

# 2016-2025 VISION AND STRATEGIC PLAN FOR ASEAN COOPERATION IN FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

*Adopted in Makati City, Philippines on 10 September 2015*

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### LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| AEC      | ASEAN Economic Community   |
| AFSP     | ASEAN Food Safety Policy   |
| AFSRB    | ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board                                      |
| AIFS     | ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework                               |
| AMAF     | ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry                            |
| AMS      | ASEAN Member States  |
| APTERR   | ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve                                |
| ASCC     | ASEAN Socio Cultural Community   |
| ATIGA    | ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement   |
| FAF      | Food, Agriculture and Forestry   |
| FDI      | Foreign Direct Investment  |
| GHG      | Greenhouse Gas   |
| IRRI     | International Rice Research Institute                                  |
| IUU      | Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated                                    |
| MDGs     | Millennium Development Goals   |
| NTBs     | Non-Tariff Barriers  |
| NTFP     | Non-Timber Forest Products   |
| NTMs     | Non-Tariff Measures  |
| PPPs     | Public Private Partnership   |
| SDGs     | Sustainable Development Goals  |
| SFM      | Sustainable Forest Management  |
| SME      | Small and Medium Enterprises   |
| SOM-AMAF | Senior Officials Meeting – ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry |

## A. INTRODUCTION

Following the 4th ASEAN Summit in 1992, the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) identified seven priorities for the agriculture sector (comprising the crops, fisheries, and livestock sub-sectors) and five strategic thrusts for the forestry sector. In 2007 the AEC Blueprint, consolidated these into the following objectives:

- (1) To enhance intra- and extra-ASEAN trade and long-term competitiveness of ASEAN's food, agriculture and forestry products/commodities;
- (2) To promote cooperation, joint approaches and technology transfer among ASEAN member countries and international and regional organizations and the private sector; and
- (3) To promote ASEAN agricultural cooperatives as a means to empower and enhance market access of agricultural products, to build a network mechanism linking agricultural cooperatives, and to fulfil the purpose of agricultural cooperatives for the benefit of producers in the region.

The 23rd ASEAN Summit held on 9 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan adopted the “Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the ASEAN Community’s Post-2015 Vision” and provided guidance on the development of a post 2015 vision. It was indicated that the post-2015 vision should enhance and consolidate the ASEAN Community, continue to enhance peace and stability, promote common prosperity in the region as well as strengthen ASEAN’s institutional framework by enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of ASEAN organs and institutions.

The Special SOM-34thAMAF, held on 13-14 August 2013 in Pakse, Lao PDR agreed to develop a vision, objectives and goals of the ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (FAF) sector towards 2020, based on the review of the current framework and Strategic Plan. The Special SOM-35thAMAF, held on 18-19 August 2014 in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia agreed on a new timeline of 2016-2025 for the new vision of ASEAN Cooperation on Food, Agriculture and Forestry so as to be consistent with the decision of the 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

This new Strategic Plan (SP) for the FAF sector 2016-2025 is an implementation of the post 2015 vision. The SP has been 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.

ASEAN has made major advances in improving living standards and incomes of citizens, and very considerably decreased extreme poverty. It has strengthened food security, substantially reduced the prevalence of undernourishment, and dealt with food insecurity concerns in 2007-08 when there was a spike in food prices. The development of an integrated ASEAN market has been advanced by the elimination of tariffs on intra-ASEAN trade in most goods.

Cooperation in the FAF sector has included activities in technology generation and transfer, in the establishment, harmonization of standards and regulations, in coping with climate, in setting up of institutions for regional cooperation involving the private sector, in the prevention of illegal fishing and trade in illegal timber. ASEAN has established positions in international fora, cooperated in capacity building, and developed the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) framework.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> These include the entry into force of the ASEAN Plus-Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) agreement, setting up of the ASEAN – US MARKET, ASEAN Rice Trade Forum and related efforts to strengthen ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board (AFSRB), the policy forum on foreign direct investment (FDI) in agriculture and the AMAF – Private sector dialogue.

Nevertheless much remains to be done to establish the AEC goal of a single market and production base in food, agriculture and forestry, to transform them into modern, competitive, sustainable industries, and to ensure that gains from deeper regional and global market integration and modernization are equitably distributed and shared with the millions of small FAF producers (farmers and fishers) and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) – who dominate the sector. Though most tariffs have been eliminated, there remain many non-tariff measures (NTMs) that impede intra-ASEAN trade and undermine international competitiveness. The tariffs that remain on products on the ATIGA negative list are another impediment.

Land, water and aquatic eco-systems degradation, deforestation and depletion of the natural resource base continues contributing to climate change, lowering productivity, and threatening the food security, employment and incomes of the people in the region.

## **B. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

Though the FAF sector varies widely within ASEAN, it remains a strategic sector in most ASEAN countries, and a major source of employment and incomes for a large proportion of the population. With over a hundred million hectares of agricultural land, ASEAN is a major producer and supplier of grains, particularly rice, and the world's largest producer of palm oil and natural rubber. ASEAN also raises a considerable amount of livestock. This sector has grown rapidly in recent years. The forestry sector has also provided timber and timber products to the global market, as well as environmental services at the international, regional and local levels. ASEAN is also among the world's major producers and exporters of fish products.

Productivity growth has been the key to this enviable position. In the case of rice, for example, ASEAN's production has increased faster than population growth and overall demand, helping to lower real food prices and strengthen food security.

ASEAN's trade patterns, including the substantial intra-ASEAN trade, reflect the strength and importance of the crop sector. Five out of the eight developing ASEAN countries have a trade surplus. Exports nearly doubled during the past decade; and high value vegetables exports have also grown strongly. Intra-ASEAN trade, particularly the share of imports sourced from within the region, increased over 2001 – 2010. ASEAN's share of imports from other Member States increased from 24 to 31 percent over this period.

The ASEAN livestock sector is a small, but significant part of the economy of most AMS, and has emerged as one of the most dynamic sub-sectors of the ASEAN food economy in recent years. Its share of GDP in 2011 is largest in Cambodia and Vietnam, at around 5 percent of GDP. The major livestock products are poultry and pork. Though the region as a whole is a net importer of both, meat and dairy products, meat imports are only about 5% of total consumption. Regional milk production has also increased though increased demand is met primarily by imports. The expansion of the livestock industry has also resulted in higher imports of animal feed.

Currently both capture fisheries and aquacultures are important fishery sources but capture fisheries cannot meet rising demand for fishery products. Most near-shore fisheries in Southeast Asia are overfished, marine ecosystems are severely degraded, and production costs are increasing. There is significant Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region that is likely to result in trade related measures. Aquaculture requires greater attention in terms of its management and regulation to assure sustainable production and development to meet anticipated future demand.

In ASEAN, forests are a source of a range of forest products, incomes, exports and employment. In addition, they also provide a wide range of critical environmental services including protection of land and water resources, conservation of global biodiversity (forests of Southeast Asia are some of the most species-rich in the world), and climate change abatement. However, the region has experienced ongoing deforestation and forest degradation, largely due to increased demand for agricultural land. During 1990-2010, forest areas fell at an annual rate of 0.7%, losing 32.97 million ha or around 8% of the total land area.

Rapid economic growth in ASEAN raises incomes and living standards, enhances urbanisation and fosters an expanding, prosperous, better educated middle class. Together with projected population increases, these have a magnified effect on not only the level of overall demand for food, agriculture and forestry products but also for the safety and quality and composition of demand. These socio-economic and demographic changes increase demand for better food quality, better hygiene and diversified food products.

The change shave an impact on how food is produced, processed, stored, and marketed, with integration through the supply chain from producer to final consumer. Fisheries and livestock sectors become even more important parts of the food sector. These changes in food consumption patterns, and supply and marketing chains require that the concept of food security in ASEAN must be broadened to encompass a wider consumption basket involving food safety, quality and nutrition.

On the supply side, the natural resource base of food, agriculture and forestry industries is threatened by a range of internal factors, such as deforestation, soil erosion and degradation of watersheds, rivers and waterways, air pollution etc., and by external factors, particularly by the effects of climate change, agricultural and land use practices also contribute to climate change; in particular, deforestation, largely driven by increasing demand for agricultural land and aggravated by illegal logging. These developments now threaten ASEAN's enviable current position as a region with high levels of food security and a net exporter of food, industrial crops and forestry products.

The livelihoods of those dependent on the FAF sector, comprise over 40 percent of the ASEAN population. Globalisation and regional integration not only open up access to larger regional and global markets, but also expose domestic producers to intensified competition from more technologically sophisticated, better endowed foreign competitors. In this setting, the small producers, who dominate the 'private sector' in FAF, can survive only if they can meet the higher market standards, adopt new technologies, and undertake changes to be competitive. Underpinning this SP is the recognition that these small producers must be assisted to successfully transform themselves into viable modern enterprises.

## C. VISION OF ASEAN COOPERATION IN FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY TOWARDS 2025

This Strategic Plan of ASEAN cooperation in FAF defines a vision and goals for the food, agriculture and forestry sector, identifies and prioritises the main areas for cooperation, and proposes Strategic Thrusts and Action Programmes.

It is formulated in a global and regional context and in response to the socio-economic and demographic changes driven by three key drivers, rapid economic growth, regional integration and globalization, and pressures on the natural resource base including climate change.

### VISION AND GOALS

#### Vision

A competitive, inclusive, resilient and sustainable Food, Agriculture, and Forestry (FAF) sector integrated with the global economy, based on a single market and production base contributing to food and nutrition security and prosperity in the ASEAN Community

#### Goals

- Ensuring equitable, sustainable and inclusive growth
- Alleviating poverty and eradicating hunger
- Ensuring food security, food safety and better nutrition
- Deepening regional integration
- Enhancing access to global markets
- Increasing resilience to, and contributing to mitigation and adaptation of climate change, natural disasters and other shocks
- Achieving Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)
- Ensuring equitable sustainable and inclusive growth

ASEAN aims to achieve the goal of an inclusive, harmonious and sustainable society that addresses socio-economic disparities and poverty, ensures gender equality, narrows regional socio-economic disparities and bridges the development gap between Member States. The generation and diffusion of new, sustainable technologies that enhance resource use efficiency and productivity will be enhanced through the adoption of appropriate policy initiatives, strategic investments, regulatory and institutional changes that support increased production and equitable distribution.

- Alleviating poverty and eradicating hunger

Poverty alleviation is a central strategic objective of the ASEAN Community and is inextricably linked with the growth and development of the FAF sector. The development of the sector will be the source of improved incomes and livelihoods for producers and the source of affordable, nutritious and safe food for consumers.

ASEAN as a whole has achieved MDG 1 hunger goal to halve the proportion of hungry by 2015. However, nearly 10 percent of the total population in ASEAN continues to suffer from chronic hunger. ASEAN countries have agreed to support UN Secretary General's Zero Hunger Challenge at regional and country levels for hunger eradication, i.e. 100% access to adequate food for all year round, zero stunted children less than 2 years, all food system are sustainable, 100% increase in smallholder farmer productivity and income, and zero loss or waste of food.

- Ensuring food security, food safety and better nutrition

The concept of food security goes beyond self-sufficiency and encompasses food safety and better nutrition. Ensuring food security and safety by providing adequate, safe and nutritious food is a strategic objective of the ASEAN Community. Production of most major food products in ASEAN has continued to increase in recent decades and ASEAN has been able to avoid serious threats to food security. The challenges that have emerged include competing demands for resources, effects of climate change and environmental degradation on food production and pressures on supplies due to growing demand. There is a need to ensure continued regional food security, contribute to the global food supply and to ensure the availability of safe foods and enable better nutrition.

- Deepening regional integration

As stated in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint, deeper regional integration, while remaining outward looking and embracing closer links with the global economy, is a central objective of ASEAN as an economic community. Existing impediments to establish a single market and production base in the FAF sectors must be removed in order to establish a fully integrated ASEAN market in food, agricultural and forestry products.

- Enhancing access to global markets

This goal reflects ASEAN's recognition that external trade with the wider global markets is a key driver of ASEAN's economic growth and prosperity. Facilitating market access by reducing trade costs is central to fostering competitiveness and market penetration and can be achieved through the elimination of trade impeding regulations and standards that restrict market access, hinder intra-regional trade, and undermine ASEAN's international competitiveness. Better access to global markets not only opens up new opportunities but also opens the door to competition. The strategies and measures will be formulated and implemented to ensure that potential gains from access to global markets are not only captured but also equitably shared and that small producers and SMEs are not excluded from the benefits.

- Increasing resilience to, and contributing to mitigation and adaptation to, climate change, natural disasters and other shocks

The ASEAN region is subjected to tidal and storm surges, earthquakes, droughts, floods, and typhoons, and is one of the world's most vulnerable regions to climate change and its adverse impacts. The integration of the ASEAN economy with the global economy also exposes it to large, sudden and unanticipated economic shocks. ASEAN will strengthen mechanisms and develop capabilities to prevent and reduce losses due to disasters and emergencies through concerted national efforts and intensified regional and international cooperation. ASEAN will harness technology and rely on available infrastructure and institutions to ensure that communities and the ASEAN Member States are able to cope with these shocks, as well as contribute to addressing the major causes of increasing climatic and other environmental risks.

- Achieving Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

Southeast Asia is endowed with the third largest tropical forests in the world. ASEAN's forests are among the most diverse ecosystems on Earth and play an important role in the global carbon cycle. In the ASEAN region, forests contribute substantial economic, sociocultural and ecological value, produce a variety of goods and supply crucial environmental services to communities, businesses and the public sector. AMS will strengthen their cooperation and implement national laws and policies and appropriate regional policy frameworks to tackle the challenges of illegal logging, deforestation and degradation more efficiently and effectively. AMS will utilize existing financing mechanisms, such as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), and international climate finance to complement their own resources to support the implementation of these activities. To be competitive, ASEAN will need to meet international standards for sustainable forest management, conservation and protection standards for forestry products.

## **D. STRATEGIC PLAN**

To achieve the aforementioned Vision and Goals for the FAF sector, ASEAN Member States will jointly act to benefit from the opportunities and confront the major challenges in the priority areas of cooperation supported by the seven (7) identified strategic thrusts and related action programmes as listed below.

### **1. PRIORITY AREAS OF COOPERATION/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;
2. Enhance trade facilitation, economic integration and market access;
3. Ensure food security, food safety, better nutrition and equitable distribution.
4. Increase resilience to climate change, natural disasters and other shocks;
5. Assist resource constrained small producers and SMEs to improve productivity, technology and product quality, to meet global market standards and increase competitiveness.
6. Strengthen ASEAN joint approaches on international and regional issues affecting the FAF sector.
7. Promote sustainable forest management.

The following Strategic Thrusts (STs) and Action Programmes (APs) will be implemented in the priority areas to achieve the vision and goals. The issues to be addressed in the FAF sector are closely inter-linked with each other and several are cross-sectoral and reinforce each other.

## 2. STRATEGIC THRUSTS

### Strategic Thrust 1:

Enhance quantity and quality of production with sustainable, 'green' technologies, resource management systems, and minimise pre- and postharvest losses and waste

To meet the demands of present and future generations for food, agriculture and forestry, the main focus will be placed on: (i) increasing the investment in the infrastructure and application of science and technology in agricultural value chain, (ii) enhancing management systems so as to increase productivity and minimise eco-system damage and (iii) providing incentives for public and private sectors in research and development.

### Action Programmes

- 1.1. Identify infrastructure investment requirements to increase production and reduce post-production losses, and address investment needs.
- 1.2. Review policies as necessary to ensure that these take account of the value of environmental assets and costs of resource depletion.
- 1.3. Increase private sector participation in policy discussions, programme and project formulation, research and development (R&D) and provide incentives and foster an enabling environment for public-private partnerships (PPPs) towards enhancing productivity and quality, recognising that the 'private sector' in the context of FAF must refer not only to larger commercial enterprises but must also include the small scale farmers, fishermen and SMEs.
- 1.4. Develop yield and productivity enhancing technologies and best practices that involve land use intensification in a sustainable manner, bearing in mind that expansion of cultivable land rapidly reaches its limits even in the land-abundant AMS.
- 1.5. Balance the competing demands for the use of natural resources for food crops, industrial crops and other purposes through land-use planning to ensure ecological sustainability, food security, quality, productivity and producer profitability.
- 1.6. 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, livestock and horticulture subsectors
- 1.7. Invest in developing adequate capacity among the member countries in analyzing trade-offs and implementing specific measures to support more sustainable livestock sub-sector development.
- 1.8. Carefully balance production increases with conservation objectives and needs of local communities to develop better management systems to minimise eco-system damage and promote sustainable management of forest and aquatic resources management.
- 1.9. Increase investments in collaborative R&D activities, and strengthen existing regional collaboration among AMS and with key international institutes, such as the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), to generate sustainable technologies and management and harvesting systems, and effective extension/communication systems for technology diffusion.

- 1.10. Provide institutional mechanisms and appropriate incentives for PPP in R&D and technology diffusion, collaborating with the private sector to identify priority, high pay off research issues, and utilise it as a channel for both technology generation and diffusion.
- 1.11. Regularly review the nature of R&D partnerships and strategic partnerships with concerned organizations to ensure that the research and training agendas are aligned with ASEAN goals.
- 1.12. Identify and document technology success stories and explore new methods of extension including enhanced use of information and communications technology (ICT) and other communication facilities for dissemination of successful technologies and management systems throughout AMS.
- 1.13. Standardise and harmonise concepts, methods and presentation of national statistics and strengthen technical capacity of AMS to conduct multi country studies and undertake accurate situational analysis and planning.

#### Strategic Thrust 2:

Enhance trade facilitation, economic integration and market access Facilitate trade, economic integration and market access through the harmonization of standards, regulations, inspection, certification and accreditation procedures by improving quarantine systems, reducing NTMs and eliminating non-tariff barriers (NTBs).

#### Action Programmes

- 2.1 Identify and eliminate NTBs that have no economic or scientific rationale and implement trade facilitation measures.
- 2.2 Harmonize accreditation, inspection and certification so that uniform requirements will prevail ASEAN-wide, enabling the recognition of equivalence.
- 2.3 Streamline and improve quarantine systems and procedures, and harmonize standards and regulations.
- 2.4 Involve the private sector in identifying priority products for harmonisation of standards and regulations to focus scarce scientific and technical resources on high pay-off products.
- 2.5 Established business linkages among the potential agricultural cooperatives and farmers organisation.
- 2.6 Promote direct investment and strategic partnership with ASEAN Agricultural cooperatives and farmers organisation, producers, consumer and traders.
- 2.7 Enhance regional and international cooperation to ensure that all major ASEAN food markets are integrated, and the food trading system is strengthened and utilised to provide stable food supplies.

- 2.8 Enhance cooperation to prevent illegal activities (e.g. illegal logging and non-timber forest products (NTFP) harvesting; Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing) and promote sustainable use of natural resources, so as to establish an eco-friendly reputation for ASEAN origin products to improve market access.

### Strategic Thrust 3:

Ensure food security, food safety, better nutrition and equitable distribution

The main priorities will be strengthening regional food security arrangements, implementing ASEAN food safety policies and promoting nutrition education. To achieve the goals of ensuring food security and food safety the following complementary actions required are: (i) increasing food production, (ii) reducing postharvest losses, and (iii) promoting availability and accessibility to agricultural inputs and operationalizing regional food emergency relief arrangement.

### Action Programmes

- 3.1 Effectively implement the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA-FS), 2015-2020.
- 3.2 Strengthen regional food security arrangements by strengthening the AFSRB as food security policy coordination and advisory services unit for the ASEAN, by linking APTERR scheme to national food security programmes, by transforming ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) into a permanent scheme for food security information sharing and dissemination, strengthening human resources development in the food security information systems, and enhancing the AMAF Private Sector Dialogue.
- 3.3 Collaborate with relevant ASEAN bodies in finalizing and implementing the ASEAN Food Safety Policy (AFSP).
- 3.4 Accelerate the establishment of food safety standards, and mobilise resources for effective ASEAN wide adoption. One priority is to respond quickly and positively to increasing consumer demands for better food quality and safety as well as better labelling and information.
- 3.5 Improve food security and nutrition through diversifying food sources and strengthening the quality and variety of food production and improving the food value chains.
- 3.6 Establish food or nutrient-based standards for healthy diets and provide information on nutrition, assist transition to more nutritious diets, paying special attention to the role and importance of women in improving nutrition.
- 3.7 Promote nutrition education and consumer awareness of healthy diets, conduct social marketing campaigns and lifestyle change communication programmes to promote physical activity and dietary diversification, including increased consumption of micronutrient-rich foods.
- 3.8 Encourage adoption of standards on classification of food products to facilitate appropriate consumer choices and incentivise producers.

#### Strategic Thrust 4:

Increase resilience to climate change, natural disasters and other shocks

Address climate change and its adverse impacts on socio-economic development, health and the environment, in ASEAN Member States through the promotion of appropriate agricultural practices, building competencies, providing access to financial resources and enhancing regional and international collaboration. In post 2015, R&D to develop appropriate technologies and introduce good agriculture practices and improve accessibility to climate finance resources to support climate friendly agriculture remain priorities in ASEAN.

#### Action Programmes

- 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.
- 4.2 Promote good agriculture practices to minimize the negative effects on natural resources such as soil, forest and water and reduce the greenhouse gas emission.
- 4.3 Build competencies, share information, technologies and assistance packages with a focus on small scale producers,
- 4.4 Encourage sound management and maintenance of natural resources such as coastal and mangrove forests that bolster resilience.
- 4.5 Expand resilient agro-forestry systems where ecologically and economically appropriate.
- 4.6 Enhance collaboration and coordination with regional and international bodies to regulate and minimise trans-boundary pollution and Green House Gasses (GHG) emissions from the FAF sector.
- 4.7 Integrate gender issues into climate friendly agriculture, fishery and forestry practices to reduce the higher vulnerability of women to the social and economic impact of natural disasters and climate change.
- 4.8 Provide access to climate-related financial resources to support climate friendly agriculture.

#### 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 in line with the ASEAN Policy Blueprint on SME Development

Support small producers, cooperatives and SME's to improve product quality to meet regional and international standards and ensure competitiveness through appropriate policies and mechanisms. The main focus of ASEAN towards 2025 will be placed on, among others, promoting cooperatives and farmers' organisations, providing credit, insurance, technology and implementing competition policies to protect against unfair competition in the sector.

### Action Programmes

- 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.
- 5.2 Promote and strengthen cooperatives and farmers organizations so as to better integrate small producers in the value chains and to provide collective platforms to deal with production and market risks.
- 5.3 Provide credit, insurance, market information, quality control and certification facilities to enable small scale producers and SMEs to comply with food safety and quality standards in both domestic and foreign markets.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 Implement competition policies to ensure a level playing field for producers and SMEs and to prevent unfair exploitation by large firms with market power in integrated supply chains.

### Strategic Thrust 6:

Strengthen ASEAN joint approaches on international and regional issues

Promote and protect ASEAN interests at international and regional fora by developing ASEAN common positions on relevant issues on trade, climate change, forestry, biodiversity conservation and food safety. In post 2015, ASEAN will continue focusing on enhancing coordination and joint approaches as well as presenting its common position on the issues affecting the food, agriculture and forestry.

### Action Programmes

- 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 to obtain more favourable outcomes in negotiations and agreements affecting FAF sector.
- 6.2 Present ASEAN common position on the issues affecting FAF sector in fora such as Conference of Parties on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), World Trade Organization (WTO), United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), Codex Alimentarius Commission(CODEX), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO).

- 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.

#### Strategic Thrust 7:

##### Promote sustainable forest management

Promote the implementation of sustainable forest management in the ASEAN region, enhancing competitiveness and eradicating unsustainable practices including combating illegal logging and its associated trade through amongst others; capacity building, technology transfer, enhancing public awareness, strengthening law enforcement and governance, and improving the livelihood of communities living in and surrounding the forest. In 2016-2025, ASEAN will continue to enhance the sustainable management of forest resources, including protection and conservation of forests in an ecologically sound and integrated manner through regionally and internationally agreed criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

#### Action Programmes:

- 7.1 Promote the exchange of knowledge on implementing SFM and improve forest governance (including enabling environment and framework conditions for scaling up SFM and impact monitoring).
- 7.2 Mobilize additional finance and other resources for the conservation of forests and implementing SFM (including compensation payments for mitigation, for example reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), payments for environmental services (PES), and other financing instruments to scale-up and enhance competitiveness of SFM).
- 7.3 Promote dialogue with the private sector about improving quality & efficiency of the timber industry and processing of other forest products.
- 7.4 Strengthen the efforts among AMS to establish regional agreements on timber trade and promote cooperation with ASEAN's external partners in the global timber trade.
- 7.5 Promote inter-sectoral cooperation between the forestry sector and other sectors, including agriculture, environment, customs, and trade.
- 7.6 Address the issue of forest fires, especially forest peatland fires in a comprehensive manner, through close inter-sectoral cooperation and by the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution and the ASEAN Programme on Integrated Peatland Management.
- 7.7 Strengthen forest law enforcement and governance (FLEG)
- 7.8 Promote forest management involving the community living within and surrounding the forest for the sustainability of the forest and prosperity of the affected communities.

- 7.9 Enhance the capacities and human resources, including research and development institutions in the forestry sector
- 7.10 Promote initiatives on certification of management systems and forest products and on the basis of indicators for Sustainable Forest Management and agreed criteria.

## **E. IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS**

The implementation of the Strategic Plan (SP) and coordination with all ASEAN Bodies will be carried out by the ASEAN subsidiary bodies under AMAF, utilizing the support of national institutions through networking arrangements. AMAF, with support of SOM-AMAF, will provide policy guidance to subsidiary bodies under its purview and the ASEAN Secretariat will provide support to SOM-AMAF and AMAF and will coordinate closely with the subsidiary bodies.

Under SOM-AMAF, the implementation of the SP will be supported by strengthened ASEAN Structure and Mechanism, comprising of AMAF structure and regional coordination mechanism.

The current dialogue mechanisms with interested development and dialogue partners will be continued to support and facilitate smooth implementation of the SP.

## **F. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

All SPs and associated activities and measures will be formulated at the very outset with clear, quantifiable, key performance indicators (KPIs) and well specified timelines framed in a logical framework approach that enables effective monitoring and evaluation, and regularly reviewed. Definition of KPIs for each sector will be preceded by clear determination of priorities and timelines by SOM-AMAF. Additional KPIs will be developed for cross sectoral challenges such as response on climate change and competition in land use. KPIs will be framed in a realistic manner in a consultative process taking into account various constraints and recognising the diversity among AMS, but ensuring at the same time that the goals would be met during the plan period.

A comprehensive Mid-Term Review will be carried out in 2020 to assess progress, identify any implementation problems and provide options to address the problems.

## **G. PARTNERSHIP AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

In order to ensure the effective implementation and realisation of the set goal, objectives and programme, large-scale resource mobilisation are required. The basic arrangement to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan is by cost-sharing among the AMS. Additional resources will be sought through mobilising support from dialogue and development partners and other funding sources. The commitments from the AMS to expand the support to the SP are central to the achievement of ASEAN's goals. Appropriate ways to include Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) such as academic institutions, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs); and private sector contribution will be identified and integrated into specific sectoral workplan.