

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

Context

The agriculture sector contributes significantly to the economy and livelihood of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States and is important for regional integration. ASEAN aims to improve the quality of agricultural production in line with regional and international food standards on quality and sustainability. The project aims to strengthen the implementation of sustainability standards in agricultural value chains in the region. It also incorporates climate aspects to help achieve climate resilience, promote low emissions and encourage good agricultural practices for food security and sustainable food systems in the region.

The Objective

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

Expected Results

The project aims to achieve the following outputs:

1. Cooperation between ASEAN bodies and private sector actors is improved;
2. Awareness of the importance of gender in agriculture is strengthened;
3. Institutional and technical capacities of ASEAN actors to prioritise and implement effective measures on climate aspects are improved;
4. Knowledge exchange between public and private actors on best practices, including climate-smart practices in the CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam), is strengthened;

Project name	Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains in ASEAN (ASEAN AgriTrade)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	ASEAN Member States (AMS), with pilot activities in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam
Lead executing agency	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
Duration	January 2020 to December 2023

5. Knowledge and awareness of the health and environmental benefits, including climate benefits of sustainably produced agricultural products, is improved; and
6. Benefits and lessons learned on implementing public-private partnerships and cooperation, and sustainability standards, including climate-smart agriculture practices, are well known to policymakers at national level.

Progress

- **Gender mainstreaming.** Recommendations were made to integrate gender aspects into the Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation on Crops (SPA-Crops) and project activities.
- **Agrinnovation Fund in ASEAN (AIF).** The AIF aims to foster innovation in agricultural value chains. The AIF has onboarded 29* development partnerships with the private sector, involving some 2,300 farmers, to enhance production and improve safety, quality, and sustainability. *Six are supported under the Climate Resilience of Agricultural Systems in Cambodia and Viet Nam (CRAS) project.



Page 1 (Left) Women group in Na Nga village, Son La province Viet Nam. Na Nga Cooperative is one of the AIF partners working to improve post-harvest mango processing and building solar dome drying technology. Photo: GIZ/Vu Chau Ngoc.

Page 1 (Right) and Page 2. The third AIF Knowledge Exchange in Bangkok, December 2022, brought together partners from CLMV countries to discuss about progress activities. Photo: GIZ/Proramatephoto.



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- **General assessment on ASEAN standards.** The implementation status of the ASEAN Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and ASEAN Standards for Organic Agriculture (ASOA) in 10 AMS was assessed and recommendations to improve the implementation of these standards were made.
- **Regional Training of Trainers (ToT).** 27 participants from eight AMS completed the ToT for implementation of the ASOA through the National Training Programme for Organic Agriculture and developed action plans aimed at strengthening the capacity of stakeholders in AMS further.
- **Chili value chain development in Cambodia.** A series of public and private dialogue workshops were held at the sub-national and national levels to develop action plans and interventions to support the growth of the chili sector.
- **Updating Lao GAP and standards for Organic Agriculture (OA)** with the Lao Department of Agriculture. Furthermore, 30 farm advisors participated in pilot training measures on improved/updated GAP/OA standards.
- **Improving Lao certification and inspection processes for GAP and OA** by reviewing and updating existing Lao documents for GAP and OA inspection and certification in line with ASEAN GAP and OA requirements.
- **VietGAP Guidelines.** Supported the development of VietGAP Guidelines for 10 key fruits.
- **Promotion of organic standards in Viet Nam.** Together with partner organised a series of events to promote organic agricultural products, review the three-year implementation of Decree No. 09/2018/ND-CP on Organic Agriculture, and develop organic certification bodies.
- **Consumer awareness.** There are ongoing and planned consumer awareness campaigns on food safety in CLMV countries. In Viet Nam, an awareness raising campaign was conducted through various communication channels and reached 503,890 people.
- **Support for the regional exchange platform on climate topics.** The project facilitates support for the ASEAN Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN) the ASEAN Negotiating Group for Agriculture (ANGA) so that it can continue representing ASEAN positions on agriculture in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- **E-learning course on climate change negotiation.** The course provides a basic understanding of climate change negotiations in the scope of the UNFCCC for agricultural stakeholders. Link to the course: <https://t1p.de/uhfb8>
- **Support for ASEAN through the Food, Agriculture, and Forestry (FAF) Division of the ASEAN Secretariat.** Guidelines and knowledge products on the issue of adaptation and mitigation of the FAF sector have been endorsed by the ASEAN Technical Working Group on Agricultural Research and Development. (ATWGARD) in 2022.
- **Pilot measure on rice straw collection and processing.** There is an ongoing development partnership with the private sector in Thailand to pilot the innovative use of rice straw to reduce open field burning in the northern province of Chiang Rai.

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