Impact Story

ASEAN Farmers’ Organisations Support Programme (AFOSP)
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Impact Story  
ASEAN Farmers’ Organisations Support Programme (AFOSP)
## List of Abbreviations

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACEDAC</td>
<td>ASEAN Centre for the development of Agricultural Cooperative</td>
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<td>AFOSP</td>
<td>ASEAN Farmers’ Organisations Support Programme</td>
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<td>ALRAC</td>
<td>ASEAN Learning Route</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALSPEAC</td>
<td>ASEAN Learning Series and Policy Engagement on Agricultural Cooperative</td>
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<td>AMAF</td>
<td>ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture &amp; Fisheries</td>
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<td>ASWGAC</td>
<td>ASEAN Sectoral Working Group Agricultural Cooperative</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>FNN</td>
<td>Farmer and Net Nature Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>FFP</td>
<td>Farmers Fighting Poverty</td>
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<td>FOs</td>
<td>Farmer Organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>IFAD</td>
<td>International Fund for Agriculture Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>KOC</td>
<td>Khmer Organic Cooperative</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCTP2</td>
<td>Medium-Term Cooperation Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>NIA</td>
<td>National Implementing Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>PKSK</td>
<td>Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Samahansang Kanayuan</td>
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<tr>
<td>RTD</td>
<td>Roundtable Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPI</td>
<td>Indonesian Peasant Union</td>
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<td>VCO</td>
<td>Virgin Coconut Oil</td>
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Chapter 1

Why It Matters & About AFOSP
To invest, uplift farming families, improve lives and attain social and economic progress working with ASEAN Agricultural cooperatives and its members.

ASEAN Farmers

“Agriculture also remains a key contributor to employment in ASEAN Member States, notably in Thailand (35.8%), Indonesia (30.5%), and the Philippines 12% (28.3%) despite the to manufacture and services sectors. (ASEAN Key Figure, 2019)
Agriculture is a way of life in ASEAN. Eight out of 10 countries in ASEAN are agriculture-reliant, with a high proportion of practitioners being smallholder farmers. The sector offers real opportunities. Improving and targeting smallholder farmer practitioners is the people-centred pathway to social and economic progress that will transform the agricultural landscape and promote rural development. We work towards this with the goal of achieving a resilient and inclusive ASEAN, integrated with the global economy.

Our Commitment: to invest, uplift farming families, improve lives, and attain social and economic progress working with ASEAN agricultural cooperatives and their members

The ASEAN Farmers’ Organisations Support Programme (AFOSP) is a programme funded by the European Union (EU) and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), which focuses 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 agriculture.

Why It Matters

As one of its key implementors, the 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 with the ASEAN Blueprints particularly in those under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Pillar. To achieve the goals of this initiative, AFOSP emphasises two key programmatic areas: (1) the Medium-Term Cooperation Programme with FOs in Asia and the Pacific (MTCP2), and (2) the Farmers Fighting Poverty (FFP). MTCP2 focuses on organisational 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.

What are We Doing?

- Dialogue with Stakeholders
- Leveraging Farmer’s Cooperatives
- Understanding the Gender Perspectives

Read more about What are We Doing on the next page
The objective is to enhance participation of ASEAN agricultural cooperatives in the agricultural global value chains, understand the enabling and inhibiting factors to achieve positive results from smallholder inclusion in large agricultural value chains. The issue of regional standards on food produce (e.g. organic produce, Good Agricultural Practices), value chain participation, income generation and business expansion are among the issues we address.

We pay special attention to building relations and we are the bridge that connects. The focus is to promote policy dialogues and interaction between farmer organisations and ASEAN level institutions and ensure engagement of all levels in the spirit of partnership and pragmatism, aligning local, international groups and governments to ensure community buy-ins and for projects to reach scale. We do all this to improve livelihoods through more responsible and inclusive value chain working with cooperatives.

The ASEAN Foundation set a target to have at least 40 percent women out of total registered participants at all AFOSP activities and events. This is to recognise that women play a crucial role within the smallholder system and the agricultural labour force. It is also a recognition that producers and operations that are inclusive have become industry leaders or have maintained their market.
Chapter 2

AFOSP Journey
2015
- The AFOSP component under the ASEAN Foundation was initiated on 15 October.

2016
- “ASEAN Learning Route on Agricultural Cooperatives to Address the Challenges and Opportunities of the ASEAN Economic Community for the Benefit of the Smallholders Farmers” was conducted in Thailand and Philippines, 28 March to 3 April.
- Roundtable Discussion (RTD) on “Improving social dialogue and programme cooperation between EU-ASEAN FO/CSO on strengthening Agricultural Cooperatives and Attracting Youth in Agriculture”, November 2016, Jakarta, Indonesia.

2017
- ASEAN-EU Youth Forum for Youth Engagement in Food Production and Value Chains”, 25-26 October, Jakarta. (In this event, we brought youths from ASEAN Member States for a forum which aimed to attract young people to agricultural and sustainable agribusiness and inclusive value-chain).

2018
- AFOSP joined the 7th ASEAN Cooperative Business Forum by holding Coffee Corner, 16-18 January, in Manila, the Philippines.
- “ASEAN Learning Series on Quality Management along Agri-Value Chain”, 29-31 May, in Bangkok, Thailand.
- AMAF Endorsement received, October 2018 “ASEAN Roadmap for ASEAN Agriculture Cooperative Development 2025” that focuses on “Enhanced Participation of ASEAN Agriculture Cooperatives in the Global Value Chain by 2025”.

2019
- ASEAN ROADMAP WORKSHOP: Multi-Stakeholder Partnership “To Enhance the Role of Agricultural Cooperatives in the Agricultural Global Value Chain” 28 February in Bangkok, Thailand.
- The 2nd Regional Roadmap Workshop on Developing the Action Plan of the ASEAN Roadmap for Enhancing the Role of Agricultural Cooperatives in the Agricultural Global Value Chain, 25 September in ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta.

AFOSP is now heading to our planned goal to achieve vision of “ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture, and Forestry towards 2025”.
A total of **104 Cooperatives** members and farmers attended the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group Activities, 2016-2019

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<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Number of Partners</th>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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ASEAN Learning Series

The ASEAN Learning Series is a series of workshop that helps to equip smallholder farmers with the knowledge to plan, implement, advance, and scale their production, processing, and marketing activities through the cross-sectoral collaboration between cooperatives, experts, university partners, together with the engagement of the government and the private sector.


4. ASEAN Exchange Visit on "Empowering the Coffee Cooperatives in Value Chain Management and GI Certification”, 12-13 November 2019 in Pakse, Lao PDR.
AFOS National Implementing Agency (NIA)

Cambodia

Farmer and Nature Net (FNN)
Contact: Sopheap Pan, Executive Director
            SeaulRany, President
Address: #69, St. 696, Sangkat Phnom Penh Thnei, Khan Sen Sok, Phnom Penh
Email: pansopheap@gmail.com,
            sokchhoin@online.com.kh
            chhongsophal@fnn-kh.org

Federation of Farmer Association Promoting Family Agriculture Enterprise in Cambodia (FAEC)
Contact: Michael Kiyarlin
Address: No. 86, 164 St., Tamwekha Ward, Tamwe Township, 1211 yangon, Myanmar
Email: michael.kiyarlin@gmail.com

Federation of Cambodian Farmer Organizations for Development (FCFD)
Contact: UNG Phalla, Executive Secretary
            NEL Sopheap, President
Address: #143, St. 69, Sangkat Boreung Tumpon, Khan Meancheay, Phnom Penh
Email: fcfdcambodia@gmail.com

Cambodian Farmers Association Federation of Agricultural Producers (CFAP)
Contact: UNG Phalla, Executive Secretary
            NEL Sopheap, President
Address: House 241, Str 208, Sraehvong Village, Sangkat Svay Rieng, Svay Rieng Province, Cambodia
Email: cfapcambodia@cfap-cambodia.org,
            soksotha@cfap-cambodia.org

Association Sustainable Agriculture Communities (ASAC)
Contact: Rin Ratana, Executive Director
            Mr. Hou Chandara, Chairperson
Address: National road 01, Kandal Krmon village, Banteraydep commune, Kneasvay district, Kandal province
Email: info@asac.org.kh

Myanmar

Agriculture and Farmers Federation of Myanmar (AFFM)
Contact: Michael Kiyarlin
Address: No. 86, 164 St., Tamwekha Ward, Tamwe Township, 1211 yangon, Myanmar
Email: michael.kiyarlin@gmail.com

Thailand

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)
Address: 112, T., Moo 1, San Phranet, San Sai District, Chiang Mai 50210
Phone: +66.53.343.539

Independent Women’s Network of Thailand (IWNT)
Address: Chiang Mai, Thailand
Website: http://iwnt.webs.com/

Assembly of the Poor (AOP)

Federation of Thai Fisherfolks Association (FTFA)
Indonesia

Aliansi Petani Indonesia (API)
Contact: M. Nuruddin, Secretary General
Address: Jl. Kecilap Merah No. 2 RT 15/02, Utan Kayu Selatan, Matraman – East Jakarta 13220
Email: api_bumie@yahoo.co.uk

Sekretariat Pernyataan Petani
Contact: Alfin Setiawan, Chairman of the Department of Foreign Affairs
Address: Jln. Mampang Prapatan XIV no. 5 – South Jakarta 13220
Email: sptnhps@yahoo.co.uk

Wabana Masyarakat Tani dan Nelayan Indonesia (WAMTI)
Contact: Zaintal Arifin, Chairman of the Department of Foreign Affairs
Address: Jln. Mampang Prapatan XIV No. 108 A, Tarogong, Garut
Email: wamti_indonesia@yahoo.com

Organisasi Perempuan Organisasi Petani dan Nelayan (SPTPNHPS)
Contact: Lani Eugenia, Secretary General
Address: Jln. Raya Cickek Masjid II No. 26, RT 02/02, Kec. Majasari, Pandeglang, Banten 42211
Email: sptpnhps@yahoo.co.uk

Koperasi Hanjuang / Hanjuang Cooperative
Contact: Emran Sulaiman, Chairman of the Regulatory Body
Address: Jl. Raya Rampasbetung KM 04 Subiagatanga, Perumahan Mandiri Aeri Blok C No. 2 RT 02/06 Desa Bangkotel, Kecamatan Korongkorong, Kabupaten Pandeglang – Banten
Email: koperasi.hanjuang@gmail.com

Kotakan Petani Pengendali Hama Terpadu (IPPHPI)
Contact: Kustiwa Adinata, Secretary General
Address: Mandunang I, Mangohuw Village – Yogyakarta
Email: petaniphtindo@gmail.com, kustiwa.adinata@gmail.com

Lao PDR

Lao Farmer Network (LFN)
Contact: Phothisinhang Phimnhamchanh
Address: Saphangnor village, Saysetha district, Vientiane capital
Email: fnlnf@laofarmers.net

Farmer Association for Sustainable Agriculture Production (FASAP)
Contact: Joenima Phummin
Address: Xang Village, Khoun District, Xiengkhounang Province
Phone: (856) 20 5932 2561

Organic Farmer Association (OFA) of Paek District
Contact: Ratoumabh Phuoun
Address: Hou Village, Pak District, Xiengkhounang Province
Phone: (856) 20 9631 891

Hoi Vegetable Cooperative
Contact: Somphone
Address: Hoi Village, Khoun District, Xiengkhounang Province
Phone: (856) 20 58299772

Farmer Association of Khangvien zone
Contact: Thongvanh Vongphachanh
Address: Hoi Village, Khoun District, Xiengkhounang Province
Phone: (856) 20 5993 3020

Hoi Vegetable Cooperative
Contact: Somphone
Address: Hoi Village, Khoun District, Xiengkhounang Province
Phone: (856) 20 58299772

Agriculture Community Buying and Promotion Cooperative (ACBPC)
Contact: Sounphet
Address: Nangbou Village, Pak District, Champasak Province
Phone: (856) 20 9631 891

Coffee Producer Cooperative of Bolavens plateau CPC
Contact: Bounthong
Address: Phnomvong Village, Pak District, Champasak Province
Phone: (856) 20 97419973

Namphaeng NTFPs management Group
Contact: Loun Sorlakham
Address: Namphaeng Village, Nam District, Oudomxay Province
Phone: (856) 20 9631 9713

ASEAN Farmers’ Organisations Support Programme (AFOSP)

Chapter 2 | AFOSP Journey

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Lao PDR

Navigieng Organic Vegetable Production Group
Contact: Sor Synamphone
Address: Navigieng Village, Hein District, Houaphan Province
Phone: (856) 20 08582219

Kang Vegetable Production Group
Contact: Syrnam Sounsavath
Address: Kang Village, Sonmeuan District, Houaphan Province
Phone: (856) 20 2854773

Sod Cattle Raising Group
Contact: Phaengsom
Address: Sod Village, Ald District, Houaphan Province
Phone: (856) 30 5413448

Longkou Vegetable Production Group
Contact: Mr. Bouhtheim
Address: Longkou Village, Viengxay District, Houaphan Province
Phone: (856) 20 54674466

Mulberry and Silk Production Group
Contact: Khommgany
Address: Nangmua Village, Viengxay District, Houaphan Province
Phone: (856) 30 9363443

Samadnyai Tea Production Group
Contact: Bouahsane
Address: Samadnyai Village, Xaysathien District, Xaybouaphy District
Phone: (856) 30 9800636

Nalae Sugarcane Production Group
Contact: Mr. Ken Kaeueth
Address: Nalae Village, Bounneur District, Phongsaly Province
Phone: (856) 20 54037473

Pakbueng Fish Production Group
Contact: Mr. Bounlhem
Address: Pakbueng Village, Pakon District, Bolikhamsai Province
Phone: (856) 20 99229308

Samadyai Tea Production Group
Contact: Bouhniham
Address: Samadnyai Village, Xaysathien District, Xaybouaphy District
Phone: (856) 30 99067425

Nalae Sugarcane Production Group
Contact: Mr. Ken Kaeueth
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Phone: (856) 20 54037473

Pakbueng Fish Production Group
Contact: Mr. Bounlhem
Address: Pakbueng Village, Pakon District, Bolikhamsai Province
Phone: (856) 20 99229308

Samadyai Tea Production Group
Contact: Bouhniham
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Phone: (856) 30 99067425

Nalae Sugarcane Production Group
Contact: Mr. Ken Kaeueth
Address: Nalae Village, Bounneur District, Phongsaly Province
Phone: (856) 20 54037473

The Philippines

Anibahng mga Manggagawa at Maggasa sa Niyugan, Inc. (AMMANI)
Contact: Mr. Dimosino Antonio, Vice President
Address: Villa Margarita Subdivision, Looc, Calamba, Laguna
Email: ammani_agri00@yahoo.com

Nagkakaisang Ugnayan Ng Mga Maggasa sa At Manggagawa sa Niyugan (NIUGAN)
Contact: Rafael P. Saracem
Address: #56 Mother Ignacia Avenue corner Dr. Lazcano St., Quezon City
Email: naiugan@gmail.com

National Union of Rural Based Organizations (PKSK)
Contact: Rupertote Alpena, National Chairperson
Address: #56 C. Masipak Street, Barangay Pinoyahan, Diliian, Quezon City
Email: expory@yahoo.com

LAKAMBINI Pilipinas Rural Women Association (LAKAMBINI, Inc.)
Contact: Luisita Estmao, President
Address: #59 C. Salvador Street, Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1108
Email: laikambini@gmail.com

Federation of Free Farmers (FFF), INC.
Contact: Mr. Raul Montemayor, National Manager
Address: #30-F 6th Avenue, Brgy. Socorro, Cubao, 1109 Quezon City
Email: raulmi@freefarm.org

Kasahalan ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (KMA) / Union of Workers in Agriculture
Contact: Ernesto B. Prieto, Secretary
Address: Sta. Rita, Cabiao, Nueva Ecija
Email: expory@yahoo.com

Pambansang Kultusang ng mga Samahan Manggasa (PAKISAMA)
Contact: Ireneo Cerilla, President
Address: Room 207 Partnership Center, #59 C. Salvador Street, Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1108
Email: pakisamait@yahoo.com

Katipunan ng mga Malilit na Magniniyog ng Pilipinas (KAMMPIL)
Contact: Mrs. Raul Montemayor, Secretary General
Address: Rm 302, #22 Purdue St., corner New York Ave., Brgy. E. Rodriguez Sr., Cubao, Quezon City
Email: alarm.ravco@gmail.com

Viet Nam

Viet Nam Farmers’ Union (VNFU)
Contact: Mr. Nguyen Xuan Dinh, ICD Director
Address: No. 9 Ton That Thuyet Street, Can Giay District, Hanoi
Phone: 0804-4-37346743

Gia Lai Farmers’ Union
Contact: Mr. Ro Mah Giap, Chairman
Address: No. 19 Nguyen Du St., Pleiku City – Gia Lai Province
Phone: 0590374075

Thai Binh Farmers’ Union
Contact: Mrs. Bui Thi Nga, Vice Chairwoman
Address: No 8 Quang Trung Street, Thai Binh City
Phone: 0363648005

Ha Giang Farmers’ Union
Contact: Mr. Xim Thi Bich, Chairwoman
Address: L 20B Street, Ha Giang City, Ha Giang Province
Phone: 02993 867039

Phat Kratong Farmers’ Union
Contact: Mr. Hoang Van Lau, Chairman
Address: No. 49 Le Loi Street, Thanh Hoa City, Thanh Hoa Province
Phone: 0373120503

Ha Tinh Farmers’ Union
Contact: Mr. Tran Dinh Gia, Chairman
Address: No 16 – Vo Lien Son – Ha Tinh Province
Phone: 0393 852159

Lam Dong Farmers’ Union
Contact: Mr. Du Cat Vinh, Chairman
Address: 20 Quang Trung Street, Ward 9, Da Lat, Lam Dong Province
Phone: 0638632549

Ninh Thuan Farmers’ Union
Contact: Mr. Kienc Nhu Bon, Chairman
Address: 16-4 Thanh Phan Rang/Thap Chau, Ninh Thuan Province
Phone: 0635014088

Tuyen Quang Farmers’ Union
Contact: Mr. Do Hong Ha, Vice Chairwoman
Address: 7/8, Minh Xuan, Tuyen Quang City, Tuyen Quang Province
Phone: 02943866298

Thinh Hoa Farmers’ Union
Contact: Mr. Hoang Van Lau, Chairman
Address: No. 49 Le Loi Street, Thanh Hoa City, Thanh Hoa Province
Phone: 0373120503

Tra Vinh Farmers’ Union
Contact: Mr. Kam Song Ven, Chairman
Address: No. 4A, Ly Tu Trong St., Ward 1, Tra Vinh City, Tra Vinh Province
Phone: 0743862727
Chapter 3

Photo of ASEAN – EU
Roundtable Discussion on Strengthening Farmers’ Organisations/ Agricultural Cooperatives and Attracting Youth in Agriculture, Jakarta, 7 November 2016 at the ASEAN Foundation

ASEAN Learning Series 2018 (Field Visit to Tomate Farm) in Thailand

ASEAN Learning Series and Policy Engagement on Agricultural Cooperatives (ALSPEAC), Yogyakarta, 19-21 July 2017

ASEAN Learning Series 2018 (Field Visit to Solar Dryer Dom) in Thailand

ASEAN Learning Series 2018 (attend the food expo “THAIFEX”) in Thailand

7th ASEAN Cooperative Business Forum, Manila, 15-18 January 2018

ASEAN EU Scholarship and Cooperation Day 2018 in ASEAN Secretariat
NIA Indonesia and AFOSP Intern attend the ASEAN Youth Expo 2018 in Jakarta.

8th ASEAN Cooperative Business Forum (Field Visit), 27 February 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

SIB Mission Visit to ACEDAC Secretariat in Jakarta.

AFOSP attend the 20th ASWGAC and the 28th ACEDAC Meeting, 23-26 July 2018 in Langkawi, Malaysia.

Farmers and Cooperative Representative attend ASEAN-EU Scholarship and Cooperation Day 2019 in ASEAN Secretariat.

ASEAN Goes to UIN (State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta) 2019.

Photo of Farmers and Cooperative Representative with the representative of EU Mission to ASEAN.
Chapter 4

ASEAN Roadmap for Enhancing the Role of Agriculture Cooperative in the Global Value Chain 2018 - 2025
An important outcome from the ASEAN Farmers’ Organisations 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 at the 20th Meeting of ASEAN Sectoral Working Group Agricultural Cooperative in 25 July 2018 in Langkawi, Malaysia and adopted at the 40th 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
- be utilised as a reference to harmonise the agricultural cooperatives’ legal frameworks and institutional arrangements in the respective ASEAN Member States.

AFOSP organised a workshop on “ASEAN Roadmap for Enhancing the Role of Agriculture Cooperatives in the Global Value Chain 2018-2025” in Bangkok on 28 February 2019. The workshop aimed to translate the Roadmap into a work plan that could harmonise the national cooperatives development with the Roadmap’s four ASEAN Pillars, namely (1) institutional and capacity building, (2) competitiveness, (3) access to finance, and (4) 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. The proceedings of this workshop are available at the link given below.

“ASEAN Farmers’ Organizations Support Program (AFOSP) plays a significant role in the development of the ASEAN (Roadmap for Enhancing the Role of Agriculture) Cooperative in the Global Value Chain (2018-2025). Coming up with a blueprint, we can accelerate and ensure the development of the agricultural sector in the region towards the realization of a genuine economic development and social justice. We fervently hope that AFOSP will continue to live to its noble mandate and advocacies,” said Mr. Salvador Valeroso, the Vice Chairperson of the 20th Meeting of ASEAN Sectoral Working Group Agricultural Cooperative.
The Years of Implementation of ASEAN Roadmap for Agricultural Cooperatives

In 2019 ASEAN Roadmap workshop, AFOSP gathered agricultural experts to develop action plan of the ASEAN Roadmap 2019-2025 for enhancing the role of agricultural cooperatives in the agricultural global value chain. Participants have analyzed and acknowledge the lead country and possible partners to operationalise the action plan. The objective of this programme is to discuss the draft and reaffirm the recommended actions under ASEAN’s Four Pillars, as well as identify the lead country and possible partners to operationalise the action plan.

At the 2019 ASEAN Roadmap workshop, AFOSP gathered agricultural experts to develop an action plan of “The ASEAN Roadmap 2019-2025 for Enhancing the Role of Agricultural Cooperative in the Agricultural Global Value Chain”. The objective of this programme was to discuss the draft and reaffirm the recommended actions under ASEAN’s Four Pillars, as well as identify the lead country and possible partners to operationalise the action plan. “I do believe we can explore effective ways to strengthen agricultural cooperatives in implementing the action plan. ASEAN member states working in collaboration with all the stakeholders will be key to achieve this,” said Mrs. Mya Myo Swe, the representative of ASWGAC Myanmar.

ASEAN ROADMAP WORKSHOP: Multi-Stakeholder Partnership “To Enhance the Role of Agricultural Cooperatives in the Agricultural Global Value Chain” 28 February in Bangkok, Thailand
Chapter 5

Our Farmers
Our Story
With an immense spirit to develop the farming industry in ASEAN countries, farmers who are coming from 10 member states of ASEAN are driven together for the betterment of the farming industry in ASEAN. The foundation dedicated its effort and hard work to achieve such a goal along with EU - ASEAN cooperation. These farmers require as much support as possible from ASEAN and its partner, the EU. We are humbly announcing these stories of our beneficiaries throughout four years implementation of AFOSP and how their effort of improving their farming industry impacted the lives of many.

Public-private partnership

Opportunity of Learning about Agricultural Cooperatives Good Management and Cooperation

Irwan Hamid is the head of the cooperative department at the Indonesian Peasant Union (SPI), an Indonesia-based farmers organisation that focuses on the empowerment of farmers across the country. Having participated in 2016’s ASEAN Learning Route (ALRAC) that was held in Thailand and The Philippines, he commended that the programme opened his eyes to the potential of farmers’ cooperation. The cooperation between the private sector, government, and farmers must be done in a way that benefits all parties.

He hopes that in the future, farmers are not only the object of policy implementation but rather they can influence policy formulation. “We hope to build a collective agricultural enterprise in the cooperative institution that can position farmers not only as a supply chain but as potential business partners,” he added.

Mr. Hamid thinks that there are many lessons that can be taken as a guideline for his organisation as the result of information exchange in Thailand and the Philippines. “We were able to interact with the farmers and understand how they run their farm, as well as how they sell their (what they) produce through cooperatives to ensure the availability of markets for their crops,” Irwan said.

Main lessons learnt of ALRAC:

A combination of long tradition with agricultural cooperatives, national frameworks and policies, cooperative research and academic support and favourable cooperative laws and regulations are essential for enhancing cooperatives and creating new cooperative business models along the value chain. Partnering with the private sectors opens new perspectives and shows big benefits for cooperatives especially with regard to positioning in a competitive market in the ASEAN Economic Community (EC). Organic production and contract farming have proven to be very effective especially for poor and marginalized farmers. Capacity building in cooperative management, new production techniques, controlling of product quality along the value chain and customer orientation are essential to built up strong cooperatives. Cooperatives with two level enterprise approach (cooperate enterprise and member level enterprises) ensures that small entrepreneurial households and poor farmers are included in the overall enterprise development and at the same time be strengthened as individual farmer or entrepreneur. This allows better economies of scale in production and bargaining power in marketing, which in turn enables the cooperative and the individual farmer to compete with larger enterprises and to tap existing profitable opportunities in the current ASEAN markets.
Agricultural Initiative

Coffee and Recreation

Hari Susanto is the chairman of the Ngrancah Coffee Cooperative in Indonesia, an organisation that strives for the economic empowerment of the of Ngranca coffee farmers in Magelang, Central Java, Indonesia. He joined the ASEAN Learning Series and Policy Engagement on Agricultural Cooperative (ALSPEAC) inclusive Agricultural Value Chain on Coffee in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in 19 – 21 July 2017. Throughout the program, he discovers market opportunity in the ASEAN region. After the ALSPEAC event, Mr. Susanto came up with an idea to build a "coffee world" where recreational activities collaborated with conventional sales of coffee. The development of the program has reached a specific step, which is developing a coffee shop with a flagship program of creating a ready-to-serve coffee product.

"ALSPEAC helped to increase the awareness and knowledge of farmers. It also helped us to improve the quality of the coffee, and this has supported us in opening access to a broader market," he said.

Lessons Learnt:

Hari Susanto has made the concept of the recreational park that focuses on education in the development of Ngrancah Coffee Cooperatives. It turns out that there are some hurdles due to regional policies. Even though it stuck in the current expansion, Ngrancah Coffee Cooperatives still held activities that may pave the way to get there, especially in terms of cooperatives development and market access throughout members that opened cafés around Magelang and Yogyakarta. Ngrancah Coffee Cooperatives current hurdle lies in the new regional government who does not fully support their programme therefore, the recreational park plan is put on hold.

“What is sure from ALSPEAC is that it brings a positive impact to our cooperatives so it can pave its way to a better cooperatives’ form. We hope that our members’ capabilities can is explored through a better sort of cooperation. During ALSPEAC, we saw that Kopi Merapi developed their cooperatives to extend their market and build their plan to create recreational activities that have economic value,” Mr. Susanto explained.
In 2018 “The ASEAN Learning Series on Quality Management along the Agriculture Value Chains was conducted in Bangkok from 29 to 31 May 2018. This event targeted farmers across the region who were willing to improve the quality of their organic agricultural products. Coinciding with 2018 Thaifex – World of Food Asia, the ASEAN Learning Series enables farmers to learn numerous ways to improve the quality of their agriculture products. Him Noeun, one of the participants from Cambodia, feels very motivated to share what he learned from his visit to Thaifex with other farmers, especially about how to improve the quality of organic products and how to do the post-harvest process by using a solar dryer dome.

“We will bring the idea and the knowledge from here to improve our farmer capacity regarding the packaging, processing, branding and linking product to the market,” said Him Noeun, a member of Cambodia’s Farmer and Net Nature Association (FNN). In his opinion, it is so important for the future of Cambodia to improve the post-harvest operation and technology even if they have a lot of local products. The organisation is looking forward to promoting mutual help, solidarity and cooperation among villagers, as well as coordinating and undertaking collective action in developing ecological agriculture, natural resources management, cooperative business practices and community development.

In addition, Noeun has a motivation to improve the general livelihood of farmers in Cambodia by having a good internal control. “We would like to focus on internal control; we want members to internally organise, so they can maximise their production,” he continued.

Him Noeun informed us that he has expanded FNN to a level that he expected because during the event, he engaged with several major agricultural cooperatives. “FNN engaged with AMRU Rice Company, Khmer Organic Cooperative (KOC) and Signature of Asia (SoA) to link organic paddy, vegetable and chicken to markets,” he said with great enthusiasm. “We even have the chance to facilitate 11 agricultural cooperatives to establish a collective natural product shop located in Phnom Penh.” Him Noeun genuinely felt that the ASEAN Learning Series Thaifex has taught him to build connections in terms of business development and agricultural cooperative initiative support.

In 2018, AFOSP organised a ASEAN Learning Series activity targeted at farmers in conjunction with the International Food Expo “Thaifex”, Farmers learned numerous ways to improve their products and packaging. One of the participants from Lao PDR, Ambae Oudomphone, was inspired to develop an eco-friendly packaging for Jhai coffee soap using wood waste found in her neighbourhood.

Ms Oudomphone is a product developer with Lao Farmers Network that is interested to create innovative products such as soaps made with coffee. She has joined the ASEAN Learning Series and Thaifex to learn product and packaging design. After looking around ASEAN countries, she got the idea to develop a brand-new packaging that is eco-friendly. Once she returned to her country she discussed with the young farmers about the innovative packaging which will also to help reduce waste.

“At that event we learned about product and packaging design. We got the idea to develop our product with eco-friendly packaging by using the waste wood as the packaging” said Ms Oudomphone.

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Active Policy Dialogue on Coconut Value Chain

By joining ASEAN Exchange Visit 2018 on Coconut Value Chain, Mr. Valeroso mentioned that he gained knowledge and experiences to use as a baseline in his organisation to develop a coconut agricultural cooperative programme. “I will use the knowledge that I gathered from this programme to aid international coconut community, farmers organisations, the government, and the Philippines Coconut Authority, considering the economic instability they face despite our high production of coconuts” he said.

Salvador V. Valeroso is from the Cooperative Development Authority of the Philippines, a government institution that assists small farmers in securing liberal credit, promoting effective groupings of farmers into cooperative associations, establishing an orderly and systematic marketing machinery for, and controlled by, the small farmers, and placing agriculture on a basis of economic equality with other industries. “One of the problems that we faced is maintaining areas overseas, and helping many people to produce coconuts because of the phase of industrialisation, especially developing areas with the large numbers of coconuts to subdivision and other residential areas,” Valeroso added.

Furthering Partnership Between Coconut Cooperative and Private Sector

In ASEAN Exchange Visit 2018 “Strengthening the Role of Agricultural Cooperatives in the Coconut Value Chain Management and Job Creation in Rural Areas” on 24 – 25 October 2018, the member of National Implementing Agency Indonesia “Furthering Partnership Between Coconut Cooperative and Private Sector”, the participants were able to conduct a dialogue with the government on supporting their initiatives. The two beneficiaries of this programme, Mandiri Cooperative and PT. Krambil Ijo Jogja, agreed to initiate a collaborative project under a new company named Mitra Agribisnis. This partnership gave birth to a new invention, some semi-finished products such as VCO (Virgin Coconut Oil), soaps and other products. This new partnership received acknowledgement by the local government in Poliwangi Mandar, Indonesia where its collaborative memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed. This step ensures that their partnership is getting the necessary support from the local government to achieve their long-term goal, which is to have a technology-driven export business.

“Our partnership didn’t stop there. We also engaged the local government of Poliwangi Mandar through a collaborative memorandum of understanding (MOU). This step ensures that their partnership is getting the necessary support from the local government to achieve their long-term goal, which is to have a technology-driven export business. Series of meetings with the coconut cooperative member were held to follow up the cooperation with PT. Krambil Ijo Jogja. Both entities also came up with initiative to organise business canvases training for other coconut cooperatives. More recently, coconut-related cooperatives held a workshop by partnering with PT. Krambil Ijo Jogja and the Ministry of Cooperative and SMEs of Indonesia. Through this workshop, 40 farmers were engaged and equipped with new skills that will help them to produce semi-finished oil. Mr. Hasani Amanah (Mandiri Cooperative Manager) said.
Continuation of Effort to Promote ASEAN Coffee

The ASEAN Foundation with support from the ASEAN Centre for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives Focal Point Lao PDR, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, held the ASEAN Exchange Visit 2019 themed “Empowering the Coffee Cooperatives in Value Chain Management and GI Certification” on 11-14 November 2019 in Pakse, Lao PDR.

At the event attending delegates shared their insightful experiences on and initiated discussions about key issues and challenges faced by coffee cooperatives, such as access to market, best practices and lessons learnt of specialty coffee and geographical indication. Further, they also brainstormed ideas for ASEAN coffee branding and cooperation. The brainstorming session resulted recommendations from ASEAN Working Group on Agricultural Cooperative (ASWGAC), farmers’ organisations and private sector to continue its regional cooperation and the recommendation will be submitted to the next working group meeting in Manila.

“We recognise that the cooperative work plays an important role in stimulating the socio-economic development of many countries and is considered as the key to reduce poverty and ensure sustainability,” said Mr. Kongkeo Vongpaseuth, Director General of DRDC, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR when asked about the benefit of the programme towards his assigned task. Considering Southeast Asia geographical condition that is ideal for coffee cultivation, we conducted an exchange visit with the purpose of mapping the key partners of the project and harmonising their goals under ASEAN 2025. Within this programme, we initiated discussions regarding key issues and challenges like market access, best practices and lessons learnt vis-à-vis specialty coffees, geographical indication (GI), and ideas for ASEAN branding and cooperation.
Lesson Learnt
Lesson Learnt

Post Implementation
Post implementation survey / questionnaire given to members of farmer organizations are digital questionnaire to ease report that has to be made by the end of the program however, realize that it’s a bit challenging to utilize digital questionnaires. Send the survey via email is not effective, less than 50% of participant sent back to the foundation. The field assessment could be an alternative to get the post implementation survey and human interest photos.

Recommendation
AFOSP Regional Partner continues to strengthen the capacity of ACEDAC (ASEAN Centre for the development of Agricultural Cooperative) by having institutional partnership and continue to facilitate the institutionalisation of Agri-coop membership.

• NIA/FO should maintain the engagement with national focal point of ASEAN Sectoral Working Groups.