



**THE 44<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE ASEAN MINISTERS  
ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY (44<sup>th</sup> AMAF MEETING) AND RELATED MEETINGS  
Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

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Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Brunei Darussalam attended the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (the 44<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting) via video conference on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The 44<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. Phet Phomphiphak, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR.

During the 44<sup>th</sup> AMAF meeting, the ASEAN ministers continued to express their concern over the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) to the food, agriculture and forestry sectors, as well as the potential disruption to the food supply chain in the region. The meeting emphasized on the importance of the food, agriculture, and forestry sector to ensure that essential, safe and nutritious produce can continue to reach the ASEAN markets, including the continuous functioning of business activities and services to the food and agricultural systems.

Looking at the impacts of COVID-19, the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, further emphasized the importance of ASEAN's focus towards economic recovery and digital economy integration, especially on issues relating to food crises, increases in food and agricultural inputs prices which have led to the increase in the cost of logistics and production.

The 44<sup>th</sup> AMAF meeting noted with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the key deliverables for the food, agriculture, and forestry sector in 2022, and adopted 12 indicative deliverables across the livestock, crops, fisheries, and forestry in 2023, including the three Priority Economic Deliverables (PED) for Indonesia's 2023 ASEAN Chairmanship: (i) The Roadmap for the Implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture which is hoped to enhance the development of an ASEAN sustainable food market, in the face of an increasing number of trade barriers, tariffs and other restrictions imposed on ASEAN agricultural and food products based on the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic; (ii) Development of Project on Mangrove Ecosystem Management in the ASEAN Region to support ASEAN to improve the network and communication tools among ASEAN Mangrove Network (AMNET) member countries for increased conservation



effort; and (iii) ASEAN Leaders Declaration on Strengthening Food Security to promote resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems.

The Meeting noted that various projects have been developed by ASEAN to support ASEAN Member States (AMS) in ensuring food security to address the regional food crisis, including the harmonisation of standards and development of guidelines to support trade facilitation of agricultural products in ASEAN. Furthermore, the meeting acknowledged and appreciated the support extended by dialogue partners and international organisations for their valuable contribution and support in advancing cooperation in food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry in the ASEAN region through close collaboration in various areas. In addition, Brunei Darussalam also welcomes the collaborative efforts between AMS and respective partners to provide evidence-based practices and learning experiences on transforming into more sustainable and circular agriculture.

On the same day as the 44<sup>th</sup> AMAF, the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism also attended the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (the 22<sup>nd</sup> AMAF+3), and The 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (the 7<sup>th</sup> AIMMAF) via video conference.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> AMAF+3 meeting commended the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy (APTCS) 2016-2025 to contribute towards the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. The meeting also appreciated the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement. In addition, the meeting noted the progress of the ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Information System (AFSIS) particularly in strengthening the region's capacity on food security information systems and human resource development. The meeting further encouraged all relevant partners and stakeholders, including the private sectors to join hands with the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Member States in formulating and implementing projects or programs that complement the key priority areas for ASEAN cooperation in Food Agriculture and Forestry. In addition, Brunei Darussalam requested for further opportunities from the Plus Three partners to help improve the technical expertise in agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors through trainings, exchange visits and work placements.



The 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (the 7<sup>th</sup> AIMMAF) noted the significant progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership, through the implementation of various programmes and activities across the three ASEAN Community pillars, based on the current Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2021-2025) and welcomed the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-India relations.

Also present during the meeting were the Permanent Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretaries and Senior Officers from the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, Department of Agriculture and Agrifood, Department of Fisheries and Forestry Department.

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**Prepared by:**

**44<sup>th</sup> AMAF Secretariat**

**Brunei Darussalam**

*Date: 26 October 2022*