

FACTSHEET

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FOOD SAFETY AND AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is an important economic sector for ASEAN, contributing over 25% of GDP in some Member States and providing more than 40% of total employment in the case of Myanmar¹. Nonetheless, with increasing demand for safe and high-quality foods, much effort is needed to meet domestic consumption and establish new markets in the global economy. Quality assurance inconsistencies across borders also create uncertainty for buyers, limiting their demand for agrifood products from within the region.

The ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program (AADCP) Phase II is supporting ASEAN to improve the international competitiveness of its agricultural products. Building on earlier work during the first phase of the program, we continue to support ASEAN to increase productivity and address impediments to ASEAN trade, through evidence based strategy development, planning, and capacity building.

Achievements

Resulting from our work, ASEAN has put in place standards and measures that are essential for reducing nontariff barriers (NTBs)² and facilitating trade in agriculture products among ASEAN Member States (AMS) including:

- ◇ [Guidelines on ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices for Food Fish](#), endorsed by the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (SOMAMAF) in 2014, it is part of a fisheries quality management system aimed to ensure food safety and promote long-term competitiveness of ASEAN fisheries products.
- ◇ [The ASEAN standard for Good Animal Husbandry Practices \(GAHP\) for broilers and layers](#). The standard, part of a quality assurance scheme, covers elements that conform to relevant export requirements such as food safety, quality and acceptable procedures in the production of broilers and layers.
- ◇ The design of the [Multilateral Arrangement for the Mutual Recognition of Agri-food Standards and Conformity Assessment \(MAMRASCA\)](#). The model for a mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) was agreed by ASEAN Agriculture Ministers in 2017. It will facilitate the establishment of a mechanism for operationalising and recognising trading partners' standards and conformance measures for agri-food products.



The design of the MAMRASCA was based on the recommendation of an AADCP II study on Mutual Recognition Models for ASEAN Agricultural Best Practices.

- ◇ The drafting of certification and official control manuals for ASEAN Good Agriculture Practices (ASEAN GAP). These aim to strengthen and create consistency in the certification and accreditation systems in each AMS, necessary for the implementation of ASEAN GAP. These manuals can be adapted for use with other agri food standards.

Our ongoing and upcoming work

- ◇ [Global Recognition of Quality Assurance for ASEAN Fruits & Vegetables \(ASEAN GAP\)](#). This multi-year project aims to support the implementation of ASEAN standards for Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) for Fruits and Vegetables, adopted in 2006. The project has already developed an operational plan to guide AMS in the implementation the ASEAN GAP Strategic Plan as well as manuals for ASEAN GAP certification and accreditation systems. To improve its implementation, a training program for inspectors, auditors and staff of certifying bodies will be developed. Other information, education and communication activities intended to support its wider acceptance among stakeholders, particularly farmers, will likewise be undertaken.
- ◇ [Establishment of ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices \(ASEAN GAqP\)](#). The project has put in place the ASEAN GAqP based on globally accepted standards and a strategic plan for its operationalisation, and will be delivering a pilot training program targeted at aquaculture extension workers and trainers to promote better understanding and utilisation of ASEAN GAqP.

- ◇ [Establishment of Multilateral Arrangement for the Mutual Recognition of Agri-food Standards and Conformity Assessment \(MAMRASCA\)](#). This project will deliver two key outputs: i) an MRA text reflecting the framework for establishing and implementing MAMRASCA; and ii) a needs assessment study to determine capacity building needs in AMS to meet MRA accession milestones.

- ◇ [Assessment of Post-Harvest Losses \(PHL\) and PHL Reduction Technologies and Practices](#). This Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) project is identifying the causes of and possible solutions to reduce post harvest losses in selected high value seasonal fruits in the Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam (CLMV) countries which will assist CLMV governments to better address the issues.

- ◇ [Assessment of the Alignment of the CLMV Nasional Good Animal Husbandry Practices \(GAHP\) with the ASEAN GAHP](#). This IAI project will be supporting the alignment of national standards with ASEAN standards and suggesting actions and capacity building needs for CLMV countries.

To find out more about our work in Food Safety & Agriculture, visit www.aadcp2.org.

¹ ASEAN Investment website <http://investasean.asean.org/index.php/page/view/feature-stories/view/895/newsid/998/integration-provides-vast-agricultural-opportunities.html>

² According to the "Sustaining Southeast Asia's Momentum - How the 10 countries of the vibrant ASEAN region can avoid the threat of slower growth", NTMs in the form of sanitary measures related to public health and safety account for 33 percent and 13 percent are export-related restrictions