongly encouraged and supported, in a manner consistent with AMAF+3. The Report of this Roundtable shall be submitted to the forthcoming AMAF+3.