



**THE TWENTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE ASEAN MINISTERS ON
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY AND THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

(23rd AMAF PLUS THREE)

6 October 2023

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

1. The Twenty-Third Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three was held on 6 October 2023 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was chaired by His Excellency Datuk Seri Haji Mohamad bin Sabu, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Malaysia.
2. The Meeting commended the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy (APTCS) 2016-2025 in the strategic areas of strengthening food security and nutrition, sustainable forest management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, animal and plant health and disease control, capacity-building and human resource development, enhancing productivity, quality and marketability of agricultural products, strengthening of information system and knowledge networking and exchange, and research and development.
3. The Meeting congratulated the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement and appreciated the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea for their contribution to a combined total over of 10,000 MT of APTERR stocks to address the emergency and strengthen food security and other humanitarian purposes in 2022-2023. The meeting welcomed Japan's original initiatives such as the pre-cooked rice programme and the distribution of stockpiled rice for school children in the Philippines. The Meeting appreciated the commitment from China to provide cash contributions for the Tier 3 Program with a total amount of about USD 4 million, from 2023 to 2027, and welcomed China's contribution of about 1,075 tons of stockpiled rice to Lao PDR, Myanmar, and the Philippines in 2023. The Meeting also appreciated Korea's plan to double its annual contribution to APTERR from 1,000 to 2,000 and contribute all 2,500 MT of rice to emergency support for cyclone victims in Myanmar.
4. The Meeting noted the progress of the ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Information System (AFSIS) particularly in strengthening the region's capacity for food security information systems, maintaining the AFSIS database and human resource development. The Meeting welcomed the publication of the Agricultural Commodity Outlook (ACO) Report, Early Warning Information (EWI) Report and Rice Growing Outlook (RGO) Report. The Meeting was aware of the Concept Note of the AFSIS New Framework and encouraged the Parties to reach a consensus on the operational mechanism to ensure the sustainability of AFSIS.

5. The Meeting encouraged ASEAN Plus Three countries to continue supporting key priority areas for ASEAN cooperation in Food Agriculture and Forestry that include i) promoting green, sustainable and circular agriculture, ii) sustainable forest management, iii) reducing the use of harmful agrochemicals in the agriculture sectors, iv) promoting nature-based solutions, v) decarbonization efforts; vi) promoting the use of digital technology in agriculture and forestry, vii) combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and viii) ensuring sustainable soil and water resources. The Meeting urged all relevant partners and stakeholders, including the private sector to collaborate with the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Member States (AMS) in formulating and implementing initiatives that complement those priority areas.

6. The Meeting extended its appreciation to the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea for their continuous support and commitment to enhancing the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry.

7. The Meeting expressed sincere appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for the excellent arrangement made for the 23rd AMAF Plus Three Meeting.

=====