

Minutes of Meeting

ASEAN-CRN in the time of Corona - Virtual Meeting

22nd April 2020

The annual meeting of the ASEAN Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN), which was set to be held in Penang, Malaysia last in April 2020, was postponed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. In this regard the ASEAN-CRN together with development partners, have come to an agreement to introduce series of virtual meetings with duration of ninety minutes each, to retain the cooperation spirits and continue to contribute to the overall ASEAN- Food, Agriculture and Food (FAF) Cooperation Vision 2025.

The virtual meeting with title of “The ASEAN-CRN in the Time of Corona” looked at and discussed the food security in the time of pandemic, including potential roles of ASEAN-CRN contribution in the region amidst the pandemic, funding opportunities of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Fund for Agriculture and followed with the updates from ASEAN-CRN and partners. The virtual meeting was co-hosted by Thailand as Chair of ASEAN-CRN, with Malaysia as this year host of the 15th ASEAN Technical Working Group Agricultural Research and Development (ATWGARD) Meeting and the CRN annual meeting.

Participants

Total of 45 participants attended the meeting. They were representatives of the ASEAN Member States (AMS) from 10 countries and cooperation partners such as the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS-CGIAR), Climate-Smart Land Use (CSLU) in ASEAN, the project funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-ROAP), the Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA) and Grow Asia. The meeting was organized with the support from FAO, GACSA and GIZ.

Food Security and the Pandemic

- Mr. Dhanush Dinesh and and Ms. Jana Korner, of the CGIAR-CCAFS gave a thought-provoking presentation on parallelisms between the climate emergency and pandemic response, suggesting that the Covid-19 is the fast-forward version of the climate crisis. Furthermore, the implications of the Covid-19 Pandemic on food systems were also discussed to take lessons learned from the climate emergency in relation to the pandemic, and possible key actions towards a new normal.
- On the implications of the Covid-19 Pandemic on food systems, AMS were able to exchange experiences on how each country is dealing with the global health crisis in relation to their agriculture base and food supply.

- Mr. Dian Sukmajaya from the FAF Division of the ASEAN Secretariat shared the joint statement of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) in mid-April 2020, with 11 points to address the pandemic and food security in the region and to reaffirm commitment to ensure food security, food safety and nutrition in the region. The statement can be viewed and downloaded [here](#). Furthermore, Mr. Sukmajaya provided a brief explanation about the [ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve \(APTERR\)](#) for possible rice shortage faced by the AMS.
- The FAO is currently undertaking a regional rapid assessment of Covid-19 food systems and food security in all countries in the region in partnership with country and regional partners.

ASEAN GCF - Readiness Fund for Agriculture

- The presenter, Ms. Imelda Bacudo and Mr. Beau Damen, FAO-ROAP, shared about the ASEAN GCF Readiness Fund proposal that is currently under development and ASEAN-CRN members are welcome to be part of this regional effort. Therefore, a separate webinar dedicated to discussing the regional proposal was put forward.

ASEAN-CRN Updates

- Several updates of ASEAN-CRN were discussed, for example the ASEAN-CRN communication tools, including CRN design manual and the CRN website improvement.
- CSLU provided update on a planned Leadership Course on Land Use Management for Food Security and Climate Impacts, the review of usability and application of ASEAN guidelines from the FAF sectors and case studies on integrated mitigation and adaptation approaches in the FAF sectors.
- FAO-ROAP shared their six key climate change work programmes in 2020-2021. This includes (1) Advanced planning tools for climate resilient agriculture and value chains, (2) Nature-Based Solutions for Agriculture and Climate, (3) NDC implementation and Transparency, (4) Regional engagement on Koronivia, (5) Private sector financing for CSA and (6) Scaling-up action through GEF and GCF.
- GACSA continues to play role for coordinating a knowledge platform where governments and regional groups can share their experiences in scaling-up CSA in terms of successes and challenges. GACSA will also be hosting their annual forum online later this year.

ASEAN-CRN has agreed to conduct regular virtual meetings within a 4-6 weeks timespan. The next ASEAN-CRN virtual meeting will take place in about one month, time will be confirmed.