

Minutes of Meeting

ASEAN-CRN in the time of Corona - Virtual Meeting Series **Topic: Bioeconomy as an Approach Relevant to Food Security** **and Support to AMAF Vision** **11th September 2020**

The ASEAN Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN) together with development partners organized the third virtual meeting on 11th of September 2020 continuing collaborative spirit towards meaningful climate action. The meeting is part of the network's planned series of virtual meetings aptly themed, "ASEAN-CRN in the time of Corona", addressing the challenges posed by the Coronavirus Pandemic and contributing to the overall ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (FAF) 2025 Vision.

This third virtual meeting's agenda were to introduce key principles in bioeconomy relevant to agriculture research work and discuss how this approach can support the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) vision of food security, climate resilience and green recovery during these times as well as to provide updates from the network. The meeting was hosted by Thailand as Chair of ASEAN-CRN.

Participants

A total of 23 participants attended the meeting. The participants consisted of representatives from ASEAN Member States (AMS), the ASEAN Secretariat and partner organizations; the International Sustainable Bioeconomy Working Group from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA). The meeting was jointly organized with the support from the Climate-Smart Land Use (CSLU) in ASEAN, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-ROAP). The Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA) provided technical support for the meeting.

Sustainable and Circular Bioeconomy Towards Food Systems Resilience

- Ms. Anne Bogdanski, Sustainable and Circular Bioeconomy programme coordinator from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of United Nations in Rome led the discussion on bioeconomy and its role in contributing towards food system resilience. The FAO Circular Bioeconomy Programme manages the International Sustainable Bioeconomy Working Group, which is composed of over 35 different institutions including policymakers, private sector actors, NGOs, civil society and scientists, and promotes knowledge exchange and provides advise to FAO on the development of sustainable and circular bioeconomy guiding documents.
- Ms. Bogdanski explained that the world is currently facing a triple crisis; the COVID19 Pandemic, Climate Change, and Air Pollution and that these crises are mutually reinforcing. The pandemic has amplified the need for a resilient food system that can ensure stable access to a sufficient supply of safe, nutritious and affordable food.

- A Green Recovery is seen as the solution to these crises. In the food and agriculture sector this would need to be built on three pillars; economic recovery, increased resilience, and the mitigation of health risks. A sustainable and circular bioeconomy can and should contribute to these goals as it allows for a transition to sustainable food systems. It still provides a largely untapped potential for farmers and also a huge economic opportunity.
- The presentation cited bioeconomy projects and strategies implemented in Asia, including strategies in the ASEAN region from Thailand and Malaysia, as well as projects from Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines.
- The International Sustainable Bioeconomy Working Group also extended an invitation to representatives from Ministries to a closed webinar series they are hosting with the FAO on Circular Bioeconomy. It is an excellent opportunity for knowledge-exchange and engagement with other scientific staff from Ministries on the potential solutions made possible through circular and sustainable bioeconomy. Thailand and Malaysia already are already members of the ISBWG and several AMS representatives have expressed interest in participating. Furthermore, they pointed to the Global Bioeconomy Summit, 16-20 November 2020 in Berlin, <http://gbs2020.net/>.
- FAO Bioeconomy Team provides technical support to member countries on sustainable and circular bioeconomy. FAO's work on Bioeconomy is funded by the German Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL).
- Dr Margaret Yoovatana inquired on the differences of biotechnology and bioeconomy and how does Climate Smart Agriculture compare with Bioeconomy practices and strategies. Participants mentioned the possibility that ATWGARD could consider integrating the concept of bioeconomy in their work.

ASEAN-CRN Meeting

23rd September 2020

The second part of the ASEAN-CRN meeting took place on the 23rd September 2020. The meeting attended by AMS national focal points and partner organizations discussed updates and internal issues.

The ASEAN Secretariat

- Mr. Dian Sukmajaya of the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Division (FAFD) ASEAN Secretariat appealed for the support of all AMS in the promotion and implementation of the ASEAN regional guidelines relevant to land use sector. ASEAN-CRN has been involved in the preparation of some of these guidelines. Mr. Sukmajaya encouraged the AMS to continue promotion and implementation of the Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) guidelines and practices in the national level.
- The ASEAN Economic Community has facilitated a panel of global expert meeting as part of the development of a Comprehensive Recovery Framework to address the impacts of the pandemic. The recovery framework aims to guide all sectors in assessing, re-aligning, and expediting the work and priorities to promote strategies and initiatives. Under the FAFD sector, several initiatives have been proposed such as capacity building, knowledge sharing, promoting regional guidelines and the implementation of CSA practices. This will need support from partner organizations and AMS.

Climate Smart Land Use (CSLU) in ASEAN, GIZ

The ASEAN Climate Leadership Programme (ACLPL)

- The network also provided brief updates on the CSLU Project. The ASEAN Climate Leadership Programme (ACLPL) which is organized in collaboration with the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) was launched. A call for applications has been announced and disseminated via ATWGARD and other ASEAN WGs. 53 applications were received, and 28 participants have been selected. The duration of the programme will be from the 1st of October to the 11th of December, 2020.

Knowledge Product

- A knowledge product about the ASEAN Negotiating Group for Agriculture (ANGA) is currently being developed. The publication will capture the experience of ANGA from the formation, lessons learned from the process, arriving to commonalities, engagement with climate negotiations (UNFCCC), working with champions, drawing inspirations and sharing experiences with other groups.

- Based on this, the idea is to co-develop Joint Policy Brief on how ASEAN can engage with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) with other working groups such as ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC)/ Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (RDPE).

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-ROAP)

- Ongoing work to develop the Southeast Asia Readiness Fund for Agriculture for Koronivia Implementation. Draft proposal is under initial FAO before circulation (September 2020).
- New knowledge briefs under development on Koronivia. Suggestions will be needed for next Koronivia focused workshop/training.
- FAO regional analysis of NDCs is published and Southeast Asia mini analysis and brief is under development.
- Ambition on Land-use and Agriculture through NDCs and NAPs (SCALA) to be launched in 2021. Cambodia and Thailand will be included. Scope for regional knowledge sharing and exchange especially on technical issues.
- Regional training on agroecological zoning and climate change scenarios for agriculture.
- Work on jurisdictional approaches and climate finance together with SEARCA, with pilot activities in Malaysia and Philippines. Regional consultation will be likely to happen in end quarter of 2020.
- FAO has been working on open source tools and hopes to share this with the network before the end of the year. Beau will share the link with the group. To organize knowledge exchange event before the end of the year.

The Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA)

- GACSA announced that they have been selected for Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The CFS is an inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all. The Committee reports to the Un General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and to FAO Conference. More information: <http://www.fao.org/cfs>.
- GACSA recognizes that the ASEAN-CRN is part of a larger network and encourages opportunities and activities on knowledge production and exchange.

AMS Update

- **Indonesia.** The Indonesian Centre for Agricultural Land Resources Research and Development (ICALRRD), IAARD, Ministry of Agriculture organized the first international conference with theme of “Adapting Land Management to Climate Change and Combating Land Degradation to Increase Resilience of Agricultural Systems”. The conference was organized in virtual mode on 16th to 18th September 2020. Further information on the conference and material, please visit <https://seminarbbsdlp.id/icstlm/index.php/en/>.
- **Malaysia.** The Green Climate Fund (GCF) proposal has been coordinated with the National Designated Authorities (NDAs) of Malaysia. Their NDA is receptive and requests for a concept note.

- **Thailand.** The Thailand Department of Agriculture has set-up multi-sectoral database, developed by Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP). The database comprises of expertise on climate change, international collaboration and negotiation position of the country in the climate change international fora. Furthermore, Thailand shared on recent activities such as the approval of the Negotiation framework for agriculture by the National Agricultural Committee on Climate Change, which is aligned with the KJWA roadmap.
- **Singapore.** In the light of the pandemic, the country is strengthening its efforts in reducing the vulnerability of the food chain and further develop the food sector to increase resilience. Key topics in this context are, i.a. genetic selection of crop varieties. For more information on the AgriFood Innovation Webinar Series, which was organized on the 22nd-24th September 2020, please visit the link: <https://agrifood.ipi-singapore.org/>.

The Sustainability of the ASEAN-CRN

AMS focal points discussed the sustainability of the organisational support for the ASEAN-CRN. Although the ATWGARD endorsed the establishment of the ASEAN-CRN, there was the institutional set-up and mandate for the CRN Secretariat is not clear (role, tasks). In practice, the organisational support was provided informally through different GIZ projects (in close coordination with the CRN Chair and ASEAC) until now. This is not sustainable in the long run. For further sustaining the support for organisational matters for the network, a more sustainable institutional set up is needed and TORs of the CRN Secretariat need to be defined more clearly.

The following ideas were discussed:

- (1) To embed the CRN Secretariat in a national/regional institution outside a (usually short-term) project. Drawing experience from the CSLU and the previous FOR-CC project, both funded by the German Government and implemented by GIZ, the CRN secretariat needs dedicated resources such as a staff, equipment and office space for the secretariat. In the context of ASEAN-CRN, Thailand has been widely recognized as the leading country that laid foundation to ASEAN-CRN's establishment. It is worth further discussing the possibility of embedding the CRN Secretariat in the country, following examples of other ASEAN networks/ working groups. Other options will be explored in parallel.

Support to the secretariat can then be provided by mobilizing resources from different sources. The ASEAN Secretariat will be able to support the leading country with mobilizing resources based on the initiative proposed by the network and with policy support at the working group level. GIZ and FAO reiterated their general commitment to further support CRN related to specific activities.

- (2) To define Terms of References for the CRN Secretariat to provide it with a clearer mandate. One option would be to update and amend the existing TORs for the network as such (published in Annex 5 of the CSA Guidelines Volume I).
- (3) The CRN focal points will further discuss their vision of the network's sustainability before preparing an input for discussion for ATWGARD.

Participant List
The Second ASEAN-CRN Meeting –
The ASEAN-CRN in the time of Corona Virtual Meeting Series
11th and 23rd September 2020

NO	NAME	ORGANIZATION/COUNTRY
ASEAN-CRN Focal Points		
Indonesia		
1	Mr. Fahmuddin Agus	Indonesian Soil Research Institute
2	Mr. Setiari Marwanto	Indonesian Soil Research Institute
Malaysia		
3	Mr. Mohammad Hariz Bin Abdul Rahman	Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI)
Myanmar		
4	Ms. Han Swe	Department of Meteorology and Hydrology
5	Ms. Sabai Lwin	Department of Meteorology and Hydrology
Singapore		
6	Ms. Bee Ling Pho	Singapore Food Agency (SFA)
7	Ms. Melissa Chang	Singapore Food Agency (SFA)
8	Ms. May Chaw	Singapore Food Agency (SFA)
Thailand		
9	Ms. Margaret Yoovatana	Thailand Department of Agriculture (DOA), Chair of ASEAN-CRN
ASEAN Secretariat		
10	Mr. Achmad Solikhin	ASEAN Secretariat
11	Mr. Dian Sukmajaya	ASEAN Secretariat
12	Ms. Gemilang Haifa Khairinissa	ASEAN Secretariat
Development Partners		
13	Ms. Anne Bogdanski (11 th Sep)	FAO
14	Ms. Ayla Plaisimo	FAO
15	Mr. Beau Damen	FAO-ROAP
16	Ms. Dada Bacudo	International Consultant FAO-ROAP, GIZ CSLU
17	Ms. Srijita Dasgupta	FAO-ROAP
18	Mr. Simon Leiva	GACSA
19	Ms. Jana Stankova	GACSA
20	Mr. Lufingo Mwamakamba	GACSA
21	Ms. Hanna Reuter	GIZ CSLU
22	Ms. Fitra Aidiella Dachlan (23 rd Sep)	GIZ CSLU
23	Ms. Shofi Fauziyyah (11 th Sep)	GIZ CSLU
24	Ms. Jessica Faye Marino	GIZ CSLU Consultant