



# The Establishment of the ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Information System as the Permanent Mechanism

2013-2015



AFSIS Secretariat





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**ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Information System (AFSIS)**



## PREFACE

The ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Information System (AFSIS) is implemented under the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation. The AFSIS was initially established as a Project with the funding support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan. The AFSIS Project was operated under two phases. The 1<sup>st</sup> Phase began from 2003 to 2007 and was extended into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase from 2008 to 2012. Due to the project's success and potential, the 12<sup>th</sup> 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 (AMAF Plus Three) in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) on 28 September 2012, endorsed the Project's transitional period to become a permanent mechanism. During the establishment period from 2013 to 2015, the continued operations and major progress were made. In relation to this, the 15<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting, Makati City, Philippines on 11 September 2015 recognized a commencement of the AFSIS as the permanent mechanism from 2016 onwards.

This Three-Year Report (2013-2015) is an accumulation of AFSIS's activities and its achievements in lieu of a regular publication as an annual report. This document is constituted of a progress of an endeavor to transform the AFSIS from the Project into a self-sustained mechanism. The content is divided into three parts consisting of an *overview of the AFSIS*, *the three-year outputs (2013-2015)* and the *way forward during the Preparatory Stage (2016-2018)*. During these challenging years to become the self-reliant mechanism, the AFSIS achieved several core components for the establishment, for example, the finalisation of the *AFSIS Structure, Financial Modality, Products and Services* and *Regulation and Procedures* through consultation among the member countries.

The AFSIS Secretariat would like to express its sincere appreciation to all ASEAN Member States, the Plus Three countries, the MAFF Japan, the Korea Agency of Education, Promotion and Information Service in Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (EPIS), the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), the ASEAN Secretariat, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), the Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan (RESTEC), and other concerned parties, especially the Office of Agricultural Economics (OAE), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) of Thailand for their generous support and participation in the implementation of the AFSIS.

This document was prepared by the AFSIS team led by Mr. Montol Jeamchareon, Manager, with a substantial technical assistance from Mrs. Sutida Suanburi and Ms. Sararin Phaengam.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the ASEAN region, food security remains a prevailing concern for millions of people. The ASEAN Member States indicated needs for renewed policies and programmatic efforts on food security. To ensure the short and long term food security in the region, it is imperative for policy makers to have a constant access to accurate and timely information. Thus, food security information systems need to be reinforced at the national level, integrated and synergized at regional levels through a regional mechanism for food security information network system.

In 2003, the 2<sup>nd</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 11 October 2002 agreed to establish the AFSIS Project with aims to provide a reliable information on food security as well as to harmonize regional information systems. Prior to the termination of the Project, the AFSIS was mandated from the 12<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three to transform into the permanent mechanism and endorsed the Three-Year Work Plan (2013-2015) to guide the AFSIS throughout the transition. During the establishment period of the AFSIS permanent mechanism, the AFSIS proceeded its routine activities in line with pursuing the AMAF Plus Three mandate in finalising details and working on arrangements of the self-sustained mechanism. In relation to this, intensive consultations among the Board and the Focal Points of AFSIS were conducted and resulted in a successful progress. The four keys components of the permanent mechanism were finalised consisting of Structure, Products and Services, Financial Modality, and Regulation and Procedures.

An endeavour to establish the AFSIS as the permanent mechanism was recognized at the 15<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three where the Meeting acknowledged that the AFSIS shall start as the permanent mechanism from 2016 onwards and have a three-year Preparatory Stage from 2016 to 2018 to finalise details of the AFSIS permanent mechanism and the for the AFSIS Secretariat.

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## 1. Overview of the AFSIS

### 1.1 Background

In realization of the need to sustain a long-term food security in the ASEAN region through strengthening food security-related policies, information plays a vital role in term of supporting the food security policies particularly the agricultural statistics.

At the regional level, Thailand, an initiating country of the AFSIS, proposed an idea of developing food security information system for the ASEAN Member States (AMS) to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Special Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Agriculture and Forestry Ministers and the Ministers of the People's Republic of China, Japan the Republic of Korea (SOM-AMAF Plus Three) on 24-26 April 2001 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The Meeting agreed to organize the Workshop on Food Security Cooperation and Rice Reserve Management System in East Asia to prepare a general framework for the AFSIS Project as well as to review a possibility of establishing a new rice reserve scheme in East Asia and draft the project proposal based on strengthen the implementation of the ASEAN Emergency Rice Reserve (AERR). The Workshop was held on 19-20 July 2001 in Nakhon Pathom, Thailand. The Workshop committees agreed to present both proposals to the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Agriculture and Forestry Ministers and the Ministers of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (AMAF Plus Three) on 5 October 2001 in Medan, Indonesia for an endorsement.

At the Special 23<sup>rd</sup> SOM-AMAF Plus Three on 6-8 May 2002 in Surabaya, Indonesia, Thailand in cooperation with the Statistics and Information Department of the MAFF Japan developed the Project Implementation Plan (PIP) and presented to the Meeting for approval. The Meeting requested Thailand to host the Technical Meeting of the AFSIS in order to prepare necessary documents for establishment of the AFSIS Project. The 1<sup>st</sup> Technical Meeting of the AFSIS was held on 9 August 2002 in Bangkok, Thailand to develop the AFSIS PIP in accordance with guidance from the SOM-AMAF Plus Three. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> AMAF Plus Three on 11 October 2002 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, the Meeting agreed on the proposed PIP and endorsed the formation of the AFSIS to enhance the regional food security information system for information sharing and dissemination through strengthening a human resource development in food security information systems in the AMS. The Meeting also approved the pilot project of the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR), which later was transformed to the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR), to accumulate knowledge and experiences of implementation mechanisms including management and release of rice reserve.



The AFSIS Project commenced in 2003. At the beginning, one of the AFSIS's main objectives was to provide information to support the APTERR. The 1<sup>st</sup> Phase of the AFSIS Project was operated for 5 years until 2008 with the funding support from the MAFF Japan. However, prior to the termination of the 1<sup>st</sup> Phase, the 5<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three on 30 September 2005 in Manila, Philippines expressed their recognition of the contribution of the AFSIS Project with respect to promote the regional food security and an improvement of food security data and information for AMS. The Meeting agreed on a necessity to extend the AFSIS Project to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase. At the 6<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three on 17 November 2006 in Singapore, the Meeting endorsed the proposal for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of the AFSIS Project.

Later, at the 11<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three on 7 October 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia, the Meeting endorsed an initiative proposal for the Post 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of the AFSIS Project. Following by the 12<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three on 28 September 2012 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, the Meeting endorsed the transformation of the AFSIS Project into a permanent mechanism through the Three-Year Work Plan from 2013-2015. The Work Plan would guide the operation of the AFSIS during the establishment period. In the meantime, Thailand provided an in-kind contribution to support of the AFSIS's operations in pursue to the self-reliant mechanism.

After years of efforts in transforming the AFSIS into a permanent mechanism, the ASEAN Plus Three governments agreed on establishing the permanent mechanism of the AFSIS from 2016 onwards at the 15<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three.

## 1.2 Vision

The vision of the AFSIS is to become the centre for the ASEAN Plus Three food security information.

## 1.3 Goals

The goals of the AFSIS are to ensure and strengthen the ASEAN Plus Three long-term food security.

## 1.4 Objective

The objective of the AFSIS is to improve effective planning and implementation of food security in the ASEAN region through the systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of information on regional food security in an accurate, timely, and informative manner by developing of food security information network and human resources.



## 1.5 AFSIS Components

The AFSIS functions in two major components consisting of Information Network Development and Human Resources Development. The details are as follows;

### 1.5.1 Information Network Development

To serve the ASEAN Plus Three countries with tools to monitor and assess food security situations in the region as well as to enable ASEAN Plus Three countries to plan the necessary measures and implementations to assure the food security timely as well as to evaluate their effectiveness.

### 1.5.2 Human Resource Development

The AFSIS aims to raise a capacity of Member States through a great number of activities. The activities plan to provide related personnel in the AMS with knowledge and skills in agricultural statistics and the development of food security information system. Training courses, seminars and workshops in both regional and national programs on the relevant food security information, such as agricultural statistics and information collection, analysis, and dissemination, early warning and forecasting, food and agricultural database building and maintenance, data exchange networks for agricultural information, are provided. At the same time, international organizations and other institutions are requested as the third parties to provide information, data and expertise they have to the AFSIS.



## 2. The Three-Year Output (2013 - 2015)

During a period of transforming into the permanent mechanism, the AFSIS was operated into two aspects; a functional implementation and an institutional implementation related to the establishment of the AFSIS permanent mechanism. The functional implementation aimed to strengthen food security in the region through the systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of food security related information in the same standard through the AFSIS Products and Services and cooperation with other food security information related organizations. The AFSIS's routine work and major activities implemented from 2013 to 2015 were as follows;

### 2.1 Database Maintenance

The AFSIS has operated an interactive online database through its website (<http://www.afsisnc.org>) since 2004. The website provides users with information needed for assessment of food security situation and policy planning in the region. Currently, the data is covered the main commodities. Database is presented in annual time series from 1983-2014 of five major crops namely, rice, maize, soybean, sugarcane and cassava in ASEAN Plus Three countries. The system is consisted of area (planted and harvested), production, yield, imports (quantity and value), exports (quantity and value), consumption, and domestic price (farm gate and wholesale). Some other important economic information, such as incomes, land utilization and irrigation are also included. The website is a mutual source where all AFSIS online data is drawn entirely from an official data or from the AFSIS Network Centres (AFSIS NCs) of the ASEAN Plus Three countries who update the data regularly by August every year.

### 2.2 Food Security Information Analysis/ Integrated Food Security Information

Data sources from the AFSIS Focal Points are a compilation of five commodities namely, rice, maize, soybean, sugarcane and cassava. Type of data collection includes demand, supply, consumption, stock (food balance sheet), price, crop situation and crop disaster report.

#### 2.2.1 Early Warning Information (EWI) Report

An Early Warning Information Report is an analysis report of crop situation and production of the current year and the subsequence harvesting season particularly, in damaged areas including evaluation of the impacts of natural disasters, disease and pest as well as policy that may have some impacts on the production. The EWI is an input for monitoring food security situations in the region. In case of irregular phenomena occurred which may affect food production, the AFSIS can immediately inform concerned agencies to be aware of possible impacts in advance. The EWI is available biannually in March and September. The total of 15 EWI reports has been released to date.



### 2.2.2 Agricultural Commodities Outlook (ACO) Report

An Agricultural Commodities Outlook Report is a situation analysis report of both supply and demand of food crops in current year and the subsequence year forecast. It has been issued in June and December since 2008. The June issue provides an updated annual outlook for the current year. The outlook covers the supply-demand balance (beginning stocks, production, imports, utilization, other uses, exports, and ending stocks), as well as data on supply-demand balance for the past years. Meanwhile, the December issue provides an annual outlook for the following year for the focus commodities. The total 16 ACO reports have been released to date.

### 2.2.3 GEOGLAM Activity

In respect of global food price volatility and price spikes in food market in 2008, the G20 Agriculture Ministers agreed to conduct two initiatives namely, the GEOGLAM (Group on Earth Observation Global Agriculture Monitoring) and the FAO Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) to reinforce the international community in producing and disseminating relevant, timely, and accurate forecast of agricultural production in national, regional and global scale by applying satellite monitoring observation systems to enhance crop production projections and weather forecasting data. The data type, that is inclusive and ease the complex of agricultural monitoring system, is a remote sensing which is globally consistency and scalable.

In Asia where approximately 90% of the world's rice is produced and consumed, rice is recognized as part of the G20's food security concerns. Asian countries participating in GEOGLAM have formed an ad-hoc team (ASIA-RiCE). The ASIA-RiCE team contributes parts of the "GEOGLAM Prototype Global Crop Assessment" in cooperation with the AFSIS. In 2014, target countries namely Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam used the agro-met information provided by the JAXA and RESTEC which consists of different indicators namely Drought index, Precipitation, Soil Moisture, Solar Radiation, Surface Temperature and Vegetation Index to interpret to the monthly rice growing outlook information and report to the FAO/AMIS for global agriculture monitoring projection.

The ASIA-RiCE crop team's activity in GEOGLAM contributes to the Rice Growing Outlook activity through the AFSIS framework by using agro-meteorological information derived from the satellite on the JAXA system named JAXA's satellite based Monitoring Network (JASMIN) for target countries. It currently researches and outreaches activity of remote sensing data application for rice crop production estimation using satellite information. In 2016, the ASIA RiCE team's activities will expand to three new AMS namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.



Listed below are activities relevant to the GEOGLAM from 2013-2015;

- The Consultation Meeting on GEOGLAM Activity, 18 October 2013, Bangkok, Thailand
- The 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-20), 3-6 December 2013, Hanoi, Viet Nam
- The 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the APRSAF, 2-5 December 2014, Tokyo, Japan
- The Asia-Rice Crop Estimation and Monitoring (ASIA-RiCE) Meeting and The Workshop on the Rice Growing Outlook, 29-30 October 2014, Bangkok, Thailand
- The 29<sup>th</sup> Plenary of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), 5-6 November 2015, Kyoto, Japan
- The 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the APRSAF, 1-4 December 2015, Bali, Indonesia

#### **2.2.4 IT-based ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Cooperation and Support for Capacity Building Project**

In April, 2013, the ASEAN approved a project ‘Assessment of ASEAN Food (rice) Trade System and Development of IT-based Food (rice) Trade Model’ proposed by the National Information Society Agency (NIA) of the Republic of Korea in order to support on resolving food security issues in ASEAN region. The Project aimed to improve an ASEAN Plus Three’s ability to respond to food security issues and to strengthen a mutual assistant system among member countries by passing down knowledge to those countries in order to understand and operate ‘ASEAN Plus Three Rice Trade Model.’ The model was established through suggested projects and experiences accumulated in establishment and management of Korea have advanced grain observation system. The one-year initiative project began in May 2013 involving five AMS: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. In 2014, the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the project was extended to cover the other five AMS.

The outputs of the project included a) an analysis report on rice data management scheme and the level of informatization for food (rice) security of member counties b) a report on ASEAN Plus Three rice trade model development and international issues for the management and service of the ASEAN+3 rice trade model and c) a report on the results of two invitational learning programs.

### **2.3 Information Network Development**

The AFSIS aims at improving capability of member countries in enhancing information network/ database system through multiple activities receiving from cooperation with the Plus Three countries and international organizations.



### 2.3.1 Food Security Forecasting Model Activity

According to the AFSIS Three-year Work Plan, the MAFF Japan and the AFSIS foresaw the importance of forecasted food security information in the ASEAN region. The project namely “Development of Mid-Long Term Food Supply and Demand Forecasting” was contributed to the AMS under a close collaboration with the AFSIS. The project aimed to strengthen food security in the ASEAN region by assisting AMS to collect data needed for generating of mid-long term supply and demand forecasting and to create appropriate modelling methodologies. The MAFF Japan also supported the implementation of the project by dispatching an expert to the AFSIS Secretariat to generate food security forecasts based on modelling systems. Food security forecasts based on modelling systems was developed to generate short-term (3-6 months), medium-term (3-5 years) and long-term (10 years) forecasts as a basis for policy planning and development.

There were six trainings and workshops conducted in total from 2013-2015. The AMS extended their breadth of knowledge in creating forecasting information based model as well as acquiring of econometric model knowledge.

Listed below are activities relevant to the Food Security Forecasting Model activity;

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Training Forecasting Model, 8-13 July 2013, Bangkok, Thailand
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop on Forecasting Model, 11-13 December 2013, Bangkok, Thailand
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> AFSIS Forecasting Model Training Program, 26-30 May 2014, Bangkok, Thailand
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> AFSIS Forecasting Model Workshop Program, 15-19 December 2014, Bangkok, Thailand
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> AFSIS Forecasting Model Training Program, 6-10 July 2015, Bangkok, Thailand
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop on Forecasting Model Activity, 23-26 November 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

### 2.3.2 Establishing Real-Time ASEAN Food Security Information Network and Developing Human Resource Project

The project “Establishing Real-Time ASEAN Food Security Information Network and Developing Human Resource” was contributed to the ASEAN through a signing of the Record of Discussion between the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Republic of Korea (MAFRA) and the AFSIS in April 2014. There was the EPIS acting as an implementing agency of this project in cooperation with the AFSIS. The objective was to develop food security information system with an aim of contributing to the ASEAN food security by facilitating information sharing in agricultural statistics, data collection, analysis and management, and also training specialists in the field of food



security. The project duration was classified into three phases from 2014 to 2019 aiming at improving food security database system in six target countries namely, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Viet Nam as well as AFSIS itself.

In 2014, Lao PDR was selected as the first country following by Cambodia and Philippines in 2015 to participate in establishing the National Agro-food Information System (NAIS) and developing human resources. The targeted countries were supported by the EPIS on building customized standard statistical model system to link with the AFSIS database system. With regard to developing human resources, member countries were provided with several activities, such as AFSIS trainings for enhancing knowledge on food security and information and communication technology (ICT) in the agricultural sector, project-related workshops for helping to establish policies necessary for the project and national training for practical training for system utilization for selected countries.

Listed below are activities relevant to Real-Time ASEAN Food Security Information Network and Developing Human Resource Project;

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Real-Time Project, 13 June 2013, Bangkok, Thailand
- Workshop on Understanding and How to Adopt Real-time AFSIS, 24-29 August 2014, Seoul, Republic of Korea

### 2.3.3 Agricultural Land Information System

With regard to fundamental differences of reliability on statistical data among the AMS, it appears that the implementation of statistical sample survey required a proper framework to produce an accuracy data. However, chronic lack of labour and budget on statistic task with shortage of staff's experiences would be considered as the main factors of blocking the conduction of sample survey. Hence, the AFSIS Expert has considered a tool by using personal computer to make an area framework, estimate agricultural land area, and develop the statistical system called Agricultural Land Information System (ALIS) which is a new and epoch-making area survey system using area mesh frame for countries which agricultural statistics survey is developing. The ALIS is in turn enabling to get area data with a small number of labour, low budget based, and sustainability. The ALIS has been developing with cooperation of the NTT Data Corporation.

The ALIS is a system that provides estimates of areas planted to major crops, such as rice, maize, soybean, sugarcane and cassava using satellite imagery that can be accessed for a free of charge (e.g. Google map), supporting area sample survey for the countries having non developed area survey. The statistical seminars on sample theory and data accuracy based on the actual result of area sample survey using the ALIS and the implementation were carried out in Cambodia, Lao PDR and and Philippines.



Listed below are activities relevant to the ALIS Project;

- Statistical National Seminar on area sample survey in Lao PDR, 18 December 2013, Vientiane, Lao PDR
- The ALIS Activity Meeting with BAS Philippines, 17-20 June 2014, Manila, Philippines
- Area Sample Survey Workshop by Using ALIS, 31 August - 4 September 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

## 2.4 Human Resource Development

For effective and successful operation of the AFSIS, it is inevitable that human resources on food security information of ASEAN Plus Three countries need to be enhanced. To this end, trainings and workshops are considered a high priority activity.

Trainings/workshops were envisaged to be conducted by China and the Republic of Korea. The theme of trainings/workshops was an improvement in methodology of collection, analysis, and publication of food security database on the world's food security concerns at the time. There were a total of 750 trainees participated in 38 training courses arranged by the AFSIS and its partners from 2003 to present. For the three-year period, there were 229 trainees in total.

### 2.4.1 Training in China

One of the activities concerning the China-ASEAN cooperation in enhancing food security information in the region is organizing a regional workshop for ASEAN Member States once a year through the AFSIS. The Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) is responsible for arrangements of the workshop in which international cooperation is an essential part of the mission of the CAAS. The workshop aims to promote the communication of agriculture information system contraction in the ASEAN and enhance the ability of agricultural statistics application of officers working on food security.

In 2013, workshop on “China-ASEAN Statistical Information Exchange and IT Service of Food Production” was conducted in Beijing on 27 November - 1 December. The workshop composed of six lectures e.g. China-ASEAN Agricultural Cooperation, Agricultural Statistics and Information Construction in China, Sampling Survey in China, Application of Statistical Agriculture in Crop Production as well as operating practice on yield estimation of rice in experiment laboratory at Agriculture College, Yangzhou University and field trip.

In 2014, training on “China-ASEAN Information Management and IT Application of Food Production Safety” was conducted in Yangzhou, Jiangsu province on 25-29 November. The training composed of several lectures e.g. common software for agricultural statistics, technology and practice



on rice production testing, remote sensing monitoring application, operating practice on yield estimation of rice and field trip.

In 2015, workshop on “China-ASEAN Information Management and IT Application of Food Safety Production” was organized in Shanghai on 4-11 November. The workshop composed of big data and survey method on food consumption, agriculture production survey, food consumption surveys in rural areas, food supply chain status, price collection of wholesale market, survey of main crop costs, information management of food production in China, agriculture product on e-commerce channel and field trip.

There were 39 trainees in total from the ASEAN Member States participated at the workshop held by China in the last three years from 2013-2015.

#### **2.4.2 Training in the Republic of Korea**

The MAFRA and EPIS supported workshops to be organized in the Republic of Korea in collaboration with the AFSIS. The workshops aimed to enhance skills on the usage of agricultural statistics information for the ASEAN Member States, and ultimately contribute to food security in the ASEAN region through various programs consisting of lectures, discussion, presentations and study visits. The workshop provided an opportunity for participants to actively strengthen their current technical and administrative skills and apply them to each country’s development.

In 2013, “the 6<sup>th</sup> Workshop on the Agricultural Data Collection Analysis and Dissemination of Information” was conducted in Jeju Island on 1-10 September. The workshop was jointly funded by the NIA as a part of the project titled “Assessment of ASEAN Food (rice) Trade System and Development of IT-based Food (rice) Trade Model”. The workshop consisted of seven lectures e.g. challenges of globalization, and agricultural informatization, Smart Korea: Global IT cooperation, NIA’s Food Security Model, history of Korean agriculture development and agriculture policy, and several study visits, such as statistics simulation, U-IT aquatic Cultivation and etc.

In 2014, the “Workshop for capacity building in agricultural statistics and ICT application” was conducted in Daejeon from 5-15 October. The participants learned various programs, such as grain management, ICT in rice distribution and stock management, ICT in collection agricultural information, current status and the future plan of the real-time ASEAN food security information system, food security forecasting model, food outlook system and its application on agricultural policy as well as studies and cultural visits.

In 2015, “the 8<sup>th</sup> Workshop on the Agricultural Data Collection Analysis and Dissemination of Information” was organized on 18-28 October in Busan. Participants were requested to submit country’s reports regarding a current status and main issues of country’s agricultural



information statistics (including crop, livestock, and fisheries) and IT system. The workshop consisted of understanding the Korean agriculture policy and ICT application in agriculture in the Republic of Korea, the current status and the future of the NIA project, understanding food security forecasting model and establishing food security monitoring system as well as cultural experience and field trips.

There were 60 trainees in total from the AMS participated at the workshop held by the Republic of Korea in the last three years from 2013-2015.

### 2.4.3 FAO Training

In order to improve an evidence-based decision making for poverty reduction, food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development, the FAO provided technical support to enable the ASEAN Member States to develop sustainable agricultural statistical systems by dissemination of accurate and timely agricultural and rural statistics that are comparable over time and across countries. During the three-year period, FAO had a number of ongoing technical cooperation with the ASEAN through its projects in an area of food security information.

**The Workshop Program on “Improving Communications and Knowledge Exchange for Food Security in ASEAN”** on 5-14 November 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand aimed to strengthen the capacities of food security professionals to better communicate and report on food security issues to a broad audience including policy makers, the media and the public at large. In addition, the workshop reviewed a wide range of facilitation and collaborative techniques that would be applied to assist individuals and groups to enhance collaboration and the effectiveness of their work.

**The Training Workshop of Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project on “Strengthening the capacity of ASEAN in coordination and monitoring of the implementation of ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security”** was conducted as follows;

- An inception workshop, 17-18 December 2014, Bangkok, Thailand
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Training Workshop, 11-12 May 2015, Bangkok, Thailand
- The Final Workshop, 13-14 January 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

The training/workshop was co-organized by the FAO Regional Office and the ASEAN Secretariat. The FAO collaborated with the ASEAN in a formulation and implementation of the ASEAN integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN region (SPA-FS) towards an eradication of food insecurity in the region in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase from 2009-2014; the FAO has continued its involvement in the development of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the AIFS Framework and SPA-FS for 2015-2020.



The FAO in consultation with the ASEAN Secretariat formulated a TCP project with an aim to strengthen the capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat to adequately fulfill its coordination and monitoring functions of the AIFS Framework and SPA-FS. In particular, the project envisaged to achieve the following outputs in line with the above concerns: a) design and set-up coordination mechanism for the AIFS and SPA-FS; b) design and set up the AIFS and SPA-FS monitoring and reporting system; and c) support the development of the second phase of SPA-FS.

Following from the workshops, a mock-up of the computer-based monitoring and reporting system and a preliminary design of the coordination mechanism were developed. Furthermore, computer-based training for the AMS was also conducted to introduce the computer-based reporting system and to seek comments and inputs for further improvement of the system.

To ensure the sustainability of project activities once the project is completed, the National Focal Point (NFP) of each AMS is being nominated by the AMS for training in entering the national data into the computer-based monitoring and reporting system and coordinating activities at the national level.

**The ASEAN Stakeholder Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics** was held on 15-17 June 2015, Bangkok, Thailand to share the information progress and challenges/good examples of the Global Strategy project with the ASEAN countries and the stakeholders in this region to date and discuss the appropriate sub-regional structure and a future strategy for mainstreaming the agricultural statistics in the ASEAN as a sub-regional institution. The Meeting was attended by representatives from ASEAN Plus Three countries as well as from key partners: the ASEAN Secretariat, SAARC, ADB and JAXA.

The Global Strategy is a ground-breaking effort which acts as one of the key recommendations that agriculture be integrated into national statistical systems. The Regional Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific defines the areas of support that the Asia Pacific region needs in terms of technical assistance, training and research to strengthen national capacities in a sustainable way.

#### 2.4.4 Other training and workshop

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> joint national workshop on rice data for Thailand and the Philippines, 3-4 December 2014, Manila, Philippines
- ADB's Inception Workshop, 3-4 February 2015, OAE, Bangkok
- Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science, 19-28 October 2015, Tokyo, Japan



## 2.5 Meetings

Meetings are important for communication and management of the AFSIS operations. Every year the AFSIS Secretariat involves in several events from the meeting of the AMAF Plus Three to conferences held by international organizations or related regional mechanisms, such as ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board (AFSRB), APTERR or ASEAN Secretariat. On the other hand, the AFSIS Secretariat arranges its regular meetings to confer with member countries on relevant food security information activities, particularly the establishment of the AFSIS as the permanent mechanism. The meetings in which the AFSIS took part in produce many valuable results that lead to the effective outcomes of the AFSIS's operation.

### 2.5.1 AFSIS Meeting

AFSIS Meetings during the establishment period could be categorized into three groups; a) Meetings concerning the development of the AFSIS permanent mechanism, b) the annual Focal Points Meeting, c) the Board Meeting. Since its operation as the Project in 2003, there were two regular meetings convened by the AFSIS Secretariat. One is the Directors-General (DG) of the Agricultural Statistics and Information from the ASEAN Plus Three countries or the AFSIS Board Meeting of which participants were top executives of organizations involved in agricultural statistics undertaking direction and guidance of the AFSIS. Another meeting was the Focal Point Meeting which was responsible for carrying out the AFSIS implementations including deliberation of annual work and budget plan. Another type of meeting was the Ad-hoc Meeting which held on specific purpose or end presently under consideration.

#### **a) Meetings concerning the development of the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism**

There were 14 meetings conducted by the AFSIS Secretariat to provide a consultative forum for the ASEAN Plus Three countries regarding the development of the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism. The amount of Meetings began from 2010 when the ASEAN Plus Three envisaged the need to continue the AFSIS Project after the project phase two terminated until prior to the recognition of the AFSIS as the permanent mechanism by the 15<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three. During the establishment period, the Ad-hoc Task Force Meeting on Developing the AFSIS into the Permanent Mechanism was organized once a year exclusively to discuss about a composition of the establishment of the AFSIS as the self-sustained mechanism and to finalise the main components of the AFSIS permanent mechanism namely, structure, products and services, financial modality and regulations and procedures. The list of meetings appears as in [ANNEX I](#).



## b) Focal Point Meeting

The Focal Points are the steering committee of the AFSIS. They work in a close collaboration in implementing the AFSIS activities as well as approve an annual work and budget plans. There were three Focal Point Meetings organized by the AFSIS Secretariat with the aims of considering issues related to the establishment of the AFSIS permanent mechanism, reporting the result of implementation of the previous year, proposing the current work plan and financial arrangement for suggestions from member countries during the establishment period.

**The 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AFSIS Focal Point, 3 April 2013 in Pattaya, Thailand,** was attended by the Focal Points of the ASEAN Plus Three countries excluding Brunei Darussalam and China. The main objective was to discuss the development of the Food Security Forecasting Model activity, implementation plan and the issues related to establishment of the AFSIS permanent mechanism. The Meeting was introduced the Food Security Information Network Project (FSIN) which was a global network of practice that was launch in October 2012 supported by the FAO, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to support food and nutrition security information system and networks at all level by providing appropriate and harmonized tool for analysis. The Meeting was updated the ALIS implementation in Lao PDR as well as the outcome of the mutual technical cooperation on improvement of accuracy on statistics at country level between Viet Nam and Thailand particularly on designing and conducting agricultural statistics. The Meeting took note of the annual work plan and activities expected to be complete in 2013. The Meeting also noted that after the transformation of the AFSIS to the permanent mechanism, participants of the Board and Focal Points meetings were required to shoulder the costs of attendance of the aforementioned meetings by themselves. Additionally, the Ad-hoc meeting could be held when the urgent matter arises depending on the comments from the SOM-AMAF Plus Three and AMAF Plus Three.

**The 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AFSIS Focal Point, 24-25 May 2014, Bangkok, Thailand** was attended by the Focal Points of the AFSIS. The main objective of the Meeting was to discuss issues related to the transformation of the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism, particularly the financial modality and the binding effects of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the AFSIS. The issues concerning the Food Security Forecasting Model activity and its current progress were also presented at the Meeting. The Meeting noted challenges towards a publication of the ACO report and EWI report e.g., a late submission and an absence of data gathering from member countries. Regarding the AFSIS cooperation with its partners, the Real-time ASEAN Food Security Information Network and Developing Human Resources would be implemented in Lao PDR later in 2014 as a pilot country and covered 6 AMS (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam). With regard to the establishment of the AFSIS permanent mechanism, especially on the legal effect, the Meeting suggested that a legally-binding entity would be necessary for the permanent mechanism.



**The 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AFSIS Focal Point, 31 March – 1 April 2015, Bangkok, Thailand** was attended by the Focal Points of the AFSIS and delegates from ASEAN Plus Three countries. Representatives of the APTERR Secretariat and Embassy of Malaysia in Bangkok, Thailand were also in attendance. The meeting aimed to consider a final draft of the comprehensive documents on establishment of the permanent mechanism to be submitted to the Special SOM-AMAF Plus Three and the AMAF Plus Three for acknowledgement and endorsement respectively. The Meeting was informed about the 2014 annual report and work plan as well as budget plan for 2015. The Meeting was reminded of updating the AFSIS database on time. The Meeting acknowledged with appreciation of the progress made on the Food Security Forecasting Model activity and the ALIS implantation from the MAFF Japan, the progress of the Real-time ASEAN Food Security Information Network and Developing Human Resources project in Cambodia and the Philippines as well as building a standard model of National Agri-Food Information System in all targeted countries and linking to the AFSIS supported by the MAFRA. Regarding the development of the AFSIS permanent mechanism, the Meeting noted that the AFSIS Secretariat in collaboration with the Focal Points undertook all the tasks in response to recommendations from the Special SOM-AMAF Plus Three and the AMAF Plus Three. The Meeting was proposed the different methods of financial modality which shall be finalised by the DG Meeting later in 2015. The Meeting took note of a recommendation that the ‘DG meeting’ should be called as the ‘AFSIS Board meeting’ in order to avoid the confusion.

### c) AFSIS Board Meeting

The AFSIS Board Meeting acts as a platform of discussion and exchange of idea to determine the functions, responsibilities of the AFSIS. Generally, the Board Meeting is held back to back with the Focal Point Meeting. During the establishment period, there were 2 AFSIS Board Meetings organized by the AFSIS Secretariat.

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AFSIS Board, 2 April 2013, Pattaya, Thailand** was attended by the Directors-General and Senior Officials of Agricultural Statistics and Information departments, and Focal Points of the AFSIS from the ASEAN Plus Three countries. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, FAO and APTERR Secretariat were also present. The main objective of the Meeting was to discuss issues related to the transformation, particularly on procedure and financial modality of the AFSIS to be a self-reliant mechanism as well as its activities and collaborations implemented in the ASEAN. Regarding an improvement of data quality, the Meeting was informed of the questionnaire responses collected from the AFSIS member countries. The Meeting took note of the suggestions from the AMS which were a) to develop a data collection system at national level; b) to increase human resources development programs; c) to broaden the commodities for the collection of food security data; and d) to improve the quality of food security data. The Meeting was reported an evaluation report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of the AFSIS Project conducted by Associate Professor Sarun Wattanutchariya, from Kasetsart University. The Meeting took note of



overall achievements, particularly the usefulness and effectiveness of the Project. The Meeting also took note of recommendations for the Post 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase Implementation which AFSIS should maximize the use of online communication and harmonization of data systems for member countries and the linkage of information system with the systems of development partners to gain synergy. With regard to the Food Security Forecasting Model activity, the AFSIS expert presented the implementation plan and requested member countries to assign the qualified staff to participate at the training/workshop. With respect to capacity building project on the AMIS, the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP) presented the institutional framework and coordination, as well as work plan for the implementation in target countries. The Meeting was informed of the FAO/ the Food and Agriculture Policy Decision Analysis (FAPDA), the FAPDA-ASEAN/AFSIS Joint Collaboration which was an information sharing network that could serve as a platform for further requests, opportunity to open dialogue on emerging policy issues from a regional platform, and dissemination channel for the FAO RAP's policy work. On the transformation of the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism, the Meeting noted that the AFSIS would follow up the matters of the AFSIS structure, arrangement of contribution for the AFSIS, TOR and Rules of Procedure, and other matters. In the meantime, member countries would need to consult with the higher authority and other relevant agencies before taking decision.

#### **The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AFSIS Board, 15-17 June 2015, Bangkok, Thailand**

was attended by the Directors-General of Agricultural Statistics and Information in ASEAN Plus Three countries, the Focal Points of the AFSIS and delegates from ASEAN Plus Three countries, except from China and the Republic of Korea. Representatives from the FAO, ASEAN Secretariat, AFSRB, APTERR, ADB, SAARC, JAXA, RESTEC, MAFF Japan, the Embassy of Japan in Bangkok, MOAC Thailand were also present at the Meeting. The main objectives were to enhance the understanding on the Global Strategy to improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and to have a further discussion on finalisation of the transformation of the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism. The Meeting was informed on the implementation of the Global Strategy to improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics. The representatives of the FAO shared the Meeting with the experiences on the program implementation in Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Cambodia and Viet Nam under the FAO technical cooperation in ASEAN. The Meeting requested the FAO to extend a capacity building in agricultural and rural statistics, at the regional level to all AMS. The Meeting was introduced to the works and achievements of the sub-regional organizations on agricultural statistics cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, namely the AFSIS, SAARC and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) pertaining to an improvement of food security information. On agricultural statistics and information research development, the Meeting was reported on the AFSIS activities i.e. the Agricultural Land Information System, the Mid-long term Forecasting Model Information and the Rice Growing Outlook supported by the MAFF Japan from 2011-2015 and the future plan of implementation for the mentioned activities. Regarding the development of agricultural information using satellite information, representative of the Asia-RiCE crop team as part of the GEOGLAM initiative reported the system



development and operation of agricultural information using satellite information. With respect to MAFF Japan's new project that would contribute to the AFSIS from 2016 onwards, the Meeting was informed on an outline and work plan on developing food value chain in the region. The AFSIS would cooperate with the MAFF in the field of improving statistical data on food processing and distribution related to agricultural crops in ASEAN. On transformation of the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism, the Meeting discussed mainly on the legal effect of the AFSIS in which some member countries sought a clarification of differences between legally and non-legally binding instruments. In line with the mandate of the AMAF Plus Three, the AFSIS Secretariat was requested to prepare comprehensive documents and a roadmap on the transformation of the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism. Therefore, the Meeting agreed that the AFSIS Secretariat would report to the upcoming Special SOM-AMAF Plus on the progress of the mandated tasks together with a recommendation to consider a direction for the AFSIS.

### 2.5.2 Other Meetings

- The Special SOM-34<sup>th</sup> AMAF and the Special SOM-12<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three, 13-15 August 2013, Pakse, Lao PDR
- The Special SOM-35<sup>th</sup> AMAF and the Special SOM-13<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three, 18-21 August 2014, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
- The Special SOM-36<sup>th</sup> AMAF and the Special SOM-14<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three, 12-15 August 2015 Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
- The 35<sup>th</sup> AMAF and the 13<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three, 26-27 September 2013, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- The 36<sup>th</sup> AMAF and the 14<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three, 23-26 September 2014, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
- The 37<sup>th</sup> AMAF and the 15<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three, 7-11 September 2015, Makati City, Philippines
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Rice Trade Forum, 4-7 June 2013, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- The 33<sup>rd</sup> AFSRB Annual Meeting, 4-7 June 2013, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- The 35<sup>th</sup> AFSRB Annual Meeting, 3-5 June 2015, Putrajaya, Malaysia
- Policy Dialogue: Discussion regarding Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and ASEAN Food Security Synergies, 24-25 June 2013, Medan, Indonesia.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Ad Hoc Task Force for Development of the AIFS Framework and SPA-FS 2015-2020, 26-27 March 2014, the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia
- The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Ad Hoc Task force on Developing New Vision on Food, Agriculture and Forestry (ATF-FAF) towards 2025, 1-2 July 2015, Jakarta
- ASEAN consultative meeting on Finalization of ASEAN Common Position on Food Security and Nutrition, 21-22 July 2015, Bangkok, Thailand



## 2.6 Cross-Cutting Activities

The AFSIS promotes its cooperation with partners both international and regional organizations by engaging in new and cross-cutting areas, such as the AMIS and the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) by the FAO, FSIN, ADB, JAXA and etc.

### 2.6.1 FAO

The FAO has a number of ongoing technical cooperation with ASEAN countries through its projects in area of food security Information. The AMIS project in Thailand and the Philippines is supporting building of market information. The Asian Regional Component of Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics is supporting Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Viet Nam. FAO has participated in the recent ASEAN events namely: European Union (EU)-ASEAN Capacity Building Project for Monitoring Integration Progress and Statistics (COMPASS), and ASEAN is invited to be a member of the Regional Steering Committee for Global Strategy. There is a scope for greater engagement with the ASEAN to improve agricultural statistics which is not adequately addressed in other sub-regional initiatives.

#### a) Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)

The AMIS is a G20 initiative to increase food market transparency and reduce the likelihood of food price volatility in crops i.e. wheat, maize, rice, and soybeans with focuses on production, utilization, stocks and trade. The overall structure and governance includes the AMIS Secretariat, Global Food Market Information Group and Rapid Response Forum. The GEOGLAM was launched at the same time. The GEOGLAM provides the monitoring data to the AMIS. The projects funded by Japan with the objective to improve the capacity of Thailand and the Philippines to deliver accurate statistics, effectively monitor rice markets and produce relevant data on food security, with project duration from November 2012 to October 2015, with total budget of USD 1,417,770. The outputs are existing data on rice supply and demand assessed, methodologies for estimating rice area, yield and production and stocks improved, guidelines prepared for the estimation of rice area, yield and production, and stocks, staff in National Statistical Offices and Ministries of Agriculture in Thailand and the Philippines are able to apply improved methodologies, improved methodologies disseminated to other stakeholders. The project has made progress on its activities included the completion of status report on rice, organization of workshops with both target countries to identify priority activities, developing crop cutting survey in the Philippines, study tour on rice data quality control system to the Philippines, trainings on data quality control for rice surveys in Thailand.

#### b) The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

The IPC is a set of tools and procedures for classifying the nature and severity of food insecurity at sub national level. It is a process for multiple stakeholders to share information



and build technical consensus. The IPC informs strategic decision making that responds to needs in a more coordinated manner. The purpose of the IPC is to consolidate a complex analysis of food security situation for evidence based decision support. The IPC contributes to answering questions on a) where to allocate resources, b) to whom, c) to how many people, where, and on what should be done. Since November 2010, The IPC has been introduced in Asia to develop a common methodological approach to characterize food insecurity by improving effectiveness and efficiency of crisis response and strengthening mechanisms for disaster preparedness and risk reduction in the food security sector. The IPC activities in the region are currently supported by a multi-agency IPC Regional Support Unit (RSU), hosted by the FAO Regional Office. The activities at country level are conducted by IPC National Technical Working Groups (NTWG). In March 2013, Philippines and Cambodia as part of the pilot countries in the consolidation phase were successfully completed. As a result, governments had publicly requested the IPC Asia for a further establishment and consolidation of the IPC in these countries and continuing with further trainings and IPC analytical cycles. The successful pilot of the IPC activities in the region has also attracted the attention of other countries, such as Laos and Myanmar who requested for the IPC to be introduced. The AFSIS as a food security information mechanism of the ASEAN becomes a member of the IPC Asia Regional Steering Committee. In addition, at the 15<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three, the Meeting noted the FAO's request for a membership of the ASEAN through the AFSIS at the IPC Global Steering Committee.

### 2.6.2 Food Security Information Network (FSIN)

The FSIN or a global network/community of practice was launched in October 2012 supported by FAO, IFPRI and WFP. The objective was to support food and nutrition security information systems and networks at country, regional and global levels. It provides a platform for exchanging data, knowledge and best practices, by providing a guided access to and harmonization of standards, methods, tools and indicators for food and nutrition security analysis, and by facilitating a capacity development.

The agencies leading the development of the FSIN jointly prepared a three-year funding proposal for a start up towards a functional community of practice. The purpose of the first three years is to enhance well-informed food and nutrition security decision-making at national, regional and global levels with well-coordinated support from local and international partners. It contributes to the overall development's objective to improve food and nutrition security at national and regional levels, in the most at risk region, especially for the most vulnerable population. The expected outcomes from collaboration are a) guidance for standard method, tools and indicators for information collection analysis and harmonization b) a guidance capacity development c) an improved quality of data and data exchange at the global level. The FSIN is highly relevant initiative that can be useful for the AFSIS and the AMS. As the network is rolled out, the AFSIS Secretariat would continue to liaise with the FSIN to see how they can cooperate and strengthen each other.



### 2.6.3 Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The ADB provides a Technical Assistance (TA) for AIFS Framework financed by the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction. The project composed of a) establish ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve, b) formulate action plan for expanded and stable rice trade and c) promote usage of the AFSIS. There were a number of activities carried out through the mutual cooperation between the ADB and the AFSIS as an implementing partner during the establishment Period as follow;

The ADB supported the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) of the Department of Agriculture of the Philippines with the implementation of the ALIS. The project explored a use of Google Earth optical satellite imagery to supplement BAS's land use statistics. In collaboration with the AFSIS, the ALIS is a pilot tested to provide estimates of areas planted for major crops using freely available satellite imagery. The TA also provided a funding support for a modification of software upon a completion of the pilot to support government planning at the provincial level. The adoption of the ALIS resulted in recommendations for further studies using stratification measures which were expected to improve the reliability of estimates.

In 2015, the ADB supported the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AFSIS Board in Bangkok, Thailand as part of the ADB's project to support the implementation of components 1-3 of the AIFS Framework and output 1.1 (regional food security reserve), outputs 2.1 (regional food trade) and 2.2 (capacity of ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board), and output 3.1 (integrated food security information system) of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of SPA-FS.

### 2.6.4 The Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

The RESTEC and JAXA as leading organizations in the development of Asia-RiCE have cooperated with the AFSIS to contribute timely forecast of rice growing situation by using various parameters provided by JASMIN to support rice crop outlook information provision in comparison to the ground truth observation to the AMIS as part of the Asia-RiCE GEOGLAM activities since 2013. The GEOGLAM Report aims to enhance agricultural production estimates especially rice which is the staple food in ASEAN food security.

In 2011, the AMIS was established with the aims of improving the forecasting of crop production. The GEOGLAM provides AMIS with an assessment of crop production forecasting. This activity covers the four primary crop types i.e. wheat, maize, rice, and soybean within the main agricultural producing regions. Currently, there are seven AMS namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam participated in this initiative.



### 3. The Development of the AFSIS into the Permanent Mechanism

The AFSIS has been operated in three crucial stages, starting from the formulation as a Project in the 1<sup>st</sup> Phase during 2003-2007, followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase in 2008-2012. After that, a demand for continuation from ASEAN Plus Three countries was mentioned by the AMAF Plus Three prior to the end of the Project, which led to a call for transforming the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism during the establishment period from 2013 to 2015. Throughout the transition from a project into a self-sustained mechanism, a number of consultations and activities related to the establishment of the permanent mechanism have been carried out in order to establish the fully function mechanism. Now the AFSIS has moved forward to the Preparatory Stage (2016-2018) in compliance to the mandate from 15<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus three which acknowledged that AFSIS shall start its permanent mechanism from 2016 onwards. Details of the thirteen-year evolution are listed below;

#### 3.1 Background

A consideration on the AFSIS Project in the Post 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase was discussed in several meetings. At the 11<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three on 7 October 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia, the Meeting endorsed the initiative proposal for the Post 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of the AFSIS. Following by the 12<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting held on 28 September 2012 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, the Meeting endorsed the transformation of the AFSIS Project under the AMAF into the permanent mechanism through the Three-Year Work Plan during a 2013-2015 establishment period of the AFSIS. The AFSIS Three-Year Work Plan (2013-2015) was formulated to guide the project during the establishment period. In the meantime, Thailand has been providing the in-kind contribution in support of the AFSIS operations.

Additionally, the SPA-FS (2015-2020) outlines on strengthening integrated food security information systems to effectively forecast, plan and monitor supplies and utilization for basic food commodities as corresponding strategic trusts to the AIFS Framework's Components. The SPA-FS (2015-2020) underlines the need of establishing the AFSIS as the permanent, self-supporting, functionally independent system based on a formal commitment of member states, and the permanent host of the AFSIS determines by the AMS and consults with Plus Three Countries for cooperation and technical assistance to sustain the AFSIS.

Moreover, according to the Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2025) endorsed by the 37<sup>th</sup> AMAF on 10 September 2015 in Makati City, Philippines, one of its goals is to ensure food security, food safety and better nutrition through a number of action programs. The necessity to transform the AFSIS into the permanent scheme was marked in the vision to enhance food security information sharing and dissemination, strengthening human resource development in the food security information systems.



To ensure the implementation of the AFSIS transformation into the permanent mechanism in accordance with the AMAF Plus Three's mandate, the AFSIS Secretariat organized meetings in order to proceed with establishment of the AFSIS as the permanent mechanism by finalising the four key components in the transformation of the AFSIS into the self-sustained mechanism consisting of the Structure, Products and Services, Financial Modality and Regulations and Procedures.

The mandates and recommendations on the establishment of the permanent scheme from the Special SOM-AMAF Plus Three and the AMAF Plus Three were taken into account for a consideration throughout the establishment period through an in-depth consultation among the Focal Points and the Board of the AFSIS to ensure the smooth transition in accordance with the proposed plan and timeframe. The four key components in establishing a self-sustained mechanism consisting of Structure, Products and Services, Financial Modality and Regulations and Procedures were finalised and reported to the 15<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three with comprehensive documents on the AFSIS transformation.. The said documents were acknowledged by the AMAF Plus three which led to the commencement of the AFSIS as the permanent mechanism from 2016 onwards.

In this connection, a number of tasks are needed to be carried out in order to become the full-fledged mechanism with a legally-binding entity during the Preparatory Stage.

### **3.2 Objective**

The objective of the AFSIS is to systematically collect, analyse, and disseminate information on regional food security in an accurate, timely, and informative manner through the development of food security information network and human resources.

### **3.3 Implementation**

The implementation of the AFSIS can be categorized in three phases from the operation at the early stage as a Project to pursuing the AMAF Plus Three mandate in transforming the AFSIS Project into the permanent mechanism during the establishment period, and the current Preparatory Stage to become the full-fledged mechanism in order to become a regional self-sustained food security information system with an active participation and cooperation among the ASEAN Plus three countries.

#### **3.3.1 AFSIS Project (2003-2012)**

The Project was implemented under ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation and led by Thailand, in particular, the OAE, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The Statistics Department of the MAFF Japan was a main donor agency through the ASEAN Trust Funds. The AFSIS Project was operated in two phases from 1<sup>st</sup> Phase in 2003-2007 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase in 2008-2012.



The main activities of the Project were concerned with the construction of information network system and human resource development. The Project provided food security related information gathered from member countries and published through its own created database and website. Member countries also were provided with some amounts of network equipment to set up their respective national information network systems and for a connection with regional system of the Project. Many activities in human resource development i.e. trainings, workshops and seminars as well as the annual Project Focal Point Meetings and the Meetings of Directors-General of Agricultural Statistics and Information in ASEAN Plus Three countries were regularly implemented under Project scheme.

When the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of the Project came to an end in 2012, the AMS together with the Plus Three countries pledged to continue all activities and transformed the Project into the permanent mechanism. The 11<sup>th</sup> SOM AMAF Plus Three in Jakarta, Indonesia endorsed the proposal for the Post 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of the AFSIS and the 12<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three in Vientiane, Lao PDR endorsed the transformation of the AFSIS to the permanent mechanism, and the Three-Year Work Plan (2013-2015).

### **3.3.2 The AFSIS Establishment Period (2013-2016)**

Ten-year implementation of the AFSIS Project has laid down a solid foundation for regional cooperation and information sharing among the ASEAN Plus Three countries. The three-year period from 2013 to 2015, the AFSIS was operated under the establishment period under a supervision of the AMAF Plus Three with the continued support from the OAE of the MOAC, as the initiating agency of the AFSIS, in providing an in-kind contribution. During the transitional phase, the intensive consultations and discussions among Focal Points and Board of the AFSIS were conducted and resulted in a successful progress. The four key components, consisting of the Structure, Products and Services, Financial Modality, and Regulations and Procedure in establishing the permanent mechanism were finalised as follows;

#### **I. Structure**

The AFSIS is an evolution of the ten-year ASEAN Food Security Information System Project. It was established under the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Framework, as a subsidiary body under the AMAF Plus Three through a phased approach toward the self-reliant mechanism. The structure of the AFSIS is the hierarchical arrangement which determines how the roles, authority and responsibilities are assigned and coordinated between all concerned parties of the AFSIS. The permanent mechanism is based on neutrality and gives an opportunity to all member states to participate in the management of the AFSIS. It consists of three main grounds which are;



**a) AFSIS Board**

The AFSIS Board is the oversight body of the AFSIS acting as a platform dialogue and consultation in providing policy direction, approving operations and activities, and promoting cooperation and partnership. The board members are the Director-General of Agricultural Statistics and Information or its equivalent ranks from the respective ASEAN Plus Three countries.

**b) AFSIS Network Centers (AFSIS NCs)**

The AFSIS NCs are a collection of National network Centers which attached bodies in close coordination with agricultural information agencies or can be established separately in each ASEAN Plus Three country. Each National Network Center coordinates and manages the implementation of AFSIS activities in close consultation with the AFSIS Secretariat. Operational supervision is provided by the AFSIS Secretariat to ensure a smooth implementation and successful outcomes. The Focal Point performs as a representative of the AFSIS NC from each APT country to carry out the AFSIS implementation in close collaboration with the AFSIS Secretariat. It coordinates activities related to food security information system at the national level amongst the different authorities as well as facilitates of information sharing amongst national authorities to input to the AFSIS database.

**c) AFSIS Secretariat**

The AFSIS Secretariat is responsible for assisting and providing necessary services, facilitating and coordinating with the member countries for the AFSIS implementation and reporting progress and achievements to the Board, coordinating with information sharing activities among AFSIS NCs, preparing a draft Analysis Food Security Information Report, broadening cooperation with other concerned agencies and partnerships on the issues related to a technical assistance and also participating annually in the SOM-AMAF Plus Three and the AMAF Plus three to report the progress of activities and achievements each year. The AFSIS Secretariat, at present, is located at the OAE of the MOAC. Thailand. However, in compliance with mandate from the 15<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three, the Meeting tasked the AFSIS Secretariat to study the arrangement of the AFSIS Secretariat i.e. pros and cons of the rotation and the permanent of the Secretariat as well as the possibility to subsume the AFSIS into the APTERR. The feasibility studies were presented to the Focal Points during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Ad-hoc Task Force in Developing the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism in November 2015, Bangkok, Thailand. With regard to the rotation or permanent of the AFSIS Secretariat, the Meeting deliberated through measuring the two alternatives that the AFSIS Secretariat shall establish permanently in the country with readiness of full operation. The feasibility study on pros and cons of the rotation of the AFSIS Secretariat appears as **ANNEX II**.



Regarding the study on subsuming the AFSIS into the APTERR was also presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Ad-Hoc Task Force in Developing the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism and the Meeting agreed that, in term of administrations and functions, the subsuming of the two mechanisms is impractical. The feasibility study on subsuming the AFSIS into the APTERR appears as ANNEX III.

The organizational structure of the AFSIS Secretariat composed of the AFSIS Manager as a head of the Secretariat, the Secretariat personnel, which are a core staff and food security information consultants and experts.

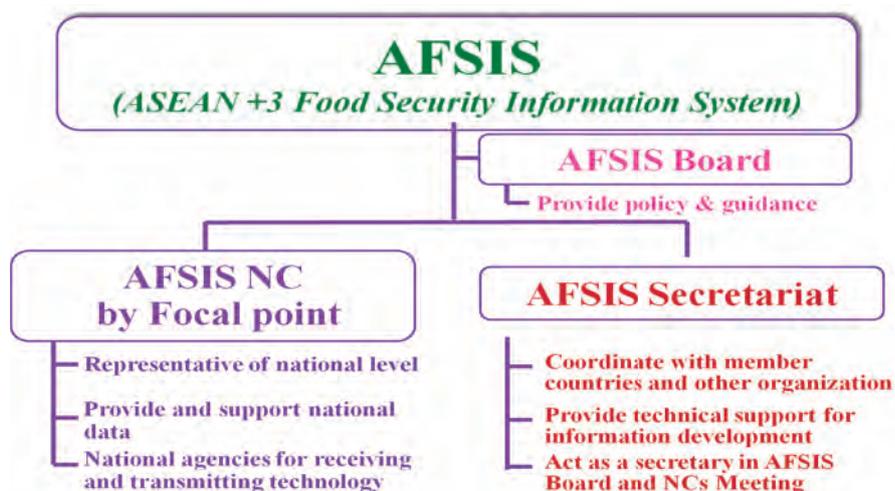


Figure 1: AFSIS Structure

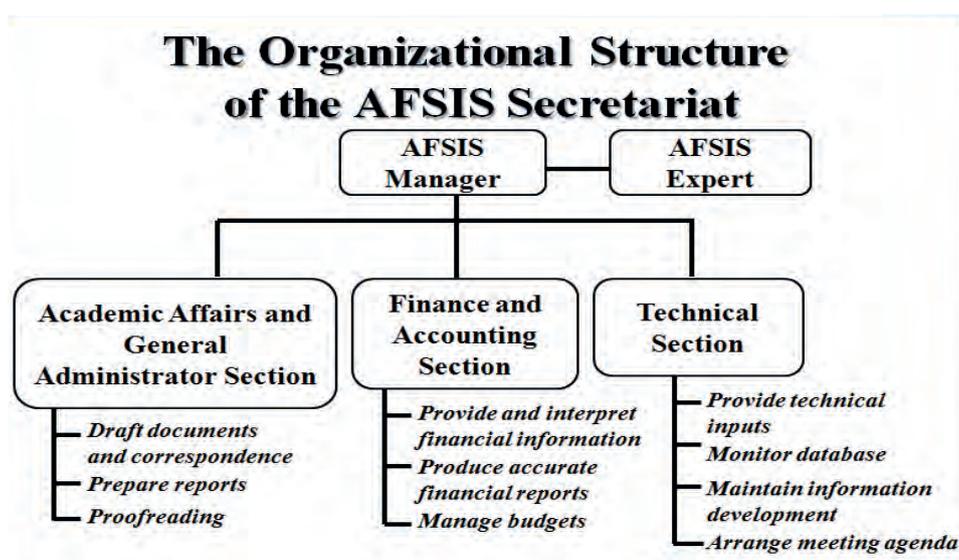


Figure 2: Organizational Structure of the AFSIS Secretariat



## II. Products and Services

Products and services are outputs of AFSIS operations following the goals and objectives of the AFSIS through two main activities; human resource development and information network system development. During the three-year preparation of the transformation, the continuation of routine work was proceeded in order to maintain the four categories of the AFSIS products and services i.e. *food security database, integrated food security Information, training and capacity development, and cross cutting and new areas*. The outputs included *database and website maintenance, Food Security Forecasting Model, Real Time ASEAN Food Security Information Network and Developing Human Resources*, organizing annual technical trainings in China and the Republic of Korea, publishing biannual food security concerned reports (ACO and EWI reports) and collaboration with the concerned international partners e.g., *FAO, ADB, JAXA, RESTEC* and etc.

### a) Food Security Database

The AFSIS database and website <http://www.afsisnc.org> have purpose of disseminating the data and information that contains a time series data on food security related information of five major food crops namely rice, maize, soybean, sugarcane and cassava. The website <http://www.afsisnc.org> is also the mutual source where all National AFSIS NCs of ASEAN Plus Three countries will update data on a regular basis.

### b) Integrated Food Security Information

The Integrated Food Security Information is a set of regional food security information reports which the outcomes have been analyzed and available to all users in order to apply or proceed in food security situations. The integrated food security information consists of the EWI report - an analysis report of crop situation and production of the current year and the subsequence harvesting season particularly, in damaged areas, ACO report- a situation analysis report of both supply and demand of food crops in current year and the subsequence year forecast, Food Security Forecasting Model- the model that based on modeling systems will be developed to generate short-term, medium-term and long-term forecasts as a basis for policy planning and development, Food Security Policy Briefs which provide senior decision-makers and general users with a concise synopsis of developments in key sectors relevant to food security, and ASEAN Food Security Analysis Report (AFSAR) - an in-depth analysis of data by statistic-oriented and economics-oriented approach to examine the impact of food supply-demand and prices in the region



c) Training and Capacity Development

The effective information system development of the AFSIS will be in a crucial need for human resource development in order to create a standard of database for every member country and strengthening the capacity building in food security information at the national level. Therefore, training/workshop is considered a AFSIS’s high priority activity to ensure that each member country has the same standard and capability in implementing the AIFS Framework and SPA-FS plan both domestically and regionally.

d) Cross Cutting and new areas

Cross Cutting and new areas are cooperation between the AFSIS and other food security- related agencies in strengthening the food security information system as well as developing food security information and human resources, such as the FAO, the ADB and etc.

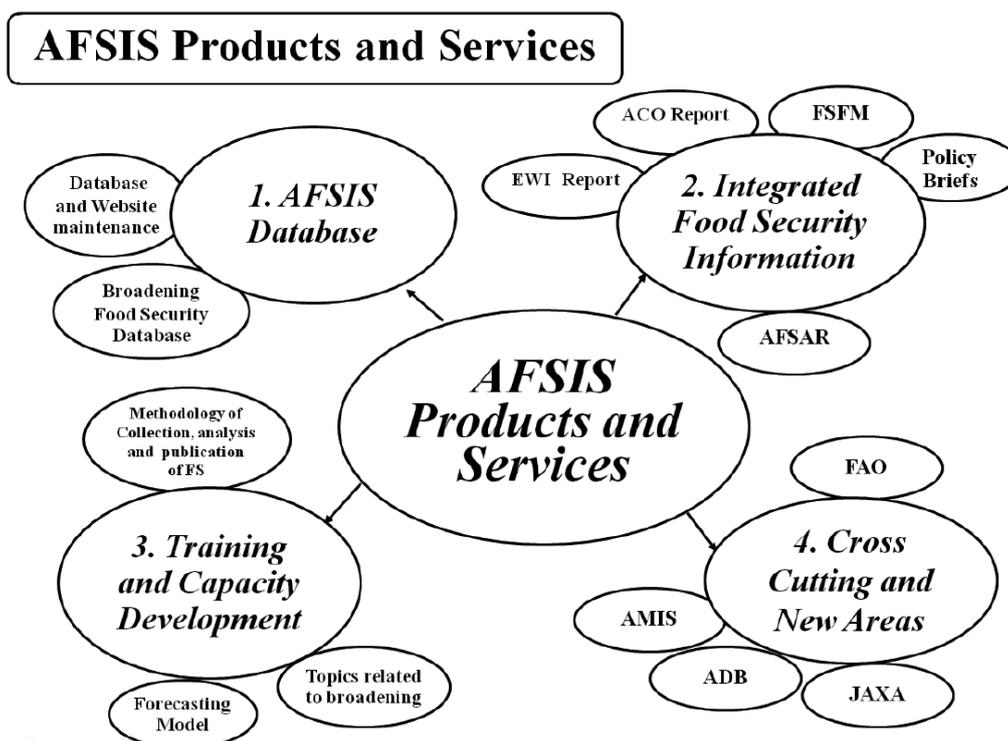


Figure 3: AFSIS Products and Services



### III. Financial Modality

During the past two phases as the Project, the AFSIS was received a financial support from the MAFF Japan. Following the AMAF Plus Three’s mandates and request for establishing the AFSIS into the self-sustained mechanism, it is required substantial financial supports from ASEAN Plus Three countries. It is important that the financial modality is to be discussed among member countries for collective agreement upon the budget contribution for AFSIS in order to ensure and maintain AFSIS implementation plan and activities.

In reference to the objectives of the AFSIS of providing accurate, reliable, and timely food security information and t becoming the major hub of food security information in the ASEAN region, the activities of AFSIS are categorized into two categories, namely Core Activities and Food Security Information Development Activities as follows;

a) The purpose of Core Activities is to ensure continuity and progression of AFSIS as a permanent mechanism. It consists of keeping the AFSIS database and website up to date, organizing trainings and workshops, convening the meetings, publishing food security information reports, and relating administrative tasks.

b) The total amount of the AFSIS Core Activity Expenditure was finalised by the Focal Points and Board. The budget estimate for the Core Activities is USD 229,500 per annum. It is a committed contribution from ASEAN Plus Three member countries on an annual basis.

No.	Description	Budget Estimates (USD)
1.	AFSIS Board Meeting	54,000
2.	AFSIS Focal Point Meeting	50,000
3.	Maintenance database and Website	5,400
4.	Employment cost	54,000
5.	ASEAN Member States <i>-Dispatch FS data</i>	24,000 24,000
6.	General Operating Expenses <i>-ACO report</i> <i>-Annual report</i> <i>-Other activities</i> <i>-Computer supply</i>	16,520 4,800 2,400 4,560 4,760
7.	Contingency	25,580
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>229,500</b>

Table 1 : The AFSIS Core Activity’s Expenditure



Regarding the proportion of sharing, the different methods of budget contribution were presented to the Focal Point and Board for consideration, such as measuring the Total Gross Domestic Product (GDP), GDP Per Capita and estimating a cost sharing subject to an equal weight as appear in **ANNEX IV**. The AFSIS Secretariat also explored other modalities through cross referencing the ASEAN Charter on the operational budget and financial of the ASEAN Secretariat through equal annual contributions and other cooperative bodies under ASEAN, i.e. APTERR. Nevertheless, after the consultations, concept of financial modality shall be made through equal basis as shown below:

The AMS shall share approximately 70% on an equal basis of the total budget contribution as the amount of USD 160,500 while the Plus Three countries shall share approximately 30% on an equal basis of the total budget contribution as the amount of USD 69,000.

No.	ASEAN Plus Three Countries	Total contribution (USD)	Percentage Share by Group (%)
1.	Brunei Darussalam	16,050	70 %
2.	Cambodia	16,050	
3.	Indonesia	16,050	
4.	Lao PDR	16,050	
5.	Malaysia	16,050	
6.	Myanmar	16,050	
7.	Philippines	16,050	
8.	Singapore	16,050	
9.	Thailand	16,050	
10.	Viet Nam	16,050	
	Total for AMSs	160,500	
11.	China	23,000	30%
12.	Japan	23,000	
13.	Republic of Korea	23,000	
	Total for Plus Three Countries	69,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>229,500</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 2 : Regular Contribution from ASEAN Plus Three Country



With regard to the information development activities, the AFSIS aims to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of its members in developing information system of regional food security such as, data correction improvement, AFSAR, database development, food security model development, crop monitoring, demand and supply analysis, policy briefs, increase of the national capacity of human resource development in each AMS and etc. The non-regular contribution is a voluntary financial contribution which can be obtained from collaboration with other third parties or international agencies to serve and support the second purpose of expenditure in information development activities.

In this relation, the regular contribution from ASEAN Plus Three countries will maintain *Core Activities* while financial support for the *Information Development Activities* shall be obtained from the food security related agencies in form of the non-regular contribution.

#### IV. Regulations and Procedures

AFSIS's regulations consist of the written document on the establishment of the AFSIS, which describes the common understanding among ASEAN Plus Three countries, and the Rules of Procedure (ROP), which is a standard manual, and rules among AFSIS members.

Initially, the first draft of the binding document formulated in accordance with the 6<sup>th</sup> DG Meeting in March 2012 in Tokyo, Japan. The Terms of Reference (TOR) of the AFSIS was drafted and presented to the Focal Points and Board for consideration. Through years of development on the legal effects, the Focal Points recommended the AFSIS Secretariat to change the TOR to the non-legally binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the 13<sup>th</sup> Focal Point Meeting on 31 March – 1 April 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. Followed by the 8<sup>th</sup> DG Meeting on 15-17 June 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand, the proposed draft of the MOU was deferred due to the financial commitment of the ASEAN Plus Three countries. The Board reckoned that the legally binding instrument would be suitable for the AFSIS and requested the ASEAN Secretariat to support on providing the information regarding this matter. The AFSIS agreed to seek a recommendation on a legal component of the AFSIS permanent mechanism from the 14<sup>th</sup> Special SOM-AMAF Plus Three and the 15<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting respectively. The first draft of the AFSIS Agreement appears as in [ANNEX V](#).



### 3.3.3 AFSIS Preparatory Stage (2016-2018)

Details of the four components of the AFSIS permanent mechanism including roadmap of the transformation of the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism and the TOR of the AFSIS was compiled into comprehensive documents as appear in **ANNEX VI**. Upon request of the 14<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three and submitted to the 15<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three for acknowledgement. The 15<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three considered the proposal from the Special SOM-14<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three and noted to the followings;

- a) The establishment of the permanent mechanism shall be started from 2016 onwards
- b) During 2016-2018 of the permanent mechanism, the AFSIS Secretariat will perform its functions as the non-legally binding entity under the Preparatory Stage.
- c) The Preparatory Stage will discuss a modality of the AFSIS permanent scheme and the arrangement of the AFSIS Secretariat.
- d) The AFSIS Secretariat is requested to study pros and cons of the permanent or rotation of the secretariat.
- e) The AFSIS Secretariat is requested to explore a possibility to subsume the AFSIS into the APTERR secretariat.

In summary, from 2016 onwards the AFSIS will begin its operation as a permanent mechanism with a non-legally binding entity during the Preparatory Stage (2016-2018) to finalise details related and approach the full-fledged mechanism. In this connection, Thailand as an initial country of the AFSIS will continue to provide the in-kind and in-cash contributions to the permanent mechanism of the AFSIS. Although AFSIS has pursued its goal in starting its operation as the permanent mechanism, there are numerous tasks needed to be accomplished.

On legal effect of the AFSIS permanent mechanism, the ASEAN Plus Three countries will work on details of the legally-binding of the AFSIS. During the Preparatory Stage, member countries shall be bound by the political commitment in the nature of non-legally binding in participation to the AFSIS.

With respect to financial arrangements of the AFSIS permanent mechanism, member countries have not finalised on the contribution methods yet. Therefore, member countries will participate in the annual AFSIS's meetings and meetings relevant to the establishment with their own cost. In the meantime, the AFSIS Secretariat will seek external funds to support the meetings arrangement and logistics.



For a legal component of the AFSIS Agreement, the proper status of the AFSIS permanent mechanism shall be through the legally binding form through an Agreement among ASEAN Plus Three countries. The draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of the AFSIS presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of AFSIS Board shall be used as the first draft of the AFSIS Agreement. The first draft of AFSIS Agreement shall be considered by ASEAN Plus Three countries and to obtain domestic clearance process before a further consideration of the Focal Points Meeting and Board Meeting of the AFSIS respectively.

With regard to the routine work of the AFSIS, the AFSIS will maintain and develop its database and website particularly on including inclusive information regarding the new component— nutrition in all aspects of food security. The AFSIS will continue to disseminate its publication relevant to food security information in the ASEAN region as well as enhance its member's capability in development of national food security system and synchronize to the regional system.



## ABBREVIATIONS

ACO	Agricultural Commodity Outlook
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFSRB	ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board
AFSAR	ASEAN Food Security Analysis Report
AFSIS	ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Information System
AFSIS NCs	AFSIS Network Centers
AIFS	ASEAN Integrated Food Security
ALIS	Agricultural Land Information System
AMAF	Meeting of the ASEAN Agriculture and Forestry Ministers
AMAF Plus Three	Meeting of the ASEAN Agriculture and Forestry Ministers and the Ministers the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea
AMIS	Agricultural Market Information System
AMS	ASEAN Member States
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APRSAF	Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum
APTERR	ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEAN Plus Three	Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the People's Republic of China, People's Republic of China Japan and the Republic of Korea
ASIA-RiCE	Asian Rice Crop Estimation and Monitoring
ATF-FAF	ASEAN Ad-Hoc Task Force on Developing New Vision on Food, Agriculture and Forestry
BAS	Bureau of Agriculture Statistics (Philippines)
CAAS	Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
COMPASS	Capacity Building Project for Monitoring Integration Progress and Statistics
DG	Director-General
EPIS	Korea Agency of Education, Promotion and Information Service in Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
EU	European Union
EWI	Early Warning Information
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAO RAP	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

## ABBREVIATIONS

FAPDA	Food and Agriculture Policy Decision Analysis
FSIN	Food Security Information Network Project
GEOGLAM	Group on Earth Observation Global Agriculture Monitoring
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
JASMIN	JAXA's Satellite Based Monitoring Network
JAXA	Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
LAO PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Japan)
MAFRA	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (the Republic of Korea)
MOAC	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (Thailand)
NAIS	National Agro-food Information System
NFP	National Focal Point
NIA	National Information Society Agency (the Republic of Korea)
NTT Group	Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation
NTWG	National Technical Working Groups
OAE	Office of Agricultural Economics (Thailand)
P.R. China	People's Republic of China
RESTEC	Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan
RSU	Regional Support Unit
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SPA-FS	Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
TA	Technical Assistance
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
TOR	Terms of Reference
USD	United States Dollar
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme

## ANNEX I

### List of the AFSIS meetings concerning the transformation of the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism

1. The 5<sup>th</sup> Directors-General Meeting and the 8<sup>th</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting, 30 March - 1 April 2010, Pusan, Republic of Korea.
2. Workshop on Accelerating Activities and Food Security Development, 17-18 May 2010, the Prince Park Tower Tokyo hotel, Tokyo, Japan
3. The 1<sup>st</sup> Technical Meeting, 6-7 September 2010, Ayutthaya, Thailand.
4. The 9<sup>th</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting, 19-21 January 2011, Da-Nang, Viet Nam
5. The Meeting on the Proposal of Post 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of AFSIS Project, 24-25 May 2011, Bangkok, Thailand
6. The 6<sup>th</sup> Directors-General Meeting and the 10<sup>th</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting, 14-16 March, 2012, Tokyo, Japan
7. The Consultation Meeting on AFSIS Mechanism, 22-24 October 2012, Bangkok, Thailand
8. The 7<sup>th</sup> Directors-General Meeting and the 11<sup>th</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting, 2-3 April, 2013, Pattaya, Thailand and
9. The Ad Hoc Focal Point Meeting of AFSIS in ASEAN Plus Three Countries, 9 July 2013, OAE, Bangkok, Thailand
10. The 12<sup>th</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting of AFSIS, 26-27 May 2014, OAE, Bangkok, Thailand
11. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Ad-Hoc Task Force in Developing AFSIS into Permanent Mechanism, 16-17 July 2014, Phuket, Thailand
12. The 13<sup>th</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting, 31 March - 1 April, 2015, Bangkok, Thailand
13. The 8<sup>th</sup> Directors-General Meeting, 15-17 June 2015, Bangkok, Thailand
14. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Ad-hoc Task Force in Developing AFSIS into Permanent Mechanism, 23 November 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

## ANNEX II



## The Pros and Cons of the Rotation of the AFSIS Secretariat

### 1. Rationale

The provision of comprehensive, accurate and timely food security information is inevitably necessary in order to ensure and strengthen the ASEAN Plus Three long-term food security. After ten-year operation as a project, the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) began its process of transformation into a permanent mechanism in early 2011. Since then, the AFSIS has been carried out implementations in accordance with mandates from the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (AMAF Plus Three) to establish the self-sustained mechanism within 2015.

The great milestone has been marked during the 15<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting on 11 September 2015 in Manila, the Philippines. The Meeting agreed to establish the AFSIS as the permanent mechanism.

Pursuant to the mentioned mandate, the results from intensive consultations among the Board and Focal Points of the AFSIS regarding the permanent mechanism were categorized into four main components based on organizational, functional and financial aspects, namely, Structure, Products and Services, Financial Modality, and Regulations and Procedures.

In relation to this, it cannot be denied that one of the major driving forces contributes to the favourable outcomes of the AFSIS is – the “AFSIS Secretariat.” However, the management and executive direction of the AFSIS Secretariat have been an ongoing discussion for many years without having any final conclusion. The AFSIS Secretariat has two functions; the first, administrative tasks, such as providing administrative and executive services for the AFSIS operation, coordinating with relevant institutions and second, technical duties, such as dissemination of food security information and provision of technical expertise in capacity building and development of national food security information network system.

Currently, at the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (Special SOM-14<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three) on 14 August 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, a suggestion on a three-year rotation of the AFSIS Secretariat among the ASEAN Member States was raised in order to strengthen the capacity of human resources of member countries in managing food security information system. This proposal, however, could not reach a conclusion during the Meeting. The AFSIS Secretariat, therefore, was tasked to study pros and cons of the rotation of the AFSIS Secretariat and present the result to member countries for a further discussion.

### 2. Objective



To conduct a feasibility study of the rotation of the AFSIS Secretariat

### 3. Procedure

- 3.1 The AFSIS Secretariat conducts a study of pros and cons of the rotation of the AFSIS Secretariat
- 3.2 Focal Points consider both pros and cons of the rotation of the AFSIS Secretariat
- 3.3 Participants at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ad-hoc Task Force Meeting in Developing AFSIS into the Permanent Mechanism summarize the possibility of the rotation of the AFSIS Secretariat

### 4. Advantages (pros) of the rotation of the AFSIS Secretariat

The AFSIS main functions lie precisely in serving the public in general with useful and timely information. In other words, the AFSIS aims to provide the public with a broad range of food security information in line with development of national food security information mechanism in ASEAN Member States (AMS) which offer tremendous advantages to its members. With regard to a host country of the AFSIS Secretariat, management and maintenance of administrative and executive tasks will be distributed. Thus, the rotation of the AFSIS Secretariat helps share a responsibility in administration of food security information to member countries.

In light of the management of the AFSIS Secretariat, some functions of the Secretariat demand specialization. The rotation of the AFSIS Secretariat will provide member countries with opportunities in sharing knowledge and experience, developing new skills and obtaining professional value in the management of AFSIS. Those individuals will, then, increase their knowledge and administrative capabilities.

When a country becomes a host country of the AFSIS Secretariat, the government will take into account in providing financial supports to develop its national food security information. The country will, then, be committed to strengthen its food security information system through both in-kind and in-cash contributions.

### 5. Disadvantages (Cons) of the rotation of the AFSIS Secretariat

5.1 Besides being responsible for the administrative and coordinating tasks, the AFSIS Secretariat also undertakes multi-functional duties, such as monitoring food security situation, developing AFSIS database, maintaining its website, publishing food security reports, developing Food Security Forecasting Model and cross-cutting with relevant international organizations e.g. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), National Information Society Agency (NIA) of the Republic of Korea, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) of the FAO. More importantly, these are considered as a routine work of the AFSIS Secretariat in which the physical unit is required in order to be in charge of the implementation on a daily basis.

5.2 In operating the technical expertise tasks, IT equipment, such as computers, projectors and



other electronic facilities, including training rooms are essential for conducting trainings or workshops. The said equipment is difficult to move/transfer from one country to another once it is all set up. Therefore, the rotation of the AFSIS Secretariat's office every three years can be costly and inapplicable due to severely restricted mobility and difficult transfer.

5.3 The characteristic of work at the AFSIS Secretariat requires permanent employees who perform a range of professional services. Often when rotating the office, permanent staff cannot be relocated easily and the cost of transferring employee aboard can be burdensome to the AFSIS.

5.4 The process of recruiting new staff sometimes can be time-consuming beginning with selecting appropriate candidates to developing work specialty. The AFSIS provides equal opportunities for member countries in the management of the AFSIS Secretariat by conducting an open recruitment for a Manager and core staff.

5.5 In view of a financial aspect, opening a new bank account or transferring foreign currency of annual budget and voluntary contribution budget can be complicated when rotating a new office of the AFSIS Secretariat in different countries.

5.6 The host country of the AFSIS Secretariat will have to proceed its internal process in order to provide a legal personality of the Secretariat. The acquisition of legal personality of the Secretariat is a burden to the host country because of time-consuming and protracted process. Valuing time spending on the internal process will not be worth establishing a temporary Secretariat.

5.7 The establishment of the Secretariat in order to maintain and support of routine tasks requires premises, such as an office. This has been discussed at many occasions among the Focal Points of the AFSIS. In addition to this, Thailand is constructing the new AFSIS office building with an estimated budget of 3.5 million USD to support of the AFSIS operation.

5.8 Some ASEAN Plus Three countries expressed their concerns that they may not be ready to handle duties of the host country of the Secretariat due to the country's readiness and financial commitment. In case some countries cannot be the host of the Secretariat, it will be inconsistency with the objective of the rotation of the AFSIS Secretariat in distributing the management and administration to member countries.

5.9 Although some tasks can be distributed to the host country of the Secretariat, it is important to note that the main operation of the AFSIS needs to be driven by well-trained, experienced and professional staff. Thus, the mobile secretariat may not be a practical idea to merely increase work experiences and skills of local staff.



## 6. Summary

The possibility of the rotation of the AFSIS Secretariat, according to the study, shows several concerned issues. Although the rotation of the Secretariat helps accrue knowledge and skills of member country's local staff in coordination and administration, the mobile secretariat is naturally complicated. Transferring workload and recruiting new employees to work temporary in different countries are deemed difficult for practical implementation due to its restrictions and challenges.

## 7. Issues for Consideration

Focal Points will take into account the study concerning pros and cons of the rotation of the AFSIS Secretariat and proceed into the following guideline in accordance with the agreement of the Meeting.

### 7.1 Option 1 - Agree with the rotation of the AFSIS Secretariat

- 7.1.1 Decide a rotation system of a host country; alphabetical order, in parallel with the AMAF Plus Three Meeting or other methods
- 7.1.2 Set up a regulation in case some countries are not ready to be the host country of the AFSIS Secretariat
- 7.1.3 Specify tenure of the host country; 3 years, 5 years and etc.
- 7.1.4 Determine the requirements for a host country to establish the AFSIS Secretariat, such as office, computer, budget, equipment and etc.

### 7.2 Option 2 – Further develop the permanent AFSIS Secretariat

- 7.2.1 Identify a decision-making entity of the location of the AFSIS Secretariat
- 7.2.2 For a member country who is willing to be a host country, submit a proposal demonstrating her capacity to host the AFSIS Secretariat and clarify the offering for the AFSIS Secretariat
- 7.2.3 Share responsibility with a chairman country on hosting an annual meeting
- 7.2.4 Propose to change the name of 'AFSIS Secretariat' to 'AFSIS Center' in order to distinguish the physical tasks of the secretariat from the administrative tasks



## ANNEX III

### The Possibility to Subsume the AFSIS into the APTERR

#### 1. Background

Provision of food security information support has been one of the AFSIS objectives since the project was established. Prior to the termination of the AFSIS Project in 2012, the need to continue the AFSIS was mentioned at the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (AMAF Plus Three) on 7 October 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia when the Meeting endorsed the initiative of proposal for the Post 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of the AFSIS. Following by the 12<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting held on 28 September 2012 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, the Meeting endorsed the transformation of the AFSIS Project under the AMAF into a permanent mechanism through the Three-Year Work Plan during a 2013-2015 establishment period of the AFSIS. During the Establishment Period from 2013-2015, however, the number of challenges are needed to be overcome with regard to the transformation of the AFSIS such as financial contribution, legal status of the AFSIS Secretariat and other necessary arrangements.

At the same time, the permanent scheme of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) was endorsed at the 11<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting in Indonesia on 7 October 2011 for the purpose of strengthening food security emergency by a release of APTERR stocks to meet emergency requirements and achieve humanitarian purposes in subject to not violate the World Trade Organization (WTO)'s rules and regulations. In connection with the APTERR's activities, the AFSIS will be a main source to provide food security information support for assess and monitor the food security situation in APTERR member countries.

Due to the difficulties of the establishment of the permanent mechanism of the AFSIS, the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (Special SOM-14<sup>th</sup>AMAF Plus Three) in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 14 August 2015 and the 15<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three in Makati City, Philippines on 11 September 2015 had agreed to explore another option of subsuming the AFSIS Secretariat's duties into the APTERR Secretariat by noting that the function of the two initiatives is different and it is required for a further study and evaluation for consideration.

The AFSIS Secretariat, in this regard, has prepared the following feasibility study in accordance with the abovementioned mandate.



## 2. Objective

To conduct a feasibility study of subsuming the AFSIS into the APTERR

## 3. Overview of the APTERR

The APTERR was established by the endorsement at the 11<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting in Indonesia on 7 October 2011 as a permanent scheme after the termination of the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) in February 2010. The aims of the APTERR are to assist the ASEAN Plus Three member countries to meet the needs of people amid an acute and emergency situation and to achieve humanitarian purposes through a forward contact of rice procurement and a donation without violating the WTO's rules. The APTERR Agreement was signed at the 11<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting to be the guidelines for cooperation among the APTERR members. Under this Agreement, the APTERR Parties are committed to the earmarked emergency rice reserve contribution to anticipate the emergency caused by natural disasters. With regard to the APTERR Fund, all members agreed to provide a financial contribution to the Endowment Fund and the Annual Contribution to the Operational Cost for the first five years to support the operation of the APTERR activities. According to the decision made at the 15<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting on September 2012 in Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), the APTERR Secretariat is located in Thailand. Currently, Thailand is in a process of acquiring a legal personality of the APTERR Secretariat in compliance with is the Thai law.

## 4. Benefits of subsuming the AFSIS into the APTERR

Although, the transformation of the AFSIS into a permanent scheme under AMAF Plus Three structures has been proceeded since 2009, the four main components of the permanent mechanism comprising of structure, products and services, financial modality, and regulations and procedures have still been an ongoing discussion. At the Special SOM-14<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three, the suggestion to subsume the AFSIS into the APTERR mechanism was raise in order to ease the difficulty in the establishment of the AFSIS. The listed below are some advantages from subsuming the AFSIS into the APTERR.

### 4.1 Decrease of difficulties in the establishment of the permanent mechanism

In setting a new mechanism under the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation, some difficulties hinder the AFSIS from establishing its permanent mechanism smoothly. Obstacles, such as, legal proceedings, financial contribution from member countries, procedures on establishment of the Secretariat and etc, are faced. Therefore, merging the AFSIS into the APTERR can decrease the establishment procedures.



#### **4.2 Reduce requirements for legal proceedings**

One of the greatest hurdles facing on the establishment of the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism is the legal process. When subsuming into the APTERR, the legal binding instrument and its related documents will not be required to take into a consideration.

#### **4.3 Cut the procedures on the establishment of the AFSIS Secretariat**

The AFSIS Secretariat is not required when it merges into the APTERR. The office of the Secretariat including staff and office facilities can be combined into the existing APTERR mechanism.

#### **4.4 No need for the financial contribution**

A budget contribution from member countries for AFSIS's annual operation is not necessary, when subsuming the AFSIS into the APTERR. This will remove the difficulties on the commitment to provide the financial contribution to the AFSIS from member countries which has been an ongoing issue for several years.

### **5. Restrictions**

#### **5.1 Amendment of the APTERR Agreement**

The APTERR was established under a legal obligation namely "ASEAN PLUS THREE EMERGENCY RICE RESERVE AGREEMENT" which the APTERR is thereby recognized as a legally binding entity. Any changes made to a signed agreement regarding the implementation and procedures of merging the AFSIS into the APTERR will need to be documented. This change is referred to an amendment of the APTERR Agreement. The legislative process of amendment is complicated and time-consuming. It is required to submit the amended Agreement to the AMAF Plus Three for endorsement.

#### **5.2 Conflict of interest**

The utilization of information between the AFSIS and the APTERR are vastly different. The APTERR is a general user whereas the AFSIS acts as a regional food security information provider. If the two mechanisms are merged, the information user—APTERR can give an influential impact to the provision of information. Additionally, the information-based provider—AFSIS in general operates individually.

Before the APTERR was established, it was operated as the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR). The issue on subsuming the AFSIS into the APTERR was brought to discussion among the relevant parties. In conclusion, to avoid the conflict of interest which may occur in future operations, the AFSIS was designed to separate from the establishment of the APTERR at the beginning.



### 5.3 Different commodity crop coverage

The coverage under the APTERR Agreement concerned only one commodity crop—‘rice’. Meanwhile, the AFSIS coverage provides concerned food security information of five major food crops namely rice, maize, soybean, sugarcane and cassava to cover staple food in the region.

### 5.4 Different functions

The operations between the APTERR and the AFSIS are dissimilar. The APTERR mainly focuses on a release of rice in response to the needs of people amid an acute and emergency situation and for humanitarian purposes. On the other hand, the AFSIS emphasizes on development of human resources in ASEAN Member States and improvement of the food security information system at national level to sustain the long-term food security in the region.

### 5.5 Different organizational management

The APTERR is an independent mechanism supervised by the APTERR Council composed of one representative from each APTERR member country. On the contrary, the AFSIS is linked with local governments in order to compile official data from member countries and works closely for implementing AFSIS activities with the Focal Points who act as representatives from ASEAN Plus Three countries. The AFSIS, therefore, cannot be individually detached from local authorities to operate independently.

### 5.6 Current APTERR’s financial issue

A budget contribution to APTERR is calculated based on annual expense estimation in compliance with functional operations indicated in a work plan. Thus, it is difficult to distribute/allocate to cover the AFSIS’s annual expense. More importantly, the APTERR expense is upon the APTERR councils’ approval in accordance with the Agreement that excluded the details of AFSIS’s expense. The APTERR Agreement was unanimously consented by the APTERR Council, in this regard; the amendment to the agreement can be laborious.

## 6. Summary

According to the aforementioned study, subsuming the AFSIS into the APTERR may ease the difficulties in the establishment of the AFSIS as the permanent mechanism. However, obstacles are also pointed out and deemed to be more complicated to merge the two mechanisms.

A great number of restrictions of merging the two mechanisms are indicated. With regard to the fact that the APTERR is an established mechanism in accordance with the signed Agreement, any amendments made to this document shall be proceeded through an internal process of the



government of the member countries. The different types of function may cause the conflict of interest. The different coverage of the crop commodities as well as the current financial issues of the two mechanisms can be implied that the idea of subsuming the two initiatives can be time-consuming and infeasible for practical implementation.

## 7. Issues for Consideration

This issue requires a further consideration whether to implement in accordance with the AMAF Plus Three's mandate or to continue develop the permanent body of the AFSIS Secretariat. The issues for consideration are listed below;

### 7.1 Option 1: Agree to subsume the AFSIS into the APTERR

- 7.1.1 Discuss among the APTERR Council, Board and Focal Points of AFSIS to carefully study the feasibility and approach with efficient manners
- 7.1.2 Agree to proceed to subsume the AFSIS into the APTERR and arrange a person in charge of submitting a proposal to the coming Special SOM-AMAF Plus Three Meeting for consideration and recommendation and the coming AMAF Plus Three Meeting for approval
- 7.1.3 Amend the APTERR Agreement to cover other crop commodities and add AFSIS functions in development of national food security information and strengthen human resources in member countries
- 7.1.4 Reconsider an annual budget arrangement for additional expense from subsuming the AFSIS into the APTERR and other necessary arrangements.
- 7.1.5 Revise the Rules and Procedures of the APTERR
- 7.1.6 The amendment made to the APTERR Agreement requires to be endorsed by the governments of the member countries while APTERR Rules and Procedures will need to be endorsed by the APTERR Council

### 7.2 Option 2: Further develop the AFSIS permanent mechanism

- 7.2.1 Proceed to work on details of the AFSIS permanent mechanism during the preparatory stage to become the full-fledged mechanism
- 7.2.2 Approach the legally binding entity of the AFSIS during the preparatory stage



## ANNEX IV

## The Different Methods of Budget Contribution to the AFSIS

## Budget Plan for AFSIS Activities

Description	USD/year
<b>1 DG Meeting (2 ps/country, 3 day meeting)</b>	<b>54,000</b>
<b>1.1. International Travel (\$eco+\$business)</b>	<b>12,600</b>
1.1.1 Cambodia (500+600)	1,100
1.1.2 Indonesia (700+1800)	2,500
1.1.3 Laos (400+600)	1,000
1.1.4 Malaysia (400+600)	1,000
1.1.5 Myanmar (500+600)	1,100
1.1.6 Philippines (500+700)	1,200
1.1.7 Veitnam (500+600)	1,100
1.1.8 Brunei (600+1000)	1,600
1.1.9 Singapore (600+1400)	2,000
<b>1.2 DSA + Accommodation</b>	<b>16,200</b>
1.2.1 DSA for DG (225 x 4 x 10) (\$ x day x country)	9,000
1.2.2 DSA for FP (180 x 4 x 10) (\$ x day x country)	7,200
<b>1.3. Local Transportation</b>	<b>7,650</b>
1.3.1 Transportation to/from airport (70 x 12) (\$ x country)	6,750
1.3.2 Transportation to/from Meeting venue (100 x 3 x 3) (\$ x van x day)	900
<b>1.4. Meals</b>	<b>10,400</b>
1.4.1 Meeting package (70 x 40 x 3) (\$ x head x day)	8,400
1.4.2 Welcome dinner (50 x 40 x 1) (\$ x head x time)	2,000
<b>1.5. Field trip package</b>	<b>2,000</b>
(50 x 40 x 1) (\$ x head x time)	
<b>1.6. Organization expenses</b>	<b>5,150</b>
1.6.1 Insurance (30 x 24) (\$ x head)	720
1.6.2 Administrative support costs (180 x 4 x 3) (\$ x person x day)	2,160
1.6.3 Miscellaneous cost (around 5% of Meeting cost)	2,270



## Budget Plan for AFSIS Activities (Cont.)

Description	USD/year
<b>2 FP Meeting (2 ps/country, 3 day meeting)</b>	<b>50,000</b>
<b>2.1 International Travel (\$eco x person)</b>	<b>9,400</b>
2.1.1 Cambodia (500 x 2)	1,000
2.1.2 Indonesia (700 x 2)	1,400
2.1.3 Laos (400 x 2)	800
2.1.4 Malaysia (400 x 2)	800
2.1.5 Myanmar (500 x 2)	1,000
2.1.6 Philippines (500 x 2)	1,000
2.1.7 Veitnam (500 x 2)	1,000
2.1.8 Brunei (600 x 2)	1,200
2.1.9 Singapore (600 x 2)	1,200
<b>2.2 DSA + Accommodation</b> (180 x 4 x 10 x 2) (\$ x day x country x person)	<b>14,400</b>
<b>2.3 Local Transportation</b>	<b>7,650</b>
2.3.1 Transportation to/from airport (70 x 12) (\$ x country)	6,750
2.3.2 Transportation to/from Meeting venue (100 x 3 x 3) (\$ x van x day)	900
<b>2.4 Meals</b>	<b>10,400</b>
2.4.1 Meeting package (70 x 40 x 3) (\$ x head x day)	8,400
2.4.2 Welcome dinner (50 x 40 x 1) (\$ x head x time)	2,000
<b>2.5 Field trip package</b> (50 x 40 x 1) (\$ x head x time)	<b>2,000</b>
<b>2.6 Organization expenses</b>	<b>6,150</b>
2.6.1 Insurance (30 x 24) (\$ x head)	720
2.6.2 Administrative support costs (180 x 4 x 3) (\$ x person x day)	2,160
2.6.3 Miscellaneous cost (around 5% of Meeting cost)	3,270
<b>3 Maintenance AFSIS Database &amp; Web</b>	<b>5,400</b>
3.1 Colocation (150 x 12 x 3) (\$ x month x Unit)	5,400
<b>4 Employment cost</b>	<b>54,000</b>
4.1 Chief (1500 x 12) (\$ x month)	18,000
4.2 Administrative Staff (1000 x 12) (\$ x month)	12,000
4.3 Accountant (1000 x 12) (\$ x month)	12,000
4.4 Technician (1000 x 12) (\$ x month)	12,000



Budget Plan for AFSIS Activities (Cont.)

Description	USD/year
<b>5 ASEAN Member Countries</b>	<b>96,000</b>
<b>5.1 Dispatch Food Security Data to AFSIS Secretariat</b> (3000 x 8) (\$ x country)	<b>24,000</b>
<b>5.2 FS Information Development of National Level</b> (9000 x 8) (\$ x country)	<b>72,000</b>
<b>6 General Operating Expenses</b>	<b>15,760</b>
<b>6.1 Participating Regional Activities</b>	<b>4,560</b>
6.1.1 International Travel (600 x 4) (\$eco x trip)	2,400
6.1.2 DSA and Accommodation (180 x 3 x 4) (\$ x day x trip)	2,160
<b>6.2 Publication</b>	<b>7,200</b>
6.2.1 ACO report (8 x 300 x 2) (\$ x report x time)	4,800
6.2.2 Annual report (8 x 300 x 1) (\$ x report x time)	2,400
<b>6.3 Computer supplies and stationary</b>	<b>4,000</b>
6.3.1 Ink	3,500
6.3.2 A4 Paper	500
<b>7 Contingency (around 10% of total costs)</b>	<b>24,840</b>
<b>Grand total cost/year</b>	<b>300,000</b>



## Options of Funding Contribution

### Core Activities and Budget Plan

Unit: US\$

Activities	Budget	
	As of Ad-hoc Meeting	New Plan
1. DG Meeting	40,000	54,000
2. FP Meeting	0	50,000
3. Maintenance AFSIS Database and web	7,000	5,400
4. Employment cost	54,000	54,000
5. ASEAN member countries	20,000	96,000
5.1 Dispatch FS Data to AFSIS Secretariat	20,000	24,000
5.2 FS Information Development of National Level	0	72,000
6. General operation expenses	4,800	16,520
6.1 Publication ACO report	4,800	4,800
6.2 Publication Annual report	0	2,400
6.3 Participate in other activities	0	4,560
6.4 Computer supply and stationery	0	4,760
7. Contingency	17,200	24,080
<b>Total</b>	<b>143,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>



## Options of Funding Contribution

Weighted by Total GDP

Country	Shared by APT			Shared by AMS		
	GDP (\$Billion)	Portion (%)	Share \$	GDP (\$Billion)	Portion (%)	Share \$
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Brunei	22	0.1	300	22	0.6	1,835
Cambodia	37	0.2	510	37	1.0	3,100
Indonesia	1,212	5.5	16,530	1,212	33.8	101,533
Laos	19	0.1	300	19	0.5	1,608
Malaysia	492	2.2	6,690	492	13.7	41,216
Myanmar	89	0.4	1,200	89	2.5	7,456
Philippines	417	1.9	5,670	417	11.6	34,933
Singapore	327	1.5	4,470	327	9.1	27,394
Thailand	646	2.9	8,790	646	18.0	54,117
Viet Nam	320	1.5	4,350	320	8.9	26,807
China	12,261	55.7	167,070	-	-	-
Japan	4,576	20.8	62,340	-	-	-
Korea	1,598	7.3	21,780	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,016</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>3,581</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>300,000</b>



## Options of Funding Contribution Weighted by Per Capita

Country	Shared by APT			Shared by AMS		
	Per Capita \$	Portion (%)	Share \$	Per Capita \$	Portion (%)	Share \$
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Brunei	54,114	22.7	<b>68,207</b>	54,114	33.6	<b>100,737</b>
Cambodia	2,395	1.0	<b>3,019</b>	2,395	4.0	<b>4,458</b>
Indonesia	4,923	2.1	<b>6,205</b>	4,923	3.1	<b>9,164</b>
Laos	2,847	1.2	<b>3,588</b>	2,847	1.8	<b>5,300</b>
Malaysia	16,794	7.1	<b>21,168</b>	16,794	10.4	<b>31,263</b>
Myanmar	1,612	0.7	<b>2,032</b>	1,612	1.0	<b>3,001</b>
Philippines	4,380	1.8	<b>5,521</b>	4,380	2.7	<b>8,154</b>
Singapore	60,799	25.5	<b>76,633</b>	60,799	37.7	<b>113,181</b>
Thailand	9,503	4.0	<b>11,978</b>	9,503	5.9	<b>17,690</b>
Viet Nam	3,788	1.6	<b>4,774</b>	3,788	2.4	<b>7,052</b>
China	9,055	3.8	<b>11,413</b>	-	-	-
Japan	35,855	15.1	<b>45,193</b>	-	-	-
Korea	31,950	13.4	<b>40,271</b>	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>238,015</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>161,155</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>300,000</b>

Noted: GDP and Per Capita according to International Monetary Fund (2012)



## Options of Funding Contribution

### Weighted by Grouping Total GDP

Country	Shared by APT			Shared by AMS		
	GDP (\$Billion)	Portion (%)	Share \$	GDP (\$Billion)	Portion (%)	Share \$
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Brunei	22	0.1	<b>2,376</b>	22	0.6	<b>14,614</b>
Cambodia	37	0.2	<b>660</b>	37	1.0	<b>4,055</b>
Indonesia	1,212	5.5	<b>8,413</b>	1,212	33.8	<b>51,722</b>
Laos	19	0.1	<b>660</b>	19	0.5	<b>4,055</b>
Malaysia	492	2.2	<b>8,413</b>	492	13.7	<b>51,722</b>
Myanmar	89	0.4	<b>660</b>	89	2.5	<b>4,055</b>
Philippines	417	1.9	<b>8,413</b>	417	11.6	<b>51,722</b>
Singapore	327	1.5	<b>2,376</b>	327	9.1	<b>14,614</b>
Thailand	646	2.9	<b>8,413</b>	646	18.0	<b>51,722</b>
Viet Nam	320	1.5	<b>8,413</b>	320	8.9	<b>51,722</b>
China	12,261	55.7	<b>83,735</b>	-	-	-
Japan	4,576	20.8	<b>83,735</b>	-	-	-
Korea	1,598	7.3	<b>83,735</b>	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,016</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>3,581</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>300,000</b>

#### Grouping

1. Brunei and Singapore
2. Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam
3. Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar
4. China, Japan and Korea

Noted: GDP and Per Capita according to International Monetary Fund (2012)



## Options of Funding Contribution

Weighted by Grouping Per Capita

Country	Shared by APT			Shared by AMS		
	Per Capita \$	Portion (%)	Share \$	Per Capita \$	Portion (%)	Share \$
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Brunei	54,114	22.7	<b>72,420</b>	54,114	33.6	<b>106,959</b>
Cambodia	2,395	1.0	<b>2,880</b>	2,395	1.5	<b>4,253</b>
Indonesia	4,923	2.1	<b>9,929</b>	4,923	3.1	<b>14,665</b>
Laos	2,847	1.2	<b>2,880</b>	2,847	1.8	<b>4,253</b>
Malaysia	16,794	7.1	<b>9,929</b>	16,794	10.4	<b>14,665</b>
Myanmar	1,612	0.7	<b>2,880</b>	1,612	1.0	<b>4,253</b>
Philippines	4,380	1.8	<b>9,929</b>	4,380	2.7	<b>14,665</b>
Singapore	60,799	25.5	<b>72,420</b>	60,799	37.7	<b>106,959</b>
Thailand	9,503	4.0	<b>9,929</b>	9,503	5.9	<b>14,665</b>
Viet Nam	3,788	1.6	<b>9,929</b>	3,788	2.4	<b>14,665</b>
China	9,055	3.8	<b>32,292</b>	-	-	-
Japan	35,855	15.1	<b>32,292</b>	-	-	-
Korea	31,950	13.4	<b>32,292</b>	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>238,015</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>161,155</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>300,000</b>

### Grouping

1. Brunei and Singapore
2. Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam
3. Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar
4. China, Japan and Korea

Noted: GDP and Per Capita according to International Monetary Fund (2012)



## Options of Funding Contribution

Cost sharing by weighted average

Unit : US\$

Country	Weighted by Total GDP		Weighted by Per Capita		Weighted by Grouping Total GDP		Weighted by Group Sharing	
	APT	AMS	APT	AMS	APT	AMS	APT	AMS
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Brunei	300	1,835	68,207	100,737	2,376	14,614	72,420	106,959
Cambodia	510	3,100	3,019	4,458	660	4,055	2,880	4,253
Indonesia	16,530	101,533	6,205	9,164	8,413	51,722	9,929	14,665
Laos	300	1,608	3,588	5,300	660	4,055	2,880	4,253
Malaysia	6,690	41,216	21,168	31,263	8,413	51,722	9,929	14,665
Myanmar	1,200	7,456	2,032	3,001	660	4,055	2,880	4,253
Philippines	5,670	34,933	5,521	8,154	8,413	51,722	9,929	14,665
Singapore	4,470	27,394	76,633	113,181	2,376	14,614	72,420	106,959
Thailand	8,790	54,117	11,978	17,690	8,413	51,722	9,929	14,665
Viet Nam	4,350	26,807	4,774	7,052	8,413	51,722	9,929	14,665
China	167,070	-	11,413	-	83,735	-	32,292	-
Japan	62,340	-	45,193	-	83,735	-	32,292	-
Korea	21,780	-	40,271	-	83,735	-	32,292	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>299,700</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>



## Options of Funding Contribution

### Cost Sharing by Equal Weight

Unit: US\$

Country	Equal Share by APT	Equal Share by AMS	CLM Contribute \$15000	Plus 3 Contribute \$30000	Group Sharing
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Brunei	23,077	30,000	36,429	21,000	45,000
Cambodia	23,077	30,000	15,000	21,000	20,000
Indonesia	23,077	30,000	36,429	21,000	30,000
Laos	23,077	30,000	15,000	21,000	20,000
Malaysia	23,077	30,000	36,429	21,000	30,000
Myanmar	23,077	30,000	15,000	21,000	20,000
Philippines	23,077	30,000	36,429	21,000	30,000
Singapore	23,077	30,000	36,429	21,000	45,000
Thailand	23,077	30,000	36,429	21,000	30,000
Viet Nam	23,077	30,000	36,429	21,000	30,000
China	23,077	-	-	30,000	-
Japan	23,077	-	-	30,000	-
Korea	23,077	-	-	30,000	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>



## ANNEX V

### AFSIS Agreement

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#### AGREEMENT

#### ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY INFORMATION SYSTEM

(Draft I)<sup>1</sup>

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, being members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to collectively as “ASEAN Member States” or individually as “ASEAN Member State”)

And

the Governments of the People’s Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, being the Dialogue Partners of ASEAN (hereinafter referred to collectively as “Plus Three Countries” or individually as “Plus Three Country”)

Hereinafter referred to collectively as “ASEAN Plus Three Countries” or individually as “ASEAN Plus Three Country”

**RECALLING** that all participants at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministers of Plus Three Countries (hereinafter referred to as “AMAF Plus Three”) in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 11 October 2002, endorsed the establishment of the ASEAN Food Security Information System Project (hereinafter referred to as “AFSIS Project”), aimed at strengthening food security in the ASEAN Plus Three Countries through the systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of food security related information.

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<sup>1</sup> The 14<sup>th</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting, 1-2 August 2016, Bangkok, Thailand



**RECALLING FURTHER** that the AFSIS Project was implemented from 2003-2012 based on the collective efforts, support and cooperation of the ASEAN Plus Three Countries;

**RECALLING FURTHER** the Cha-am Hua Hin Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Food Security and Bio-Energy Development declared by the leaders of the ASEAN Plus Three Countries at the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Summit in Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand, on 24 October 2009, which stated that the leaders will strengthen ASEAN Plus Three partnership in developing the ASEAN Food Security Information System to ensure long-term adequacy of staple food supply through the regional mechanism of the ASEAN Plus Three agricultural cooperation framework;

**RECALLING FURTHER** the Joint Press Statement adopted at the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AMAF Plus Three in Jakarta, Indonesia on 7 October 2011, in which the Ministers agreed to and endorsed the Proposal of the Post-2012 ASEAN Food Security Information System which would be operated after the end of the AFSIS Project in 2012;

**RECALLING FURTHER** the Joint Press Statement adopted at the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AMAF Plus Three in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 28 September 2012, in which the ministers endorsed the AFSIS Work Plan for 2013 to 2015 to guide the transformation of the AFSIS into a self-sustaining mechanism during the Establishment Period;

**REITERATING** that food security concern is being recognized as a new challenge against citizens at individual, national and regional levels. Efficient and effective food security related policy is therefore needed to be addressed whereas current, accurate and reliable information remains the key to policy planning; and

**REAFFIRMING** the need for effective and concerted action to be taken by the ASEAN Plus Three Countries aiming at strengthening food security information in the ASEAN Plus Three Countries;

**HAVE AGREED** to the following:



## Article I

### Definitions

For the purpose of this Agreement, the following definitions shall apply unless the context otherwise requires:

- a. “AFSIS” means the ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Information System established under Article II;
- b. “ASEAN Plus Three Country” means a Government of an ASEAN Plus Three Country for which this Agreement is in force;
- c. “AFSIS Board” means the Directors-General of Agricultural Statistics and Information or its equivalent ranks from each ASEAN Plus Three Country;
- d. “AFSIS NC” means the National AFSIS Network Center of an ASEAN Plus Three Country, which is either a national organ, an attached body in close coordination with the Agricultural Information agencies, or a separately established office to assemble and report food security information;
- e. “AFSIS Focal Point” means an assigned representative from the ASEAN Plus Three Member Countries; and
- f. “AFSIS Secretariat” means the AFSIS Secretariat established under Article V.
- g. “AMAF Plus Three” means the respective Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (or their equivalent) of the ASEAN Plus Three Countries, collectively.



## Article II

### Establishment of AFSIS

The ASEAN Plus Three Countries agree:

- a. to establish the AFSIS as a permanent mechanism; and,
- b. that the AMAF Plus Three shall have oversight over the AFSIS and its organs.

## Article III

### Objective

Subject to the terms of this Agreement and the laws, rules, regulations and national policies from time to time in force in each country, AFSIS shall systematically collect, analyze, and disseminate information on regional food security in an accurate, timely, and informative manner through the developing of food security information network and human resource.

## Article IV

### Functions

The functions of AFSIS shall include:

1. To foster strengthening of national food security information organizations as well as promote and strengthen a regional food security information system as a basis for food security cooperation in the ASEAN Plus Three Countries.
2. To conduct periodic reviews of the food security situation in the ASEAN Plus Three Countries and to provide short-term and long-term outlooks and prospects of the food supply, demand, and stability in the region comprising the ASEAN Plus Three Countries (hereinafter the “region”), as well as at the global level.



3. To strengthen and enhance exchange and sharing of food security information among the ASEAN Plus Three Countries with a view to facilitating food security policy planning and cooperation in the region.
4. To promote cooperation among the ASEAN Plus Three Countries as well as with the relevant agencies of other third-party countries or international agencies, in order to provide timely, accurate, and reliable food security information and strengthen human resources development in the Region.
5. To maintain close cooperation with other related ASEAN and ASEAN Plus Three bodies as well as with related extra-ASEAN national and international bodies and organizations in food security information.
6. To recommend its proposed positions on food security information to the Senior Officials' Meeting of the AMAF Plus Three (hereinafter referred to as SOM-AMAF Plus Three) for consideration at relevant international fora.

## Article V

### Structure of AFSIS

1. The structure of the AFSIS consists of four organs.
2. The **AFSIS Board** is a platform for dialogue and consultation which is responsible for providing policy directions and guidance for the AFSIS. The AFSIS Board approves financial modality, considers and endorses Rules of Procedure of the AFSIS and appoints the AFSIS Manager from among the nationals of the ASEAN Member States.
3. The **AFSIS NC** is responsible for assembling and reporting on food security information. Each AFSIS NC is in the authority of representative from each ASEAN Plus Three Member Country.



4. The **AFSIS Focal Points** are assigned by respective ASEAN Plus Three Member Countries to approve an annual work and budget plan of the AFSIS, acknowledge an annual report concerning the activities of the AFSIS as well as other reports prepared by the AFSIS Secretariat and coordinate the activities carried out by the AFSIS Secretariat.
5. The ASEAN Plus Three Countries agree to establish the **AFSIS Secretariat** to carry out its functions and responsibilities, as will be agreed on by the ASEAN Plus Three Countries. The AFSIS Secretariat shall be conferred with legal personality, as may be required for the exercise of its functions under the national laws of the host country of the AFSIS Secretariat's office. The AFSIS Secretariat shall be headed by the AFSIS Manager, to be appointed by the ASEAN Plus Three Countries.
6. The AFSIS Secretariat is responsible for general and administrative coordination and for providing the necessary support for all AFSIS activities.
7. The AFSIS Secretariat's office shall be located in the premises of the Office of Agricultural Economics, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand.

## Article VI

### Responsibility of ASEAN Plus Three Countries

1. In the discharge of their respective duties, the AFSIS Board, AFSIS Focal Point and assigned representative shall act in accordance with the Agreement, and shall display the highest moral character.
2. Attendance by members of the AFSIS Board or the AFSIS Focal Point or an assigned representative at their respective meetings under Article VIII is mandatory.



## Article VII

### Financial Modality

1. The operational budget of the AFSIS shall be met by (a) regular contributions from the ASEAN Plus Three Countries, as set out in paragraph 2 of this Article; and (b) voluntary contributions from collaboration with other third parties or international agencies, as set out in paragraph 3 of this Article.
2. Each ASEAN Plus Three Country shall make a regular annual contribution (the “Regular Contribution”) to cover the AFSIS Core Activities Expenditure, in the manner set out in the Attachment to this Agreement.
3. Voluntary contributions shall be received from collaboration with the third parties or international agencies to support the Food Security Information Development Activities and other food security related activities for effective implementation of AFSIS’ work serving the common interest of food security information and food security related concerns in the ASEAN Plus Three Countries.

## Article VIII

### Meeting Arrangements

1. The AFSIS shall convene two regular meetings per annum, namely the Meeting of the AFSIS Board and the Meeting of the AFSIS Focal Point (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “regular meetings”).
2. The Meeting of the AFSIS Board may be held in a consecutive manner with the Meeting of the AFSIS Focal Point.
3. The host country of the regular meetings shall rotate annually, based on the alphabetical order of the English names of the ASEAN Member States, in conformity with the rotation of the AMAF Plus Three Meeting Protocol.



4. The Plus Three Countries may propose or be nominated to host the regular meetings, subject to mutual agreement between the designated ASEAN Member State for the relevant meeting and the Plus Three Country, which will host the meeting in place of the designated ASEAN Member State.
5. As and when appropriate, the AFSIS may hold special or ad-hoc AFSIS Board and/or AFSIS Focal Point meetings, as may be deemed necessary by the AFSIS Board, or upon the directive of the SOM-AMAF Plus Three.
6. The AFSIS Secretariat shall act as secretary of the meetings.

### **Article IX Amendments**

This Agreement may be amended by written agreement of all members of the AMAF Plus Three. Such amendment shall enter into force on such date as may be determined in writing by the AMAF Plus Three.

### **Article X Suspension of this Agreement**

This Agreement may be suspended by written agreement of the AMAF Plus Three. The effective date and duration of the suspension shall be determined in writing by the AMAF Plus Three.

### **Article XI Dispute Settlement**

Any difference or dispute between the ASEAN Plus Three Countries arising from the interpretation, implementation and/or application of the provisions of this Agreement shall be settled amicably [through consultations and/or negotiations] by the AFSIS Board.



## Article XII

### Final provisions

1. This Agreement shall be open for signature and subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by the ASEAN Plus Three Countries.
2. The instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, who shall be the Depository of this Agreement.
3. This Agreement shall enter into force on the [insert appropriate day] day after the date on which at least [insert minimum number of the ASEAN Plus Three Countries] ASEAN Plus Three Countries have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval.
4. For each ASEAN Plus Three Country that ratifies this Agreement after the conditions set out in paragraph 3 of this Article for the entry into force have been fulfilled, this Agreement shall enter into force on the [insert appropriate day] day following the date of deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval.
5. Attachments to this Agreement shall form an integral part of this Agreement. Amendments to the attachments to this Agreement shall be approved by consensus of the AFSIS Board and shall be proposed and adopted by the AMAF Plus Three for acknowledgement.
6. Any ASEAN Plus Three Member Country may withdraw from this Agreement by giving written notification to the Depository referred to in Paragraph 2 of this Article. Such withdrawal shall take effect upon expiry of six months from the date on which the notification of withdrawal is received by the Depository. Such withdrawal shall be promptly notified to all ASEAN Plus Three Member Countries by the Depository.



7. The original of this Agreement shall be deposited in the archives of the Depositary referred to in Paragraph 2 of this Article. Duly certified copies of this Agreement shall be transmitted by the Depositary to each of the Governments signatory to this Agreement.

8. No reservations may be made to this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorized by their respective Governments have signed this Agreement.

DONE at [insert date and venue] in a single original in the English language.



## ANNEX VI

### The Comprehensive Document on the Establishment of the AFSIS as the Permanent Mechanism<sup>2</sup>

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#### The Transformation of the AFSIS into the Permanent Mechanism

##### 1. Rationale

Endeavour to a consideration of an AFSIS Project in the Post 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase has been discussed in several meetings. At the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (AMAF Plus Three) on 7 October 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia, the Meeting endorsed the initiative of proposal for the Post 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of the AFSIS. Following by the 12<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting held on 28 September 2012 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, the Meeting endorsed the transformation of the AFSIS Project under the AMAF into a permanent mechanism through the Three-Year Work Plan during a 2013-2015 establishment period of the AFSIS.

The AFSIS three-year work plan (2013-2015) has been formulated to guide the project during Establishment period. In the meantime, Thailand has been providing the in-kind contribution in support of the operations of the AFSIS.

Additionally, according to the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA-FS) 2015-2020, it outlines on strengthening integrated food security information systems to effectively forecast, plan and monitor supplies and utilization for basic food commodities as corresponding Strategic Thrusts to the AIFS Framework's Components.

The SPA-FS 2015-2020 underlines the need of establishing the AFSIS as the permanent, self-supporting, functionally independent system based on a formal commitment of member states, and the permanent host of the AFSIS determines by member states and consults with Plus Three Countries for cooperation and technical assistance to sustain the AFSIS.

To ensure the implementation of the AFSIS transformation into the permanent mechanism in accordance with the proposed plan and timeframe, the AFSIS Secretariat organized meetings in order to carry out the establishment of the AFSIS by finalising the four key components in the transformation of the AFSIS into a self-sustained mechanism namely Structure, Products and Services, Financial Modality and Regulations and Procedures. The mandates and suggestions of the Senior officials of

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<sup>2</sup> This document was written in accordance with mandate from the 14<sup>th</sup> AMAF+3 Meeting, September 2014, in Nay Pyi taw, Myanmar to compile the relevant details of the AFSIS in transformation into the permanent mechanism



the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (SOM-AMAF Plus Three) and the AMAF Plus Three were taken into account for a consideration of this matter throughout the Establishment Period.

With regard to this, the readiness of the ASEAN Plus Three Countries in transforming the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism together with the approval from the AMAF Plus Three, the AFSIS shall be established successfully as the permanent mechanism within 2015.

## **2. Goals**

The goals of AFSIS are to ensure and strengthen ASEAN Plus Three long-term food security.

## **3. Objective**

The objective of AFSIS is systematically collect, analyse, and disseminate information on regional food security in an accurate, timely, and informative manner through the development of food security information network and human resource.

## **4. Benefits of the AFSIS**

### **4.1 Acknowledgement of Food Security Situation**

Information has continued playing a vital role in any national development and growth. Agricultural information provision and dissemination is a must for every responsible government because it will allow the nation to be well-informed on the food security situation of the country in general. The AFSIS provide the region with useful food security information which contributes to foreseeing the agricultural situation and better policy making of the nation.

### **4.2 Database for Agricultural Development Planning**

The AFSIS Database provides information of five major food crops namely rice, maize, soybean, sugarcane and cassava which can be used for policy- makers and policy-implementers to develop food security plan and policy to ensure food security for their people as well as concern parties such as exporters, importers or farmers to access to the ASEAN food security information.

### **4.3 Strengthen Human Resources Development**

The AFSIS aims to increase the capacity of ASEAN Member States (AMSs) through a combination of activities. These activities are planned to support the development of human resources working in agricultural statistics sectors with knowledge and skills through training and capacity development from the AFSIS and dialogue partners such as an annual training from the Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China as well as a training/workshop on the AFSIS forecasting model from Japan.



In order to serve the region with quality of information, the accuracy, reliability and timeliness of information are needed. The AFSIS assists to enhance the potential to produce data in AMSs and to improve the capability of information development to meet the same efficient standard in the region through human resources development.

#### **4.4 Food Crop Situation and Outlook for Policy Planner**

A food security forecast cannot be proceeded without the provision of information. Similarly, the assessment and analysis of food security situation for policy planning process require necessary information from reliable sources. The AFSIS provides food security information which is both domestically and internationally used to monitor or forecast the food security situation.

#### **4.5 Provision of Network Equipment**

The AFSIS provides not only a financial support but also an in-kind contribution such as computer, telecommunication equipment and other necessary arrangements to ensure the implementation of AFSIS operations as well as to facilitate its members in integrating the national network system with the regional one. Hence, contributing technology equipment is the fundamental basis in enhancing the food security network system in ASEAN.

#### **4.6 Center for Food Security information**

The AFSIS functions as a hub of an active and dynamic network of food security information. Previous to the formation of the AFSIS, the compilation of agricultural data was dispersed in each member states thus, the AFSIS as a regional centre of food security information is dedicated to ensure the collection of the correct and good quality data and information.

### **5. Establishment of the AFSIS**

To establish the AFSIS as the self-sustained mechanism in compliance with the endorsement from the 11<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting in preparation of the transformation into the permanent mechanism with the aim of serving the region as the centre of food security information, the four key components namely Structures, Products and Services, Financial Modality and Regulations and Procedures have been discussed in several AFSIS Meetings and were finalised by the Directors-General and Focal Points of AFSIS as follows:



## 5.1 Structure

The AFSIS will be an evolution of the 10-year AFSIS Project established under the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Framework, as a subsidiary body under the AMAF Plus Three through a phased approach toward the self-reliant body. The structure of the AFSIS is the hierarchical arrangement which determines how the roles, authority and responsibilities are assigned and coordinated between all concerned parties of the AFSIS. The establishment of the permanent mechanism shall be neutrality and give an opportunity to all member states to participate in the management of the AFSIS. It will consist of three main grounds which are;

### 5.1.1 AFSIS Board

The AFSIS board is the oversight body of the AFSIS acting as a platform dialogue and consultation in providing policy direction, approving operations and activities, and promoting cooperation and partnership. The board member will be the Director-General of Agricultural Statistics and Information or its equivalent ranks from the respective ASEAN Plus Three Countries.

### 5.1.2 AFSIS Network Centers (AFSIS NCs)

AFSIS NCs are a collection of National network Centers which attached bodies in close coordination with Agricultural Information agencies or can be established separately in each ASEAN Plus Three country. Every National Network Center coordinates and manages the implementation of AFSIS activities in close consultation with the AFSIS Secretariat. Operational supervision will be provided by the AFSIS Secretariat to ensure smooth implementation and successful outcomes. The Focal Point performs as a representative of the AFSIS NC from each APT country to carry out the AFSIS implementation.

### 5.1.3 AFSIS Secretariat

The AFSIS Secretariat is responsible for assisting and providing necessary services, facilitating and coordinating with the member countries for the AFSIS implementation and reporting progress and achievements to the Board, coordinating with information sharing activities among AFSIS NCs, preparing a draft Analysis Food Security Information Report (e.g., ACO report and EWI report, broadening cooperation with other concerned agencies and partnerships (e.g., FAO, ADB and AMIS) on the issues related to technical assistance and also participating annually in the SOM-AMAF Plus Three meeting and the AMAF Plus Three meeting to report the progress of activities and achievements each year. The AFSIS Secretariat is located in the OAE, MOAC Thailand and led by the AFSIS Manager as a head of the Secretariat. It consists of the Secretariat personnel, which are core staff and food security consultants and experts.



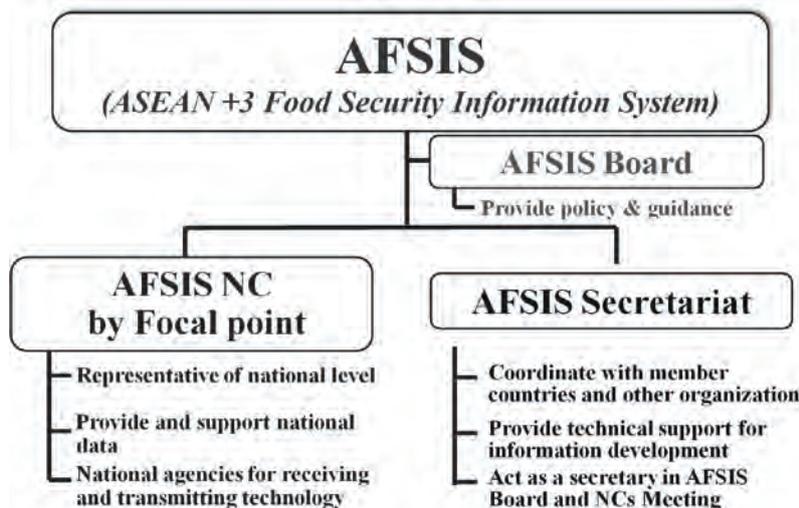


Figure 1: AFSIS Structure

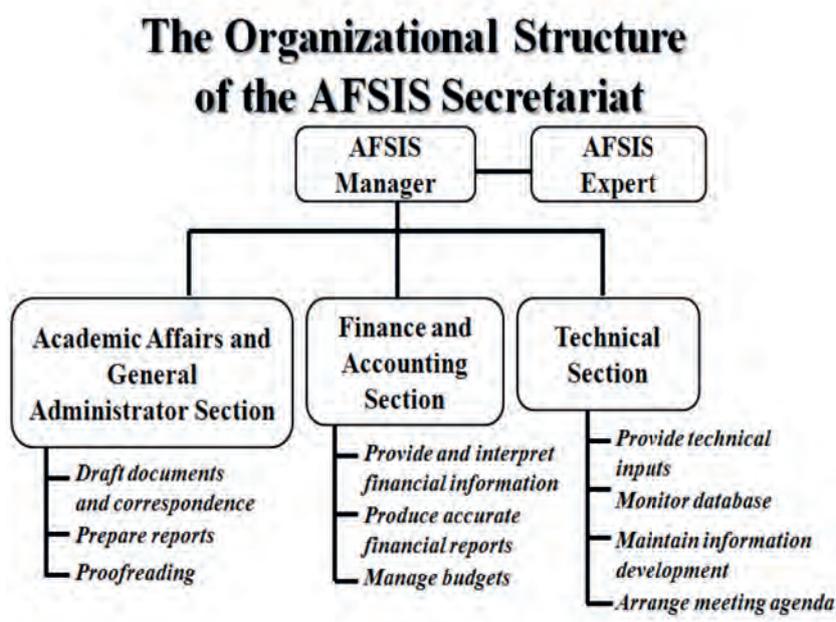


Figure 2: AFSIS Secretariat Organizational Structure

## 5.2 Products and Services

Products and services are the outputs of AFSIS operations following the goals and objectives of the AFSIS through two main activities; human resources development and information network system development. It consists of four categories namely, *food security database, integrated food security Information, training and capacity development, and cross cutting and new areas.*



### 5.2.1 Food Security Database:

The AFSIS database and website <http://www.afsisnc.org> have purpose of disseminating the data and information that contains a time series data on food security related information of five major food crops namely rice, maize, soybean, sugarcane and cassava. The website <http://www.afsisnc.org> is also the mutual source where all National AFSIS NCs of ASEAN Plus Three Countries will update data on a regular basis.

### 5.2.2 Integrated Food Security Information

The Integrated Food Security Information is a set of regional food security information reports which the outcomes have been analyzed and available to all users in order to apply or proceed in the food security situations. The integrated food security information consists of the EWI report - an analysis report of crop situation and production of the current year and the subsequence harvesting season particularly, in damaged areas, ACO report- a situation analysis report of both supply and demand of food crops in current year and the subsequence year forecast, Food Security Forecasting Model - the model that based on modelling systems will be developed to generate short-term, medium-term and long-term forecasts as a basis for policy planning and development, Food Security Policy Briefs which provide senior decision-makers and general users with a concise synopsis of developments in key sectors relevant to food security, and ASEAN Food Security Analysis Report (AFSAR) - an in-depth analysis of data by statistic-oriented and economics-oriented approach to examine the impact of food supply-demand and prices in the region

### 5.2.3 Training and Capacity Development

The effective information system development successful operation of the AFSIS will be in crucial need for human resource development in order to create standard of database for every member country and strengthen the capacity building in food security information at national level. Therefore, training/workshop is considered a high priority activity of AFSIS to ensure that each member country has the same standard and capability in implementing the AIFS Framework and SPA-FS plan both domestically and regionally.

### 5.2.4 Cross Cutting and new areas

Cross Cutting and new areas are cooperation between the AFSIS and other food security related agencies in strengthening the food security information system as well as developing food security information and human resources, such as the FAO, the ADB and etc.



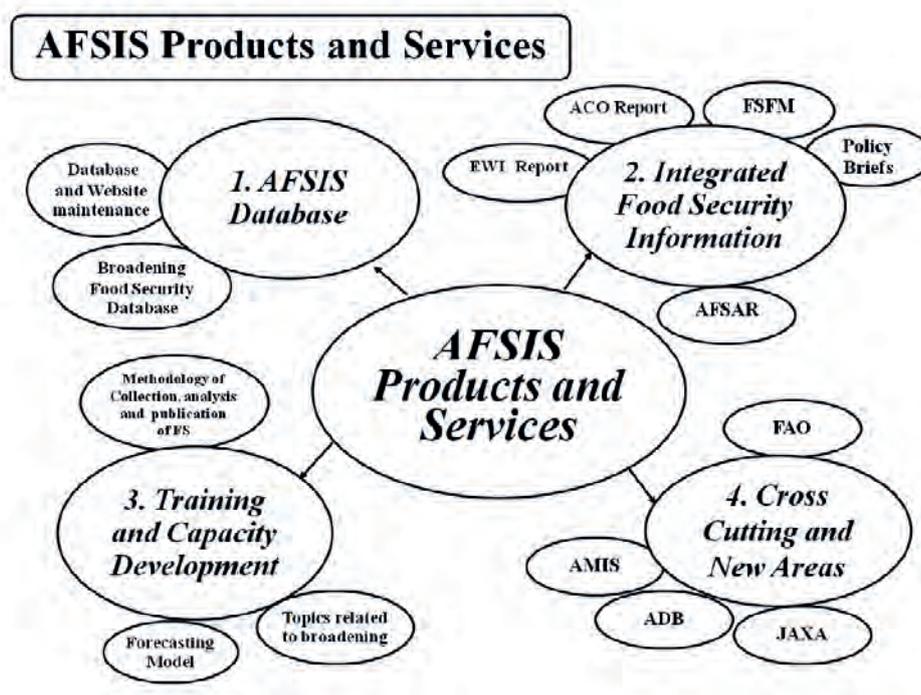


Figure 3: AFSIS Products and Services

### 5.3 Financial Modality

Financial Modality is one of the most significant matters in establishing the permanent mechanism. During the past two phases as a project, the AFSIS was financially supported by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan from 2003-2012. In compliance to the AMAF Plus Three's mandate and a request for establishing the AFSIS into the self-sustained mechanism successfully in 2015, it is required substantial financial supports from ASEAN Plus Three Countries for two AFSIS activities, namely *Core Activities* and *Food Security Information Development Activities*. The financial modality of the AFSIS has been discussed and agreed in principle among the Directors-General and Focal Points in the proportion of budget contribution as well as the total amount of the AFSIS Core Activity Expenditure in order to ensure and maintain AFSIS implementation and activities.

To this relation, the Regular Contribution from ASEAN Plus Three Countries will maintain Core Activities. With regard to the Information Development Activities, the financial support shall be obtained from other food security related agencies as a Non-regular Contribution. The resolutions on the respective issues are as follows:

### 5.3.1 AFSIS Activities

The AFSIS activities are divided into the following two main activities:

a) Core Activities: the purpose of core activities is to ensure a continuity and progression of the AFSIS as the permanent mechanism. It composes of conducting meeting, maintaining database, providing reports and publications as well as carrying out administrative tasks. The annual budget estimate for the Core Activities is USD 229,500 in total.

No.	Description	Budget Estimates (USD)
1.	<b>AFSIS Board Meeting</b>	<b>54,000</b>
2.	<b>AFSIS Focal Point Meeting</b>	<b>50,000</b>
3.	<b>Maintenance database and Website</b>	<b>5,400</b>
4.	<b>Employment cost</b>	<b>54,000</b>
5.	<b>ASEAN Member States</b> <i>-Dispatch FS data</i>	<b>24,000</b> 24,000
6.	<b>General Operating Expenses</b> <i>- ACO report</i> <i>- Annual report</i> <i>- Other activities</i> <i>- Computer supply</i>	<b>16,520</b> 4,800 2,400 4,560 4,760
7.	<b>Contingency</b>	<b>25,580</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>229,500</b>

Table1: The AFSIS Core Activity Expenditure

b) Information Development Activities the AFSIS aims to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of its members in developing information system of regional food security such as, Data Correction Improvement, ASEAN Food Security Analysis Report (AFSAR), Database Development, Model Development, Crop Monitoring, Demand and Supply Analysis, Policy Briefs, increase the national capacity of human resources development in each AMS and etc.



### 5.3.2 Sources of Contribution

The budget contribution to the AFSIS comes from two sources as follows:

a) Regular Contribution: It is a committed annual contribution from ASEAN Plus Three Member Countries to the AFSIS Core Activity Expenditure for implementing Core Activities smoothly. A certain amount of funding contribution to the AFSIS has been finalised as of USD 229,500 per annum.

b) Non-regular Contribution: It is a voluntary financial contribution which can be obtained from collaboration with other third parties or international agencies to serve and support the second purpose of expenditure in information development activities of the AFSIS.

### 5.3.3 Contribution Sharing

The AFSIS observed and consulted with Focal Points on the possibility of AFSIS financial contribution in order to finalise this relevant issue. The different methods of contribution sharing were presented to the Focal Point Meeting for consideration such as by measure of Total Gross Domestic Product (GDP), GDP Per Capita and by estimating Cost Sharing by Equal Weight including cross referencing the ASEAN Charter on the operational budget and financial of the ASEAN Secretariat which is met by its member states through equal annual contributions and other cooperative bodies under ASEAN, i.e., *ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve* (APTERR). Nevertheless, after the discussions and consultations, the Focal Point Meeting concluded that the concept of financial modality shall be made through equal basis as shown below:

The annual financial contribution of ASEAN Plus Three Countries for supporting the Core Activities is as follows:

a) ASEAN Member States shall share approximately 70% on an equal basis of the total budget contribution as the amount of USD 160,500.

b) Plus Three Countries shall share approximately 30% on an equal basis of the total budget contribution as the amount of USD 69,000.



No.	ASEAN Plus Three Countries	Total contribution (USD)	Percentage Share by Group (%)
1.	Brunei Darussalam	16,050	70 %
2.	Cambodia	16,050	
3.	Indonesia	16,050	
4.	Lao PDR	16,050	
5.	Malaysia	16,050	
6.	Myanmar	16,050	
7.	Philippines	16,050	
8.	Singapore	16,050	
9.	Thailand	16,050	
10.	Viet Nam	16,050	
	<b>Total for AMSs</b>	<b>160,500</b>	
11.	P.R. China	23,000	30%
12.	Japan	23,000	
13.	Republic of Korea	23,000	
	<b>Total for Plus Three Countries</b>	<b>69,000</b>	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>229,500</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 2: Regular Contribution from ASEAN Plus Three Countries

#### 5.4 Regulations and Procedures

At the 11<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, the Ministers agreed and endorsed Proposal of Post-2012 ASEAN Food Security Information System to transform AFSIS project to permanent mechanism. In this regard, agreement and regulation among ASEAN Plus Three are required for implementation.

AFSIS regulations consist of the written document on the establishment of the AFSIS, which describes the common understanding among ASEAN Plus Three Countries, and Rule of Procedure (ROP), which is a standard manual, and rules among AFSIS members.

Initially, the first draft of the TOR and ROP was drafted in accordance with the 6<sup>th</sup> DG Meeting in March 2012 in Tokyo, Japan. Later on, the TOR was presented to the Focal Points and Directors-General of the AFSIS for consideration.

However, at the recent 13<sup>th</sup> Focal Point Meeting on 31 March – 1 April 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand, the Meeting recommended the AFSIS Secretariat to change the Terms of Reference (TOR) to the non-legally binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

After the consideration from the 8<sup>th</sup> Directors-General Meeting on 15-17 June 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand, the proposed draft of the non-legally binding MOU was deferred due to the financial commitment of the ASEAN Plus Three Countries, the Directors-General reckoned that the legal binding instrument will serve better the AFSIS and requested the ASEAN Secretariat to support on this matter.



At present, the approaching end of the establishment period is highlighted as a prioritize task, the permanent mechanism of the AFSIS shall be endorsed by the 15<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting in September in Manila, the Philippines this year though the TOR.

With regard to, the ROP of AFSIS is in the process of drafting while the further discussion on this session is required and shall given an approval after the establishment of AFSIS enters into force by the AFSIS Board.

## 6. Suggestions and Responses

Apart from maintaining the routine works, the AFSIS also implements in accordance with the recommendations and mandates guided by the SOM-AMAF Plus Three and the AMAF Plus Three in order to ensure the smooth implementation of the transformation of the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism. The suggestions and responses are listed as follows:

### 6.1 Proposal for the Post 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of the AFSIS

According to the 11<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting on 7 October 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia, the Meeting endorsed the proposal for the post-2012 of AFSIS.

Pursuant to this, the AFSIS formulated the three-year Work Plan from 2013-2015 to guide the transformation of the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism during the Establishment Period.

### 6.2 AFSIS Establishment Period

The Meeting endorsed the AFSIS three-year Work Plan for 2013-2015 at the 12<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting on 28 September 2012 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Meeting also approved an establishment of the AFSIS as a self-sustained mechanism under the Establishment Period.

The AFSIS Secretariat organized several Director-General and Focal Point meetings to consult for in-depth discussion in order to finalise the four key components related to the transformation of the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism namely Structure, Products and Services, Financial Modality and Regulations and Procedures.

### 6.3 Evaluation of the AFSIS

The AMAF Plus Three Meeting considered priority in conducting the evaluation of the AFSIS to identify the readiness and usefulness of AMSs in term of technical and financial capacities to look the future of the AFSIS after termination of AFSIS Project for sustainability and value enhancement at the 12<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting on 28 September 2012 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.



The evaluation of the AFSIS implementation and activities by the respected evaluator from Kasetsart University can be summarized that the effectiveness and usefulness of AFSIS implementation as a project were satisfied by concerned parties and there was a demand for continuation of the implementation after the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase in 2012.

The recommendations focused that the AFSIS should maximize the use of on-line communication and activities. Regarding financial issues, it was recommended that ASEAN Plus Three Countries should provide contributions for the implementation to ensure the sustainability and full participation of the AFSIS.

#### **6.4 Legal Effect**

At the Special SOM-34<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting during 13-14 August 2013 in Pakse, Champasak Province, Lao PDR, the Meeting agreed on the transformation of the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism, whereas, the legal binding agreement was not required for the establishment of the AFSIS subject to the internal process of the respective ASEAN Member States.

The AFSIS convened the Focal Points meetings to find the solution on the legal status of AFSIS in accordance with mandate of the Special SOM- AMAF and consequently, the TOR of the AFSIS was drafted.

#### **6.5 Strengthening Food Security Information Capacity at National Level**

Endeavour to strengthen food security information of AMSs at national level was mentioned in the Special SOM-34<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting during 13-14 August 2013, Pakse, Champasak Province, Lao PDR and reiterated in the Special SOM-13<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting on 20 August 2014 in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.

Over ten years of AFSIS operations as the Project as well as the continuation during the Establishment Period, the AFSIS has been focusing on strengthening food security information and developing human resources at the national level of the AMSs before coming up with the regional system according to the AFSIS objectives. The activities and implementations of the AFSIS on enhancing the national capacities of food security information are summarized as a listing below:

##### **6.5.1 Supporting Food Security Information Network and Hardware**

Since the AFSIS was established as the Project in 2003, the AFSIS has been contributing in cash/in kind supports to AMSs who are lack of network equipments to set up their national information network systems to link with regional system in order to strengthen the national capacities and enhance the potential of food security information system.



### 6.5.2 Enhancing Food Security Database

In order to acquire accurate, timely and reliable food security information from each AMS, the AFSIS provides in cash contribution to implement national tools for compiling data in five main agricultural commodities in term of quality and timeliness to the AFSIS database. The databases provide all basic information required for the assessment of food security situation and policy planning in the region.

### 6.5.3 Training and Capacity Development

For effective and successful operation of the AFSIS, it is inevitable that human resources on food security information of ASEAN Plus Countries need to be enhanced. Thus, training/workshop is considered a high priority activity. There were 750 participants from AMSs attending 38 trainings/workshops arranged by the AFSIS from 2003 to 2015 in order to develop the capacity building at national level in term of food security information technical skills.

No.	Subject Title	Date	Venue	No. participants
1	Training on Statistical Survey Techniques	1 - 5 Dec. 2003	Bangkok, Thailand	23
2	Training on Application of Information and Network Technology in Agriculture	7 - 13 Jun. 2004	Beijing, P.R. China	40
3	Training on Statistical Data Analysis and Forecasting	22 - 26 Nov. 2004	Bangkok, Thailand	26
4	Training on Food Security Information System and Technology	7 - 14 Aug. 2005	Beijing, P.R. China	20
5	Training on Application of Information and Network Technology in Agriculture	10 - 15 Oct. 2005	Seoul, Korea	24
6	Training on Agricultural statistical Data Collection Analysis & Dissemination of Information	6 - 20 Aug. 2006	Seoul, Korea	20
7	Training on Food Security Network and Information System Application for ASEAN Countries	26 Nov.- 4 Dec. 2009	Beijing, P.R. China	20
8	Training on Food Security Data Analysis	11 – 23 Dec. 2006	Bangkok, Thailand	22

Table 3: The list of training and workshop



No.	Subject Title	Date	Venue	No. participants
9	Training on Food Security Information System and Technology for ASEAN Member Countries	26 Aug.- 4 Sep. 2007	Seoul, Korea	25
10	Training on ASEAN Food Security Information System	20 - 29 Oct. 2007	Beijing, P.R. China	14
11	Workshop on Agricultural Economic Data Analysis for Commodity Outlook and Early Warning Information	11 - 21 Dec. 2007	Bangkok, Thailand	19
12	Training on ASEAN Food Security Information System	27 - 31 Oct. 2008	Beijing, P.R. China	10
13	Training on Agricultural Statistical Data Collection, Analysis & Dissemination of Information	6 - 21 Nov. 2008	Korea	18
14	Training on Forecasting Technique and the Development of Agricultural Commodity Outlook	1 - 12 Dec. 2008	Bangkok, Thailand	19
15	Training on Basic Knowledge and Technique for Agricultural Statistics Planning	17-26 Jun. 2009	Tokyo, Japan	21
16	Training on ASEAN Food Security Information System	30 Jul.- 14 Aug. 2009	Korea	18
17	Training on ASEAN Food Security Information System	8 - 19 Sep. 2009	Beijing, P.R. China	29
18	Training on Development of Agricultural Production Information	26 Nov.- 4 Dec. 2009	Bangkok, Thailand	22
19	Training on Social Network Implementation for AFSIS	11 - 22 Oct. 2010	Bangkok, Thailand	18
20	Training on Basic Knowledge and Technique for Improvement of Accuracy of Statistics	17 - 25 Nov. 2010	Tokyo, Japan	21
21	Training on Basic Knowledge and Technique for Improvement of Accuracy of Statistics	20 - 29 Jul. 2011	Tokyo, Japan	20
22	Training on China-ASEAN Statistical Information Exchange and IT Service of Food Production	18 - 23 Oct. 2011	Beijing, P.R. China	16
23	Learning Programme for ASEAN Food Security Professionals	14 - 23 Feb. 2012	Bangkok, Thailand	25
24	Training on Preparing Food Security Policy Briefs	28 - 31 Aug. 2012	Bangkok, Thailand	11



No.	Subject Title	Date	Venue	No. participants
25	Advanced Learning Programme for ASEAN Food Security Professionals – Year 2	20 - 29 Nov. 2012	Bangkok, Thailand	20
26	The 1 <sup>st</sup> AFSIS Forecasting Model Training Program	8 – 13 Jul. 2013	Bangkok, Thailand	20
27	The 6 <sup>th</sup> Workshop on the Agricultural Data Collection Analysis & Dissemination of Information in Korea	2 - 9 Sep. 2013	Jeju-do Island, South Korea	12
28	Training on Improving Communication and Knowledge Exchange for Food Security in ASEAN	5 - 14 Nov. 2013	Bangkok, Thailand	24
29	Training on China-ASEAN Statistical Information Exchange and IT Service of Food Production	26 Nov. - 2 Dec. 2013	Beijing, P. R. China	9
30	The First Workshop on Forecasting Model Activity	11 - 13 Dec. 2013	Bangkok, Thailand	15
31	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Forecasting Model Training Program	26 - 30 May 2014	Bangkok, Thailand	16
32	Workshop on Capacity Building in Agricultural Statistics and ICT Application	5 - 15 Oct. 2014	Daejeon, Korea	20
33	Workshop on China-ASEAN Information Management and IT Application of Food Production Safety	25 - 29 Nov. 2014	Jiangsu, P.R. China	10
34	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Forecasting Model Workshop	15 - 19 Dec. 2014	Bangkok, Thailand	20
35	The 3 <sup>rd</sup> Forecasting Model Training Program	6 – 10 Jul. 2015	Bangkok, Thailand	20
34	Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science	19 – 28 Oct. 2015	Tokyo, Japan	8
36	The 8 <sup>th</sup> Workshop on the Agricultural Data Collection Analysis and Dissemination of Information	18 – 28 Oct. 2015	Busan, Korea	20
37	China-ASEAN Information Management and IT Application of Food Safety Production	4 -11 Nov. 2015	Shanghai, P.R. China	15
38	The 3 <sup>rd</sup> Workshop on Forecasting Model Activity	23-25 Nov. 2015	Bangkok, Thailand	20
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>750</b>



#### **6.5.4 Agricultural Land Information System (ALIS)**

A chronic lack of labor and budget on statistic task as well as experience staff would be considered as the main factors of blocking the conduction of sample survey. Therefore, the AFSIS Expert has considered a tool by using personal computer to make an area framework, estimate agricultural land area, and developed the statistical system called Agricultural Land Information System (ALIS). The ALIS is a new and epoch-making area survey system using area mesh frame for countries which agricultural statistics survey is developed. The ALIS is in turn enabling to get area data with a small number of labors, low budgets based, and sustainable. The statistical seminars on sample theory and data accuracy based on the actual result of area sample survey using the ALIS were conducted in Cambodia, Lao PRD and the Philippines.

#### **6.5.5 Food Security Forecasting Model**

According to the AFSIS three-year Work Plan, the MAFF Japan and the AFSIS have foreseen the importance of forecasted food security information which Japan has technically and financially supported the AFSIS by dispatching the Expert to the AFSIS Secretariat to generate Food security forecasts based on modeling systems as a basic for policy planning and development. The objective of the AFSIS Forecasting Model is to provide the ASEAN Member States with the means to forecast food security information in order to strengthen food security information at national level.

#### **6.5.6 The Real-Time ASEAN Food Security Information Network and Developing Human Resources Project**

The AFSIS in cooperation with the Republic of Korea and the Korea Agency of Education, Promotion and Information Service in Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (EPIS) established the project with aims of contributing to food enhancement in ASEAN Plus Three countries by implementing the National Agricultural Information System (NAIS) to strengthen the food security information capacity at national level and build human resources development to develop experts in the region. The pilot project has been carried out in Lao PDR later in 2014 and other selected ASEAN Member States namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Viet Nam within 2016.

In addition, from the evaluation in various aspects, it showed that the benefits from the AFSIS operations mentioned by respondents are the improvement in their capacities and national information system in term of effectiveness and usefulness.

### **6.6 Information Development**

Pursuant to the 13<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting on 27 September 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and the Special SOM-13<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting on 20 August 2014 in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, the Meetings were of the view that in provision of the agricultural statistics information providing by the AFSIS, accurate, reliable and timely informative manner are required.



The main activities of the AFSIS are concerned with the constructions of human resources development and food security information development. At present, the AFSIS is the center of food security dataset compiling official data from ASEAN Member States in order to accumulate data to fill in its database. It analyzed and publishes the two periodic reports which are the EWI Report and the ACO Report.

Regarding, the accuracy and definition of data mentioned at the SSOM-13<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting, the AFSIS has clarified the data definition with the Focal Points who acknowledged correspondingly. In addition, the data acquisition of five agricultural commodities gathered from AMSs has been verified as official data under the responsibility of Focal Points before submitting to the AFSIS Secretariat.

However, the accuracy of data collecting from each country depends on the potential of data producing of the country. Occasionally, some member countries can not submit the official data on the given date, the AFSIS Secretariat, therefore, asks the member countries to compile the preliminary data in the meantime. While, the AFSIS Secretariat estimates a reliable data and asks the original country to verify accordingly. The estimated data shows slightly discrepancy with the up-to-date data once it releases from the original country. With regard to this, the data quality of AFSIS is expected to be improved.

In regard to, the confidentiality of AFSIS data set, disclosing the food security information from AMSs is one of the AFSIS concern subject to national sensitivity and data sovereignty. Additionally, the accessibility to AFSIS database is highly secured which require log-on password in order to update/modify data and only resisted/authorized officer can access to the database. Nevertheless, the details of data sensitivity shall be identified by the Focal Points in due course.

## 6.7 Organization of AFSIS Meetings

At the SSOM-13<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, the Meeting mentioned that the AFSIS shall conduct meeting for intensive consultation among ASEAN Member States.

Since its operation as the Project in 2003, the AFSIS organized meetings for intensive consultation with ASEAN Plus Three Countries. There are two regular annual meetings. One is the Directors-General of the Agricultural Statistics and Information or AFSIS Board Meeting whom participants are top executives of organization involved in agricultural statistics and the ASEAN Secretariat regarding the effective means of the AFSIS. Another meeting is the Focal Point Meeting, the decision-making mechanism of the AFSIS and the Ad-hoc Meeting concerning a specific purpose



or end presently under consideration. There were 13 Meetings convened by the AFSIS regarding the transformation of the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism.

No.	Subject Title	Date	Venue
1	The 5 <sup>th</sup> AFSIS DG Meeting and the 8 <sup>th</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting	30 Mar. – 1 Apr. 2010	Pusan, Korea
2	Workshop on Accelerating Activities and Food Security Development	17 - 18 May 2010	Tokyo, Japan
3	Technical Meeting	6 - 7 Sep. 2010	Ayutthaya, Thailand.
4	The 9 <sup>th</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting	19 - 21 Jan. 2011	Da-Nang, Viet Nam
5	The Meeting on the Proposal of Post 2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase of AFSIS Project	24 - 25 May 2011	Bangkok, Thailand
6	The 6 <sup>th</sup> AFSIS DG Meeting and the 10 <sup>th</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting	14-16 Mar. 2012	Tokyo, Japan
7	The Consultation Meeting on (AFSIS Mechanism	22-24 Oct. 2012	Bangkok, Thailand
8	The 7 <sup>th</sup> Directors-General Meeting and the 11 <sup>th</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting	2-3 Apr. 2013	Pattaya, Thailand
9	The 1 <sup>st</sup> Ad Hoc Focal Point Meeting of AFSIS in ASEAN Plus Three Countries	9 Jul. 2013	Bangkok, Thailand
10	The 12 <sup>th</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting	26 - 27 May 2014	Bangkok, Thailand
11	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Ad-Hoc Task Force in Developing AFSIS into Permanent Mechanism	16 - 17 Jul. 2014	Phuket, Thailand
12	The 13 <sup>th</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting	31 Mar. - 1 Apr. 2015	Bangkok, Thailand
13	The 8 <sup>th</sup> AFSIS DG Meeting	15 - 17 Jun. 2015	Bangkok, Thailand

Table 4: List of the AFSIS Meetings

## 6.8 Financial Modality

The Ad-hoc Focal Points Meeting of the AFSIS held on 9 July 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, emphasized the multiple proposed of multiple options on contribution sharing. Later the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Ad-hoc Task Force in Developing the AFSIS into the Permanent Mechanism during 16-17 July 2014 in Phuket, Thailand, took note of the suggestion that the AFSIS should cross reference the current financial modality under the AMAF Plus Three, followed by the SSOM-13<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting on 20 August 2014 in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, which the Meeting suggested that the AFSIS should cross reference financial modality from the ASEAN Charter.



In order to find the suitable financial modality regarding recommendations from the meetings, the Focal Points of the AFSIS explored the possibility of financial concepts from related international agencies i.e. FAO, the current mechanism under the AMAF Plus Three i.e. the APTERR and examined the financial regulations of the ASEAN Charter.

To this end, the Focal Points of the AFSIS took into account on cross referencing the financial concepts of related international agencies which weight the contribution sharing by using GDP, GDP Per Capita, and Population in line with intensive consultations among the ASEAN Plus Three Member Countries to finalise the proportion of contribution sharing into two groups which the AMSs shall share approximately 70% on the equal basis and the Plus Three Countries shall share approximately 30% of the total budget as of USD 229,500 per annum. The details of financial modality of the AFSIS appear in Table 2 of this document.

### 6.9 Consultation with Plus Three Countries

At the SSOM-13<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting on 20 August 2014 in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, The Meeting suggested the AFSIS to seek consultation with dialogue partners and other third parties.

The AFSIS consultation with the Plus Three Countries and other related agencies to support the continuation of the transformation of the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism was of the view that the status of the AFSIS as permanent mechanism is required in order to collaborate for further enhancement of food security information in the region. Since the establishment period will soon be terminated, the clarification on the status of the AFSIS after 2015 is one of significant concerns.

## 7. Establishment Plan of the Transformation of the AFSIS into the Permanent Mechanism

The establishment plan of the AFSIS aims of outlining possible steps forward in the process of transforming the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism. Therefore, the Multi-Year Plan and Activities of the Establishment Plan of AFSIS were formulated. To follow the mandate of the 14<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar in tasking the AFSIS to develop the roadmap for the establishment of AFSIS as permanent mechanism, the AFSIS generated the roadmap of the transformation accordingly.

## 8. The Current Progress of the AFSIS

In accordance with the mandate from the AMAF Plus Three in transforming the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism, the AFSIS has been operated under the Establishment Period from 2013 to 2015. It proceeds in two aspects which are the *establishment implementation* that carries out the activities related to the establishment of the permanent mechanism and the *functional implementation* which performs routine tasks.



However, in consideration of the approaching termination of the Establishment period and the need to continue its operation, the Directors-General and Focal Points of AFSIS supported the establishment of the permanent mechanism and saw importance that the new AFSIS's status shall be appointed by the 15<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting in September 2015, in Manila, the Philippines.

## 9. Ongoing Implementation of the AFSIS

During the three-year preparation of the transformation, the continuation of functional implementation has been proceeded in order to maintain and ensure the AFSIS activities in both Information Network Development and Human Resource Development e.g., *Food Security Forecasting Model*, *Real Time ASEAN Food Security Information Network* and *Developing Human Resources*, organizing annual technical trainings in People's Republic of China and Republic of Korea, publishing biannual food security concerned reports (namely, *Agricultural Commodity Outlook* and *Early Warning Information*) and database maintenance and its collaboration with the concerned international agencies and relevant mechanisms i.e., the *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*, the *Asian Development Bank (ADB)*, the *Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)*, *DuPont* and etc. This is to emphasize that the status of the AFSIS after the termination of the Establishment Period is necessary, because without the substantial status, the AFSIS cannot continue its functions.

## 10. Issues of Discussion

Pertaining to the remaining issues being discussed among the Board and Focal Points of the AFSIS, one significant subject is the legal status of the AFSIS after the establishment of the permanent mechanism. With reference to the AMAF Plus Three, the Meeting suggested that the legal binding was not require for the establishment of the AFSIS, due to the internal process of respective ASEAN Member States, whereas the AFSIS Board was deliberated in non-legally binding entity will serve better in this regard. To this end, the AFSIS Board agreed that the AFSIS

Secretariat would report to the upcoming Special SOM-14<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three with a recommendation to consider a direction of the AFSIS.

## 11. Concluding Remarks

For the AFSIS, 2015 is considered to be the last year of the Establishment Period. In order to achieve the establishment successfully, first and foremost, the preparation of the AFSIS's transformation will be reported to the forthcoming Special SOM-14<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting in August in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar through the comprehensive documents underlying the structure, products and services, financial modality and regulations and procedures of the establishment of the AFSIS together with the Roadmap of transformation of the AFSIS and the TOR of the AFSIS for agreement in principle and followed by, submission to the 15<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting for agreement and endorsement.



## Roadmap of the Transformation of the AFSIS into the Permanent Mechanism<sup>3</sup>

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### 1. Rationale

Over the past few decades, food security has been one of the great concerns of human being. The growing concern for food security has galvanized the international community into greater cooperation. In ASEAN Plus Three region, a home to 30 percent of the world's population where undernourishment, economic crisis and natural disaster are still challenges to overcome in order to attain the long-term food stability and sustainability. ASEAN has been on the forefront of addressing food security priorities and pushed food security to the top of its agenda amid continuing global concerns. Throughout the years, every nation and the concerned food security stakeholders grasp the food security situation and trends in order to set a sound and suitable food security policy. It is apparent that information is an important tool in decision-making process. Therefore, the assessment and analysis of food security situation for policy planner cannot be achieved without information from reliable sources.

In 2001, the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (AMAF Plus Three) held in Medan, Indonesia, the Meeting approved the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Project, which was commenced in 2003 in order to disseminate the provision of accurate, reliable and timely food security information which is an important tool for policy development and intervention at the national and regional levels. Since its commencement, the AFSIS Project was implemented in two phases. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase was from 2003 - 2007 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase was from 2008-2012.

Prior to the termination of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the AFSIS Project, endeavor to transform the Project into a self-sustained mechanism has been discussed in several occasions. Beginning with the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AMAF Plus Three on 7 October 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia, the Meeting endorsed the initiative of proposal for the Post 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the AFSIS Project. Later, at the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AMAF Plus Three, held on 28 September 2012 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, the Meeting endorsed the transformation of the AFSIS from the project under the AMAF Plus Three to a self-sustained mechanism through the Three-Year Work Plan which has been formulated to guide the AFSIS during the Establishment period.

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<sup>3</sup> This is a supporting document for the comprehensive document on the Establishment of the AFSIS as the Permanent Mechanism



To ensure the implementation of the AFSIS transformation into a permanent mechanism in accordance with the proposed plan and timeframe, the AFSIS organized several meetings to carry out the process of an establishment of the AFSIS by finalising the four key components in transformation of the AFSIS into the self-sustained mechanism, namely *Structure, Products and Services, Financial Modality* and *Regulations and Procedures* in line with taking the mandate and guidance of the Senior officials of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (SOM-AMAF Plus Three) and the AMAF Plus Three into account.

## 2. Objectives

The AFSIS consists of two major objectives as follows;

### 2.1 Information Network Development

The AFSIS aims to enhance of the database system of respective ASEAN Plus Three Countries and to improve institutional capacities of national agencies in agricultural statistics and information in order to link the domestic food security information network to the regional one and to achieve the intention of becoming the ASEAN Plus Three's primary source of food security information.

### 2.2 Human Resource Development

The AFSIS aims to increase the capacity of ASEAN Plus Three Countries through a combination of activities. The activities plan to provide related personnel with knowledge and skills in agricultural statistics and the development of food security information system.

## 3. Vision and Goals

The vision of the AFSIS is to provide accurate, reliable and timely food security related information that is conducive for policy decision-making and intervention by respective APT countries and other relevant international organizations, and cooperation in the region.

The goals of the AFSIS are to ensure and strengthen ASEAN Plus Three long-term food security.

## 4. Project Evaluation

Towards the termination of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the AFSIS Project, a project evaluation was conducted with the aims of providing the recommendations for a further improvement and the implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase Project. The overall 1<sup>st</sup> evaluation result shows its usefulness and the way in which the AFSIS information network system was developed. Nevertheless, the current information and database system on the website needs further development. One of the major constraints to this development however, is the varying standards at which data collection on food and agricultural statistics are conducted among member countries.



The recommendations indicate that the language barrier can be an issue to the success of training activities. To resolve this problem, a training course should select persons with good command of English from all member countries who will become trainers for personnel in their own countries. Additionally, It was observed that the ASEAN Plus Three Countries built their statistic and information systems at different development stages. Therefore, a research should be conducted to form a Regional Master Plan which will be served as a roadmap for the sound development of the Information and Database System.

At the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of AMAF Plus Three held in Vientiane, Lao PDR in 2012, the Meeting tasked the AFSIS Secretariat to undertake the 2<sup>nd</sup> evaluation of the AFSIS Project. The purpose of the evaluation was to be used as guidelines on the improvement of the AFSIS Project's activities in strengthening regional food security and the process to transform the Project into a permanent mechanism.

The evaluation of the AFSIS implementation and activities can be summarized that the effectiveness and usefulness of the AFSIS implementation as the project were satisfied by concerned parties and there was a demand for continuation of the implementation after the end of the second phase in 2012. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> evaluation recommendations focused that the AFSIS should maximize the use of on-line communication and activities, regarding financial issues, it was recommended that ASEAN Plus Three Countries should provide contributions for the implementations to ensure the sustainability and full participation of AFSIS.

## 5. Establishment Period

At the 11<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting in 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia, the Meeting agreed and endorsed the Proposal of Post-2012 AFSIS which would be operated after the end of the current AFSIS Project in 2012. Following by the 12<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting, in Vientiane, Lao PDR the Meeting endorsed the AFSIS three-year work plan from 2013-2015. During the three-year period, the AFSIS has endeavored to continue the existing activities and improve the contents of activities in line with establishing the AFSIS as the permanent mechanism successfully within 2015.

## 6. ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS)

In response to the food price volatility in 2007-2008, the 8<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three Meeting in 2008 in Hanoi, Viet Nam pledged to embrace food security as a matter of permanent and high priority policy and adopted a Statement on Food Security in the ASEAN Region committed among others, to the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA-FS) (2009-2013). One of the four components is to Integrated Food Security Information System which is supported by the Strategic Thrust (ST) on strengthening Integrated Food Security Information Systems together with the Action Plan aiming at reinforcing the AFSIS project towards a long-term mechanism.



## 7. Strategic Plan of the Transformation of the AFSIS into the Permanent Mechanism

### 7.1 Structure

The ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Information System (AFSIS) will be an evolution of the 10-year AFSIS Project established under the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Framework as a subsidiary body under the AMAF Plus Three and the SOM-AMAF Plus Three, through a phased approach toward the self-reliant body.

### 7.2 Output

All important and updated outputs such as agricultural database of five staple food crops namely rice, maize, cassava, sugarcane and soybean, the Agricultural Commodity Outlooks (ACO) report, ASEAN Food Security Analysis Report (AFSAR) and Food Security Forecasting Model will be produced as strong tools for policy planners and other users along with the development of human resources working in agricultural statistics sectors, which annual trainings and workshops shall be provided by the AFSIS and its Dialogue Partners.

### 7.3 Financial Modality

The financial modality and arrangement will comprise of contributions in-cash and/or in-kind from all ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three Countries. It is important to note that the financial support for activities of the AFSIS should be sustained by ASEAN Plus Three Countries to ensure a continuity of the AFSIS operation. In a meantime, for building capacity of human resources and enhancing the national food security system of ASEAN member states, the financial contribution shall be obtained from cooperating with other relevant international organizations or dialogue partners.

### 7.4 Status and Rules of Procedure

The establishment of a permanent mechanism requires mutual agreements from ASEAN Plus Three Countries whereas organizational management requires rules and procedures. Accordingly, AFSIS regulations consist of the Terms of Reference (TOR), which describes the agreement among members regarding the purpose and structure of the AFSIS, and Rule of Procedure (ROP), which is a standard manual, and rules among AFSIS members.

### 7.5 Management of the AFSIS

The AFSIS Project's Secretariat will continue to act as the AFSIS's Secretariat. It will be located in the premises of the Office of Agricultural Economics (OAE), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand and led by the AFSIS Manager with support from core staff in close collaboration with food security consultants and experts. The AFSIS Secretariat is responsible for coordinating with AFSIS Network Centers in the implantation of AFSIS activities, enhancing cooperation and partnership and reporting progress and achievement to the Board.



## 7.6 Development of National Food Security Information Network

ASEAN Plus Three Countries will establish the AFSIS Network Centers (AFSIS N Cs) separately in their respective countries in order to coordinate and manage the implementation of AFSIS activities in close consultation with the AFSIS Secretariat. The Focal Point acts as a representative of the AFSIS NC from each country to carry out the implementation.

## 8. Endorsement of the AMAF Plus Three and Implementation of Response

The SOM-AMAF Plus Three and AMAF Plus Three Meetings shall provide guidance and recommendation on significant issues of establishing the AFSIS as the permanent mechanism. The endorsement of the AMAF Plus Three Meeting on the proposed matters is considered as a mandate for the AFSIS to proceed in response accordingly. ASEAN Plus Three Countries shall take into account and follow within the scope of guidance in implementing the AFSIS as permanent mechanism in response to the recommendations.

## 9. Timeframe

This is reference to the mandate of the AMAF Plus Three Meeting in the transformation of the AFSIS into the permanent mechanism and the endorsement of the Three-Year AFSIS work plan during the establishment of the AFSIS from 2013-2015 to ensure a successful transition of the AFSIS and maintain AFSIS's operations.

On the administrative operation, it comprises of the Board, Focal Points and Secretariat. The AFSIS Project's Secretariat is to be continued as AFSIS's Secretariat for the self-reliant mechanism during the Establishment Period. The AFSIS Board is the oversight body providing policy directions and guidance to the implementation of the AFSIS and the Focal Points carrying out the AFSIS implementation in a close collaboration with the Secretariat.

During Establishment period, the AFSIS shall sustain its regular activities such as conducting periodic reports, maintaining database and website, organizing workshop and training, developing food security model and carrying out the administrative activities in line with proceeding the establishment implementation of the AFSIS as the permanent mechanism.

Regarding the financial arrangement of the AFSIS in the three-year period, the OAE of Thailand will make an in-kind contribution for the facilities in secretariat office. Whereas operating expenses shall be obtained under collaboration with the international organizations and dialogue partners.



From 2016 onward, the AFSIS is expected to transform into the permanent mechanism.

<b>AFSIS Multi-Year Plan</b>			
<b>Establishment period as self-sustain mechanism 2013 - 2015</b>		<b>Complete as permanent mechanism 2016 - onward</b>	
<b>Administration</b> - AFSIS Sec from project continue as AFSIS Sec for self-reliant mechanism in this period - AFSIS Board - AFSIS Focal Point		<b>Administration</b> - AFSIS Board (APT Body) - AFSIS NCs (Focal Point) - AFSIS Secretariat	
<b>Activities</b> <b>Core activity</b> - Databases and website - Trainings/ Workshops - Meetings - ACO Reports - EWI Reports - Administrative		<b>Activities</b> - Databases and website - Trainings/ Workshops - Meetings - ACO Reports - EWI Reports - Administrative	
<b>Finance</b> <b>In - kind</b> - APT e.g. Database, Training - Thailand e.g. Secretariat office, Staffs		<b>Finance</b> <b>In - kind</b> - APT	
<b>New activity</b> - Establishment of AFSIS - Food Security Forecasting Model(FSFM)		- Broadening Food security Database - Food Security Forecasting Model(FSFM) - ASEAN Food Security Analysis Report (AFSAR) - Real Time ASEAN FSI Network & Developing Human Resources	
<b>In - Cash</b> - Japan Gov. e.g. FSFM		<b>In - Cash</b> - APT - Sub project with Inter-Agency collaboration	

Figure 1: AFSIS Multi-Year Plan



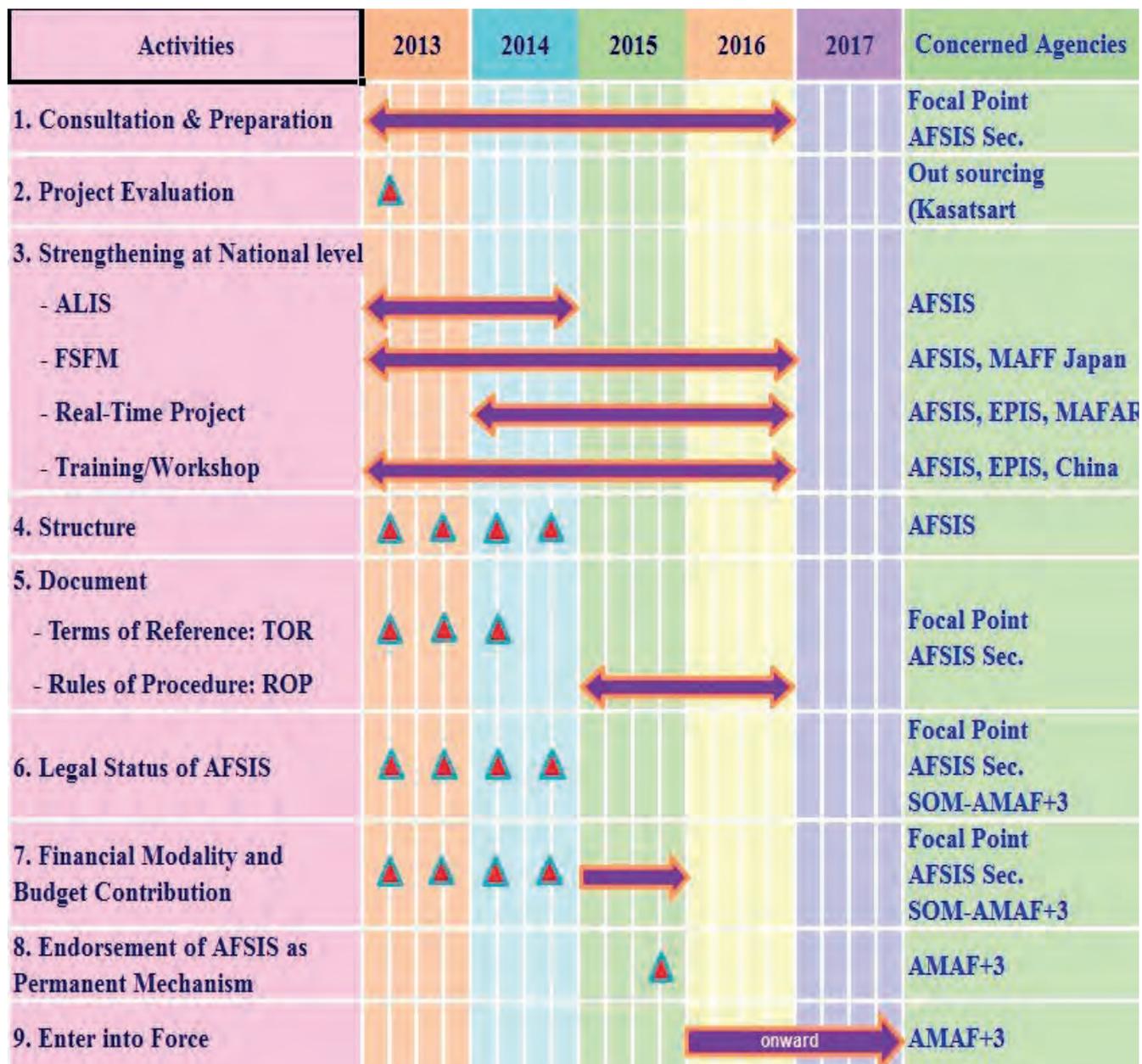


Figure 2: Activities of the establishment plan of the AFSIS





## TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY INFORMATION SYSTEM<sup>4</sup>

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### 1. Rationale

1.1 Food Security concern has been amplified by the globalization and global change while being recognised as a new challenge against citizen at individual, national and regional levels. Efficient and effective Food Security related policy is therefore needed to be addressed whereas current, accurate and reliable information remains the key to policy planning.

1.2 At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministers of Plus Three Countries (hereinafter referred to as “AMAF Plus Three”) on 11 October 2002 in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the ASEAN Plus Three Ministers endorsed the establishment of ASEAN Food Security Information System Project and called under the proposal of the First Technical Meeting held in August 2002 for the ASEAN Food Security Information System Project to become effective in 2003.

1.3 At the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (hereinafter referred to as “Special SOM-AMAF Plus Three”) on 11 July 2012 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, followed by the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AMAF Plus Three on 28 September 2012 in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the AMAF Plus Three endorsed the transformation of ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Information System (hereinafter referred to as “AFSIS”) into a permanent mechanism and agreed in principle the revised Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the AFSIS as a new permanent mechanism.

1.4 This Terms of Reference is a document of the AFSIS, by and between ASEAN Plus Three Countries namely;

1.4.1 Brunei Darussalam, The Kingdom of Cambodia, The Republic of Indonesia, The Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, The Republic of Philippines, The Republic of Singapore, The Kingdom of Thailand and The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN Member States”).

1.4.2 The People’s Republic of China, Japan, and The Republic of Korea as (hereinafter referred to as “Plus Three Countries”).

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<sup>4</sup> This is a supporting document for the comprehensive document on the Establishment of the AFSIS as the Permanent Mechanism



The mentioned thirteen countries agree on and are strictly obliged by the following statements of the provisional Terms of Reference throughout the Preparatory stage (hereinafter referred to as “TOR”).

## 2. Establishment Of AFSIS

AMAF Plus Three endorses that

2.1 AFSIS Shall be established as a permanent mechanism.

2.2 AFSIS is a subsidiary body of AMAF Plus Three.

## 3. Vision and Goal

3.1 Vision

The vision of AFSIS is to become a center for ASEAN Plus Three Food Security information.

3.2 Goal

The goal of AFSIS is to ensure and strengthen ASEAN Plus Three long-term food security.

## 4. Objective

The objective of AFSIS is systematically collect, analyse, and disseminate information on regional Food Security in an accurate, timely, and informative manner through the developing of Food Security Information Network and Human Resource.

## 5. Function

5.1 To foster strengthening of national food security information organizations as well as promote and strengthen a regional food security information system as a basis for food security cooperation in the ASEAN Plus Three Countries.

5.2 To conduct periodic reviews of the food security situation in the ASEAN Plus Three Countries and to provide short-term and long-term outlooks and prospects of the food supply, demand, and stability in the region as well as at the global level.

5.3 To strengthen and enhance exchange and sharing of food security information among the ASEAN Plus Three Countries with a view to facilitating food security policy planning and cooperation in the region.

5.4 To promote cooperation among the ASEAN Plus Three Countries as well as with the relevant agencies of third countries or international agencies, in order to provide timely, accurate, and reliable food security information in the ASEAN Plus Three Countries.

5.5 To maintain close cooperation with other related ASEAN and ASEAN Plus Three bodies as well as with related extra-ASEAN national and international bodies and organizations in food security information.

5.6 To recommend the Senior Officials’ Meeting of the AMAF Plus Three its proposed positions on food security information for consideration at relevant international fora.



## 6. Structure of AFSIS

The structure of AFSIS is an important arrangement to determine roles, authorities and responsibilities in consonant with the objective of AFSIS. The structure of AFSIS is consisted of three organs.

### 6.1 AFSIS Board

AFSIS board is a platform of dialogue and consultation. It consists of the Directors-General of Agricultural Statistics and Information from each member country. AFSIS Board is responsible for providing policy directions and guidance for AFSIS to implement.

### 6.2 AFSIS Network Centers (AFSIS NCs)

AFSIS Network Center is a national organ or attached body in close coordination with Agricultural Information agencies or established office registered in every ASEAN Plus Three member country with responsibility for assembling and reporting on food security information. Each AFSIS NC is in the authority of representative from each member country to implement AFSIS Work Plan called Focal Point. The focal point is assigned by ASEAN Plus Three Member Country.

### 6.3 AFSIS Secretariat

AFSIS Secretariat consists of Secretariat personnel, and Food security consultants and experts. Organization, structure, and staffing of the AFSIS Secretariat shall be determined by the AFSIS Board. AFSIS Secretariat is responsible for general and administrative coordination and providing necessary support for all concerned AFSIS activities.

## 7. Secretariat Office

The secretariat office is located in the premises of the Office of Agricultural Economics, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand.

## 8. Responsibility of Members

8.1 In the discharge of his/her duties, each representative shall act impartially in accordance with this TOR, and shall display the highest moral character.

8.2 Attendance at the meetings by the representative is mandatory.



## 9. Financial Modality

9.1 AFSIS's financial modality shall be established from two grounds namely Regular contributions from ASEAN Plus Three Member Country and Voluntary contributions from collaboration with other third parties or international agencies.

9.2 Regular contribution shall be made by each ASEAN Plus Three Member Country for commitment of expenditures of core activities by AFSIS through an equal basis under this Terms of Reference.

9.3 The AFSIS total expenditure for implementing core activities is as of 229,500 USD per annum which ASEAN Member States shall share 70 percent of the total contribution as of 160,500 USD per annum and Plus Three Countries shall share 30 percent as of 69,000 USD per annum each ASEAN Plus Three Member Country shall make contribution as follows:

No	ASEAN Plus Three Countries	Total contribution (USD)	Percentage of sharing by Group (%)
1.	Brunei Darussalam	16,050	70 %
2.	Cambodia	16,050	
3.	Indonesia	16,050	
4.	Lao PDR	16,050	
5.	Malaysia	16,050	
6.	Myanmar	16,050	
7.	Philippines	16,050	
8.	Singapore	16,050	
9.	Thailand	16,050	
10.	Viet Nam	16,050	
Total for ASEAN Member States		160,500	
11.	P.R. China	23,000	30 %
12.	Japan	23,000	
13.	Republic of Korea	23,000	
Total for Plus Three Countries		69,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>229,500</b>	<b>100 %</b>



9.4 Voluntary contributions shall be received from collaboration with the international agencies or the Plus Three Countries to support the development of Regional Food Security Information and other Food Security related concerns for effective implementation of its work serving the common interest of Food Security Information and Food Security related concerns in all ASEAN Plus Three Countries.

The financial contribution to the AFSIS is subject to terms and conditions of respective ASEAN Plus Three Countries.

## 10. Meetings

10.1 AFSIS shall convene two regular meetings per annum namely

- a. The Meeting of AFSIS Board
- b. The Meeting of AFSIS Focal Point

The Meeting of AFSIS Board may be held in a consecutive manner with the Meeting of AFSIS Focal Point.

10.2 The Host Country of the meetings shall rotate annually, based on the alphabetical order of the English names of the ASEAN Member States, in conformity with the AMAF Plus Three Meeting Protocol.

10.3 As and when appropriate, AFSIS may hold special or ad-hoc AFSIS Board and/or AFSIS Focal Point Meeting as deemed necessary or upon directive of SOM-AMAF Plus Three.

10.4 ASEAN Secretariat and AFSIS Secretariat shall act as secretary of the meetings.

10.5 The Plus Three Countries may propose or be proposed to assume AFSIS host country of meetings upon agreement by and between the designated member state and the Plus Three member country.

## 11. Chairmanship

Chairmanship of AFSIS shall be appointed to the host country of the meetings

## 12. Final Provision

12.1 AFSIS agrees that AFSIS Board considers and endorses Rules of Procedure.

12.2 This TOR shall come into force upon the approval of AMAF Plus Three at Manila, the Philippines this Eleventh Day of September in the year Two Thousand and Fifteen.

