

Preface

The ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Project is implemented under ASEAN+3 cooperation with financial support from Japan. The Project has the objective to strengthen food security in the region by developing information system to provide necessary information required for food security policy planning and implementation. The Project has been implemented since 2003 with excellent cooperation from Member States. The results from the Project evaluation in 2007 showed that, in overall, the Project had clearly achieved the objectives. The general alignment of the Project's activities had been at the center of all Member States' attention. The AFSIS information system was highly valued in its usefulness and the way in which it was developed. Due to its contribution with respect to regional food security and the mutual cooperation in the region, the Project was extended into the second phase, which has the implementation period from 2008 to 2012.

This annual report is the first report of the Project, which prepared to provide concerned parties with the updated information about Project's activities and its achievement. It is divided into three Parts, which are; *Part A: Project Overview*, *Part B: Implementation of the 1st Phase (2003 – 2007)*, and *Part C: Implementation of the 2nd Phase in Year 2008*. The Project management hopes that the information about the implementation of AFSIS Project will increase mutual understanding and cooperation among the countries and all parties concerned with planning and implementing food security policies. It is also expected that, based on the results from Project implementation, concerned parties will be able to create concrete policies and plans, which can effectively help strengthen food security in the region and in the world.

On this occasion, the Project would like to express its appreciation to all Member States, the Government of Japan, the ASEAN Secretariat and other concerned parties including the Office of Agricultural Economics (OAE), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand for their contribution and participation in the implementation of the Project.

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Project Overview

Establishment and Objective

Due to the growing concern about food security in regional communities, the Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry of the ASEAN Member States plus China, Japan and Korea approved the Project in their meeting held in October 2002 in Lao PDR. *The overall objective of the Project is to strengthen food security in the region through the systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of food security related information. The 1st Phase of the Project has the period of five years, from 2003 to 2007.* It is led and coordinated by Thailand, in particular, the Office of Agricultural Economics(OAE), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The Statistics Department (SD), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries(MAFF), Japan is the donor through ASEAN Trust Funds.

Prior to the termination of the 1st Phase, in the AMAF +3 Meeting in September 2005 in Philippines, the Ministers expressed their recognition of the contribution of AFSIS Project with respect to promoting the concept of regional food security and the importance of continued improvement in the details

of food security data and information among Member States and the regional cooperation. Accordingly, the Implementation Plan of the Project – 2nd Phase was prepared and endorsed by the AMAF +3 Meeting in November 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand. *The 2nd Phase will have the period of 5 years from 2008 - 2012 with financial support from MAFF Japan.* It would continue on the objective to strengthen food security in the region and main activities of the 1st Phase. The additional elements including: Early Warning Information, Agricultural Commodity Outlook and Mutual Technical Cooperation were also included in the 2nd Phase.



Office of Agricultural Economics ,Bangkok ,Thailand

Project Components

To achieve the objective in strengthening regional food security, the implementation of the Project contains 2 main components

Human Resource Development

The Project aims to raise the capacity of Member States through a combination of activities i.e. trainings, workshops and national seminars. These activities were planned to provide related personnel in Member States with knowledge and skills in statistics and the development of food security information system to ensure that they will be capable to implement Project's activities competently and at the same standard.

In the 2nd Phase, the Project has introduced the activity for mutual technical cooperation to replace the national seminars of the 1st Phase. The objective is to share the knowledge and views among ASEAN Member States through the organization of training courses and technical visits. Under this activity, the more advanced Member States are requested to help improve the capacity of the others as necessary for the implementation of Project's activities.

Information Network Development

Under this component, the development of regional food security information network including the database were included in the plan so that concerned organizations in Member States can disseminate and acquire food security related data required for policy planning and implementation. The Project also planned to provide Member States and the Project management unit with the sets of computer hardware with printers and necessary application soft wares including annual operating costs to develop information networks at national and regional levels.

In the Second Phase, the Project emphasizes on the enrichment of database and data analysis. The development of *Early Warning Information* and *Commodity Outlook* was included to monitor and analyze food security situation in the region. In addition, the Project plans to provide a number of network equipment to some Member States as considered necessary for Project implementation.

Expected Outputs

The outputs from the implementation of the Project in both Phases can be expected as follows:

- Member States will be capable of providing accurate, reliable and timely information required for the construction of regional food security information at the same standard.

- The Project will be able to provide complete information needed for planning and implementation of food security policy in the region.

- The development of early warning information and commodity outlook will facilitate the management of food security policies and programs. These activities will help to assess food security situations in the region and identify the areas where food insecurity is likely to occur as well as the degree of seriousness.

- The responsible agencies to be better aware of the problem in food security, so that affected people will receive better responses and support to release their difficulties.

Project Administration

The *Focal Point Meeting (FPM)* which consists of representatives from Focal Point Agencies in every Member State is body responsible for managing and

assisting in carrying out the activities of the Project.

The FPM is the decision-making mechanism of the Project and to be held at least once a year to discuss, review and decide on the following matters:

- Work plans of the Project

- Implementation of Project activities at the regional and national levels

- Other important matters relevant to the implementation of the Project

In addition, the Project has the plan to organize the *Meeting of Directors-General of Agricultural Statistics and Information in ASEAN+3 Countries (DG-ASI)* back to back with the FPM in some years to exchange views and explore current problems regarding regional food security and find appropriate solutions.

The *ASEAN Food Security Information and Training (AFSIT) Center*, which was established under the Project at the Office of Agricultural Economics (OAE), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC), Thailand, has the function as a secretariat of the FPM, as a center for regional training and as a hub of information on regional food security. It provides services necessary for Project activities of Member States.

As for Project Management, at present, Mr. Montol Jeamchareon, the Deputy Secretary-General of OAE is the Project Manager.



Mr. Montol Jeamchareon
The AFSIS Project Manager

The national Focal Point Persons in Member States are listed below:

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Cost and Financing

The Project is implemented with the financial support from a Trust Fund, which the MAFF Japan has agreed to provide through the ASEAN Secretariat over the Project period. Member States are entitled to make contribution to the Project by designating the Focal Points

and staff to work on the Project. They also provide facilities such as computers and telecommunication equipment and other necessary arrangements to ensure the efficient implementation of the Project.

Implementation of 1st Phase (2003-2007)

Implemented Activities

The 1st Phase of the Project has the period of five years, from January 2003 to December 2007. The major implemented activities of the Project can be summarized as follows:

Establishment of ASEAN Food Security Information and Training(AFSIT)Center

The AFSIT Center was established in the premises of OAE in 2003. It functions as a secretariat of AFSIS FPM, as a center for regional training and as a hub of information on food security for participating Member States.

Organization of the FPMs and the DG-ASI Meetings

The FPM is the decision-making mechanism of the Project and was organized every year. The DG-ASI Meeting has the objectives to discuss and find effective means for regional economic development as well as the poverty alleviation. The DG-ASI

Meetings were organized back to back with FPMs in 2003, 2005 and 2006.

The FPMs and DG-ASI Meetings, which were organized during the 1st Phase, are listed below:

Focal Point Meeting (FPM)

- First FPM, Bangkok, Thailand, 25 – 26 March 2003
- Second FPM, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 24 February 2004
- Third FPM, Yangon, Myanmar, 27 - 28 January 2005
- Fourth FPM, Siem Reap, Cambodia, 21 February 2006
- Fifth FPM, Manila, Philippines, 30 - 31 May 2007.

DG-ASI Meetings

- First DG-ASI Meeting, Tokyo, Japan, 27 – 31 January 2003
- Second DG-ASI, Yangon, Myanmar back to back with the Third FPM, 24 – 26 January 2005
- Third DG-ASI Meeting, Siem Reap, Cambodia back to back with the Fourth FPM, 22 – 24 February 2006.

Organization of Technical Meeting

The Project organized the Technical Meeting 25 May 2006 in Phuket, Thailand to formulate the detailed Proposal for the 2nd Phase of AFSIS Project. Representatives from all Member States were invited to the Meeting and requested to provide comments and suggestions on the formulation of the Proposal. The agreed Proposal was submitted and endorsed by the 6th AMAF+3 held in November 2006 in Singapore.

Human Resource Development

1 Organization of Training Courses and Workshops

During the 1st Phase, the training courses and workshops were organized 14 times in total. In each time, two representatives from each of Member State were invited to participate in the event. Out of the total, China and Korea provided support to the Project by hosting training courses / workshops for 4 and 3 times respectively.

The training courses and workshops, which were organized during the 1st Phase, are listed below:

Year 2003

- Workshop on “*Data Standardization*”, Ayutthaya, Thailand, 29-31 July
- Training Course on “*Statistical Survey Techniques*”, Bangkok, Thailand, 1-5 December.

Year 2004

- Workshop on “*Construction of the Information Network System*” organized back to back with the Second Focal Point Meeting, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 25-26 February
- Training Course on “*Application of Information and Network Technology in Agriculture*”, Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), Beijing, P.R. China, 7-13 June
- Training Course on “*Statistical Data Analysis and Forecasting*”, AFSIT center, Bangkok, Thailand, 22-26 November.

Year 2005

- Workshop on “*Improvement of the Quality of Agricultural Statistics*”, Chiang Rai, Thailand, 25-27 April
- Training Course “*Food Security Information System and Technology*”, Beijing, P.R. China, 7-17 August
- Training Course on “*Application of Information and Network Technology in Agriculture*”, Seoul, Korea, 10-15 October.

Year 2006

- Workshop on “*Agricultural statistical Data Collection Analysis & Dissemination of Information*”, Seoul, Korea, 6-20 August.

- Workshop on “*Food Security Network and Information System Application for ASEAN Countries*”, Ministry of Agriculture of P.R. China, Beijing, China, 26 November – 8 December

- Training Course and Workshop on “*Food Security Data Analysis*”, AFSIT Center, Bangkok, Thailand, 11 – 23 December.

Year 2007

- Workshop on “*Food Security Information System and Technology for ASEAN Member Countries*”, Seoul, Korea, 26 August – 4 September

- Workshop on “*ASEAN Food Security Information System*” Beijing, China, 20 - 29 October

- Workshop on “*Agricultural Economic Data Analysis for Commodity Outlook and Early Warning Information*”, AFSIT Center, Bangkok, Thailand, 11 - 21 December

2 Organization of National Seminars

In compliance with the Project Implementation Plan, 7 ASEAN Member States organized National Seminars to discuss important problems and issues related to agricultural statistics and food security information system in their countries as listed below:

- National Seminar in Vientiane, Lao PDR, 6-7 July 2004

- National Seminars in Kota Bharu, Kelantan State, Malaysia, 20-23 September 2005

- National Seminars in Hanoi, Vietnam, 8-9 December 2005

- National Seminar in Sihanouk Town, Cambodia, 20 – 21 July 2006

- National Seminar in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 28 – 29 December 2006

- National Seminar in Jakarta, Indonesia, 9-11 September 2007

- National Seminar in Manila, Philippines, 23 November 2007.

Information Network Development

1 Installation of Network Equipment

In order to develop regional food security information network through which the Member's organizations can disseminate and acquire food security data required for policy planning and implementation. The Project provided AFSIT Center, Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat the sets of computer hardware with printers and necessary application softwares including annual operating costs to develop information networks at national and regional levels.

The details of the provision of computer equipments during the year 2003-2007 are shown in the Table below.

The Provision of Computer Equipment

Countries / Organizations	Total	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
AFSIT Center	2 Servers, 14 PCs, 1 PT		2 Servers, 14 PCs, 1 PT			
ASEAN countries (excludes Brunei Darussalam and Singapore)	35 PCs, 35 PTs, (5 sets/country)	7 PCs, 7 PTs, (1set / country)				
Brunei Darussalam and Singapore	4 PCs, 4 PTs (2sets /country)	2 PCs, 2 PTs (1set/ country)	2 PCs, 2 PTs (1set/ country)			
ASEAN Secretariat	1 PC, 1 PT	1 PC, 1PT				

Note: - PC is a set of a personal computer, which includes software, a desk, and a filing cabinet.
- PT stands for printer.

2 Development of Information System

The Projects launched the AFSIS website and developed its database for publishing regional food security related information through internet in 2004. The website is <http://afsis.oae.go.th>. The database contains a time series data of food security related information of five major food crops namely *rice, maize, soybean, sugarcane and cassava*. The information was gathered from every Member State

and includes information related to production, imports and exports, market prices, consumption, stocks of each crop. Some other important economic information such as incomes, land use and irrigation are also included. The national information is consolidated to produce regional information. The users can have an option to search for the information at national or regional levels. The followings are the list of national information gathered from Member States and stored in the database:

Information Related to 5 crops

(rice,maize,soybean, sugarcane, cassava)

- Planted & harvested areas, production, and yields
- Crop calendar Farm-gate prices
- Wholesale prices
- Imports and exports
- Balance sheet
- Cost of production

Other Economic Information

- Population information
- Total labor force
- Labor force in agriculture
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- GDP in Agriculture
- Per capita incomes
- Land use

Results from the Project Implementation

In 2007, the Project management hired the independent consultant to evaluate the success and contribution of the Project to the improvement of the human resource capacities and food security information system as stated in the Project Implementation Plan. The results from the evaluation also made recommendations for the implementation of the Project - 2nd phase. The evaluation was through the comparison of the Project's stated objectives with its success. There are five criteria used as guidelines for the assessment; relevancy, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability.

The information was compiled by in-depth reviewing and fact finding from the following sources:

- The brief of the project's purpose and activities from the AFSIS Secretariat.
- Relevant documents at the AFSIT Center and reports of the various meetings on the AFSIS website.
- Questionnaires circulated to Focal points and related staff in Member States.
- The visit to Lao PDR and Indonesia to examine the Project's activities, actual development, use of equipments provided, construction and maintenance of national level information networks, and the comments and opinions related to the execution of the Project.

The evaluation results show that, in overall, the Project has clearly met all five criteria. The

Project achieved the objectives in human resource capacity building and information network development. The general alignment of the Project's activities in human resource development and its goal for capacity building has been at the center of the Focal Point delegates' attention. The relevance criterion is rated as satisfactory in all human resource development activities by Focal Point delegates. The average rating for participants of the activities is also satisfactory, but certain participants from developed countries such as Singapore and the Republic of Korea gave a rating of moderately unsatisfactory. This evidence suggests that the achievement of the Project's relevance has been strong among developing country members, especially for Brunei Darussalam, Myanmar, and Cambodia.

The AFSIS information network system was highly valued in its usefulness and the way in which it was developed. Assessments of this component can be summarized as follows:

- In terms of relevancy, it is found that the website has been built in high alignment to users.
- Users find that the information content on the Project's website to be useful and current.
- The accessibility and ease of navigation of the AFSIS website is found to be satisfactory for both Focal Point delegates and related staff.

- Regarding the overall satisfaction of the current information network system. The Focal Point delegates are satisfied with the current information network system, while related staff or the regular users are only moderately satisfied.

- The overall usefulness of the AFSIS website is rated as satisfactory by both Focal Point delegates and related staff.

- However, in order to strengthen the implementation of the AFSIS Project - 2nd Phase and regional food security, the evaluator

has suggested some foundation activities for the Project as follows:

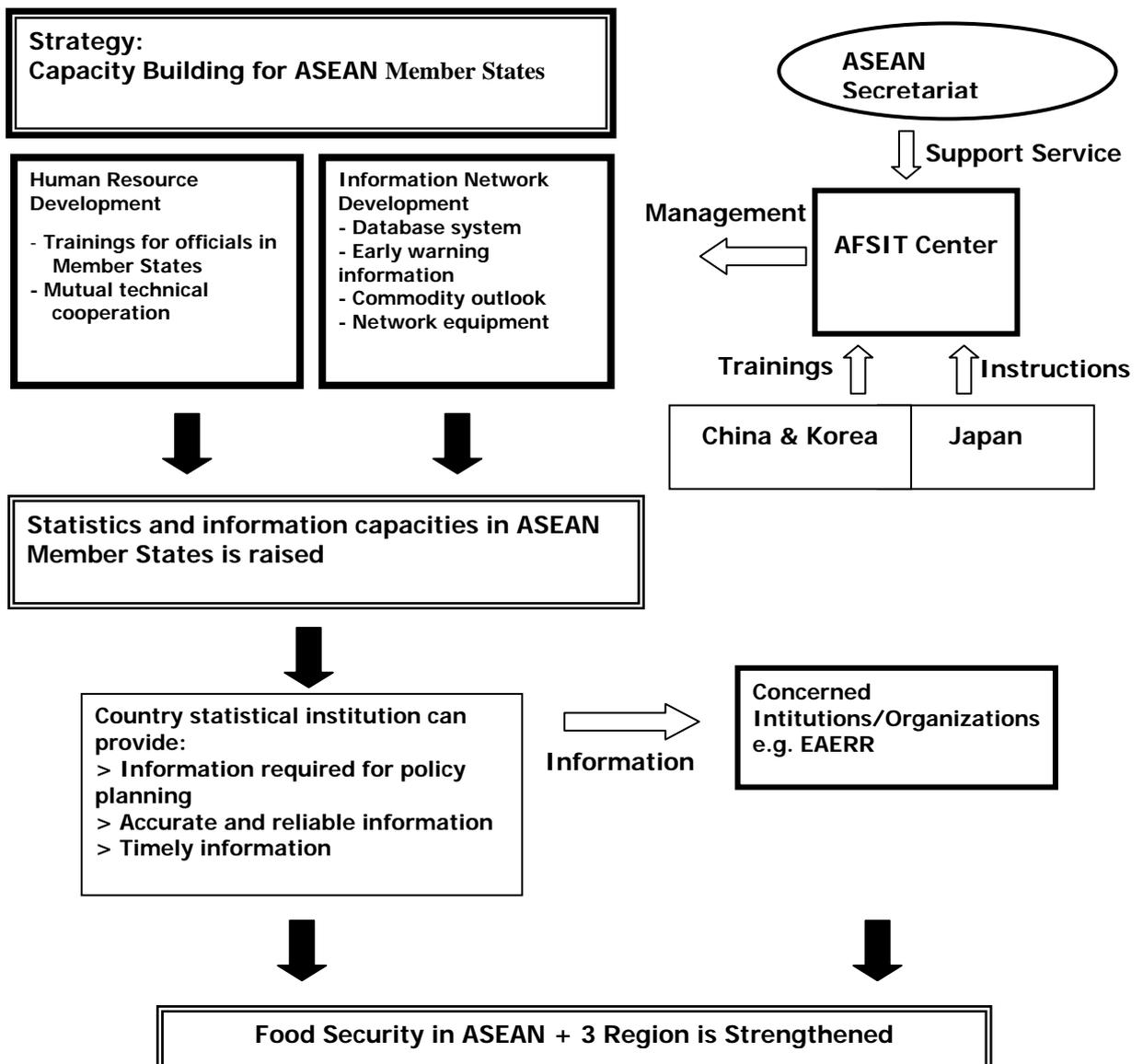
- To lessen language barrier in conducting training courses, a “training a trainer” course should be designed. The course will aim to train selected persons from Member States with solid academic and English backgrounds to become trainers in their respective countries.

- As there are different development stages among ASEAN+3 countries, a research needs to be done to form a Regional Master Plan to serve as a roadmap for the development of food security information syst.

Implementation of the 2nd Phase in Year 2008

The 2nd Phase aims to maintain and improve Project's main activities of the 1st Phase in providing food security information and increasing capacity of Member States in relation to Project implementation. The Project will continue with the two components of 1st Phase, which are *Human Resource Development* and *Information Network Development*. Additional activities, namely: *Mutual Technical Cooperation* and the development of *Early Warning Information and Commodity Outlook* were added in the 2nd Phase.

Overall Concept of the 2nd Phase



Implemented Activities

Organization of the 4th DG-ASI Meeting and the 6th FPM

The Project organized the 4th DG-ASI during 11-12 March 2008 in Tokyo. The topics for discussion in the Meeting were:

- Role of Food Projection for Food Security Policy in ASEAN Countries
- Early Warning Information System Development in Thailand
- Evaluation results of AFSIS Project-1st Phase and Implementation Plan of the 2nd Phase
- Report on JICA Project “*Agricultural Statistics and Economic Analysis Development in Thailand*”



4th DG-ASI during 11-12 March 2008
Tokyo, Japan

- Report on JICA Project “*Capacity Building Project for Strengthening of Agricultural Statistics System in Lao PDR*”

The 6th FPM was organized back to back with the 4th DG-ASI on 13 March 2008 to discuss and review the following matters:

- Report of AFSIS Project-1st Phase in Year 2007
- Report on National Seminar in Indonesia
- Report on National Seminar in Philippines
- Work Plan of AFSIS Project-2nd Phase in Year 2008
- Discussion on the Implementation of AFSIS Project-2nd Phase



6th FPM back to back with the 4th DG-ASI

Human Resource Development

The Project aims to raise the capacity of Member States through a combination of activities. These activities were planned to provide related personnel in Member States with knowledge and skills in statistics and the development of food security information system. The human resource development activities which were implemented can be summarized as shown below:

1 Organization of Workshop on "Development of AFSIS Project's Activity Plan"

The Workshop was conducted during 13 -14 May 2008 in Pattaya, Thailand with the objective to develop appropriate Activity Plan for the development of early warning information, commodity outlook and mutual technical cooperation. The participants of the Workshop include Focal Points and another staff from each of ASEAN + 3 Member State, representative from the ASEAN Secretariat and related personnel from OAE and AFSIS Project. As an output of the Workshop, the Project's Activity Plan was mutually produced for Project implementation.

The Project plans to organize Workshop once a year to find out appropriate means for the implementation of Project's activities

2. Organization of Training Courses

In 2008, three training courses were organized as follows:

- Training course on "Forecasting Technique and the



Development of Agricultural Commodity Outlook" in Thailand during 10 – 20 December 2008. The objective was to provide participants with necessary knowledge of agricultural commodity outlook development and prepare the draft outlook report on rice in ASEAN countries. The course included theoretical and practical sessions. After the theoretical session, participants were requested to provide information and assistance in developing the ASEAN ACO Reports on rice. The draft Report, which was produced during the course and was finalized and published December 2009 as scheduled.

- Training course on “*ASEAN Food Security Information System*” during 27 - 31 October 2008, Shanghai, P.R. China supported by Chinese Government. The objective was to provide participants with the opportunity to learn about the application of agricultural information system in China. They could observe the use of information technology at High-tech Enterprise of Agriculture in providing two-way communication with farmers. They also visited many places to experience the agricultural information system development in China such as Agricultural Information Center of Shanghai, experimental site of information system in Hangzhou and Department of Agricultural Statistics and Production.

- Training course on “*Agricultural Statistical Data Collection, Analysis & Dissemination of Information*” during 6-21 November 2008 supported by the Korean Government. The objective was to provide participants with knowledge in organizing information system and agricultural statistic analysis in order to increase management ability in food security of Member states. The course consisted of academic session and study visits. The academic session focused on the topics related to the development of economic models for early warning information and the information system organization.

During the course, participants were requested to present the situation of agricultural statistics and agricultural information system in their respective countries. They also had

- Identification of the needs and potential in each ASEAN

opportunities to visit various agencies to observe the management of agricultural information system in Korea.

In each training course, two staff from each of Member State are invited to participate in the event.

3. Mutual Technical Cooperation

The Mutual Technical Cooperation activity was introduced to replace the national seminars of the Project - 1st Phase. The objective is to share the knowledge and views among ASEAN Member States. In this regard, the Project plans to conduct two types of capacity building activities, which are:

- **Training Courses:** The experts from resource countries will go to recipient countries to be the instructors in the training courses on the subjects that required by recipient countries.

- **Technical Visits:** The recipient countries send staff to visit their respective resource countries after the training courses. The visits will allow the staff from recipient countries to follow up on what they have learned from the training courses.

In order to implement this Project component, the following activities were implemented:

Member State regarding the development of food security information system

- Matching up the pairs of countries for mutual technical cooperation activities by considering the needs and potential of respective countries.

- Preparation of schedule for each pair to conduct the activities.

In accordance with the Activity Plan derived from the Workshop on “Development of AFSIS Project’s Activity Plan” during 13 -14 May 2008 in Pattaya, in 2008, Indonesia and Cambodia were planned to be the first pair for mutual technical cooperation activity.

Information Network Development

Project has been continuing to maintain and improve its database by performing the following activities:

1. Information Update and Review

The Project updated the information in database to year 2008 and reviewed it for correctness. Besides the publication of information through internet, the Project also used the information in database as a basis for the development early warning information and the outlook for rice.

When any questions, errors or mistakes were found, the Project informed relevant Focal Points to provide clarification or make correction as necessary.

2 Development of Early Warning Information (EWI)

The ACO Committee, which consists of experts designated from

The EWI was introduced to the information system to provide the information related to the production of major food crops during current growing season. To accomplish the assignment, after setting up the implementation guidelines in the regional Workshop, the Project started to gather information from Member States and make necessary analysis to prepare the report. The 1st EWI Report on rice was published in AFSIS’s website in September 2008 as scheduled. The Report covers the following items:

- Estimated Planted/harvested areas, production and yields of rice in each ASEAN Member States in year 2008

- Crop growing conditions and damages

3 Development of Agricultural Commodity Outlook (ACO)

The Project set up a working group at OAE to be responsible for implementing this activity. The relevant information, which gathered from the database, Member States and other sources such as Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), was analyzed to make ACO Report on rice. The Report presents the current and projected situation in various aspects of rice in ASEAN region in year 2008 and 2009 for examples: production, consumption, demand and supply, trades etc.



Member States, was established to provide necessary assistance to the working group and scrutinize the Report before publication. The first Committee meeting was held during 22 -23 December 2008 to review and endorse the ACO Report on rice, which publicized in December as planned.

ACO meeting in Pattaya

In reference to the ACO Report on rice published by the Project, there is some interesting information, which can be summarized as follows:

- *ASEAN paddy production was estimated to increase by 5.5 percent from 181.1 million (metric) tons (115.9 million tons milled rice) in 2007 to 191.0 million tons (122.7 million tons milled rice) in 2008, mainly due to farmers' response to prices increase in first half of 2008 and favorable weather.*
- *The 2009 production is forecast to increase only by 0.7 percent compared to 2008, from 191.0 million tons (122.7 million tons milled rice) to 192.4 million tons (123.5 million tons milled rice), because the prices have continuously declined since May 2008.*
- *The import will decrease especially in the Philippines and Indonesia due to the increase in production.*
- *The rice stock is expected to increase for ASEAN as a whole and also for individual countries especially in Thailand and Vietnam, the major exporting countries, due to lower demand in world market.*
- *The FOB prices in exporting countries have fallen sharply after their peak in May 2008 but the current prices are still relatively high, as compared with the same period of previous year.*
- *The food security situation in ASEAN countries, in general, is expected to improve in 2009.*

The followings are the tables and graphic presentation showing some interesting information from the ACO Report on rice published by the Project in December 2008.

Table 1: Paddy production in ASEAN countries, 2007-2009

Unit: 1,000 Tons

Countries	2007 (2006/07)	2008 (2007/08)	Changes 2008 over 2007		2009 (2008/09)	Changes 2009 over 2008	
			Quantities	(%)		Quantities	(%)
ASEAN	181,134.32	191,029.60	9,895.28	5.46	192,351.51	1,321.91	0.69
Brunei	1.51	1.36	-0.15	-9.93	2.23	0.87	63.97
Cambodia	6,264.00	6,727.00	463.00	7.39	6,777.00	50.00	0.74
Indonesia	57,157.44	60,236.85	3,079.41	5.39	61,203.47	966.62	1.60
Lao PDR	2,663.70	2,710.91	47.21	1.77	2,890.44	179.52	6.62
Malaysia	2,375.60	2,374.18	-1.42	-0.06	2,451.67	77.48	3.26
Myanmar	30,923.00	31,442.47	519.47	1.68	32,543.00	1,100.54	3.50
Philippines	16,240.19	16,885.83	645.64	3.98	17,019.05	133.23	0.79
Singapore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	29,641.87	32,099.40	2,457.53	8.29	31,464.66	-634.74	-1.98
Vietnam	35,867.01	38,551.60	2,684.59	7.48	38,000.00	-551.60	-1.43

**Table 2: Ratio of rice stock to domestic utilization in ASEAN countries
(Food security ratio)**

Unit: tons

Countries	2008			2009		
	Beginning Stock	Domestic Utilization	Ratio (%)	Beginning Stock	Domestic Utilization	Ratio (%)
ASEAN	19,233,935	104,296,749	18.44	24,106,115	106,722,464	22.59
Brunei	16,121	30,960	52.07	16,454	31,889	51.60
Cambodia	102,400	2,660,480	3.85	275,200	2,691,840	10.22
Indonesia	1,573,000	35,939,729	4.38	3,913,789	37,736,477	10.37
Lao PDR	238,025	1,515,513	15.71	349,060	1,558,604	22.40
Malaysia	244,369	2,252,913	10.85	510,038	2,292,625	22.25
Myanmar	3,325,800	18,241,745	18.23	4,792,808	18,491,250	25.92
Philippines	2,118,500	12,835,585	16.50	2,662,726	13,068,009	20.38
Singapore	10,000	170,000	5.88	50,000	175,000	28.57
Thailand	6,827,700	11,097,504	61.52	6,251,800	11,124,300	56.20
Vietnam	4,778,020	19,552,320	24.44	5,284,240	19,552,470	27.03

Figure 1: Amount of rice import in selected countries in 2008-2009

Million Tons (milled rice)

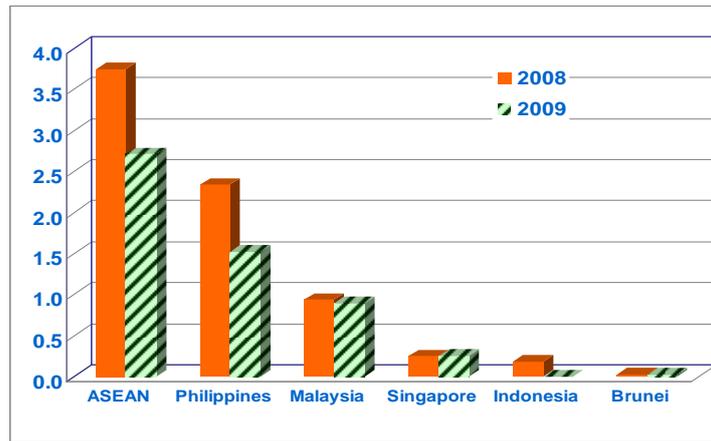


Figure 2: Amount of ending stock of rice in selected countries in 2008-2009

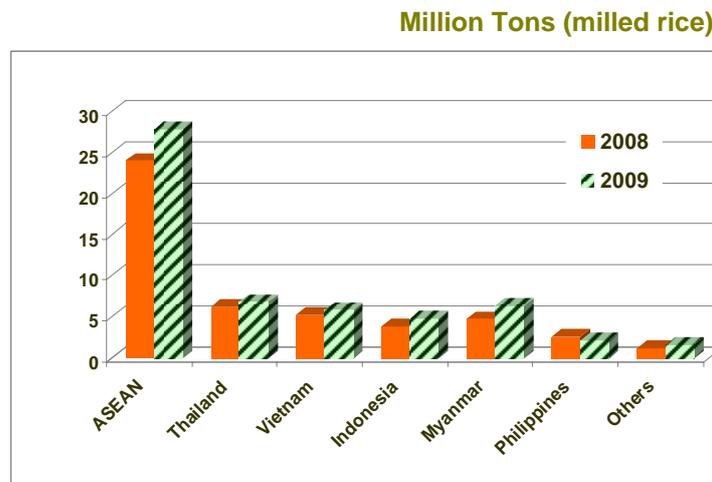
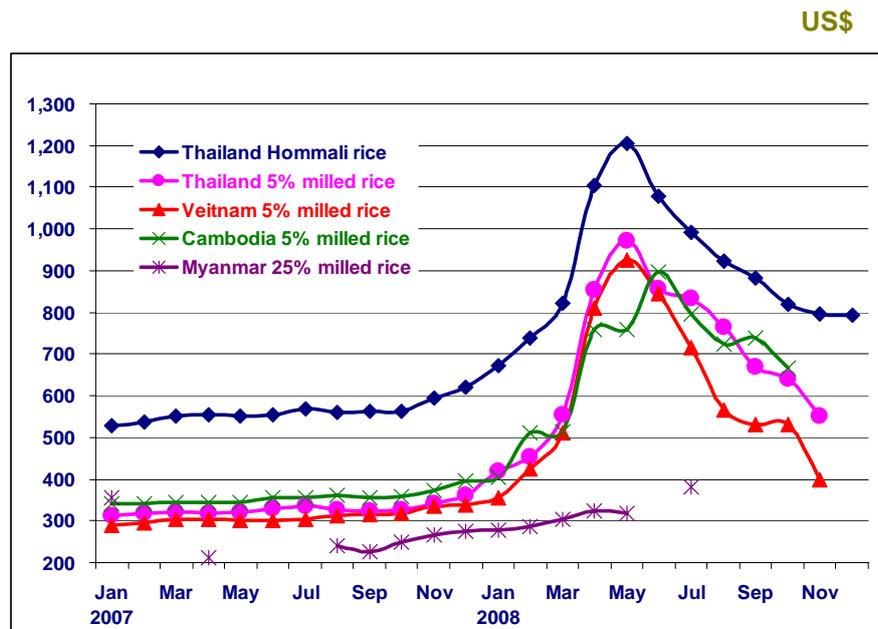


Figure 3: FOB prices of milled rice in selected countries in 2007-2008



Activity Plan in 2009

In 2009, the Project will continue to enhance its activities in both Human Resource and Information Network Development. For Human Resource Development, the Project will organize training courses and workshops to provide necessary knowledge and increase skills of related staff in Member States in implementing Project's activities. In addition, two couples of countries, which are Laos - Thailand and Myanmar - Philippines were planned to jointly organize training courses and technical visits under Mutual Cooperation activity. The Project will also request for the support from China and Korea for organizing additional training courses for the staff in Member States as in the past. The detailed activities for Human Resource Development will be discussed and agreed in the FPM in January 2009.

Regarding Information Network Development, The Project will enrich the information system by improving the database to include broader information required for food security policy planning and implementation. The information in database will be reviewed and standardized for completeness. Additional information will be gathered from Member States and other sources as necessary for the development of EWI and ACO Reports. The coverage of EWI and ACO Reports will be expanded to include more crops. The frequency of the publication of the Reports will also be discussed in the FPM to better serve the need of potential users.

In addition, due to the rapid increase in prices of food crops, which has brought about the serious concerns of global society including ASEAN Member States, the Project is expected to play an important role under the *ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Policy Framework*, which was prepared by the ASEAN Secretariat and presented to the 30th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (30th AMAF) in October 2008 in Hanoi.

The AIFS was established to ensure long-term food security in the ASEAN region. It provides scope and joint pragmatic approaches for cooperation among ASEAN Member States. The AIFS Framework comprises four components, which are *Component 1: Food Security and Emergency/Shortage Relief*; *Component 2: Sustainable Food Trade Development*; *Component 3: Integrated Food Security Information System*; and *Component 4: Agricultural Innovation*.

In connection with the Strategic Plan of Action developed under AIFS, the Project is expected to be the responsible body for the following activities:

(1) *Review and analyze international/regional trade information, including prices, quantities traded, distribution and logistics.*

(2) *Conduct a food security assessment and identify underlying causes of food insecurity.*

(3) *Collect and periodically update information on supply and demand/ utilization for main food commodities such as rice, corn, soybean, cassava and sugar, and maintain food*

security related baseline data for each Member State in a regional database.

(4) Develop an early warning, monitoring and surveillance information system as a basis for sound development planning and policy decision to address food security, including sharp rise of food prices.