

2021-2025 ASEAN INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION ON FOOD SECURITY IN THE ASEAN REGION

Adopted on 21 October 2021

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BACKGROUND

Food security is a flexible concept as reflected in various documents formulated by United Nations and ASEAN. The 1996 World Food Summit endorsed that “Food security is a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”. In contrast, food insecurity exists when people do not have adequate physical, social or economic access to food as defined above.

In 2009-2020, ASEAN formulated and implemented the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework, and two Strategic Plans of Action on Food Security in 2009-2013 and 2015-2020, focusing on a strategic set of measures based on strong commitments and ownership among all ASEAN Member States (AMS). The goal of the AIFS Framework is to ensure long-term food security and improve the livelihoods of farmers in ASEAN.

As 2020 draws to a close, the AMS agreed that the AIFS Framework and SPA-FS, 2015-2020 be continued beyond 2020 and be extended to 2025 to provide scope and joint pragmatic approaches for cooperation among ASEAN Member States. To this extend, the AIFS Framework and SPA-FS, 2021-2025 need to be formulated under the new context and commitments from ASEAN Leaders, which focus on the following contents:

- continue to ensure long-term food security and nutrition, to improve the livelihoods of farmers in the ASEAN region.
- create a favourable environment, where AMS can integrate, operate and cooperate in various aspects related to food production, processing and trade.
- continue to provide a forum for information exchange, transfer of new technology, knowledge sharing with various stakeholders, including authorities, traders, scientists, research institutes and farmers. Especially, it creates a strong regional network for AMS' Leaders to forecast, plan and monitor food security and nutrition.
- identify opportunities and new strategies for 2021-2025 and provide guidance to relevant sectoral working groups as well as stakeholders and Dialogue/Development Partners on how to enhance their efficiency and contribution in promoting food security in ASEAN.

ASEAN INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY FRAMEWORK

In addressing the long-term food security, food safety and nutrition in the ASEAN region, the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework (AIFS) Framework will provide scope and joint pragmatic approaches for cooperation among ASEAN Member States (AMS) in food security and nutrition.

I. GOAL

The goal of AIFS Framework is to ensure long-term food security and nutrition, to improve the livelihoods of farmers in the ASEAN region. The specific Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security (SPA-FS) for each period will be developed to create a favourable environment, where AMS can integrate, operate and cooperate in various aspects related to food production, processing and trade.

The AIFS Framework provides a forum for information exchange, transfer of new technology, knowledge sharing with various stakeholders, including authorities, traders, scientists, research institutes and farmers. Especially, it creates a strong regional network for the AMS to forecast, plan and monitor food security and nutrition.

The AIFS Framework is not a legally binding instrument. It offers guidelines and recommendation for catalyzing coherent action at the regional and country levels by the full range of stakeholders, while highlighting the responsibility of governments to combat food insecurity in the region.

II. OBJECTIVES

To achieve the goal, the AIFS Framework has the following objectives:

- a) To sustain and increase food production;
- b) To reduce postharvest losses;
- c) To promote conducive market and trade for agriculture commodities and inputs;
- d) To ensure food stability and affordability;
- e) To ensure food safety, quality and nutrition;
- f) To promote availability and accessibility to agriculture inputs; and
- g) To operationalize regional food emergency relief arrangements.

III. COVERAGE

The priority crop commodities for food security in the ASEAN region include rice, maize, soybean, sugar and cassava. Other commodities such as livestock, fishery and crops for staple food, which are important for food security and nutrition, shall be identified during the course of implementation of the AIFS Framework and its relevant SPA-FS.

IV. FIVE PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY IN ASEAN

Reiterated the implementation of the five principles for sustainable global food security, adopted in November 2009 by the World Summit on Food Security in Rome, which provide a powerful strategic underpinning for coordinated action by all stakeholders at regional and country level:

- **Principle 1:** invest in country-owned plans, aimed at channeling resources to well designed and results-based programmes and partnerships.
- **Principle 2:** Forester strategic coordination at national, regional and global level to improve governance, promote better allocation of resources, avoid duplication of efforts and identify response gaps.

- **Principle 3:** Strive for a comprehensive twin-track approach to food security that consists of (i) direct action to immediately tackle hunger for the most vulnerable; and (ii) medium and long term sustainable agriculture, food security, nutrition and rural development programmes to eliminate the root causes of hunger and poverty, including the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.
- **Principle 4:** Ensure the strong role for the multilateral system by sustained improvements in efficiency, responsiveness, coordination and effectiveness of multilateral institutions.
- **Principle 5:** Ensure sustained and substantial commitment by all partners to investment in agriculture, food security and nutrition, with the provision of necessary resources in a timely and reliable fashion, aimed at multi-year plans and programmes.

V. EMERGING CHALLENGES

A number of emerging challenges in food security, food safety and nutrition should jointly be addressed by AMS, among others:

- Enhancing resilience to climate change;
- Meeting the food and nutritional needs of populations, especially populations living in remote rural and vulnerable areas;
- Increasing sustainable agricultural production and productivity;
- Finding sustainable solutions to the increasing competition for natural resource.
- Finding solutions and recommendation to address food and nutrition insecurity during the pandemic or outbreak of diseases.

VI. GOVERNANCE

The AMS will focus on the implementation of the following recommendations to enhance the governance of the Framework:

- Create adequate governance structure to ensure institutional stability, transparency, accountability and rules of law, which lead to taking of efficient decisions and underpin access to food and higher living standards;
- Promote adequate coherence in policy making and prioritization of policies, plans, programmes and funding to tackle hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity, focusing in particular on the most vulnerable and food insecure populations;
- Create an open, non-discriminatory, equitable, distortion-free, transparent multilateral trading system that promote agriculture and rural development that could contribute to enhance food security in the region;
- Implement the 2017 ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Food Security and Nutrition Policy, which serve as general framework guide for the ASEAN Member States to introduce, implement and develop food security and nutrition policies in accordance with the economic context and specific regulations in ASEAN Member States.

- Implement the 2018 ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry to bring positive outcomes for food security and nutrition.

VII. REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework sets out three core principles for AMS to promote regional partnership, namely:

- **Ownership:** AMS must lead their own development policies and strategies and manage their own development work on the ground at the country level;
- **Alignment:** Donors must line up their support and assistance firmly behind the priorities outlined in AMS' s national development strategies;
- **Harmonization:** Donors must coordinate their development works better among themselves to avoid duplication and high transaction costs for AMS.

VIII. OTHER DOCUMENTS AND GUIDELINES

A number of other ASEAN documents and guidelines provides principles and strategies that are relevant to the achievement of food security. These include:

- 2015 Statement of ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry on Food Security and Nutrition
- 2017 ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Food Security and Nutrition Policy
- 2017 ASEAN Public Private Partnership Regional Framework for Technology Development in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sector
- 2018 AMAF's Approach to Gender Mainstreaming in The Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sector
- Multi Sectoral Framework on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food and Nutrition Security and Achievements of SDGs (MSFCC)
- 2018 ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry
- 2019 Action Plan to Promote and Implement the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors.

IX. IMPLEMENTATION

The SOM-AMAF, supported by ASEC, is the body with primary responsibility for implementation of the AIFS Framework and its SPA-FS. The SOM-AMAF will also take the lead in coordinating AIFS Framework SPA-FS activities with other sectoral bodies under AEC and ASCC.

Resources to implement the AIFS Framework SPA-FS are mobilized by cost-sharing among AMS; additional resources may be mobilized from financial support of Dialogue Partners and donor agencies. Participation of relevant stakeholders (e.g. associations of agricultural cooperatives, civil society organizations) in implementation and monitoring and evaluation of SPA-FS is encouraged.

X. REVIEW

The implementation of the AIFS Framework and its SPA-FS shall be frequently updated and reviewed based on the need of the ASEAN Member States.

STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION ON FOOD SECURITY IN THE ASEAN REGION 2021-2025

The Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA-FS) 2021-2025 outlines nine corresponding Strategic Thrusts to the AIFS Framework's Components. Each Strategic Thrust is supported by Action Programme(s), Activity, Responsible Agencies and Work Schedule.

Sub-activities are identified for further consideration and implementation. Detailed information of the SPA-FS is summarized in a Matrix, which appears as **ANNEX 1**.

STRATEGIC THRUSTS/ ACTION PROGRAMMES/ ACTIVITIES

Strategic Thrust 1: Strengthen Food Security, including Emergency/ Shortage Relief Arrangement

Output 1.1. Regional food security reserve fully function

- Activity 1.1.1. Conduct technical meetings on country-specific implementation of APTERR, covering development the release of APTERR stocks.
- Activity 1.1.2. Gather data and conduct analysis thereof to support the technical meetings.
- Activity 1.1.3. APTERR Council assists APTERR parties to establish country-specific implementation mechanisms and overall M&E system.
- Activity 1.1.4. Conduct capacity building activities (e.g. trainings) for APTERR Members and Secretariat staff.
- Activity 1.1.5. Collaboration with AFSIS Secretariat and national food agencies to periodic assessment of Food Emergency Monitoring and Information (FEMI) system.
- Activity 1.1.6. Conduct a possibility study on expanding food commodities and identify a suitable mechanism
- Activity 1.1.7. Develop a framework in the system for ASEAN Member States to escalate request in the event of an export ban and for member states to continue to honour committed exports for at least what has been ordered for the current month and 1 month forward

Output 1.2. Sustainability of the food supply chain with enhancement to the seed industry

- Activity 1.2.1. Conduct technical meetings on ASEAN Seed Council (ASC).
- Activity 1.2.2. Gather data and conduct analysis thereof to support the ASC technical meetings.
- Activity 1.2.3. Assist ASC Council to establish country-specific implementation mechanisms and overall M&E system.
- Activity 1.2.4. Conduct capacity building activities (e.g. trainings) for ASC Members and Secretariat staff.
- Activity 1.2.5. Create platform for information sharing on various aspects of seed industry.
- Activity 1.2.6. Facilitate technical and economic co-operation among industry player.

Activity 1.2.7. Harmonize rules and regulations related to seed industry system within ASEAN.

Strategic Thrust 2: Promote conducive food market and trade.

Output 2.1. Regional food trade distributing more diverse and affordable food at more stable prices.

Activity 2.1.1. Convene the Rice (or Food) Trade Forum to discuss: procedures and disciplines to be followed with respect to the use of food rice trade restrictions and operations of state trading entities; food trade facilitation; food value chain strengthening, and food diet diversification, open to participation of private traders, and Dialogue Partners who are also key players in the global rice market.

Activity 2.1.2. Conduct technical meetings of the AFSRB in preparation for ASEAN Food Trade Forum.

Activity 2.1.3. Gather data and conduct analysis thereof to support the AFSRB technical meetings, such as policy scenarios for the rice market, impact assessment of contract growing on small-scale farmers, and related studies.

Activity 2.1.4. Based on Forum discussions, recommendations will be submitted to AFSRB for further discussion.

Activity 2.1.5. Convene seafood forum to deliberate specifically on technical barriers to seafood trade with a view to promote movement of fish and fish products intended for human consumption

Output 2.2. Enhanced AFSRB capacity as food security policy advisory unit for SOM-AMAF.

Activity 2.2.1. Conduct capacity building activities (e.g. trainings) for AFSRB Members and Secretariat staff.

Strategic Thrust 3: Strengthen integrated food security information systems to effectively forecast, plan and monitor supplies and utilization for basic food commodities

Output 3.1. AFSIS established as a permanent and fully functional early warning, monitoring, and surveillance information system with stronger network of sources of food market data and information in the region.

Activity 3.1.1. Establish AFSIS as a permanent, self-supporting, functionally independent system based on formal commitment of member states, assign a permanent host of its Secretariat, and consult with Plus 3 member states for cooperation and technical assistance.

Activity 3.1.2. Collect and update food security data on a regular basis including food supply information that meeting the national dietary guidelines.

Activity 3.1.3. Conduct timely, periodic assessment of the state and outlook for rice and other key food commodities in ASEAN Plus Three in the context of global markets based on real time market intelligence, use of existing data and quantitative analysis.

Activity 3.1.4. Collaborate with food security organizations, international and other organizations related developing quality standards and best practices for food security information systems and strengthen human resource development.

Strategic Thrust 4: Promote sustainable food production

Output 4.1. R&D outputs, improved practices in agri-based and food value chains disseminated and access facilitated.

Activity 4.1.1. Create and use a technology portal to disseminate new technologies and practices in the various stages of agri-based and food value chains and facilitate access to these by ASEAN producers to improve productivity and efficiency of value chains and product and safety standards including adoption of environmentally sustainable practices.

Activity 4.1.2. Promote cooperation between NARS of AMS and IARCS to implement IRRI's Rice Action Plan and other food commodity development plans, e.g. maize.

Activity 4.1.3. Promote cooperation between NARS, IARCS, private sector, and farmer organizations, towards expanding vegetable and fruit production in rural and urban areas, through adequate and quality seeds and planting materials and extension support to fruit and vegetable growers.

Activity 4.1.4. Promote technologies and techniques to reduce post-harvest losses and food waste in AMS.

Activity 4.1.5. Coordinate and assist in the overall research, development and commercialization activities within ASEAN member countries on Seed Sector

Activity 4.1.6. Promote research and development in alternative source of fish meal for fish feeds production

Activity 4.1.7. Expand and promote farmers' knowledge beyond agriculture to include agribusiness and entrepreneurship.

Output 4.2. Improved awareness of key producers on food quality and safety assurance

Activity 4.2.1. Develop food safety information on commodity-specific production through food fraud surveillance system in terms of mitigation and prevention.

Activity 4.2.2. Strengthen capacity of key players on safety food production along food value chain

Strategic Thrust 5: Encourage greater investment in food and agri-based industry to enhance food security

Output 5.1. Sustained expansion of investments in food and agri-based industries.

Activity 5.1.1. Prepare roadmaps for demand-oriented agri-based and food regional value chains involving organizations of small-scale farmers, disseminate investment opportunity information particularly for SMEs, and facilitate the coordination of investments based on public – private as well as public – community partnerships along agri-based regional value chains.

Activity 5.1.2. Support the development of agri-based and food regional supply chain through closer public-private sector partnerships.

Strategic Thrust 6: Identify and address emerging issues related to food security

Output 6.1. Implications of long-term bio-energy development on food security identified.

Activity 6.1.1. Conduct a study on the long-term implications of bio-energy development and food security in AMS.

Output 6.2. Introducing Climate smart agriculture¹ in AMS.

Activity 6.2.1. Pilot testing of technologies and practices (such as conservation agriculture, SRI, integrated crop-livestock, organic agriculture, drought and flood tolerant varieties of crops and etc.) within the climate smart agriculture approach in ASEAN.

Output 6.3. Impacts of demographic structural changes and urbanization on food security identified.

Activity 6.3.1. Conduct a study on the long-term implications of demographic structural changes (gender, younger people moving out of agriculture, conversion of agricultural land, urbanization, food trade and industrialization) on food security in ASEAN.

Activity 6.3.2. Development of set of recommendations or proposed options in responding to the implications of demographic and urbanization structural change.

Activity 6.3.3. Promote coherence in policy making and prioritization of policies, plans, programmes and funding to tackle double-burden of malnutrition and food insecurity among vulnerable and food insecure populations

Strategic Thrust 7: Utilize Nutrition Information to support evidence-based food security and agriculture policies

Output 7.1. Key nutrition information and indicators for food security monitoring and policy development identified/ defined

Activity 7.1.1. Conduct regional workshops to identify/define key nutrition information and indicators, collection/compilation methodologies required for regular food security monitoring and policy development.

Activity 7.1.2. Periodic monitoring and reporting on the status of food and nutrition indicators by AMS

Output 7.2. Nutrition information module developed and integrated into AFSIS and or other relevant mechanisms.

Activity 7.2.1. Conduct a study for the development and pilot testing of nutrition information module for integrating into AFSIS and or other relevant mechanisms.

¹ Climate-smart agriculture is a new approach to ensure food security and nutrition, increase agricultural productivity and incomes, build resilience to climate change as well as reduce emissions.

Output 7.3. Utilisation of Nutrition information in food security policies.

Activity 7.3.1. Improve and or strengthen the ASEAN Food Security Information System with relevant nutrition information.

Activity 7.3.2. Develop nutrition-enhancing policy briefs for reporting to relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies.

Strategic Thrust 8: Identify policies, institutional and governance mechanisms for nutrition-enhancing agriculture development in AMS

Output 8.1. Awareness and recognition on importance of nutrition by key stakeholders of food, agriculture and forestry².

Activity 8.1.1. Develop and distribute awareness raising materials targeting at key stakeholders of food, agriculture and forestry on the importance scaling up nutrition-sensitive enhancement in agriculture and food security.

Activity 8.1.2. Conduct national and regional event(s) for nutrition awareness raising.

Output 8.2. Policies and mechanisms for AMS supported.

Activity 8.2.1. Conduct annual consultation between SOM-AMAF and other relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies for better integration and coordination on food security and nutrition with support from development and dialogue partners.

Activity 8.2.2. Facilitate policy dialogue in support of Food Security and Nutrition governance and coordination, which is more inclusive of all relevant stakeholders of food, agriculture and forestry, and the institutional arrangements/modalities.

Activity 8.2.3. Establish key and strategic partnerships to enhance national and regional capacity building, policy dialogue and consensus building as well as advocacy among AMS and other stakeholders to address problems of food security and nutrition in the region.

Strategic Thrust 9: Develop and strengthen nutrition-enhancing food, agriculture and forestry policies/programs and build capacity for their implementation, monitoring and evaluation

Output 9.1. Nutrition-enhancing food, agriculture and forestry policies and programmes developed and strengthened.

Activity 9.1.1. Develop capacity to mainstream nutrition in sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and programs related to food, agriculture and forestry.

Activity 9.1.2. Conduct various studies, workshop(s) to enhance capacity for policy makers/officers in formulating nutrition-enhancing food, agriculture and forestry policies, strategies and investment programs.

² Key stakeholders such as government officials, farmers organizations, CSOs, the private sectors, research and training institutions that are related to food, agriculture and forestry.

Activity 9.1.3. Develop policy guidelines and tools for formulating national and regional nutrition-enhancing sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and programs related to food, agriculture and forestry.

Activity 9.1.4. Encourage and facilitate AMS in using the national dietary guidelines as one of the basis for forecasting/ planning of food supply in ensuring food and nutrition security for the population.

Output 9.2. Capacity for implementing, monitoring and evaluating nutrition-enhancing food, agriculture and forestry policies, strategies and programs enhanced.

Activity 9.2.1. Develop guidelines and tools for implementing, monitoring and evaluating national and regional nutrition-enhancing sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and programs related to food, agriculture and forestry.

Activity 9.2.2. Capacity building on implementation and monitoring and evaluation of policies, strategies and programs.

Output 9.3. Various Programs related to nutrition-enhancing food, agriculture and forestry identified, implemented, monitored and evaluated.

Activity 9.3.1. Identification and implementation of priority actions, including monitoring and evaluation.

REVIEW

The implementation of the SPA-FS 2021-2025 shall be frequently reviewed and updated. A final evaluation shall be conducted in 2025.

ACRONYMS

ABF	ASEAN Business Forum
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AEC	ASEAN Economic Community
AEM	ASEAN Economic Ministers
AFCC	ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security
AFSIS	ASEAN Food Security Information System
AFSRB	ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board
AIFS	ASEAN Integrated Food Security
AMAF	ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry
AMS	ASEAN Member States
APTCS-FSBD	ASEAN Plus Three Comprehensive Strategy on Food Security and Bioenergy Development
APTERR	ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve
ASC	ASEAN Seed Council
ASEAN-CCI	ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and Industry
ASEC	ASEAN Secretariat
AsiaDHRRA	Asian Partnership for Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia
ASWGAC/ ASWGAC	ASEAN Centre for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives/ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Agricultural Cooperatives
ASWGC	ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops
ASWGFi	ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries

ASWGL	ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock
ATIGA	ASEAN Trade In Goods Agreement
ATWGARD	ASEAN Technical Working Group on Agricultural Research and Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IARC	International Agricultural Research Centres
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
NARS	National Agriculture Research System
PPP	Public-Private Sector Partnership
SEOM	Senior Economic Officials Meeting
SOMHD	Senior Officials meeting on the ASEAN Ministers on Health Development
SOM-AMAF	Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry
SPA-FS	Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security
SRI	System of Rice Intensification
TWG	Technical Working Group