



ASEAN Food Security
Information System

AFSIS ANNUAL REPORT

2024



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AFSIS Annual Report 2024 and Future Work Plan

1. Preface and Background

In a world where the complexities of global challenges continue to evolve, food security has been one of the crucial issues of all mankind as there are millions of people around the globe that still struggling with hunger. The keys to tackling these challenges have been launched through regional and international cooperation. The United Nations members adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which aims to guide the actions of the international community to achieve sustainable development in three dimensions – economic, social, and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner in order to overcome challenges that the world is facing.

When it comes to sustainability, ensuring food security is an aspect that greatly impacts the welfare of individuals, communities, and nations. The need for precise and timely information has always played an important role in addressing critical issues of food security. In a regional context, AFSIS has been one of the various mechanisms handling food security network systems to ensure long-term and sustainable food security in the region by providing food security information and analysis for policymakers to have constant access to reliable information.

The main activities of AFSIS are divided into three functions which consist of Administrative Functions, Human Resources Development, and Food Security Information Development. The progress of these 3 activities in 2024 is stated in items 2-4. Furthermore, a current technical support project funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan entitled “Project for Strengthening ASEAN Food Security Information System Function for Emergency” or “SAFER” is reported in item 5. Lastly, the Future Work Plan of AFSIS is explained in item 6.

2. Administrative Function and General Management

2.1 The 22nd AFSIS Focal Point Meeting

The meeting was held on 11-12 June 2024 in Putrajaya Malaysia as and hybrid meeting, hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security of Malaysia, in collaboration with the AFSIS Secretariat. The main objectives of the meeting are to inform the ASEAN Plus Three Countries about the outcomes and achievements of AFSIS activities in 2023-2024 (Q1) and to consider the AFSIS work plan in 2024. Apart from the report on the progress of AFSIS, the important agenda item was the consideration of the “Draft Joint Understanding of the 22nd AFSIS Focal Point Meeting for the Sustainability of AFSIS, which outlined the working principle of AFSIS. Participants provided input, comments, and feedbacks on this document for further consideration to sustain AFSIS. The Meeting adopted the Joint Understanding of the 22nd AFSIS Focal Point Meeting for Sustainability of AFSIS by consensus as the working principle of AFSIS. The list of Delegate and the Joint Understanding of the 22nd AFSIS Focal Point Meeting for Sustainability of AFSIS are appears as in **ANEX I, II**



The 22nd AFSIS Focal Point Meeting on 11 - 12 June 2024 as a hybrid meeting

2.2 The 12th Meeting of APTERR Council

The meeting was held on 24-25 April 2024 in Beijing, the People's Republic of China as a physical meeting, hosted by the P.R. China. The meeting aimed to report on the realization of the work plan and budget plan for the fiscal year 2023, the work plan, and the annual operational budget proposal for the fiscal year 2024 of the APTERR Secretariat and the terminal report of the financial contribution to the APTERR Fund. Also, The Meeting was also updated on the implementation under the Rice Discharge Mechanism, Program 3 (Tier 3 program) from the recipient countries such as Cambodia, Myanmar, Lao PDR, and the Philippines. AFSIS also contributes APTERR by providing data on the demand and supply of rice for make the annual reports and the analysis of monitoring and evaluating food emergency situations (Food Emergency Monitoring and Information: FEMI). This emphasizes the importance of AFSIS in the collection, analysis, and dissemination of ASEAN food security information.



The 12th Meeting of APTERR Council on 24-25 April 2024 as a physical meeting

2.3 The 44th Meeting of the ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board (AFSRB)

The meeting was held on 5-6 June 2024 hosted by Lao PDR as a Physical Conference in Vang Vieng, Lao PDR. AFSIS Secretariat presented the progress of the AFSIS activities for 2023-2024 (Q1), including updates on various initiatives and issues, the benefits of AFSIS data, and reports to member countries. Additionally, the challenges encountered in preparing a core report of AFSIS was presented for discussion among

member countries. In addition, the implementation plan for ensuring the future the future sustainability of AFSIS was also presented for further cooperation and suggestion as it would greatly contribute to the achievement of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises to strengthen food security in the region through the systematic collection, analysis, and dissemination of food security related information. Moreover, AFSIS is actively advancing toward long-term sustainability by strengthening the existing roles and functions to support food security information across the ASEAN region.



The 44th Meeting of the ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board (AFSRB) on 5-6 June 2024 as a Physical meeting

2.4 The Special Senior Officials Meeting of the 23rd Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (SSOM-23rd AMAF+3)

The Special Senior Officials Meeting of the 23rd Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (SSOM-23rd AMAF+3) was held on 8 August 2024, hosted by Malaysia as a physical meeting. The Meeting noted the AFSIS progress report for 2023-2024(Q2), which includes outcomes from the 22nd AFSIS Focal Point Meeting and activities from 2023-2024(Q2). In terms of administrative functions, human resource development activities, food security information development, including the cooperation projects with Plus Three countries and other relevant organizations on the importance of agricultural statistical data and information management in the ASEAN. The Meeting also endorsed the Joint Understanding from the 22nd AFSIS Focal Point Meeting. This endorsement supports the sustainability of AFSIS by reinforcing its role, function, and long-term viability. Furthermore, the Meeting agreed to collaborate among the ASEAN Member States to strengthen food security in the ASEAN region and emphasized the importance of AFSIS.

The outcomes of the meeting were presented at the 46th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) Meeting and the 24th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (AMAF Plus Three) Meeting for consideration of the Joint Understanding from the 22nd AFSIS Focal Point Meeting on the Sustainability of AFSIS. The AMAF Meeting welcomed the endorsement of the Joint Understanding, which aims to strengthen AFSIS's role, function, and long-term sustainability. The Joint Press Statement from the AMAF+3 Meeting is appears in **ANNEX III**



SSOM-23rd AMAF+3 Meeting on 8 August 2024 as a physical meeting

Other Relevant Meeting

2.5 The meeting between AFSIS Secretariat with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and APTERR Secretariat

The meeting was held on 23 February 2024, as the physical meeting hosted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and APTERR Secretariat. The objective of the meeting is to interview and present the status of the work of AFSIS concerning the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in The ASEAN Region (SPA-FS) 2021-2025. Especially, the status of the work of AFSIS about Strategic Thrust 1,3 and 7 of the SPA-FS (2021-2025). AFSIS Secretariat presented the operation of AFSIS and introduced a brief overview of AFSIS activities, including the AFSIS mechanisms and its role in strengthening food security in the ASEAN Plus Three and updated the current situation of the Project for Strengthening ASEAN Food Security Information System Function for Emergency (SAFER), which has the objective of strengthening AFSIS and emergency.



The meeting between AFSIS Secretariat with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and APTERR Secretariat 23 February 2024 as a physical meeting

2.6 Asia and the Pacific Food Security Forum 2024

The meeting held from 9-12 April 2024 in Manila, Philippines, hosted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), focused on addressing the worsening food crisis in Asia and the Pacific. It aimed to strengthen food systems against climate change and biodiversity loss and enhance long-term food security in the region. Key objectives included setting food security policy priorities, assessing ADB's operational performance, confirming forward support programs with policymakers, and fostering partnerships for knowledge sharing. The AFSIS Secretariat participated in the forum, engaging in Deep Dive Session on Asia's Rice Market, Food Security Challenges, and Policy Responses. This session highlighted the evolution of the rice market in ASEAN and discussed lessons from the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and the APTERR program. It emphasized the need for stronger regional cooperation to address food security. Additionally, AFSIS joined Session on tools for food security monitoring and analysis, exploring various analytical tools such as the Food Security and Nutrition Indicators Dashboard, Food Price Monitor, and others. These tools help track food security determinants in the region. The knowledge gained will guide AFSIS in enhancing its food security information systems in ASEAN and promoting human resources development across member countries.



Asia and the Pacific Food Security Forum 2024 on 9-12 April 2024 as a hybrid meeting

2.7 The Thirtieth Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS30)

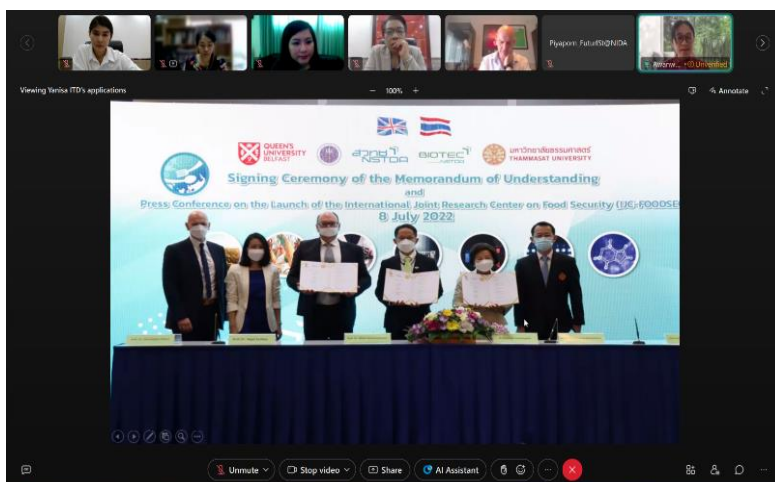
The meeting was held on 19-24 May 2024 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The meeting was hosted by Nepal's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development and its National Statistics Office. The core purposes of the meeting are to discuss the development of food and agricultural statistics in FAO member countries of the Asia and Pacific region and to be informed about FAO activities during the preceding biennium, particularly in Asia and the Pacific region. The prominent themes of APCAS30 focused on the progress and new developments measuring farm-based Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, using earth observations for food and agriculture statistics, using innovations in agriculture censuses, and the measurement of food security and nutrition statistics and AFSIS will discuss with FAO, participating countries, and organizations' experiences, challenges, and innovations in developing and implementing food and agriculture statistical projects to strengthen food security information in the ASEAN region and build capacity building in ASEAN member countries



The APCAS-30 Meeting on 19-24 May 2024 as a physical meeting

2.8 Online Focus Group Meeting with The International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD)

The meeting was held on 31 July 2024 as an online meeting hosted by the International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD). The purpose of the meeting was to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange among international experts, aiming to develop strategies aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and conduct a comprehensive global environmental strategic scan to analyze and assess emerging trends, risks, and opportunities relevant to sustainable development and discussions on the Global and Regional Trade and Food Industry secession about the possible futures or key driving factors that may affect people in the future and emerging trends are relevant to the food industry. AFSIS Secretariat has an opportunity to discuss this topic and give information on the AFSIS objectives and operations, emphasizing the of the core reports Agricultural Commodities Outlook (ACO), Early Warning Information Report (EWI), Rice growing outlook report (RGO) published on AFSIS website, which garnered significant interest among participants.



Online Focus Group Meeting with The International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD) on 31 July 2024 as an online meeting

2.9 Thailand Security Dialogue 2024 “Sustainable Peace under the Geopolitical Shifts”

The meeting was held on 28 August 2024 as a physical meeting hosted by the Strategic Studies Center (SSC), the Commandant of the National Defence Studies Institute (NDSI). The meeting aimed to provide a platform for the presentation and exchange of academic perspectives on security situations covering their impacts on global and regional peace and security, to gather valuable ideas and perspectives,

and to produce analyses leading to recommendations to promote sustainable peace in the region. During the Panel Discussion session “Food and Health Security: ASEAN’s Strengths or Weaknesses for ASEAN?”, Dr. Sumaya Ngandee, AFSIS Manager, was honored to be the moderator which featured a diverse group of experts from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the Chula Vaccine Research Center, and the private sector. The dialogue provided valuable perspectives and information, contributing to the ongoing efforts to enhance Food and Health Security in the ASEAN region.



*Thailand Security Dialogue 2024 “Sustainable Peace under the Geopolitical Shifts”
on 28 August 2024 as a physical meeting*

2.10 The DG level bilateral meeting on Agriculture Statistic and the support of ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS)

The bilateral meeting on the Japan-Thailand Economic Partnership Agreement (JTEPA) between the Office of Agricultural Economics (OAE) and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan was held on 24 September 2024 in Tokyo, Japan. The objectives of this meeting were to establish guidelines for agricultural statistics operations in line with the Japan-Thailand Economic Partnership Agreement (JTEPA). Discussions also covered the support and operational strategies for AFSIS and plans to enhance cooperation among ASEAN member countries. This includes improving the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information related to sustainable food security, with budgetary support from Japan's MAFF. The meeting ended successfully with great collaboration from both sides to confirm their utmost effort to support the continuity and progression of AFSIS outcomes in the future.



The DG level bilateral meeting on Agriculture Statistic and the support of AFSIS on 24 September 2024 as a physical meeting

2.11 Satellite Applications for Societal Benefit Working Group (SAWG) in the APRSAF-30 Forum

The AFSIS Secretariat participated in the SAWG session during APRSAF-30, held on 26-27 November 2024 in Perth, Australia. Organized by the Australian Space Agency (ASA), Japan's MEXT, and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), the session aimed to promote the use of space-based systems like Earth observation and navigation satellites in addressing regional social issues and supporting global agendas. A key focus was fostering sustainable cooperation between space agencies, stakeholders, and development aid agencies. During the session, Dr. Sumanya Ngandee presented the AFSIS project and its Rice Growing Outlook (RGO) activity, highlighting collaborations with organizations such as JAXA, MAFF, RESTEC, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA). The discussion emphasized how satellite-derived agricultural data is being integrated into decision-making processes to enhance food security, with a focus on capacity building in the ASEAN region. AFSIS also highlighted the importance of workshops like rice mapping using the INAHOR system, which empower local stakeholders with data-driven tools. The session underscored the critical role of remote sensing technologies in agricultural decision-making and expressed gratitude for the SAFE Agromet Project, which integrates satellite data to support sustainable food security across ASEAN.



The APRSAF-30 Forum on 26-27 November 2024 as a hybrid meeting

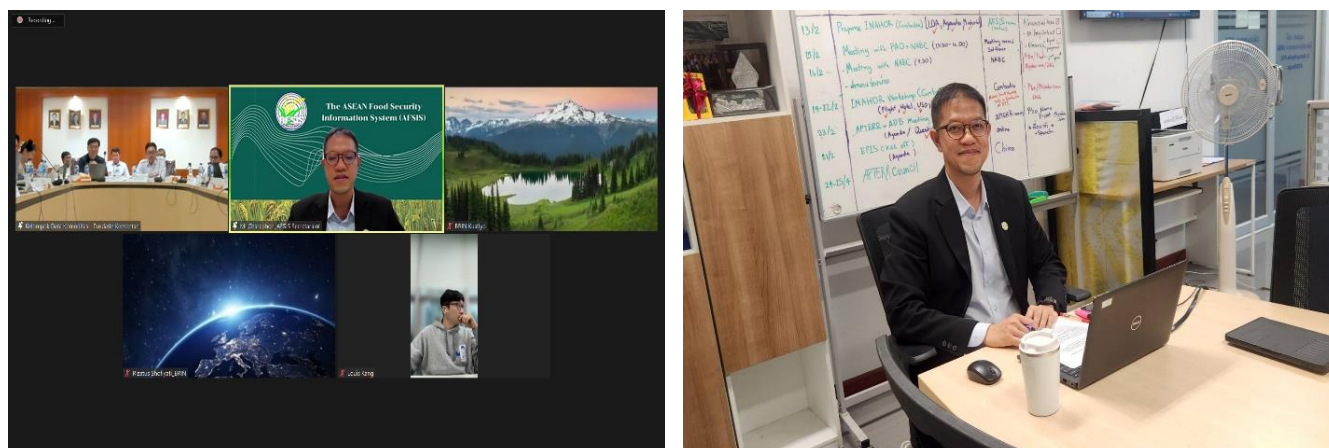
3. Human Resources Development

For the effective and successful operation of AFSIS, human resources on food security information of ASEAN Plus Three countries inevitably need to be enhanced in line with data and information.

3.1 Kick-Off Meeting & Project Steering Committee for Pilot Project on Strategic Crop Forecasting System in Indonesia

The meeting was held on 21 February 2024 as an online meeting in collaboration with the Korea Agency of Education, Promotion and Information Service in Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (EPIS), the Center for Agricultural Data and Information System (CADIS) from the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Indonesia and EGIS Korea company limited (EGIS) under the Establishing Real-Time ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) and Development of Human Resources 3rd Phase – Pilot Project on strategic crop forecasting system for food security in Indonesia. The objectives of this meeting were to share the implementation results of the first period project such as data collection by drone, Satellite data analysis by using sentinel applied to big data analysis and forecasting model, crop characteristics by using the various formulas. Furthermore, the meeting discussed key findings and tasks and also made suggestions for planning and improving the project in the 2nd period of the Real-Time AFSIS project in Indonesia in 2024. The meeting ended with all the details being effectively discussed and agreed upon mutually by all parties involved.

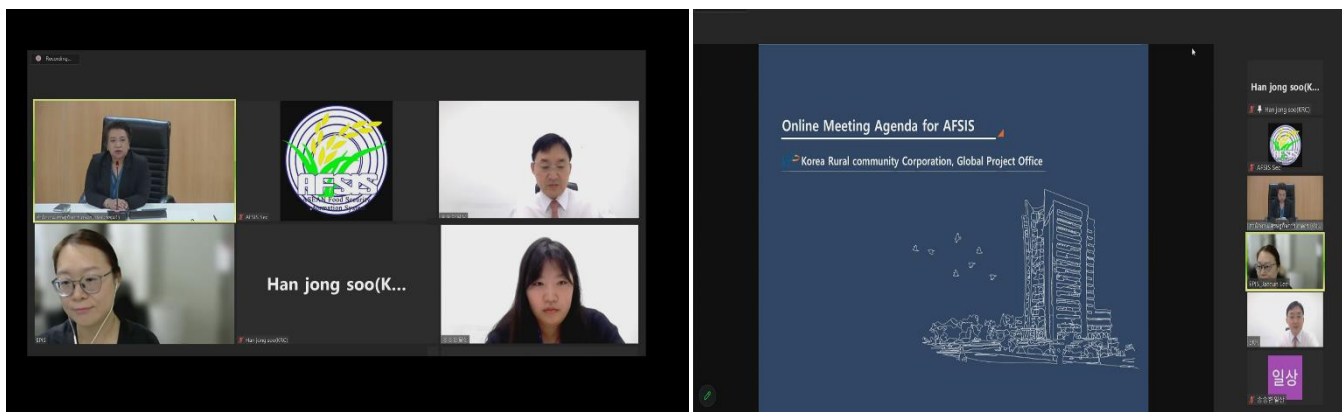
During the meeting, Mr. Charapon Chantorn, the Deputy AFSIS Manager, jointly delivered a special message to mark the successful completion of the first period project. They also extended their encouragement to the team and PMC (EGIS Consortium), urging them for a positive and collaborative environment as they embark on the second phase of the project in Indonesia.



The Kick-Off Meeting & Project Steering Committee for Pilot Project on Strategic Crop Forecasting System in Indonesia on 21 February 2024 as an online meeting

3.2 Online Meeting between AFSIS Secretariat EPIS and KRC, Republic of Korea

The meeting was held on 11 September 2024 as an online meeting. The meeting was conducted in collaboration with the Korea Agency of Education, Promotion and Information Service in Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (EPIS) and the Korea Rural Community Corporation Global Project Office (KRC). The meeting aims to provide information on upcoming activities for 2025, with support from the Republic of Korea. The new project assigned to KRC by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs South Korea (MAFRA) involves the implementation of the National Agri-Food Information System (NAIS), which is scheduled to take place in Cambodia from 2025 to 2026. During the meeting Dr. Sumanya Ngandee, AFSIS Manager, presented the cooperation activities between ASEAN member countries and the Republic of Korea conducted under the NAIS project facilitated by EPIS and suggested about work principle and discussion about work principles of the upcoming workshop related to agri-food statistics, remote exploration information, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to enhance the drive for collaboration in phase 3 project.



The Meeting between AFSIS Secretariat EPIS and KRC, Republic of Korea on 11 September 2024 as an online meeting

3.3 Completion and Handover Ceremony for the project "Establishing Real-Time AFSIS and Development of Human Resources"

The meeting was held on 12 November 2024 as a physical meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia. The meeting was conducted in collaboration with EPIS and CADIS under Indonesia's Ministry of Agriculture. The objective of this collaborative project is to strengthen the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) and develop a forecasting system for key economic crops, specifically designed to bolster food security in the region. The project integrates NAIS technology, marking a significant step forward in enhancing agricultural planning and ensuring stable food production across ASEAN member states. During the ceremony, Dr. Sumanya Ngandee expressed her gratitude and congratulations to all the representatives from various agencies, including the teams from Indonesia and South Korea, for their crucial role in the project's success. She specifically commended the use of technology in forecasting sugarcane yields, a vital crop for food security in the ASEAN region.



Completion and Handover Ceremony for the project "Establishing Real-Time AFSIS and Development of Human Resources" on 12 November 2024 as a physical meeting

4. Food Security Information Development

4.1 AFSIS Database Maintenance

AFSIS Secretariat keeps updating news and events, and publications on AFSIS website. There is also a Knowledge Base platform for disseminating materials from workshops or training on AFSIS website. For the Statistic Database, AFSIS secretariat has already developed “the Key-in Statistic System Platform” and sent the username, password, and manual to AFSIS Focal Points since June 2020. The statistical database consists of 5 commodities which are rice maize, cassava, sugarcane, and soybean with 11 items which are Production, Crop calendar, Farmgate price, Wholesale price, Population information, Labor force, GDP, Balance sheet, Land use, Irrigation area, Costs of production. The ASEAN Plus Three Member States keep updating this Statistic Database on AFSIS Website. Thus, the data of each country is available from 1983 to 2023.

4.2 Food Security Information Reports

The reports that AFSIS has published on AFSIS website (<http://www.aptfssis.org/>) are as follows:

4.2.1 ASEAN Early Warning Information (EWI) Report

ASEAN Early Warning Information (EWI) report is about the crops' situation of 5 important agricultural crop commodities namely rice, maize, sugarcane, soybean, and cassava, the impact of climate change, adverse weather conditions, economic factors, and trading information of import and export for all 10 ASEAN Member States (AMS), except Singapore. The EWI report has been published twice a year in March and September since 2008 on the AFSIS website. In 2024, AFSIS published the EWI No.32 (March 2024 issued) on 30 April 2024 and EWI No.33 (September 2024 issued) on 1 October 2024.

4.2.2 ASEAN Agricultural Commodity Outlook (ACO) Report

ASEAN Agricultural Commodity Outlook (ACO) Report is an ASEAN agricultural production situation analysis report that presents both supply and demand information for 5 important agricultural crop commodities, namely rice, maize, sugarcane, soybean, and cassava. The information covers crop production, planted

area, harvested area, yield, damaged area, import data, export data, price (F.O.B and C.I.F), and balance sheet. This report has been published twice a year in June and December since 2008. In 2024, AFSIS released ACO No.32 (June 2024 issued) on 7 August 2024 and ACO No.33 (December 2024 issued) will be published in January 2025.

4.2.3 Rice Growing Outlook (RGO) Report

Starting in 2023, the Rice Growing Outlook (RGO) report activity was transferred from RESTEC of Japan to AFSIS under the SAFER project funded by MAFF, Japan to further its activity nationwide for officers of agricultural ministries in AMS. In October 2023, two new countries, Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia, joined the RGO activity in reporting the rice-growing situation in their respective countries. As a result, the AFSIS RGO report now covers the rice-growing situation in nine ASEAN Member States (AMS), excluding Singapore. AFSIS also supports the RGO information to Asia-RiCE under the Group on Earth Observations Global Agricultural Monitoring (GEOGLAM) and disseminates those reports monthly on the AFSIS website to support agricultural monitoring and forecasting. In addition, this activity aims to add Maize growing outlook (MGO) as an additional crop due to its importance in food security and as a primary feed source for the livestock industry. With Southeast Asia expected to expand maize production, accurate assessment and yield estimation through the SAFER project will provide valuable support for AMS.

4.2.4 Report and Disseminate the Information Regarding the Serious Disaster

AFSIS Secretariat publish “Report and Disseminate the Information Regarding the Serious Disaster” which will monitor the serious disaster and its impact on food security of AMS. In 2024, AFSIS published 10 reports on the AFSIS website under “News&Events” webpage which are:

- 1) Flooding and Landslides in Regions X, XI, and CARAGA, in the Philippines
- 2) Kanlaon Volcanic Activity, in the Philippines
- 3) Floods and Landslides in Mindanao (Effects of Southwest Monsoon, ITCZ, & INVEST 98W) in the Philippines
- 4) Monsoonal Flooding in Myanmar
- 5) Transboundary Flooding & Landslides in Lao PDR and Thailand

- 6) Tropical Cyclone TRAMI (Kristine), the Philippines
- 7) Tropical Cyclone TRAMI, Vietnam, Lao PDR and Cambodia
- 8) Lewotobi Laki-laki Volcano Eruption, Indonesia
- 9) Tropical Cyclones Encountering the Philippines and Elsewhere
- 10) Flooding in Malaysia and Southern Thailand

4.2.5 AFSIS Website development: www.aptfssis.org

The AFSIS Secretariat has upgraded the AFSIS website (www.aptfssis.org) to improve its functionality, accessibility, and visual appeal. The website underwent a complete redesign, which included the included icons, color schemes, fonts, and a reorganization of the content. These changes aim to create a more engaging and accessible experience for users. In addition to the visual and structural updates, the Secretariat has added two interactive dashboards, featuring a production and crop calendar along with interactive filters. These dashboards include dynamic filters, allowing users to customize their data view by selecting a specific country, data type, commodities, year, and comparing data across countries. The goal of these enhancements is to provide a better overall user experience, making it easier for visitors to access and interpret relevant agricultural data. Moreover, users will now be able to use this data for reference or create statistical reports more efficiently, improving their ability to use the website as a valuable resource.

5. Project for Strengthening ASEAN Food Security Information System Function for Emergency (SAFER)

The Project for Strengthening ASEAN Food Security Information System Function for Emergency or “SAFER” is a current support project funded by the MAFF of Japan for 3 years started from 21 November 2022 to 20 November 2025. The objectives of the SAFER project are 1) to strengthen the ASEAN Food Security Information System functions on immediate sharing of food security information in the case of emergency for 10 AMS and 2) to contribute to the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA-FS) 2021-2025. The SAFER project is expected to achieve 4 outputs which are 1) To develop an emergency information sharing mechanism

2) To increase target commodities handled by AFSIS (ACO, EWI, and AFSIS database) 3) To monitoring crop growing conditions and crop area developed by utilizing satellite information and 4) To develop crop area estimation method using satellite image. The activities under the SAFER project in 2024 are as follows:

5.1 INAHOR Workshop in Cambodia 2024

The AFSIS Secretariat in the collaboration with JAXA, MAFF of Japan, and the MAFF of Cambodia conducted the Workshop titled Promote rice planted area and production estimation using space-based technologies on 20-21 February 2024 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The workshop aimed to strengthen the capabilities of officials from the MAFF of Cambodia to utilize remote sensing data for assessing rice cultivation areas and estimating production of rice using the ALOS-2 and Sentinel-2 satellites, especially during the dry season rice of 2023-2024. Additionally, the workshop included an analysis of the 2023-2024 dry season rice cultivation are using INAHOR system. A field survey was also conducted for checking the accuracy comparing the result from the INAHOR software with the actual rice cultivation area in Svay Antor District, Prey Veng Province. The outcomes of this workshop were significantly contributed to refining and enhancing the new validation framework and INAHOR system. Additionally, it provided valuable insights for beneficial to improving in-country activities under SAFER project



INAHOR Workshop in Cambodia 2024 on 20-21 February 2024

5.2 The Meeting between AFSIS Secretariat and the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), Ministry of Interior

AFSIS Secretariat visited the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), Ministry of Interior of Thailand on 2 April 2024 to gather insights on several key aspects related to the emergency information-sharing mechanism of the DDPM. The contents of the meeting included procedures of criteria of data collection, situation monitoring, data analysis, report system and publication as well as the cooperation of DDPM with relevant international organizations. The DDPM provided an overview of their operations, the process of reporting and updating disaster information/database in Thailand, and early warning mechanisms during emergencies. The outcomes of this meeting were valuable and serve as a reference information for enhancing the emergency information-sharing mechanism under the SAFER project, enable timely disasters information providing in ASEAN countries and supporting regional level decision-making.



The Meeting between AFSIS Secretariat and DDPM, Ministry of Interior on 2 April 2024

5.3 The 3rd Regional Workshop on Rice Growing Outlook (RGO) and Maize Growing Outlook (MGO) under the Project for Strengthening ASEAN Food Security Information System Function for Emergency (SAFER)

The AFSIS Secretariat held the 3rd regional workshop on the SAFER Project on 19-20 September 2024 in Kao Yai, Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand. The were participants from ASEAN Plus Three Countries, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Japan

attended the workshop. The workshop aims to 1) enhance the capacity of AMS to utilize meteorological information and draft a straightforward report for the RGO and MGO. Participants received training on the functions and application of the satellite agro-meteorological system (JASMAI), 2) guidelines for interpreting the agro-Meteorological Data for RGO and MGO and 3) Relationship between weather and growing conditions of rice and maize. The event emphasized agronomy guidelines to ensure for consistency across the region. Furthermore, it fostered collaboration and information sharing, contributing to improve agricultural production insights and enhanced preparedness for emerging challenges. Participants had the opportunity to visit the National Corn and Sorghum Research Center, where they gained valuable insights into maize cultivation, key growth factors and how various factors such as climate, pest management, and soil conditions influence maize yield. This field trip enriched their understanding and provided practical knowledge applicable to their agricultural report.



The 3rd Regional Workshop on 19-20 September 2024 as a hybrid meeting

5.4 INAHOR Workshop in Thailand 2024

The AFSIS Secretariat in collaboration with the JAXA, the RESTEC, and the Office of Agricultural Economics (OAE), Ministry of Agriculture Cooperatives (MOAC) of Thailand, conducted a workshop titled **“Promote rice planted area and production estimation using space-based technologies in Thailand”** on 21-22 October 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop was attended by participants from the Center for Agricultural Information (CAI) and the officer from the regional office of OAE. This workshop aims to strengthen the capabilities of OAE officials in utilizing remote sensing data to assess rice cultivation areas using ALOS-2 and Sentinel-2

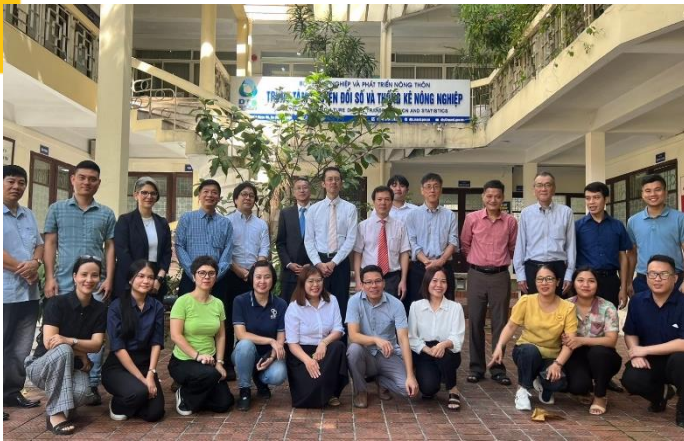
satellites data. The analysis focused on Suphan Buri province, comparing INAHOR results with official OAE data from 2023, including the percentage of rice cultivated area at the district level. This initiative is playing a crucial role in improving agricultural monitoring through the INAHOR system. The outcomes will improve the capacity of officials to improve the accuracy of statistical data collection and support in country activities under the SAFER project.



The INAHOR Workshop in Thailand 2024 on 21-22 October 2024 as a physical meeting

5.4 INAHOR Workshop in Vietnam 202

The AFSIS Secretariat collaboration with JAXA, RESTEC, and Digital Transformation and Agricultural Statistics (DTS), the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) of Vietnam conducted a workshop titled “**Promote rice planted area and production estimation using space-based technologies in Vietnam**” on 24-25 October 2024 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The workshop was attended by participants from the DTS and the officer from the regional office. This workshop aims to strengthen the capabilities of officials from the DTS and Regional office in utilizing remote sensing data to assess rice cultivation areas and estimate rice production using ALOS-2 and Sentinel-2 satellites data. Participants were enabling with the skills to apply these technologies effectively in practical scenarios. The target province for applying the INAHOR software to check the rice cultivation area was Hung Yen Province. They also conduct field surveys on 23-25 November 2025 for verifying the area An Vien commune, Tien Lu district, Hung Yen province. The DTS emphasized the importance of INAHOR software, which contributes to their statistical data collection efforts. The software also is being considered for application in 2025 to further strengthen and modernize agricultural statistical practices in Hung Yen province.



The INAHOR Workshop in Vietnam 2024 on 24-25 October 2024 as a physical meeting

6. Future Work Plan 2025

6.1 Food Security Information Development

- Collaborating with ASEAN Plus Three member countries to keep updating the Statistic Database of AFSIS Website to the current year.
- Increasing target commodities for laying hens to Statistic Database of AFSIS Website.
- Collaborating with 10 AMS to continue publishing the ACO and EWI reports for 5 main commodities: rice maize, cassava, sugarcane, and soybean. Additionally, engage in on-going consultation with AMS for laying hen as an additional commodity.
- Start on the job training for Maize additional crops (Maize) in the Growing Outlook report (MGO).
- Continue disseminating the RGO Report.
- Continue the project to Report and Disseminate the Information regarding the Serious Disaster and its impact on food security of AMS.

6.2 Improve the Quality of Food Security Information

- Holding an annual regional meeting at least once a year to discuss the efficient dissemination of food security information in case of emergency under SAFER Project.

- Organizing the regional training for national consultants from AMS on outlook report preparation and improve the analysis the growing conditions for Rice and Maize.
- Developing crop area estimation method using the INAHOR system with cooperation from the JAXA in Indonesia and Myanmar.
- Continue supporting the Real-Time ASEAN Food Security Information Network and Developing Human Resource 3rd Phase.

6.3 Administrative

- Organize a special AFSIS workshop for member countries to discuss a sustainable mechanism aimed at enhancing AFSIS' role, function, and long-term viability, in line with the Joint Understanding of the 22nd AFSIS Focal Point Meeting for the Sustainability.
- Cooperating with MAFF, Japan to implement the SAFER Project and preparing for next coming technical support projects.
- Attend the core relevant meetings, i.e., the Meeting of APTERR Council, the Meeting of AFSRB, the SSOM-AMAF, and the SSOM-AMAF+3.
- Coordinate with the host country, Myanmar, to hold the 23rd AFSIS Focal Point Meeting in 2025.
- Attend and present AFSIS activities at other relevant meetings/workshops i.e., APRSAF-31.
- Continue the collaborating with the Plus Three Countries and relevant agencies in providing capacity-building workshops and related technical training programs.



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11-12 June 2024
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**JOINT UNDERSTANDING OF THE 22nd AFSIS FOCAL POINT MEETING
FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY OF AFSIS
12 July 2024, Bangkok, Thailand**

1. The ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Focal Points¹ have reached the following shared Joint Understanding as our working principle, which was agreed during the 22nd AFSIS Focal Point Meeting on the Twelfth of June in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.
2. This Joint Understanding was agreed as the working principle for the sustainability of AFSIS and defined as non-legally binding understanding. The AFSIS Focal Points will review this Joint Understanding to consider a possibility to transform AFSIS as the permanent mechanism as one of the options for sustainability of AFSIS at a mutually agreed timing but not later than five years of practice.
3. The AFSIS Focal Points will consist of the authorities from ministries related to agriculture or food security or national statistics offices in ASEAN Plus Three Countries. Overall matters of AFSIS operations are decided at the Focal Point Meeting (hereinafter referred to as “FPM”). Each ASEAN Plus Three Country will designate one or more officers as the AFSIS Focal Point.
4. The AFSIS Focal Points, subject of the prevailing laws, rules, regulations and national policies in each AFSIS Member Country, and taking into consideration of this Joint Understanding, will systematically provide data to the AFSIS Secretariat for processing, analyzing, and disseminating information on national food security in an accurate, timely, and informative manner. The data and information will improve the monitoring system of demand and supply of agricultural products, food prices and market risks, sharing of market information and consumer alerts, thereby further contributing to the enhancement of food security in the ASEAN region.
5. The FPM is a forum where Focal Points make decisions for the AFSIS, and discuss its work plan and any other operational matters. The annual meeting is hosted by one of the ASEAN Member States in alphabetical order, and meetings may be held more frequently as needed. The meetings will be held on-line or

¹ AFSIS Member Countries consist of ten ASEAN Member States.

AFSIS Focal Points consist of ten ASEAN Member States and the People’s Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

face-to-face, considering logistical issues and the topics to be discussed. Decisions are made on the basis of consensus by the Focal Points.

6. The objective of AFSIS is to strengthen a regional food security information system through various activities categorized as core activities and additional activities as follows:

6.1 The core activities are to collect, process, analyze, and disseminate statistical data and information on agriculture and food which will be useful for enhancing food security in the ASEAN region. These activities include providing statistics on food security using the AFSIS database and publishing reports, such as Early Warning Information, Agricultural Commodity Outlook, Rice Growing Outlook, and other reports related to regional food security.

6.2 The additional activities are variety of projects and training programs implemented with the voluntary support of the Plus Three Countries, as well as other countries and regional or international organizations, in order to provide timely, accurate, and reliable food security information to the ASEAN Member States.

7. The AFSIS Member Countries will contribute to achieving the objectives of the AFSIS through mutual cooperation. It includes the core activity-related tasks such as collecting and providing relevant statistical data and information, building the capacity of their staff as necessary, and participating in the meetings and relevant activities.
8. The AFSIS Secretariat will be responsible for general and administrative coordination, providing necessary support for all AFSIS activities according to the decisions of the Focal Points, reporting the progress of AFSIS activities to the FPM, and AMAF Plus Three. Moreover, the AFSIS Secretariat will act as the secretary of the meetings, collaborating with the host country.
9. According to a consensus made by the AFSIS Focal Points, the AFSIS Secretariat is currently located on the premises of the Office of Agricultural Economics, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand.
10. The AFSIS Member Countries will bear their own expenses, such as attendance costs for the FPM and costs for hosting the FPM, in fulfilling their responsibilities to the AFSIS.

11. Voluntary contributions may be received from Plus Three Countries, any other countries, and regional or international organizations to support the development of regional food security information and other food security related concerns for effective implementation of AFSIS's work.
12. The operating expenses of the AFSIS Secretariat will be covered by in-kind contributions from the host state². Donors of voluntary contributions may bear the administrative cost of the AFSIS Secretariat in consideration of the services provided by the AFSIS Secretariat in carrying out activities. Also, ways to broaden the income base will be sought, such as soliciting external financial and/or in-kind contributions.
13. The Meeting conveyed deep appreciation to Malaysia for the effective chairmanship and excellent arrangements for the 22nd AFSIS Focal Point Meeting during 11-12 June 2024 and looked forward to the 23rd AFSIS Focal Point Meeting in 2025.

² The host state is currently Thailand as stated in paragraph 9.



**THE TWENTY-FOURTH 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**

(24th AMAF PLUS THREE)

25 October 2024

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

Final

1. The Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three was held virtually on 25 October 2024 hosted and chaired by Myanmar.
2. The Meeting focused on the accomplishments made in implementing the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy (APTCS) for the period 2016-2025. This strategy focuses on—several key areas, including sustainable agriculture, good agricultural practices, the integration and use of digital technologies, and strategies for adapting to and mitigating climate change. These priorities are vital for addressing regional challenges while fostering collaboration and strengthening ties between the ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three Countries. The discussions highlighted the importance of these areas in promoting sustainable development, improving food security, and ensuring ecological resilience, which are essential for the long-term prosperity and stability of the region.
3. The Meeting noted the implementation of various projects related to, among others, strategies for promoting crop insurance in ASEAN region through public-private partnerships, efforts to enhance the efficiency of regional irrigation water management, reducing harmful agrochemicals and crop burning, ensuring sustainable soil and water resources for agriculture, sustainable forest management, controlling African Swine Fever (ASF) and other significant transboundary animal diseases (TADs) in Asia, and Rice Value Chain Improvement, which aimed at supporting the region in ensuring food security and building a resilient and sustainable agri-food system. The Meeting appreciated the commitment from ASEAN Plus Three countries to continue improving the sustainability of food supply chains, enhancing human resource development and capacity building, enhancing collaboration on climate change, managing transboundary animal and plant pests, and strengthening the knowledge information exchange and research collaboration among countries. The Meeting encouraged ASEAN Plus Three countries to continue supporting the development of food, agriculture and forestry sector in the region.
4. The Meeting discussed the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement and noted that throughout 2023, nearly 3,000 MT of APTERR stocks under the Tier 3 program, contributed by Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK), were released in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and the Philippines. Japan's original initiatives, such as the pre-cooked rice assistance and the School Distribution Programme, were successfully implemented in Cambodia and the Philippines. Under China's in-cash contribution in 2023, 300 MT of rice was pre-

positioned in Lao PDR, while Myanmar released 200 MT of locally purchased rice, and the Philippines is procuring 375 MT of local rice to support disaster relief. Overall, these initiatives were crucial in addressing emergencies and bolstering food security across the region.

5.The Meeting expressed gratitude for the continued support from the Plus Three Countries for the 2024 Tier 3 pre-positioned program. China has donated an in-cash contribution of USD 800,000, equivalent to approximately 1,000 MT of rice. Japan has committed USD 720,000, providing around 620 MT of rice and 2 MT of pre-cooked rice; and the ROK has reaffirmed its support with a contribution of 10,000 MT of rice, all crucial for safeguarding food security among APTERR member countries. The Meeting requested the ASEAN Secretariat to collaborate with partners and stakeholders to further explore potential cooperation to enhance ASEAN's emergency response and ensure greater flexibility in managing food security crises

6.The Meeting discussed the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) and reiterated the importance of this system in providing essential information on food security in the ASEAN region. In 2023-2024, various significant reports were issued by the system, including the Early Warning Information (EWI) Report, Agricultural Commodity Outlook (ACO) Report, and Rice Growing Outlook (RGO) Report. These reports have provided valuable information and data for ASEAN countries to monitor food security in the region, enabling them to develop appropriate policies to closely observe the situation. The Meeting encouraged all relevant partners of ASEAN to collaborate with the AFSIS Secretariat to enhance the sharing of information and data. The meeting welcomed the endorsement of the Joint Understanding of the 22nd AFSIS Focal Point Meeting for the Sustainability of AFSIS seeking to enhance AFSIS's role, function, and long-term viability.

7.Regarding the priorities for cooperation post-2025 in the food, agriculture, and forestry sectors, the Meeting agreed to advance sustainable and circular agriculture by aligning efforts with the ASEAN Vision for post-2025 and the region's priorities. These priorities include decarbonisation, digitalisation, reduction of harmful agrochemicals, reduction of crop burning, addressing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and promoting Biological Control Agents (BCA). The Meeting requested the ASEAN Secretariat to lead the development of the Action Plan for ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation for 2026-2030 and finalise the document by 2025.

8.The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea for their continuous support and commitment to enhancing ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in food, agriculture, and forestry.

9.The Meeting extended sincere appreciation to Myanmar for the excellent arrangements made for the 24th AMAF Plus Three Meeting.

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