**REPORT IN SUMMARY OF THE 20th MEETING OF**

**THE ASEAN SECTORAL WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES**

**(ASWGAC)**

1. **– 26 July 2018, Langkawi, Malaysia**
2. The Twentieth Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Agricultural Cooperatives (ASWGAC) was held on 25 – 26 July 2018 in Langkawi, Malaysia. The Meeting was attended by representatives from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam and the ASEAN Secretariat. Representatives from the Strengthening Capacity Building in Agriculture Sector in ASEAN Countries Project (CB Project) – Phase 3, Human Resource Development in Food-related Areas through Partnership with Universities in ASEAN Region Project (HRD Project) – Phase 2, ACEDAC Secretariat and the ASEAN Farmers’ Organizations Support Programme (AFOSP) – represented by ASEAN Foundation and Asian Farmers’ Association (AFA).
3. The Meeting was updated on the ASEAN Inter-Sectoral Consultative Meeting on Food Security and Nutrition, which was held on 23 – 24 February 2016, in Bangkok, Thailand which formulated the “Matrix of Key Areas of Cooperation and Joint Activities for ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Cooperation on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN)”.The Matrix was endorsed by SOM-AMAF on 25 May 2016, and was subsequently approved by Senior Official Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Education (SOM RDPE) and Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOM HD). The Meeting also noted the action program of the SPA-FS related to ASWGAC, in which to strengthen the Food Marketing System of Agricultural Cooperatives for Enhancing Food Security in ASEAN.
4. The Meeting was informed that the final draft of the Multisectoral Conceptual Framework on Climate Change (MSCFCC) was endorsed by SOM-AMAF by Ad. Referendum on 30 April 2018.
5. The Meeting noted the ASEAN Secretariat’s Information Paper on the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community. The Meeting noted the adoption of “Vision for a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN” during the 32nd ASEAN Summit by ASEAN Leaders, as an articulation of ASEAN’s strategic position and intent in the context of a shifting geopolitical and economic landscape.
6. For Strategic plan of action of the ASWGAC (2016-2020), the Meeting discussed and updated several sub activities on the SPA to support the implementation of action programmes. The Meeting identified priority activities for 2018-2019 which includes i) development of Roadmap for Agriculture Development in ASEAN, ii)
7. The Meeting noted the ASEAN Roadmap for Enhancing the Role of Agricultural Cooperative in the Global Value Chain, 2018 – 2025 was considered approved by Ad. Referendum on 4 June 2018. The consultant presented the Roadmap, which consists of four (4) pillars namely; 1) Competitiveness, 2) Access to finance (for investments and working capital), 3) Access to Markets, 4) Institutional/Capacity development, and a total of nine (9) measures. The Roadmap is aimed to i) provide a direction for enhancing participation of the ASEAN agricultural cooperatives in the Global Value Chain; ii) advance the implementation of Strategic Thrusts 2 (Enhance trade facilitation, economic integration and market access) and 5 (Assist resource constrained small producers and SMEs to improve productivity, technology and product quality, to meet global market standards and increase competitiveness in line with the ASEAN policy Blueprint on SME development) of the ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2016-2025 (FAF 2025); and iii) be used as a reference to harmonize the Agricultural cooperatives’ legal frameworks and institutional arrangements in ASEAN member countries. To be more specific, the Meeting agreed to rename the title into “ASEAN Roadmap for Enhancing the Role of Agricultural Cooperative in the Global Agricultural Value Chain”**.** The Meeting also agreed to prioritize pillar 4, institutional/capacity development and agreed to re-arrange the pillar based on this prioritization. The Meeting agreed to receive the revised Roadmap based on the comments from the Meeting by 30 July 2018 and also agreed to be given one week to approve the revised Roadmap no later than 6 August 2018. The Meeting noted that should no response be received until 6 August 2018, the Roadmap will be considered approve by the Meeting. The Meeting agreed, subject to the approval of the revised proposal, to submit the Roadmap to AMAF through SOM-AMAF in the upcoming Special SOM 39th AMAF on 27 – 28 August 2018, in Pattaya, Thailand.
8. The Meeting noted the progress report on Strengthening Capacity Building in Agriculture Sector in ASEAN Countries Project (CB Project) – Phase 3 that the activities of the Project include the Annual Coordination Meeting (ACM), agricultural policy seminar, training courses, bilateral training in Japan, dispatched of Japanese short-term experts and monitoring and evaluation. The Meeting noted that the CB Project – Phase 3 has been implemented since October 2017. The Meeting appreciated the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Japan of CB Project – Phase 3 in supporting capacity building in agriculture sector. AMS also explored opportunity to seek funding from the Project for training for other topics and to also prioritize farmer member of agricultural cooperatives and farmer organizations to participate in the training.
9. The Meeting was informed that AFOSP will be ended by 2019 and is in the process of securing the support for the new phase. In line with this, the Meeting would explore possibility to have new phase supporting the work of ASWGAC and ACEDAC. The Meeting also tasked ASEAN Foundation and AFA through AFOSP or other new Programme/Project to seek for a potential donor to assist ASWGAC and ACEDAC to implement the Roadmap.
10. The Meeting noted that the 21st Meeting of the ASWGAC tentatively would be held back to back with the 26th ACEDAC Board Meeting in May/June 2019, prior to SOM-AMAF Meeting, in Myanmar. The Meeting noted that, on a rotational basis, the Philippines will be the host of the 22nd Meeting of the ASWGAC, back to back with the 27th ACEDAC Board Meeting, prior to SOM-AMAF Meeting in August 2020.