

Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains in ASEAN (ASEAN AgriTrade)

The agriculture sector contributes significantly to the economy and livelihood of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States. ASEAN strives to strengthen its agriculture production and trade by following regional and international food standards on quality and sustainability. Moreover, the agricultural sector plays an important role in the context of regional integration. This is as outlined in regional policies frameworks such as the Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (SP-FAF) and the Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation on Crops (SPA-Crops). The project facilitates support to strengthen the implementation of sustainability standards in agricultural value chains in the region.

As the agriculture sector is directly affected by climate change, while contributing to greenhouse gas emissions, the project incorporates climate aspects components to contribute to achieving climate resilience, promoting low emissions and good agricultural practices for food security and sustainable food systems in the region.

The Objective

The framework conditions for the implementation of sustainability standards in agricultural value chains with a focus on climate-relevant aspects within the ASEAN region are improved.

Our Approach

The project's implementation at the regional level in collaboration with ASEAN Member States (AMS) is under the purview of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops (ASWGC) and the ASEAN Secretariat, and at the national level with focus countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV). The main stakeholders are Members of ASWGC, relevant ASEAN entities working on climate resilience, and other relevant public, private, civil society, and actors along the agricultural value chains in ASEAN.

Project name	Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains in ASEAN (ASEAN AgriTrade)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	ASEAN 10 AMS, pilot activities in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam
Lead executing agency	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
Project duration	July 2018 – December 2023

Expected Results

The project aims to achieve the following outputs:

1. Cooperation between ASEAN bodies and private sector actors is improved;
2. Awareness on the importance of gender in agriculture is strengthened;
3. Institutional and technical capacities of ASEAN actors to prioritize and implement effective measures on climate aspects have improved;
4. Knowledge exchange on best practices between public and private actors, including climate smart practices in the CLMV is improved;
5. Knowledge and awareness on the health and environmental benefits, including climate benefits of sustainably produced agricultural products is improved; and
6. Benefits and lessons learnt on implementing public-private partnership and cooperation, and sustainability standards, including climate smart agriculture practices are well-known to policy makers at national level.

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ASEAN AgriTrade 1st Project Steering Committee Meeting in Jakarta, February 2020. Photo GIZ/Diella Dachlan.

Progress

Gender mainstreaming. Awareness is raised on the importance of gender mainstreaming through regional workshops involving focal points of ASWGC. Recommendations were made to integrate gender aspects in the SPA-Crops and project activities.

Agrinnovation Fund in ASEAN (AIF). The AIF was jointly initiated with public and private partners in CLMV to foster innovation in the agricultural value chains through public-private partnership (PPP) and cooperation. AIF has onboarded 21 partnerships bringing up innovation in digital solutions, production methods, market access, and cooperation along value chain.

General assessment on ASEAN standards. The implementation of ASEAN GAP and ASEAN Standards for Organic Agriculture (ASOA) in AMS were stock taken with recommendations to improve the implementation of these standards.

VietGAP Guidelines. Supported development of VietGAP Guidelines for 10 key fruits. Online training courses and TOTs implemented to build capacity for stakeholders to implement the Guidelines.

Consumer awareness. The completed Consumer awareness study will assist in designing and implementing effective consumer awareness campaigns on food safety and standards in CLMV.

Regional Training of Trainers (TOT). Some 27 participants from eight AMS completed the TOT for the ASOA implementation through the National Training Program for Organic Agriculture and action plans were developed to further build the stakeholders' capacity in AMS.

Support regional exchange platform in climate topic. The project facilitates support for the ASEAN Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN) as a regional platform to share expertise and knowledge on climate-resilient agriculture and climate-smart land use. It facilitates support for the ASEAN Negotiating Group for Agriculture (ANGA) to continue to represent ASEAN positions on agriculture in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) framework.

Support ASEAN through the Food, Agriculture, and Forestry Division of the ASEAN Secretariat. Prepared and disseminated guidelines and knowledge products on the issue of adaptation and mitigation of the food, agriculture, and forestry (FAF) sector, such as ASEAN Climate-Smart Agriculture Guidelines Volume III and Nature-based Solutions (Nbs) Study.

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