



ASEAN Food  
Security Information  
System (AFSIS)



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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### **ANNEX**

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## **AFSIS Annual Report 2023 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 2023 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 (AFSIS) Function for Emergency” or “SAFER” is reported in item 5. Finally, the Future Work Plan of AFSIS is explained in item 6.

### **2. Administrative Function and General Management**

#### **2.1 The 21<sup>st</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting**

The 21<sup>st</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting was held during 17 - 18 May 2023 as a hybrid meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR. It was organized by the AFSIS Secretariat and hosted by Lao PDR. The Meeting was presented with the update on AFSIS implementation in 2022-2023: Q1, the update of projects that collaborate with AFSIS, the future work plan in 2023, and the details of ACO and EWI reports in order

to make AFSIS member countries to better understand the process and a basic concept for obtaining the information in the reports. The APTERR General Manager presented the background and general information of APTERR, its implementation in 2022 - 2023, and analytic works related to the AFSIS. The representative from the Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan (RESTEC) updated on AFSIS-related activities supported by RESTEC in 2022 and the plan for 2023 Training. The representative from The Korea Agency of Education, Promotion and Information Service in Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (EPIS) of the Republic of Korea (ROK) presented the progress of the implementation of the Real-Time AFSIS Project in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> phase and the future work plan for the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase. The representative from the People's Republic of China (P.R. China) presented the current situation and challenges that have affected agriculture and disrupted global economics and the current situation and outlook of agricultural production on supply and demand in P.R. China. The representative from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan presented the new project in developing the method for forecasting rice yield using satellites in ASEAN which would be the next future collaboration with AFSIS after the SAFER project, and introduced the new JICA group training course namely "Human Resource Development for Practical Agricultural Statistics and Statistical Analysis" for 2024 - 2026. The AFSIS Japanese Expert informed the meeting on an outline, expected output, and SAFER project activities consisting of four main activities and tentative three-year work plans (November 2022 to November 2025). Furthermore, the AFSIS Japanese Expert presented additional information gathered from member states regarding serious disaster information-sharing mechanism and the additional commodity for the AFSIS database and ACO/EWI reports. The International Consultant of the SAFER project presented the duties and responsibilities under the SAFER project, new Rice Growing Outlook (RGO) activities, outline, the expected outlook activity on additional crop growing outlook and outline of INAHOR software (International Asian Harvest mOnitoring system for Rice), and activity to estimate the rice planted area by using remote sensing technology and AI functions. The representative from Lao PDR presented the current status of Agricultural Statistics in the country and Agricultural Statistics related to AFSIS activities in which Lao PDR has been supporting the agricultural statistics data to AFSIS reports such as ACO, EWI, and RGO reports, and participating in AFSIS technical support projects from Plus Three Countries. In addition, there was a session for the ASEAN Plus Three Member States to discuss and revise the concept notes of AFSIS New Framework in accordance with the Meeting recommendation. The Meeting endorsed the revised concept note of AFSIS New Framework. With reference to the suggestion from ASEAN Secretariat, AFSIS Secretariat proposed an endorsed concept note to AMAF and AMAF+3 via SSOM-AMAF and SSOM-AMAF+3 in August 2023 for consideration and guidance on the direction of the long-term position of AFSIS. The list of delegates appears in **ANNEX 1**.



*The 21<sup>st</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting on 17 - 18 May 2023 as a hybrid meeting*

## **2.2 The 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of APTERR Council**

The meeting was held during 25 - 26 April 2023 in Seoul, the Republic of Korea as a physical meeting, hosted by the ROK. The meeting was to report on the realization of the work plan and budget plan for the fiscal year 2022, the work plan, and the annual operational budget proposal for the fiscal year 2023 of the APTERR Secretariat. In addition, the proposed options for the future of AFSIS, especially to merge AFSIS with APTERR were presented and discussed in the meeting for consideration and comments. The result of this discussion was reported in the 21<sup>st</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting on 17 - 18 May 2023 in Lao PDR.



*The 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of APTERR Council during 25 - 26 April 2023 in ROK*

## **2.3 The 43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board (AFSRB)**

The meeting was held during 7 - 8 June 2023 and hosted by Indonesia as a Physical Conference in Bogor, West Java, Indonesia. AFSIS Secretariat presented the progress report of AFSIS in 2022 - 2023, including the challenges in the process of a core report of AFSIS was reported for discussion among member countries. In addition,

the implementation plan for the sustainability of AFSIS in the future 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 in order to strengthen food security in the region through the systematic collection, analysis, and dissemination of food security related information.



*The 43<sup>rd</sup> AFSRB during 7 - 8 June 2023 in Bogor, West Java, Indonesia*

#### **2.4 The Special Senior Officials Meeting of the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SSOM-44<sup>th</sup> AMAF) and the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (SSOM-22<sup>nd</sup> AMAF+3)**

The Special Senior Officials Meeting of the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SSOM-44<sup>th</sup> AMAF) and the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (SSOM-22<sup>nd</sup> AMAF+3) were held during 22 - 23 August 2023, hosted by the Lao PDR as the virtual meeting. The Meeting acknowledged the outcomes and achievements of the AFSIS implementation in the 2022 - 2023: Q2 and future Workplan, including a concept note of AFSIS New Framework that will facilitate the way to sustain AFSIS in the future. The Meeting also noted the importance of agricultural statistical data and information management in the ASEAN. 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 SSOM-44<sup>th</sup> AMAF and the SSOM-22<sup>nd</sup> AMAF+3 on 22 - 23 August 2023*

## Other Relevant Meeting

### 2.5 The OECD-ASEAN Workshop on Food Security

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in collaboration with ASEAN Secretariat conducted the virtual workshop entitled “OECD-ASEAN Workshop on Food Security: Sharing Evidence and Policy Experiences” on 2 February 2023. The objective of the workshop was to discuss priorities and key challenges related to food security in the ASEAN region; encourage cooperation in data collection, policy analysis, and reporting activities done and planned for the ASEAN region; and develop a network that can sustain a long-term policy dialogue between the OECD and the ASEAN region. During the workshop, 2 representatives of AFSIS member countries, Mr. Roby Darmawan, Director of the Center for Agricultural Data and Information System, Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Indonesia, and Ms. Tapee Vatcharangkool, Expert on Agricultural Economic Policy, Office of Agricultural Economics, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand, attended as the speakers in session 1: Trade and domestic policy monitoring, and session 2: Agricultural markets and outlook, respectively. The event integrated the discussions of agriculture, fisheries, and food trade policies, including the session that invited all participants to share opinions and experiences on these issues with regard to food security in their countries.



*The OECD-ASEAN Workshop on Food Security on 2 February 2023 via online platform*

### 2.6 The Meeting between AFSIS Secretariat and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

The Meeting between AFSIS Secretariat and JAXA was held on 13 February 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. The objective of the meeting was to introduce SAFE projects and cooperation with SAFE activities such as SAFE Rice monitoring (INAHOR) using ALOS-2 satellite and Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) with training data collection for rice mapping, a New SAFE project regarding methane emission from paddy rice (CH4Rice), and the relationship between SAFE Rice monitoring (INAHOR) project and FAO project. In addition, there was a discussion session where the participants discussed the potential collaboration between the AFSIS Secretariat



and JAXA for enhancing the food security information in the ASEAN Region by using satellite technology in the future.



*The Meeting between AFSIS Secretariat and JAXA on 13 February 2023*

## **2.7 The ASEAN Conference on Strengthening Food Security Integration**

AFSIS Secretariat attended the ASEAN Conference on Strengthening Food Security Integration on 17 April 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The objectives of this conference was to discuss and solicit inputs from related ASEAN bodies in formulating the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Times of Crises and stock-take policy recommendations from relevant sectors in strengthening the region's food security in times of crisis and efforts in building the resilience towards future unprecedented situations as well as discuss the outline of the Zero Draft Declaration. The participants of the event were representatives of ASEAN bodies and relevant sectors; ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF), ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM), ASEAN Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM), AFSRB, APTERR Secretariat, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), representatives from Agriculture, Economic, Transport Sector of Timor-Leste, and AFSIS Secretariat. During the conference, AFSIS Secretariat presented the activities under a collaboration between ASEAN+3 countries and the AFSIS Secretariat which aim to enhance human resource capacities and commit to the development of the food security system in the region for the readily use towards situations as well as support the policymakers and relevant organizations in strengthening food security in current and future emergencies of the ASEAN region.



*The ASEAN Conference on Strengthening Food Security Integration on 17 April 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia*

## **2.8 The bilateral meeting on the AFSIS new framework between OAE and MAFF of Japan**

The bilateral meeting on the AFSIS new framework between the Office of Agricultural Economics (OAE) and MAFF of Japan was held on 21 July 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. The objectives of this meeting were to exchange candid opinions on the details of the AFSIS new framework and to form a common understanding of the general direction to be taken, issued, and addressed. In addition, the details of Japan's joint research project on developing an estimated method of rice production by using satellites were also discussed to promote the interaction of agricultural statisticians among AFSIS member countries. The meeting ended successfully with great collaboration from both sides to confirm their utmost effort in order to support the continuity and progression of AFSIS outcomes in the future.



*The bilateral meeting on the AFSIS new framework on 21 July 2023*

## **2.9 Satellite Applications for Societal Benefit Working Group (SAWG) in the APRSAF-29 meeting**

AFSIS Secretariat attended the SAWG, which was a working group session of APRSAF-29 that was jointly organized by the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) of Indonesia, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) of Japan, and JAXA during 19 - 20 September 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The SAWG had the following objectives: to promote and facilitate the utilization of space-based systems, including earth observation satellites and navigation satellites, in conjunction with ground-based information to contribute to global agendas. This contribution aims to address a wide array of common social issues in the region while also establishing and strengthening a sustainable cooperative framework between space agencies and stakeholders, including end-users and development aid agencies. During the SAWG session, Dr. Sumanya Ngandee presented the AFSIS project and its implementation of

the Rice Growing Outlook (RGO) activity, including the collaboration with relevant organizations such as JAXA, MAFF, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), RESTEC, the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA), and Vietnam National Space Center (VNSC) regarding the utilization of satellite-derived agricultural information through human resource development activities. Furthermore, AFSIS' suggestion to keep continuous dialog with the space community to improve the efficiency of the RGO report and for the capacity-building activity for ASEAN member countries was acknowledged. In this regard, the Meeting discussed the way forward to extend the good results of RGO activity in collaboration with AFSIS to other countries and regions to other programs and initiatives i.e., ISRO's Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) or United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP).



*The SAWG in the APRSAF-29 meeting during 19 - 20 September 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia*

## **2.10 Regional Forum on Geospatial Information Application for Agricultural Monitoring in South-East Asia, Kunming, China**

AFSIS Secretariat attended to joint Regional Forum on Geospatial Information Application for Agricultural Monitoring in South-East Asia hosted by Yunan University during 30 November – 1 December 2023, in Kunming, China, Second Segment (Technology, Institution and, Policy) The workshop was attended by representatives of the ASEAN member countries the Alliance of International Science Organizations (ANSO), the Aerospace Information Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (AIRCAS), Group on Earth Observations Global Agriculture Monitoring (GEOGLAM), GISTDA, and the ASEAN Research and Training Center for Space Technology and Applications (ARTSA). In the session of High-Level Panel discussion on potential adoption and replication in South-East Asian Countries, Dr. Sumanya Ngandee, AFSIS Manager, was honored to share the experience of AFSIS (ASEAN Food Security Information), our project that corroborates with plus three counties and the AFSIS new framework that we provide sustainable of to the participants. Furthermore, the representatives of ASEAN Member States (AMS) shared the case studies and discussion on geospatial information for agricultural monitoring and also expressed the Crop-Bio Project.



*Regional Forum on Geospatial Information Application for Agricultural Monitoring in South-East Asia, during 30 November – 1 December, 2023 Kunming, China*

## **2.11 PPFS Webinar on Digitalization and Innovation of APEC Food System in Republic of Korea**

AFSIS Secretariat attended to joint The PPFS Webinar on Digitalization and Innovation of APEC Food System: Exploring Exemplary Cases of Promoting Digitalization and Technological Innovation in the Public and Private Sectors and Public-Private Partnerships on 5 December 2023 in ROK. This event engaged all relevant stakeholders in the policy dialogue on digitalization and innovation. They shared policy cases that have successfully responded to the challenges surrounding the APEC agri-food systems such as climate change and food insecurity through digitalization and innovation. In this meeting, Dr. Sumanya Ngandee, AFSIS Manager, was honored to share a presentation on the topic of the Utilization of satellite technology for crop monitoring activity and capacity building from partners related to food security in ASEAN. Furthermore, the participants explored exemplary cases of the public and private sectors and public-private partnerships for improving the digital capacity of various stakeholders across the entire agri-food supply chain. This is in line with AFSIS's ambition to share the importance of the project activities by using satellite technology for the crop monitoring information project and the importance of food security information in ASEAN.



*PPFS Webinar on Digitalization and Innovation of APEC Food System on 5 December 2023 in ROK*

### 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 The Invitational Workshop on the Project for Establishing Real-Time AFSIS and Development Human

The Invitational Workshop on the Project for Establishing Real-Time ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) and Development Human Resources hosted by the Korea Agency of Education, Promotion, and Information Service in Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (EPIS) with the collaboration of the AFSIS Secretariat, was held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea (ROK) during 19-25 November 2023. The workshop was attended by representatives from 5 target countries, namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, and Vietnam, as well as the AFSIS Secretariat. The objectives of the workshop were to share the project results in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> phase projects by country, and promote cooperation in the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase project. In addition, the workshop provided all participants with a great opportunity for site visits to learn advanced use of agricultural statistics, ICT, and spatial information in ROK. The Meeting also acknowledged the presentation given by Dr. Sumanya Ngandee, AFSIS Manager, and Mr. Charapon Chantorn, Deputy AFSIS Manager, on the AFSIS project, current achievements, and future expectations of the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the Real-Time AFSIS project, including the findings from previous phase.



*The Invitational Workshop on the Project for Establishing Real-Time AFSIS and Development Human during 19-25 November 2023 in Seoul, ROK*

#### 3.2 The cooperation with OAE MAFF, Japan and RESTEC on Joint Research Meeting for Rice Yield Estimation using Satellite data in Bangkok and site visit in Chainat province, Thailand

AFSIS Secretariat attended Meeting and Site Visits on Joint Research Rice Yield Estimation using Satellite data. This event was a cooperation during 6-7 December 2023 with the Office of Agricultural Economics (OAE) of Thailand, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan,

Remote Sensing Technology Center (RESTEC) of Japan, and the Regional Office of Agricultural Economics 7 (ROAE 7). The objective of the activities was to learn detailed survey methods and the actual rice cultivation situation on the site for the development of rice yield forecasting method using satellite Meteorological Information project. During the site visit, AFSIS Secretariat with the support of the ROAE 7 visited field survey at Ban Don Talai, Moo 6, Bang Luang Subdistrict, Sapphaya District, Chainat Province to organize a demonstration on crop-cutting in wet season rice (irrigated paddy fields) Additionally, a visit to a rain-fed paddy field outside the irrigation area at the Development of Agricultural Learning Center (ALC) in Nong Ma Mong District, Chainat Province. The knowledge imparted from this event will be used as supportive information and development for a pilot study on the development of rice yield forecasting methods using a satellite Meteorological Information project.



*The cooperation with OAE MAFF, Japan and RESTEC on Joint Research Meeting for Rice Yield Estimation using Satellite data during 6-7 December 2023 in Bangkok and site visit in Chainat province, Thailand*

#### **4. Food Security Information Development**

##### **4.1 AFSIS Database Maintenance and Website: [www.aptfssis.org](http://www.aptfssis.org)**

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, sugarcane, cassava, 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 2022.

##### **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 effect of COVID-19 on the food security situation, the impact of climate change and the global warming situation on the agricultural sector, and trading information of import and export for all 10 ASEAN Member States, except Singapore. The EWI report has been published twice a year in March and September since 2008 on the AFSIS website. For the year 2023, AFSIS published EWI No.30 (March 2023 issued) on 3 May 2023 and EWI No.31 (September 2023 issued) on 5 October 2023.

#### **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, and price (FOB and CIF), and balance sheet. This report has been published twice a year in June and December since 2008. In 2023, AFSIS released ACO No.30 (June 2023 issued) on 23 August 2023 and ACO No.31 (December 2023 issued) will be published in 5 February 2024.

#### **4.2.3 Rice Growing Outlook (RGO) Report**

Starting in 2023, the Rice Growing Outlook (RGO) report activity was transferred to AFSIS under the SAFER project funded by MAFF, Japan to further its activity nationwide for officers of agricultural ministries in ASEAN Member States (AMS). In October 2023, two new countries, namely Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia joined the RGO activity to collaborate with AFSIS to report the situation of rice growing in their countries, making the content of AFSIS RGO report consist of the rice growing situation in 9 countries, except Singapore. AFSIS supports the information in the RGO report to Asia-RiCE on GEOGLAM and disseminates it on the AFSIS website monthly to support agricultural monitoring and forecasting. In addition, the knowledge of the RGO report will be adapted to other major crops (Maize Growing Outlook: MGO) in the SAFER project by using satellite images and developing a new survey system to improve the efficiency of field operation with the cooperation of MAFF, JAXA, the space agencies in the region, AFSIS and member countries.

#### **4.2.4 Report and Disseminate the Information Regarding the Serious Disaster**

AFSIS Secretariat and ASEAN Plus Three member countries have presented the newest project called "Report and Disseminate the Information

Regarding the Serious Disaster” which will monitor the serious disaster and its impact on food security of AMS. In 2023, AFSIS published 5 reports on the AFSIS website under “News&Events” banner which are:

- 1) Tropical Cyclone MAWAR (Betty) in Philippines
- 2) Mayon Volcanic Activity in Philippines
- 3) Flooding and Landslides in 10 provinces in Lao PDR
- 4) Tropical Cyclone INVEST 99W in Vietnam
- 5) Flooding, landslides, and storms in Peninsular in Malaysia and southern Thailand

#### **4.2.5 The Special Report on Global Warming and Food Insecurity**

On 12 June 2023, AFSIS Secretariat published the special report “Global Warming and Food Insecurity” on the AFSIS website. This report provided more details and information regarding global warming, greenhouse gas emissions in the agricultural sector, and their impact on agriculture that could lead to issues in food security as well as recommendations to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions that can be adjusted according to activities, environment, social and economic context of each country.

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

The Project for Strengthening ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Function for Emergency or “SAFER” is a new technical support project funded by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan for 3 years which starts from 21 November 2022 to 20 November 2025. The objectives of the SAFER project are 1) to strengthen the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) functions on immediate sharing of food security information in the case of emergency for 10 ASEAN Member States (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 images. The workshops and activities under the SAFER project in 2023 are as follows:

#### **5.1 The Meeting and Site visit on the livestock and fishery production survey**

AFSIS Secretariat attended the Meeting and conduct a site visit on the livestock and fishery production survey during 14 - 17 February 2023



in collaboration of the Regional Office of Agricultural Economics 5 (ROAE 5) in Nakhon Ratchasima province, Thailand. The objective of the activities was for a Japanese Expert and officials of the AFSIS Secretariat to study, discuss, and gain experience in livestock and fishery production and farm management, which will be used as reference data for analysis and decision of the addition of a commodity to the AFSIS database, ACO and EWI reports, which is one of the core activities under the SAFER project. During the site visit, AFSIS Secretariat with the support of the OAE Region 5 visited on the information preparation of agricultural products such as Tilapia, Red tilapia, Laying hen, Broiler, Dairy cow, and Cattle in Nakhon Ratchasima province. The knowledge imparted from this meeting and site visit was used as supportive information for the additional commodity in the AFSIS database along with the discussion with AFSIS member countries in the Kick-off Meeting under the SAFER project in May 2023.



*The Meeting and site visit on the livestock and fishery production survey during 14 - 17 February 2023 in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand*

## **5.2 The Kick-off Meeting of the SAFER Project**

The kick-off meeting of the SAFER project was conducted in the 21<sup>st</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting during 17 - 18 May 2023 in Lao PDR to discuss the details of the SAFER activities with AFSIS Focal Points. The AFSIS Japanese Expert presented additional information gathered from member states regarding serious disaster information-sharing mechanism and the additional commodity for the AFSIS database, ACO and EWI reports. The expected outputs were presented for further discussion based on the emergency situation and the availability of official data from ASEAN Plus Three countries. The Meeting acknowledged the expected outputs of the SAFER project for strengthening the AFSIS function, including providing five training workshops. The first workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 29 – 30 August 2023 to discuss outputs 2 to 4 (Increasing Target Commodity for the AFSIS database and ACO/EWI reports, Monitoring Crop Growing Outlook, and Crop Area Estimation using the INAHOR software).



*The Kick-off Meeting of the SAFER Project in the 21<sup>st</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting during 17 - 18 May 2023 in Vientiane, Lao PDR*

### **5.3 INAHOR Workshop in Lao PDR**

The AFSIS Secretariat with the collaboration of JAXA and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) of Lao PDR conducted the workshop for the demonstration of INAHOR utilization for 2023 Rainy Season Rice on 31 July – 1 August 2023 in Vang Vieng, Lao PDR. This workshop was under the expected output 4 of the SAFER project and the rice crop monitoring project in APRSAF/SAFE initiative, with the aim to demonstrate the INAHOR utilization and develop the training data in Lao PDR for the whole country in 2023. Participants were officials from the Center for Agricultural Statistics (CAS), and the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office, MAF of Lao PDR. During the workshop, there was a session for making training data for 2023 rainy season rice which grid points in country areas will be judged on Google Earth Pro in consultation with the training tutors, CAS staff, and provincial staff. The INAHOR analysis results from this project will be presented again at the next INAHOR workshop in December 2023 and will be provided to CAS for further implementation.



*INAHOR Workshop in Vang Vieng, Lao PDR during 31 July – 1 August 2023*

#### **5.4 The 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Workshop on the SAFER Project**

The AFSIS Secretariat held the 1<sup>st</sup> regional workshop on the SAFER Project on 29 – 30 August 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. The 24 participants from ASEAN Plus Three Countries which were Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and Japan attended the workshop physically. Participants from the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, and the observers from relevant organizations from Indonesia and the Philippines attended virtually. On the first day, the workshop was directed by Mr. Miyake Yasuhiro, a Japanese Expert of the SAFER project, with the main objective of discussing and selecting an additional commodity that will be added to the AFSIS database, Agricultural Commodity Outlook (ACO), and Early Warning Information (EWI) reports, including the definition and methodology to collect the data. On the second day, an international consultant, Mr. Kimura Shoji who is in charge of monitoring crop growing condition activity in SAFER project, lectured on how to monitor the growing conditions by satellite agrometeorological data (JASMAI) for the Rice Growing Outlook (RGO) report to all participants, especially 2 new ASEAN Member Countries (Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia) that joined in the AFSIS' RGO activity in October 2023.



*The 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Workshop on the SAFER Project during 29 – 30 August 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand*

#### **5.5 Maize Field Trip for the Maize Growing Outlook (MGO) Activity**

AFSIS Secretariat conducted a maize field trip with the collaboration of the Regional Office of Agricultural Economics 7 at Nongmuang District in Lopburi province and Nakhon Sawan Field Crops Research Center in Nakhon Sawan province, Thailand on 31 August 2023. Participants were Officials from OAE Regional 7 and Nakhon Sawan Field Crops Research Center, representatives from AFSIS Focal Point of Japan, and 6 Representatives of the AFSIS Secretariat. The objective of this field trip was to interview and gain knowledge, and experience regarding growing maize for animal feed, factors affecting the growth, and the situation of maize production from farmers and researchers. The knowledge imparted from this event will be used as supportive information and reference for a new crop growing

outlook (Maize Growing Outlook, MGO) activity under the SAFER project which the MGO report is planned to be issued at the end of year 2025.



*Maize Field Trip for the MGO Activity on 31 August 2023 in Lopburi and Nakhon Sawan provinces, Thailand*

### **5.6 The 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Workshop on the SAFER Project**

AFSIS Secretariat organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> regional workshop on the SAFER Project during 12 – 13 December 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. The 33 participants from ASEAN Plus Three Countries which were Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and Japan attended the workshop physically and online participants from the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea along with the observers from relevant organizations from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand. The workshop featured contributions from 6 lecturers representing The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), The Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan (RESTEC), and AFSIS Secretariat. The objective of this workshop was to provide participants with comprehensive knowledge and practical skills in the INAHOR software developed by JAXA using ALOS-2 satellite to estimate the paddy rice planted area. The workshop included presentations covering the overview of SAFER project, overview of INAHOR software, and guidance on preparing INAHOR training data. Additionally, participants engaged in hands-on training sessions for INAHOR operations.



*The 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Workshop on the SAFER Project during 12 – 13 December 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand*

## **5.7 Outcomes Presentation Workshop on Promote rice planted area estimation using space-based technologies in Vientiane, Lao PDR**

AFSIS Secretariat in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) of Lao PDR conducted the outcomes presentation workshop on INAHOR estimation results and utilization for 2023 Rainy Season Rice at Lao Plaza Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR on 15 December 2023. This workshop aims to report the outcomes of the National Estimation Project in Lao PDR implemented in August 2023 and to widely disseminate the outcomes of joint project which are the SAFE and AFSIS's SAFER in Lao PDR to ASEAN member countries. Moreover, the workshop was emphasized the importance of AFSIS and also supported the AFSIS new framework to strengthen the existing role, function, and sustainability of the AFSIS in the region by effective collaboration, sharing of best practices, inspiring actions, and raising awareness together. There was a session for an overview of INAHOR estimation results of 2023 rainy season rice planted area and an evaluation of INAHOR results and utilization of INAHOR in domestic operation. The knowledge and outcomes of this workshop were useful and will apply space-based technology in rice crop monitoring and enhancement of rice statistics with timely and high accuracy as operational use in statistical work in the future. Furthermore, the results from this workshop will be reported at the ASEAN Summit in 2024.

## **6. Future Work Plan 2024**

### **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.
- Collaborating with 10 ASEAN Member States (AMS) to continue publishing the ACO and EWI reports.
- Introducing additional crops (Maize) in the Growing Outlook report.
- Continue disseminating the RGO Report.
- Improve more systematic emergency information reporting mechanism and continue the report and disseminate the information regarding the serious disaster.
- Develop AFSIS database for new commodity "Laying hen".
- Develop AFSIS Website.
- Encourage AMS and Plus Three countries to establish AFSIS as a sustainable organization and develop AFSIS into a full-fledged mechanism in the future.

## 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 how to write the growing condition for an additional crop.
- Developing crop area estimation method using the INAHOR system with advice from Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) for target countries.
- Continue supporting the Real-Time ASEAN Food Security Information Network and Developing Human Resource 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase.

## 6.3 Administrative

- Conduct the meeting of the Director-General responsible for Agricultural Statistics and Information in ASEAN+3 countries (DG Meeting) to discuss the direction and implementation of the AFSIS New Framework for its sustainability.
- Cooperating with MAFF, Japan to implement the SAFER Project.
- Attend the core relevant meetings, i.e., the Meeting of APTERR Council, the Meeting of AFSRB, the SSOM-AMAF, and the SSOM-AMAF+3.
- Attend other relevant meetings/workshops such as APRSAF-30<sup>th</sup>.
- Coordinate with the host country, Malaysia, to hold the 22<sup>nd</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting in 2024.
- Continue with the Plus Three Countries and relevant agencies in providing capacity-building workshops and related technical training programs.

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**List of Delegates  
The 21<sup>st</sup> AFSIS Focal Point Meeting  
17-18 May 2023  
Vientiane, Lao PDR**

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**1. BRUNEI**

Mrs. Nurhidayat Binti Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail  
Senior Agriculture Officer  
Department of Agriculture and Agrifood  
Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism  
Muhibbah Road, Old Airport, Berakas, BB3510,  
Brunei Darussalam  
Tel : +673 8817714  
E-mail : nurhidayat.ismail@agriculture.gov.bn

Ms. Norazeen Binti Mat Zin  
Senior Horticulture Assistant  
Department of Agriculture and Agrifood  
Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism  
Muhibbah Road, Old Airport, Berakas, BB3510,  
Brunei Darussalam  
Tel : +673 8763043  
E-mail : norazeen.puasa@agriculture.gov.b

**2. CAMBODIA**

Mr. Mak Mony  
Director  
Department of Planning and Statistics (DPS)  
Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries  
No 200, Preah Norodom Blvd,  
Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh,  
Cambodia  
Tel : +855 77512571, +855 92599336  
E-mail : makmony.maff@gmail.com

Mr. Neou Kompheak  
Chief of Agricultural ASEAN Office  
Department of International Cooperation (DIC)  
Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries  
No 200, Preah Norodom Blvd,  
Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh,  
Cambodia  
Tel : +855 12734744  
E-mail : neou\_kompheak@hotmail.com

### **3. INDONESIA**

Mr. Roby Darmawan  
Director  
Center for Agricultural Data and Information System  
Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)  
Jl. Harsono RM No.3, D Building 4th Floor, South Jakarta,  
Indonesia  
Tel : +62 8128293982  
E-mail : robydarmawan@pertanian.go.id, roby.darmawan15@gmail.com

Dr. Anna Astrid Susanti  
Senior Statistician  
Center for Agricultural Data and Information System  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Jl. Harsono RM No.3, D Building 4th Floor, South Jakarta,  
Indonesia  
Tel : +62 8129918509, +62 217807601  
E-mail : anna@pertanian.go.id, annaastrids@gmail.com

Mr. Rhendy Kencanaputra Widiyanto  
Statistician  
Center for Agricultural Data and Information System  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Jl. Harsono RM No.3, D Building 4th Floor, South Jakarta,  
Indonesia  
Tel : +62 82111132121  
E-mail : rhendy@pertanian.go.id, rhendy.stat@gmail.com

### **4. LAO PDR**

Dr. Thatsaka Saphangthong  
Director General  
Department of Planning and Cooperation  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR  
Lanexang Avenue, Patouxay Square, P.O.Box. 811  
Vientiane, 01000, Lao PDR  
Tel : +85 62054499932  
Email : thatsaka@gmail.com

Dr. Soulaphone Inthavong  
Deputy Director General  
Department of Planning and Cooperation  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR  
Lanexang Avenue, Patouxay Square, P.O.Box. 811  
Vientiane, 01000, Lao PDR  
Tel : +85620 57665544  
Email : suinthavong@yahoo.com

Ms. Khamvay Nanthavong  
Director  
Center for Agriculture Statistics, Department of Planning and Cooperation  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Lanexang Avenue, Patouxay Square, P.O.Box. 811  
Vientiane, 01000, Lao PDR  
Tel : +85 621454251, +85 62022439933  
Email : kv.nanthavongcas@gmail.com



Mr. Phonesavanh Vanmixay  
Deputy Director  
Center for Agriculture Statistics, Department of Planning and Cooperation  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Lanexang Avenue, Patouxay Square, P.O.Box. 811  
Vientiane, 01000, Lao PDR  
Tel : +85 621454251, +85 62028916365  
Email : phonesavanhv@yahoo.com, phonesavanhvx@gmail.com

Mr. Sengkeo Chittavong  
Deputy Director  
Center for Agriculture Statistics, Department of Planning and Cooperation  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Lanexang Avenue, Patouxay Square, P.O.Box. 811  
Vientiane, 01000, Lao PDR  
Tel : +85 621454251, +85 62056128999  
Email : sengkeo\_ch@yahoo.com

Mr. Aengsone Kouangbounhieng  
Technical staff  
Center for Agriculture Statistics, Department of Planning and Cooperation  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Lanexang Avenue, Patouxay Square, P.O.Box. 811  
Vientiane, 01000, Lao PDR  
Tel : +85 621454251  
Email : aengsone@gmail.com

Mr. Sengphachan Khounthikoummane  
Technical staff  
Center for Agricultural Statistics, Department of Planning and Cooperation  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Lanexang Avenue, Patouxay Square, P.O.Box. 811  
Vientiane, 01000, Lao PDR  
Tel : +85 621454251, +85 62054647799  
Email : sengphachan\_k@yahoo.com

Ms. Monthong Keochansy  
Technical staff  
Center for Agricultural Statistics, Department of Planning and Cooperation  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Lanexang Avenue, Patouxay Square, P.O.Box. 811  
Vientiane, 01000, Lao PDR  
Tel : +85 621454251  
Email : keochansy@yahoo.com

Mr. Kaisone Yang  
Technical staff  
Center for Agricultural Statistics, Department of Planning and Cooperation  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Lanexang Avenue, Patouxay Square, P.O.Box. 811  
Vientiane, 01000, Lao PDR  
Tel : +85 621454251  
Email : [kaisone4@gmail.com](mailto:kaisone4@gmail.com)

Mr. Phonesy Mabouvongsa  
Technical staff  
Center for Agricultural Statistics, Department of Planning and Cooperation  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Lanexang Avenue, Patouxay Square, P.O.Box. 811  
Vientiane, 01000, Lao PDR  
Tel : +85 621454251  
Email : phonesey@gmail.com

## **5. MALAYSIA**

Mr. Mahdir Bahar  
Principle Assistant Secretary  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security  
Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan  
Wisma Tani,  
No. 28, Persiaran Perdana,  
Presint 4, Pusat Pentadbiran Kerajaan Persekutuan,  
62624 Putrajaya, Malaysia  
Tel : +60 12 550 8741, +60 16 5508741  
Email : mahdir@mafs.gov.my, mahdirbahar@gmail.com

## **6. MYANMAR**

Mr. Tin Aung  
Director  
Department of Agricultural Land Management and Statistics (DALMS),  
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation,  
Building No.43, Nay Pyi Taw,  
Myanmar  
Tel : +959 429205068, +9567 3410303  
Email : slrdstatisticsslrd@gmail.com

Mr. Kyaw Lwin  
Deputy Director  
Department of Agricultural Land Management and Statistics (DALMS),  
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation,  
Building No.43, Nay Pyi Taw,  
Myanmar  
Tel : +959 263836776  
Email : slrdstatisticsslrd@gmail.com

## **7. PHILIPPINES**

Dr. Divina Gracia Laluan Del Prado  
Deputy National Statistician  
Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)  
17th Flr. Centris Three, Eton Cyberpod, EDSA cor. Quezon Avenue,  
Quezon City, Philippines  
Tel : +63 283761984, +63 9175383353  
Email : g.delprado@psa.gov.ph, r.dador@psa.gov.ph

Ms. Rachel Clamor Lacsá  
Assistant National Statistician  
Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)  
17th Flr. Centris Three, Eton Cyberpod, EDSA cor. Quezon Avenue,  
Quezon City, Philippines  
Tel : +63 83761984, +63 9085845128  
Email : r.lacsá@psa.gov.ph

## **8. SINGAPORE**

Mr. Khng Yu Wei Kevin Gerald  
Senior Director  
Singapore Food Agency  
52 Jurong Gateway Road,  
JEM Office Tower, #14-01, S608550 Singapore  
Tel : +65 91712459  
E-mail : kevin\_khng@sfa.gov.sg

Mr. Poh Zan Xi  
Assistant Director  
Singapore Food Agency  
52 Jurong Gateway Road,  
JEM Office Tower, #14-01, S608550  
Singapore  
Tel : +65 91593576  
E-mail : poh\_zan\_xi@sfa.gov.sg

## 9. THAILAND

Mrs. Patchararatana Limsirikul  
Director of Center for Agricultural Information  
Office of Agricultural Economics  
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives  
50 Phahonyothin Road, Chatuchak,  
Bangkok 10900, Thailand  
Tel : +66 29405521, +66 818744407  
E-mail : pattosan27@gmail.com

Ms. Anyada Penpon  
Senior Statistician  
Office of Agricultural Economics  
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives  
50 Phahonyothin Road, Chatuchak,  
Bangkok 10900, Thailand  
Tel : +66 999751115  
E-mail : caiforecast@gmail.com, nananyada@gmail.com

## 10. VIETNAM

Dr. Nguyen Hoang Dan  
Deputy Director  
Center for Agricultural Digital Transformation and Statistics  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Building B5, No. 2, Ngoc Ha street, Ba Dinh, Hanoi,  
Vietnam  
Tel : +84 24 37341635 ext. 192, +84 0912981016  
E-mail : dannh@mard.gov.vn, danvkh@gmail.com

Ms. Ta Kim Cuc  
Deputy head of division  
Center for Agricultural Digital Transformation and Statistics  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Building B5, No. 2, Ngoc Ha street, Ba Dinh, Hanoi,  
Vietnam  
Tel : +84 02437341635, +84 024338230381  
E-mail : tkcuc77@gmail.com

Dr. Hieu Phan Sy  
Head of Division  
Center for Agricultural Digital Transformation and Statistics  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Building B5, No. 2, Ngoc Ha street, Ba Dinh, Hanoi,  
Vietnam  
Tel : +844 981648349  
E-mail : phansyhieu.1975@gmail.com

Ms. Nguyen Thi Lan Anh  
Staff  
Center for Agricultural Digital Transformation and Statistics  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Building B5, No. 2, Ngoc Ha street, Ba Dinh, Hanoi,  
Vietnam  
Tel : +84978686015  
E-mail : lananhnguyen23@gmail.com, lananhnt@mard.gov.vn

Mrs. Nguyen Thi Thu Trang  
Staff  
Center for Agricultural Digital Transformation and Statistics  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Building B5, No. 2, Ngoc Ha street, Ba Dinh, Hanoi,  
Vietnam  
Tel : +84 919380287  
E-mail : trangnguyen.tkt@gmail.com

## 11. PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Dr. Yang Yong  
Professor  
Agricultural Information Institute  
Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)  
No.12 Zhongguancun South Street, Haidian District,  
Beijing, P.R.China, 100081  
Tel : +0086 82109823, +0086 13718081803  
Email : wheatblue@163.com

Dr. Xu Shiwei  
Professor  
Agricultural Information Institute  
Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)  
No.12 Zhongguancun South Street, Haidian District,  
Beijing, P.R.China, 100081  
Tel : +0086 82109902, +0086 13601119952  
Email : xushiwei@caas.cn

Dr. Wang Rui  
Associate Professor  
Agricultural Information Institute  
Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)  
No.12 Zhongguancun South Street, Haidian District,  
Beijing, P.R.China, 100081  
Tel : + 0086-82105112, + 0086-15001235459  
Email : [wangrui02@caas.cn](mailto:wangrui02@caas.cn)

## 12. JAPAN

Mr. Keitaro Kimura  
Director  
Statistics Planning Division  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan  
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8950,  
Japan  
Tel : +81 3 3502 8092  
E-mail : keitaro\_kimura790@maff.go.jp

Mr. Masahiro Hosaka  
Deputy Director  
Statistics Planning Division  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan  
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8950,  
Japan  
Tel : +81 3 3502 8092, +81 80 4620 119  
E-mail : masahiro\_hosaka870@maff.go.jp

Mr. Ryuki Ikeda  
Advisor  
Statistics Planning Division  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan  
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8950,  
Japan  
Tel : +81 3 3502 8092, +81 80 4620 119  
E-mail : ryuki\_ikeda990@maff.go.jp

Ms. Haruka Yoshida  
Officer  
Statistics Planning Division  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan  
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8950,  
Japan  
Tel : +81 3 3502 8092, +81 80 4620 119  
E-mail : Haruka\_yoshida380@maff.go.jp

Ms. Hikaru Kannaka  
Officer  
Statistics Planning Division  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan  
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8950,  
Japan  
Tel : +81 3 3502 8092, +81 80 4620 119  
E-mail : Hikaru\_kannaka060@maff.go.jp

### **13. REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Ms. Young-Ki Hwang  
Director of International Agricultural Cooperation Division  
Korea Agency of Education, Promotion and Information Service in Food,  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (EPIS)  
19, Gukchaegyeonguwon-5ro, Sejong-si, Seoul, 30148  
Republic of Korea  
Tel : +82 10 6435 4520, +82 448618880  
E-mail : zerotwo76@epis.or.kr

Ms. Juhwa Sun  
Manager  
Korea Agency of Education, Promotion and Information Service in Food,  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (EPIS)  
19, Gukchaegyeonguwon-5ro, Sejong-si, Seoul, 30148  
Republic of Korea  
Tel : +82 10 6379 0161, +82 44 861 8884  
E-mail : suncoin@epis.or.kr

#### **14. RESTEC**

Dr. Ryo Michishita  
Deputy Manager  
Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan (RESTEC)  
Global Partnership Development Section, Solution Service Dept II  
3-17-1 Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001  
Japan  
Tel : +81 365348640  
E-mail : Michishita\_ryo@restec.or.jp

#### **15. APTERR**

Mr. Choomjet Karnjanakesorn  
General Manager  
ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Secretariat  
2nd Floor, Office of Agricultural Economics Bldg., Phahonyothin Road.,  
Ladyao, Bangkok, 10900, Thailand  
Tel : +66 2 579 4816  
E-mail : choomjet.kar@apterr.org

Ms. Nattavadee Srprathum  
Technical Staff for FEMI  
ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Secretariat  
2nd Floor, Office of Agricultural Economics Bldg., Phahonyothin Road.,  
Ladyao, Bangkok, 10900, Thailand  
Tel : +66 2 579 4816  
E-mail : Nattavadee@apterr.org

Ms. Passawee Sumalu  
Administrative Staff  
ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Secretariat  
2nd Floor, Office of Agricultural Economics Bldg., Phahonyothin Road.,  
Ladyao, Bangkok, 10900, Thailand  
Tel : +66 2 579 4816  
E-mail : ppassawee.s@apterr.org

#### **16. ASEAN Secretariat**

Mr. Pham Quang Minh  
Head of Food, Agriculture and Forestry  
ASEAN Secretariat  
70A Jalan Sisingamangaraja  
Jakarta 12110  
Tel : +6287889898389,  
E-mail : pham.minh@asean.org

#### **17. AFSIS Secretariat**

Dr. Waraporn Saelee  
AFSIS Manager  
ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Secretariat  
AFSIS Secretariat, Office of Agricultural Economics, Phahonyothin Road,  
Chatuchak, Bangkok, 10900, Thailand  
Tel : +66 982702976, +66 29407468  
E-mail : Waraporn.sae@gmail.com

Dr. Sumanya Ngandee  
Deputy AFSIS Manager  
ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Secretariat  
AFSIS Secretariat, Office of Agricultural Economics, Phahonyothin Road,  
Chatuchak, Bangkok, 10900, Thailand  
Tel : +66 816122961, +66 29407468  
E-mail : sumanya@oae.go.th

Mr. Yasuhiro Miyake  
Japanese Expert  
ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Secretariat  
AFSIS Secretariat, Office of Agricultural Economics, Phahonyothin Road,  
Chatuchak, Bangkok, 10900, Thailand  
Tel : +66 638800063, +66 29407468  
E-mail : afsis.miyake@gmail.com

Mr. Shoji Kimura  
International Consultant of SAFER project  
Fran Ange IV 202 Shinei-Town 11-7 Miyazaki-City Miyazaki  
880-0831, Japan  
Tel : +9059497111  
E-mail : wood\_v@yahoo.co.jp

Mr. Tanabodee Kheosipalard  
Statistician  
ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Secretariat  
AFSIS Secretariat, Office of Agricultural Economics, Phahonyothin Road,  
Chatuchak, Bangkok, 10900, Thailand  
Tel : +66 982782976, +66 29407468  
E-mail : tanabodee.kheo@gmail.com

Ms. Worada Wongsud  
Secretary to Japanese Expert  
ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Secretariat  
AFSIS Secretariat, Office of Agricultural Economics, Phahonyothin Road,  
Chatuchak, Bangkok, 10900, Thailand  
Tel : +66 804455436, +66 29407468  
E-mail : wworada.won@gmail.com

Ms. Prodpran Lomthong  
Project Coordinator Staff  
ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Secretariat AFSIS Secretariat,  
Office of Agricultural Economics, Phahonyothin Road, Chatuchak, Bangkok,  
10900, Thailand  
Tel : +66 638955393, +66 29407468  
E-mail : prodpran.lom@gmail.com

Ms. Chotika Tongrungsot  
Administrative and Finance Officer  
AFSIS Secretariat,  
Office of Agricultural Economics,  
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives  
Phahonyothin Road, Chatuchak, Bangkok, 10900, Thailand  
Tel : +66 934453554  
E-mail : chalalai\_t@outlook.com

## **Observer**

### **1. EGIS Co., Ltd**

Mr. KWANG-SE(BRUCE), LEE  
Global Chief Marketing Officer (GCMO)  
Global Development Cooperation Center  
EGIS Co., Ltd  
401, 2, Alphacity 1-ro, 31-gil,  
Suseong-gu, Daegu, Republic of Korea  
Tel : +821029577726, +821029577726  
Email : kworld7726@egiskorea.com, kworld7726@naver.com

### **2. FAO**

Ms. Yuno Ito  
Nutrition and Food System Officer  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
128 Phonxay Road, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR  
Tel : +8562054090789  
Email : yuno.ito@fao.org, sterculia1103@gmail.com

### **3. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR**

Mrs. Onkham  
Technical official  
Administration, Planning and Cooperation Division  
Department of Livestock and Fishery  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Souphanouvong Avenue, Khounta Tha village,  
Sikhotabong District, Vientiane capital  
P.O.Box 6644, Vientiane 01000, Lao PDR  
Tel : +856-21 215242,215243, +856-20 5571 6083  
Email : onekham.dfl@gmail.com, insomvilay@yahoo.com