

AFOSP MTCP2 ASEAN

ASEAN Farmers' Organisations Support Programme

Medium Term Cooperation Programme Phase II and
Regional Policy Dialogue in ASEAN region



THE CONTEXT

Although ASEAN countries have made substantial progress over the last few decades, poverty and hunger are still widespread in several Member States. The challenge of meeting the food security needs of the 64.5 million undernourished people in the region remains. Moreover, new challenges threaten the sustainability of the past gains. Climate change is intensifying uncertainties in agricultural production, while land and water grabbing are uprooting small agricultural producers all around South East Asia, and depriving them of their source of food and livelihood.

Agriculture remains a significant sector of the economy in the whole ASEAN region and continues to be a key factor for sustainable development and poverty alleviation. However, the agricultural sector is undergoing rapid transformation with implications for food security in the region, including high commodity price, fall in agriculture's share of GDP, decreasing size of farms, decline or stagnation in yields for grains and oilseeds, ageing of South East Asian farmers, significant stress on land and water resources, aggravation from climate change, and the need to maintain the region's important forests.

ASEAN leaders have declared that "food security remains a major challenge for ASEAN and the world as a whole, at a time of high commodity prices and economic uncertainty". Many of the challenges require regional solutions, and ASEAN is in a position to develop and implement region-wide responses. It has already developed platforms and frameworks for such solutions, including the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework (AIFS), the ASEAN Climate Change Initiative (ACCI) and the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change – Agriculture and Forestry toward Food Security (AFCC), which can serve as the springboard in providing common solutions.

The 2008 ASEAN Charter provides for the legal framework that enables the process of regional integration through the creation of the ASEAN Community by the end of 2015. ASEAN is evolving into a more rules based organization, slowly but steadily. This includes harmonization of policies across many areas. One of the main components of the ASEAN Community is the ASEAN Economic Community

(AEC) which aims at the creation of a single regional market by 31/12/2015, where goods, services and investments should freely flow among the 10 member-countries. The expressed goal behind the creation of the AEC is sustainable and equitable development. But for millions of people in this part of the world, the true value and test of any regional development plan rests on its ability to address hunger and poverty through equitable and sustainable growth.

Millions of farmers are organized in professional institutions called Farmer Organizations (FOs). The last two decades have witnessed an important development of FOs throughout Asia, with an enhanced structuring of national FOs into regional and global networks. FOs are increasingly taking an active part in the rural economic development, tackling the challenges of reducing rural poverty, improving food security, securing development opportunities for the smallholders, and developing the agribusiness value chains. At the global level, the key role that FOs have in agriculture development, poverty reduction, and food security is more and more recognized by governments and by the international community. However, due to the development context that varies from one country to another, FOs' influential effectiveness in policy consultations is mostly at an early stage of development. Institutional and operational strengthening is required to help FOs act effectively and be recognized as one of the primary actors in the national, sub-regional and regional socio-economic development. It is therefore important to support FOs to strengthen their capacity to provide services to their members, to opportunities for farmer-to-farmer sharing of experiences and initiatives.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The MTCP2 ASEAN is a component of the ASEAN Farmers' Organisations Support Program (AFOSP) which is a capacity building programme aiming at improving the livelihoods and food security situation of smallholder farmers and rural producers in ASEAN countries. The AFOSP program's purpose is that ASEAN FOs evolve into stable, performing, accountable organizations capable of providing effective and sustainable services to their members and of influencing policy and corporate processes on agriculture and food security issues at local, national, ASEAN regional and global levels.

The AFOSP program provides support to FOs by addressing and supporting their

main functions, their engagement in policy process and it contributes to their effective professionalization and accountability towards their membership. In addition, it also strives to support the attempts of FOs to provide economic services to their members.

The program's specific objectives are to:

1. Strengthen FOs' Institutional and Operational capacities
2. Enable FOs at different levels to influence regional, national and provincial policies on smallholder priority subjects
3. Improve FOs services to their member (entrepreneurial capacities and participation in value chains)

BUDGET AND DURATION

The Total Cost of the Program is 16 million EUR (EUR 15 million from European Union and 1 million EUR from IFAD). The total cost of the program finances two major components – the MTCP2 ASEAN and the Farmers Fighting Poverty (FFP) components of the program.

The MTCP2 ASEAN upscales to ASEAN countries the first phase of the MTCP with a total cost of EU 8.2 million including a European Commission's (EC) contribution of EUR 7.7 million and an IFAD contribution of EUR 0.5 million

The program has an overall duration of 60 months from the date of entry into force of the contract between IFAD and EC.



MTCP2 ASEAN COVERAGE



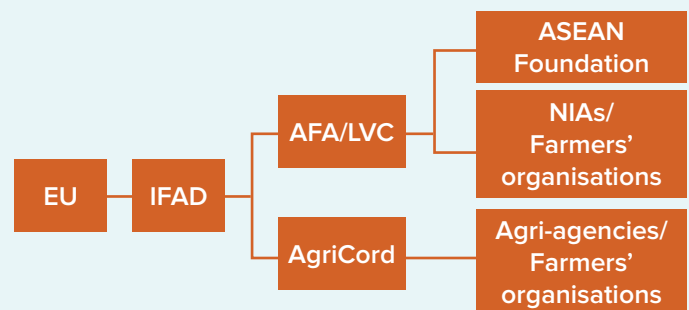
The EU support to the program focuses on ASEAN countries, particularly targeting those Member States with large population of small-scale women and men farmers. The program strategically complements the on-going efforts of MTCP2 in reinforcing the capacity of FOs to become stronger stakeholders in the shaping of national, sub-regional and regional agriculture and rural development processes and policies. In addition, EU support is strategic in promoting the development of policies and programs in support of family agriculture at ASEAN level.

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT

MTCP2 ASEAN operates at the regional and national levels, supporting FOs platforms to create institutional linkages between these platforms and ASEAN and its Member States.

MTCP2 ASEAN's approach is of a programmatic and strategic nature as it supports FOs strategic plans, ensuring that program activities contribute to the achievement of respective constitutional mandates and strategic objectives.

Program funds from EU and IFAD are channeled to AFA, representing the consortium AFA and LVC, which in turn channels them to national FOs acting as National Implementing Agencies and to ASEAN Foundation.



PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE

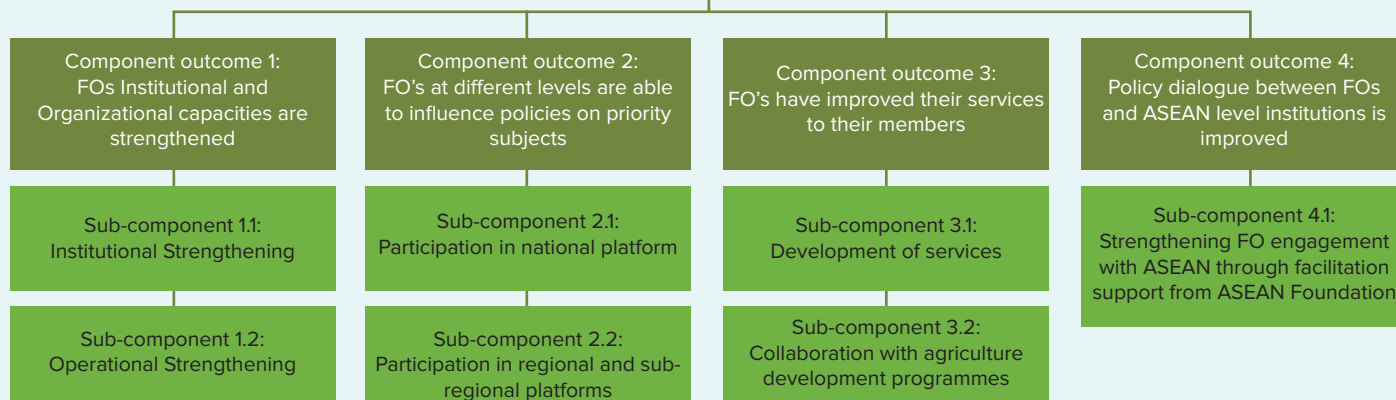
The existing MTCP2 sub-regional steering committee for Southeast Asia shall be maintained. In addition, a joint Program Steering Committee (PSC) will be set up to oversee and validate the overall direction of the AFOSP program, including appropriate representation from: the EU Delegation Indonesia, IFAD, AgriCord, the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN Foundation, AFA, LVC, and possible other stakeholders. Such PSC will be based upon the deliberations and documentation submitted for approval to the steering mechanisms of the two complementary actions – namely MTCP2/ASEAN and FFP/ASEAN, and will meet on a yearly basis to steer the overall AFOSP program.



MTCP2 ASEAN LOGFRAME

Overall goal: Improve the livelihoods and food security situation of smallholder farmers and rural producers in ASEAN countries:

Programme purpose: ASEAN FO's evolve into stable, performing, accountable organisations capable of providing effective and sustainable services to their members and of influencing policy and corporate processes on agriculture and food security issues at local, national, ASEAN regional and global levels



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