

OECD-ASEAN REGION OUTREACH EVENT:

MAKING AGRO-FOOD MARKETS WORK FOR ASEAN

5 - 6 NOVEMBER 2018, MELIÁ HOTEL, HA NOI, VIET NAM

CONCEPT NOTE

Introduction

ASEAN-OECD co-operation on agriculture focuses on the development of regionally-integrated policies to enhance food security, food safety and trade in agricultural and forestry products. The ASEAN-OECD co-operation agenda, given effect by the 36th SOM AMAF in August 2016, has been supported by a range of regional events and – more recently – the Global Forum on Agriculture, hosted by the OECD in May 2017. This co-operation has also been reflected in the development and completion of the OECD study (2017) titled [*Building Food Security and Managing Risk in Southeast Asia*](#).

Further to these initiatives, an OECD-ASEAN region outreach event, *Making agro-food markets work for ASEAN*, is proposed to take place in Viet Nam, on **5th – 6th November 2018** at the Meliá Hotel Ha Noi, subject to endorsement by the SOM AMAF and Viet Nam. The event, which would take place over 1.5 days, would bring together representatives of ASEAN, OECD members and other countries, agricultural experts from the OECD Secretariat and other intergovernmental and international organisations, the private sector, producer groups and agribusiness, and researchers. The objective would be to facilitate further open dialogue between ASEAN and OECD stakeholders on agro-food chain policy issues, on the basis of the OECD's monitoring and analysis. The event would aim to evaluate and strengthen the process of policy and trade reform through forward-looking analysis, and to provide policy options for addressing emerging agricultural policy issues, with a focus on the real world needs of policy makers.

The event would build on and deepen previous discussions at the OECD-ASEAN *Regional Conference on Policies to Promote Food Security and Agro-Forestry Productivity*, held in Seoul in October 2015; the ASEAN *Inter-Sectoral Consultative meeting on Food Security and Nutrition*, held in Bangkok in February 2016; the OECD-FAO-ASEAN *Regional Conference on Policies to Enable Food Security, Agricultural Productivity and Improved Nutrition*, held in Nay Pyi Taw in June 2016; and the OECD Global Forum on Agriculture, *Building Food Security and Managing Risk: A Focus on Southeast Asia*, held in Paris in May 2017.

Draft structure of the event

The discussions would focus on four key topics of concern for ASEAN: (i) the establishment of domestic and regional food safety systems; (ii) ensuring widespread food security in the region; (iii) digital technologies and what they mean for agriculture, and (iv) deriving the greatest benefit from global agro-food value chains (GVCs). As such, the event would provide a forum for the exchange and sharing of knowledge and best practices in domestic and cross-border food safety regulation, and for the discussion of results of recent analyses undertaken by the OECD Secretariat of relevance to both food security and agro-food GVCs. In the context of discussions on food security, the event would feature the release of a new OECD book which examines public stockholding policies related to rice in Asia.

The event would be structured in five main sessions, each of which would involve short introductory presentations by national and international experts, ASEAN member governments, OECD experts and other international organisations included. The floor would then be opened for all participants to make comments and share relevant policy experience as a means of progressing the dialogue. A final session would be dedicated to considering the priority conclusions of the previous discussions. The sessions would be structured as follows:

1. *Strengthening food safety in ASEAN:* In recent years, consumer demand for safe food has increased in ASEAN countries in response to increased awareness of the prevalence of foodborne diseases. In 2015, the ASEAN Food Safety Policy was adopted by the Ministerial Bodies responsible for health, trade and agriculture with the objective of providing the basis for ASEAN Member States to facilitate the free flow of food, enhance protection of consumer health within the region and ensure food safety. This session will take a closer look at domestic and cross-border food safety regulatory settings in OECD and ASEAN countries with a view to the exchange of best practices and the identification of areas for improvement.

2. *Integrating ASEAN rice for food security:* The second session will focus on Asian rice markets, given their key role in regional food security, based on two new streams of OECD analysis: (i) work which explores the influence of public stockholding policies related to rice in Asia on domestic and international markets, and (ii) a study of the feasibility of regional rice market integration in ASEAN. The session will begin with the launch of a new OECD book on public stockholding policies related to rice in Asia. The book first reviews the working of rice public stockholding programmes in eight Asian countries: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Thailand. It then examines the impacts of these programmes over the medium term (2018-2030), and analyses how these impacts would change should the selected countries collectively set their public stocks to either a low or high level. Next, discussion will turn to rice market integration. Previous work by the OECD and others has pointed to the potential role of regional integration in enhancing the region's agricultural sector and improving food security. This discussion will focus on new OECD analysis which considers in detail the impacts on producers, consumers and trade in ASEAN member states, and explores the policies that would help to support the shift to a regionally integrated rice market.

3. *Sustainable fisheries for food security:* Fisheries make a vital contribution to the food security of hundreds of millions of people worldwide, and provide livelihoods to 38 million fishers and many more in the secondary and tertiary sectors. In the ASEAN region, fisheries and aquaculture will continue to play a particularly important role in food security in the medium term. Fish products form an important part of the regional diet and represent a key source of income for many communities. Yet recent evaluations suggest that worldwide, about one-third of marine stocks are biologically overfished. This session will discuss a body of OECD work related to sustainable fisheries management; namely, recent work measuring progress in the implementation of best policies and practices against illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing; investigating the impact of support to the fisheries sector on fisheries sustainability; and reviewing fisheries policies in Indonesia and Viet Nam. Exchange of experiences among ASEAN countries on recent policy initiatives, notably in the fight against IUU, will be encouraged.

4. *Digital technologies – What do they mean for agriculture?:* From Blockchain to cloud computing, Artificial Intelligence (AI), platforms, sensors, satellite data and the Internet of Things (IoT), there is much speculation as to the potential of digital technologies to transform food and agricultural systems. This session will not only explore how digitalisation is changing agriculture, market access and agro-food value chains more broadly, but also the implications that these changes have for policy. In particular, it will consider recent developments in the agricultural sector, the challenges and opportunities involved, and explore the role of governments in enabling beneficial changes.

5. *Optimising the gains from global agro-food value chains:* As their agriculture and fisheries sectors have developed, ASEAN countries have become increasingly engaged in agro-food trade. Regional and international markets have therefore gained importance as a source of income and food for the region's producers and consumers. However, participation in international agro-food markets is changing with the development of global value chains (GVCs) which create new challenges for ASEAN food chain actors and policy makers alike. This session would explore recent OECD analysis of the effects that participation in international agro-food markets – and in agro-food GVCs more specifically – have had upon the development of these sectors. In doing so, it would seek to explore the policy factors that have helped and hindered agricultural development and domestic value added growth.

6. *Lessons learned:* This final session would consider the priority conclusions of the previous discussions and seek to identify other important issues facing agro-food sectors in ASEAN which may limit the gains to both consumers and producers from participation in domestic, regional and international agro-food markets.

Venue and timing

The 1.5-day event will take place at the Meliá Hotel, Ha Noi, Viet Nam from 5th– 6th November, 2018. More information will be provided on the event website (<https://oe.cd/asean-markets>) closer to the date.