

Enhancing ASEAN competitiveness in the livestock and livestock product industry through ASEAN GAHP

Introduction

The formation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015 has emerged as an important new driver for the introduction of Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) in the region. The AEC blueprint for integration focuses strongly on the concept of a single market and production base, which cover amongst other things agricultural products and foods. In order to achieve this aim there is an urgent need to implement common standards. Harmonised standards will facilitate intra ASEAN trade and will go a long way to fulfil the requirements of international trade. The implementation of a common GAHP standard in ASEAN will strengthen ASEAN's objective of food security and food safety in the region and increase the competitiveness of ASEAN livestock and livestock product industry.

The primary reason for the implementation of GAHP is to reduce food safety risks as GAHP have practices designed to reduce these risks along the production chain. ASEAN, through a number of initiatives, has been working on the development of a common GAHP for its Member States to use as a template for developing country specific GAHP or to use to harmonise existing GAHP with the aim to have the essence of a single GAHP covering all ASEAN member States. The development of an ASEAN GAHP that focuses on food safety and an associated strategic plan for implementation of ASEAN GAHP are the key results from a project managed by the ASEAN Member States with the facilitation from ASEAN Secretariat and will support the competitiveness of ASEAN livestock and livestock products on a regional level and on an international level.

Results

A project which started in 2013 and completed in 2014 under the ASEAN Australia Development Cooperation Program (AADCP) phase II and managed by Indonesia with the facilitation from the ASEAN Secretariat has focused on the establishment of ASEAN Good Animal Husbandry Practices. The project involved experts from all AMS and has achieved a number of goals.

Firstly it has focused on the development of an ASEAN GAHP for broiler and layer, due to the fact that the poultry industry is one of the key sectors in the agriculture and livestock activities in ASEAN region, contributing to food security as well as to

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valuable exports for AMS. All AMS are in the process of using this document to either produce country specific GAHP (broiler and layer) or to standardize existing GAHP. The practices in ASEAN GAHP (broiler and layer) are aimed at preventing or minimising the risk of food safety and biosecurity hazards occurring. Although the ASEAN GAHP (broiler and layer) is mostly aimed at reducing food safety hazards it also covers elements of biosecurity, worker health and safety and measures to reduce environmental impact. The scope of ASEAN GAHP covers the production, handling, storage and transport of chicken products within the farm ASEAN GAHP (broiler and layer). In addition the project has produced a strategic plan for the implementation of GAHP (broiler and layer).

Policy recommendations

Most AMS have Government directives for the introduction and promulgation of GAHP, many AMS have well developed GAHP but not many have GAHP specific to the broiler and layer industry and most focus only on biosecurity to prevent disease spread in farms. The success of ASEAN economic integration depends on the involvement of the Member States in the integration process. The AMS should be actively involved in the work required to implement and harmonize ASEAN GAHP (broiler and layer) as a means to support trade facilitation intra and extra ASEAN via the actions points outlined below:

- Assist with the setting up of a mechanism to manage ASEAN GAHP for broiler and layer by facilitating the appointment of experts that have the ability to meet and develop a mechanism to manage the ASEAN GAHP standard in the short term and long term and the development of a communication strategy and development of suitable training material. In addition it is important that each AMS assists with the strategy for the implementation and management of the ASEAN GAHP standard within their country by appointing National working groups to undertake the required tasks at National level.
- Accelerate the implementation of ASEAN GAHP (broiler and layer) at each AMS level. AMS that do not have a GAHP (broiler and layer) in place should use the ASEAN GAHP as a template to develop country specific GAHP (broiler and layer). AMS that have a GAHP (Broiler and Layer) in place should harmonise this standard with ASEAN GAHP (Broiler and Layer). In particular the practices related to food safety and biosecurity should be harmonised. National working groups at AMS level should be available to complete these tasks.
- Assist with and implement activities to enhance the awareness of ASEAN GAHP to relevant stakeholders including the private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs) non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and consumers. In addition it is expected that AMS encourage and increase the participation of private sectors in the activities towards enhancing awareness of ASEAN GAHP. To assist and encourage the use of a branding scheme or logo for ASEAN GAHP certified farms and farm produce.