



**THE TWENTY SECOND MEETING OF THE ASEAN MINISTERS ON  
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY AND THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

**(22<sup>ND</sup> AMAF PLUS THREE)**

**26 October 2022**

**JOINT PRESS STATEMENT**

1. The Twenty-Second Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three was virtually held on 26 October 2022. The Meeting was chaired by His Excellency Dr. Phet Phomphiphak, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR.
2. The Meeting commended the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy on Food, Agriculture and Forestry (APTCS) 2016-2025 in the strategic areas of strengthening food security, sustainable forest management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, animal and plant health and disease control, capacity-building and human resource development, enhancing productivity, quality and marketability of agricultural products, strengthening of information system and knowledge networking and exchange, and research and development.
3. The Meeting appreciated the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement, and commended APTERR's effort on the release of 7,137.8 metric tonnes of rice from Japan and the Republic of Korea to address emergency situations including the COVID-19 pandemic in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and the Philippines. The Meeting encouraged the APTERR Parties to consider engaging in APTERR Programmes, especially Tier 1 for the insurance of food availability and accessibility in light of the volatile climate pattern and increasing occurrences of natural disaster.
4. The Meeting noted the progress of the ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Information System (AFSIS) particularly in strengthening the region's capacity on food security information systems and human resource development. The Meeting welcomed the publication of the Agricultural Commodity Outlook Report and Early Warning Information as references on the current situations and prospects of five commodities - rice, maize, sugarcane, soybeans, and cassava.
5. The Meeting supported the key priority areas for ASEAN cooperation in Food Agriculture and Forestry, including but not limited to i) promoting green, sustainable and circular agriculture and sustainable forest management, ii) reducing the use of harmful agrochemicals in the agriculture sectors, iii) promoting nature-based solutions, iv) decarbonization efforts; v) digital

technology application in agriculture and forestry and vi) the promotion of biological control agents (BCA) in animal husbandry and aquaculture. In this regard, the Meeting encouraged all relevant partners and stakeholders, including the private sector to collaborate with the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Member States in formulating and implementing projects or programmes that complement these priority areas.

6. The Meeting noted that resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems are essential for improving food security. Recognising that there is no one-size-fits all approach to agriculture and food systems, the Meeting also encouraged the ASEAN Plus Three Countries to further enhance cooperation on regional activities to promote green, sustainable and circular agriculture, build resilient and sustainable food systems and develop climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts, as well as promote public-private partnership, application of smart and digital agriculture, irrigation and water management, bio-energy, and greenhouse gas mitigation in irrigated rice systems.

7. The Meeting extended their appreciation to the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea for the continuous support and commitment to enhancing the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry.

8. The Meeting agreed to convene the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of AMAF Plus Three in Malaysia in 2023.

9. The Meeting expressed sincere appreciation to the Government of Lao PDR for the excellent arrangement made for the 22<sup>nd</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting.

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