



# ASEAN Farmers' Organisations Support Programme (AFOSP)







# About AFOSP

## Introduction

ASEAN Farmers' Organisations Support Programme (AFOSP) is an organisation funded by European Union (EU) and International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) focusing on the improvement of smallholder farmers' living standard and food security. It aims to establish a new dimension for Farmers' Organisations (FOs) across this region with the ability to strengthen and influence policy as well as corporate development processes related to it.

ASEAN Foundation is tasked with developing the key link between rural FOs in ASEAN region through policy dialogue processes. All stakeholders need to actively engage themselves within the ASEAN Blueprints particularly in ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community pillar.

To achieve the goals of the establishment, AFOSP emphasizes two key programmatic areas which are the Medium-Term Cooperation Programme with Farmers' Organisations in Asia and the Pacific (MTCP2) and Farmers Fighting Poverty (FFP). MTCP2 focuses on organizational development, strengthening processes and policy advocacy while FFP works/focuses on strengthening and empowering the development of FOs in their involvement in the supply chain through advisory services.

The project is funded by the European Union & IFAD



## Key Components

Institutional strengthening of FOs and their networks



Participation of FOs in policy process



FOs' services and their involvement in agriculture development programmes



Programme management and coordination

## Activities

Understanding structure, processes and dynamics of FOs

Research and monitoring

Forums between FOs and ASEAN Bodies

Knowledge exchange





# ASEAN-AFOSP Policy Dialogue

## Overview

Policy dialogue is deemed by AFOSP-ASEAN Foundation as an excellent medium to enhance multi-stakeholders' participation in agribusiness sector. It is vital to encourage cooperatives-to-cooperatives and farmers-to-farmers connection across a freer border for joint productions or marketing action across the regional agriculture value chain.

In accordance to that, ASEAN Foundation hosted the *“Roundtable Discussion (RTD) on improving social dialogue and programme cooperative between EU-ASEAN-FO-CSO on strengthening Agricultural Cooperatives and Attracting Youth in Agriculture”* and brought together representatives from both ASEAN and EU regional bodies, regional and local Farmers' Organisation as well as the other stakeholders.

The major two key themes of the events are strengthening of agricultural cooperatives and attracting youths to engage in farming into the future. The RTD was specifically aiming for improving the awareness and appreciation of the various initiatives among stakeholders from ASEAN and EU in agriculture. It also aims to identify the key comments and suggestions on potential tripartite programme cooperation between EU, ASEAN and FOs/CSOs on agricultural cooperatives and youth.

## Activities

- Experience sharing session by the participants on:
  - Their initiatives within strengthening of agricultural cooperatives
  - Their initiatives in engagement of youth within the wider agriculture movement
- Presentations by FOs focusing on:
  - Importance of partnerships and multi-stakeholder support
  - Funding
  - Image of agriculture as an obstacle to youth engagement
- Speech by EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development
  - Role of regional bodies such as the EU and ASEAN in supporting local farming
  - Importance of strong and engaged agriculture cooperatives to overcome key issues facing agriculture in the modern era (climate change, resources, youth engagement and the global market)
  - Linking agriculture to SDG No 11
  - Potential role of the cooperatives within more productive and sustainable food system
  - Urge the EU and ASEAN bodies to formulate programme cooperation to enhance livelihood-based viability of farming to attract more young farmers
- ASEAN-EU representatives sharing session on:
  - Relevant strategic action programmes related to agricultural cooperatives vested in ASEAN Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2016-2025 including promoting business linkages, direct investment and strategic partnership.

## Recommendations

- AFOSP and regional bodies should promote and adopt Geographical Indications to local products to support the sustainable development of agricultural cooperatives.
- Benefitting the social dialogue mechanisms based on models from EU by analysing site visits to enhance the agricultural cooperatives.





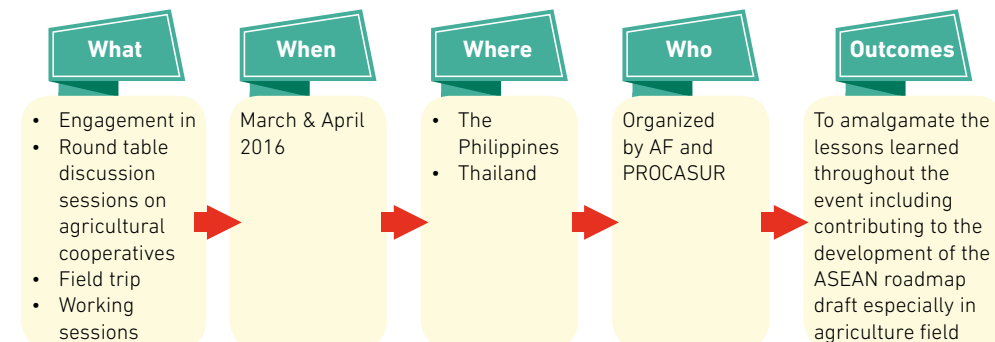
# ASEAN Learning Series

## Overview

ASEAN Foundation acts as the platform in linking ASEAN bodies and Farmers' Organisations across the region through the ASEAN Farmers' Organisations Support Programme (AFOSP). In its effort to promote the participation of local Farmers Organisations in regional policy-making processes, a number of learning serie have been carried out. Two major key events were held in 2016 and 2019 which are:

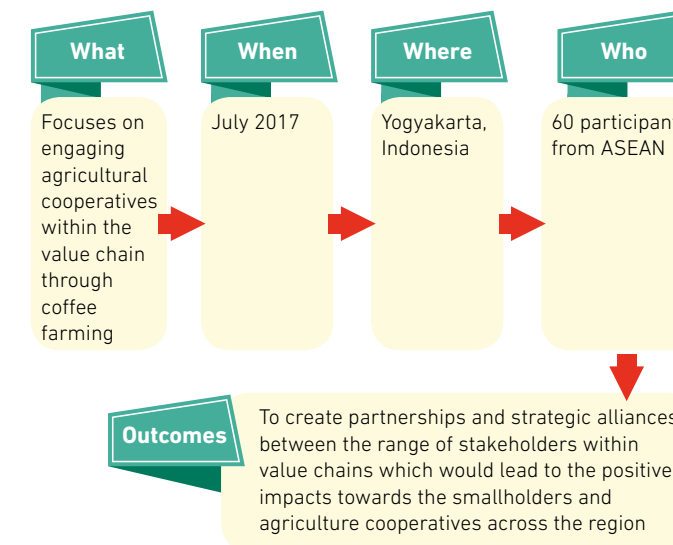
### 2016 ASEAN Learning Route on Agricultural Cooperatives (ALRAC)

ALRAC was jointly organized by ASEAN Foundation and PROCASUR in Thailand and The Philippines in March and April 2016 respectively. The participants and the stakeholders were engaged in a series discussions sessions, a field trip in Thailand, numerous working sessions and roundtable discussions regarding the context for agricultural cooperatives. The key outcome from the activities was to amalgamate the lessons learned throughout the event to contribute to the development of the draft ASEAN Roadmap on Agricultural Cooperatives.



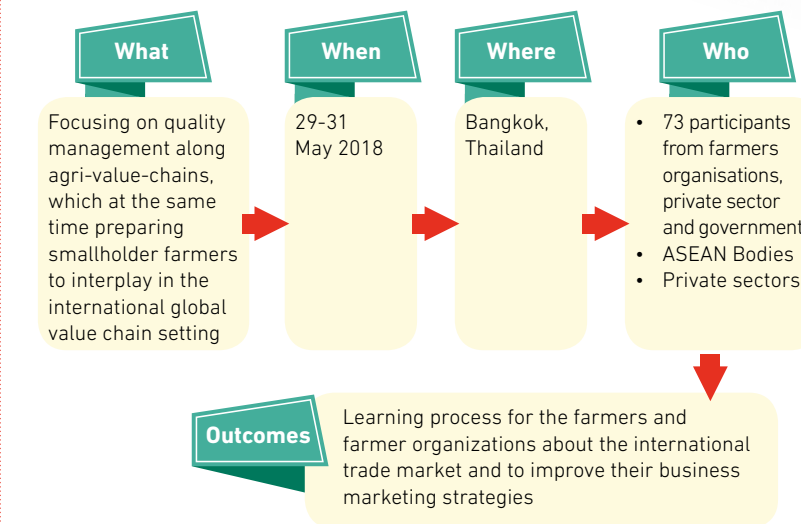
### 2017 ASEAN Learning Series and Policy Engagement on Agricultural Cooperatives (ALSPEAC)

This event was held in Yogyakarta and attended by 60 participants focusing on engaging agricultural cooperatives within the value chain through coffee farming. Among the activities carried out throughout the event include panel discussions, field trips to Petung Village and Pentingsari Agro, and group discussion to develop a common vision for the year 2020. The major outcome of the event was to create partnerships and strategic alliances between the range of stakeholders within value chains which would lead to the positive impacts towards the smallholders and agriculture cooperatives across the region.



### 2018 ASEAN Learning Series on Quality Management Along Value Chain

The ASEAN Learning Series is a continuation of the ASEAN Learning Route (ALRAC) and ASEAN Learning Series and Policy Engagement on Agricultural Cooperatives (ALSPEAC) that facilitates peer to peer learning in the areas of farmer empowerment and participation in the global value chain. This ASEAN Learning Series is focusing on quality management along agri-value-chains, while at the same time preparing smallholder farmers to interplay in the international global value chain setting. It has objectives to: (1) strengthen the role of Agricultural Cooperatives in addressing the opportunities market integration as well as challenges of the ASEAN Economic Community; (2) improve farmers' confidence in business match-making and value chain participation; (3) learn from the best practices, to exchange ideas, and to network with producers and buyers at the ASEAN level.







## ASEAN Exchange Visit

The exchange visit is a combination of learning and dialogue which facilitate the discussion among government representatives, the private sector, agriculture cooperatives and field visits to promote sharing experiences and open discussions of key issues and challenges in the agricultural value chain in ASEAN. It is also to support the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap on Agricultural Cooperatives.





# ASEAN Exchange Visit 2018

ASEAN Farmers' Organisations Support Programme (AFOSP) in coordination with Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs of the Republic of Indonesia, Focal Point of ASEAN Centre for the Development of Agricultural Cooperative (ACEDAC) Indonesia organised the ASEAN Exchange Visit programme under the theme "Strengthening the Role of Agricultural Cooperatives in the Coconut Value Chain Management and Job Creations in Rural Areas." 24 – 25 October 2018 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The programme aims to promote open discussions of key issues and challenges in coconut value chain in tackling the uneven pace of economic development across ASEAN.

The 2-day programme serves as an avenue for 74 participants consist of government representatives of ASEAN Member State, cooperative leaders, private sector and academia to have brief insights on the challenges and opportunities in coconut value chain, to share best practices on coconut processing & marketing as well as innovative coconut-based product development and to establish stronger network among the participants. Through knowledge-rich panel discussions and site visits that are led by professional/qualified experts and resource persons from government and private sectors; the participants are encouraged to enhance their coconut productions as well as its processing, marketing opportunities and improving women participation along the coconut value chain.

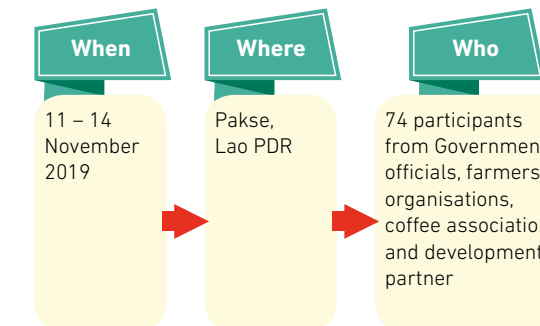


Final Proceeding



# ASEAN Exchange Visit 2019

With the support of ASEAN Centre for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives Focal Point Lao PDR under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, ASEAN Foundation – AFOSP organised the ASEAN Exchange Visit 2019: Empowering the Coffee Cooperatives in Value Chain Management and GI Certification, from 11 – 14 November 2019. The delegates discussed the key challenges of coffee cooperatives; access to markets, specialty coffee and geographical indication. The discussion also resulted recommendation to continue the regional cooperation for ASEAN coffee branding and cooperation. The Delegates had a chance to visit Bolaven Plateau Coffee Producers Cooperative to learn fair trade certification, cooperative management and international marketing. Continued the field visit to Jhai Cooperative's office to learn youth involvement in coffee production and value-added coffee products.







# Working with ACEDAC and ASWGAC

## ACEDAC

- ASEAN Centre for the Development of Agriculture Cooperatives
- Technical body focusing on promoting of the development of agricultural cooperatives
- Uses integrated forums to provide opportunity for representatives to exchange information and experiences while formulating research and development programmes.

## ASWGAC

- ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Agriculture Cooperatives
- Working group focusing on agriculture cooperatives among similar members to ACEDAC's with additional related stakeholders.
- Uses outputs from ACEDAC and other technical bodies to develop recommendations and steers priorities for the direction of agriculture initiatives.

## 2017 ACEDAC and ASWGAC Meetings Host: Lao PDR (May 2017)

### 2017 ACEDAC

- Role of women in agricultural cooperatives by strengthening engagement of women in agriculture.
- ASEAN Foundation presented its plan on ASEAN Learning Series and Policy Engagement on Agricultural Cooperatives (ALSPEAC)
- ASEAN Foundation through AFOSP presented the development of
  1. ASEAN Learning Route on Agriculture Cooperatives (ALRAC)
  2. ASEAN Learning Series
  3. ASEAN Roadmap on Agricultural Cooperatives
  4. Trade and Marketing of ASEAN Agricultural Cooperatives
  5. Promotion and awareness-raising materials

### 2017 ASWGAC

- Developed an ASEAN Roadmap for Agriculture Cooperatives Development (Guided by ASEAN Secretariat with support from AFOSP and ASEAN Foundation.
- The Roadmap recommended will be the one of ASWGAC 2018's deliverables.
- ASEAN Foundation proposed agricultural cooperatives scoping study as an insight to the policy environment across ASEAN.



# ASEAN ROADMAP FOR ENHANCING THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN AGRICULTURAL GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS 2018-2025

An important outcome from ASEAN Farmers' Organisation Support Programme is the development of the ASEAN Roadmap for Enhancing the Role of Agriculture Cooperative in the Global Value Chain 2018-2025, which was reviewed in the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Sectoral Working Group Agricultural Cooperative and finally adopted in the 40<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Fisheries (AMAF) in October 2018 in Hanoi.

The Roadmap aims to provide a direction for enhancing participation of the ASEAN agricultural cooperatives in the global value chain, assist resource constrained small producers and SMEs to improve productivity, technology and product quality, meet global market standards and increase competitiveness and to be utilised as a reference to harmonise the agricultural cooperatives' legal frameworks and institutional arrangements in ASEAN Member States.

The ASEAN Farmers' Organisation Support Program (AFOSP) organised two regional workshops on ASEAN Roadmap for Enhancing the Role of Agriculture



Cooperatives in the Global Value Chain 2018-2025 in Bangkok on 28 February and 25 September 2019. The workshop aims to translate the Roadmap into a work plan that can harmonise the national cooperatives development with the four pillars of the Roadmap, namely institutional and capacity building, competitiveness, access to finance, and access to market. The workshop was attended by representatives from the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group Agricultural Cooperative (ASWGAC), development agencies, the private sector and representatives of farmers' organisations under AFOSP-MTCP2 supported by EU and IFAD.

Scan to get the roadmap publication







## 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Cooperative Business Forum (ACBF)

More than 200 cooperative leaders and members, farmers' and fishers' organizations, development partners, government representatives, and civil society organizations from ASEAN member states convened in Manila, Philippines on 15-18 January 2018 for the 7th ASEAN Cooperative Business Forum (ACBF). This year's ACBF centred on coop-to-coop partnership with family farmers to advance prosperity for all. During the three-day event, the delegates participated in workshops and knowledge sharing and listened to presentations from various cooperatives and organizations to expand their knowledge and boost their capacity in agricultural enterprising.

The 7th ASEAN Cooperative Business Forum (ACBF) was held in Manila from 15- 18 January 2018 to discuss coop-to-coop partnership with family farmers. Participants gained knowledge in agricultural enterprising and expand cooperatives' network for business purposes. AFOSP also organised '**ASEAN Coffee Corner**', a side event during the 7th ACBF to provide an opportunity for governments and cooperatives to have a better understanding of their own coffee quality in order to take part in creating improvement of the coffee value chain. The side event will also provide a room for discussion to strengthen the cross-border trade for coffee in ASEAN region involving not only producers but also buyers (private sector).

## 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Cooperative Business Forum (ACBF)

The 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Cooperative Business Forum (ACBF) "Enhancing Competitiveness of Cooperative Products in the Market and Cooperation among Cooperatives in ASEAN Countries" organised by Cooperation Promotion Department of Thailand in Bangkok from 26 – 27 February 2019. The 8<sup>th</sup> ACBF 2019 aims to exchange and share experiences among participants in cooperative promotion and the success of cooperative products marketing, to visit and learn the successful agricultural cooperatives in Thailand, also to establish concrete cooperation among cooperatives in ASEAN leading to sustainable development for the benefit of cooperative members. In addition to the forum, a cooperative products exhibition showcasing the best agricultural commodities from ASEAN member states was hosted by CPD Thailand. This was a valuable opportunity for delegates to gain insight into the best practices for successful cooperative products marketing







# ASEAN EU Youth Forum

The forum was hosted in collaboration between ASEAN Foundation, ASEAN Secretariat, EU Mission to ASEAN, IFAD, the Consortium of Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), La Via Campesina (LVC), and CSA/ Agricord at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta and Bogor on 25-26 October 2017. The event aimed to motivate young people to seek employment opportunities in agribusiness. Young small-scale farmers should remain innovative and forward thinking. Other than that, this forum provided a medium to share information and knowledge, and to network with ASEAN youth agropreneurs who have successfully expended their business to national or European markets. It also provided a platform for joint action and allow young people to interact with policy makers on issues that affect youth participation in agribusiness sector.



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