



## THE MEETING OF THE ASEAN-JAPAN MINISTERS ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY (AJMAF)

### JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

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1. We, the Ministers responsible for agriculture and forestry from ASEAN and Japan, gathered on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, adopted the ASEAN-Japan MIDORI Cooperation Plan, which aims to strengthen cooperation towards enhancing resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems through innovation in order to ensure regional food security.
2. The Meeting recognised the importance of increasing agricultural productivity while reducing environmental loads and the necessity of resilient and sustainable agriculture in promoting food security, environment conservation, and rural development to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a sustainable future for our region, which commonly share regional particularities such as high humidity and temperature, abundance of paddy fields, and small- and medium-sized farmers.
3. The Meeting agreed to focus on cooperation and collaboration in the development, demonstration and dissemination of technologies, human resource development, and other supports for the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Guidelines for Sustainable Agriculture.
4. The Meeting shared the ongoing ASEAN-Japan cooperation projects, such as technologies enhancing smart/digital agriculture, circular economy, biomass energy, integrated pest management (IPM), sustainable forest management and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Meeting also agreed on the future cooperation projects that could be initiated in the coming years.
5. The Meeting recognised the vital role of public and private partnerships in driving sustainable agriculture development and agreed to foster collaboration between government agencies and the private sector to promote and apply sustainable agricultural practices, which include facilitating investment and knowledge-sharing for enhancing productivity and sustainability in the ASEAN region.
6. By affirming the commitments to implementing the ASEAN-Japan MIDORI Cooperation Plan, the AMS and Japan will foster sustainable agricultural practices and forest management, enhance food security and safety, and strengthen climate resilience.
7. In order to implement the ASEAN-Japan MIDORI Cooperation Plan, the Meeting considered holding ministerial and/or senior officials level meetings on agriculture and forestry as and when necessary.
8. The Meeting appreciated ERIA's support for organizing the ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium on Promoting Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture and Food System through Innovation to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 in Jakarta.
9. The Meeting expressed sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government and people of Malaysia for hosting the AJMAF and for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

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