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1 Acknowledgments

The project team wants to thank ACIAR for the funding support in the consultation and scoping phase of an ASEAN-CGIAR Integrated CGIAR Regional Program. The project team also acknowledged the partnership with ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Member States, CGIAR, ASEAN Centers of Excellence, key funders and other partners.

2 Executive summary

Achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 requires ASEAN Member States (AMS) to work collaboratively to address a complex web of interrelated challenges such as climate change, urbanization, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, poverty, food safety and nutrition, and social inequality.

To address these challenges, ASEAN has developed a shared vision of the future ASEAN food system. Transforming food, land, and water systems offers tremendous opportunities to encourage responsible use of natural resources, prevent and mitigate climate-induced impacts, protect biodiversity, improve the nutritional status of people through healthy and affordable diets, and include marginalized groups. The shared vision for ASEAN has been articulated through a series of policy documents such as:

- ASEAN Vision and Strategic Plan for Cooperation in Food, Agriculture, and Forestry 2016-2025
- ASEAN Community Vision 2025
- ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Plan

In addition, ASEAN has developed new strategic guidelines on *Sustainable Agriculture* which brings in new ideas on the application of circular economy principles to the agri-food system. The guidelines include key strategies for reducing the use of agrochemicals in crops, livestock, and fisheries, promoting nature-based solutions to environmental challenges, and achieving carbon neutrality in the farming, forestry, and the food sectors.

However, if this shared vision for ASEAN that is set out in these key policy documents is to be realized, then scaling innovations is essential. Therefore, CGIAR proposed the development of a new bottom-up, cross-disciplinary R4D regional program which is co-created with AMS and so fully co-owned, with the vision of *scaling up and out bold integrated innovations that will make ASEAN agri-food systems more resilient to climate change while delivering better livelihoods for food producers and other stakeholders along the value chain, as well as more affordable, nutritious and healthy food for consumers and a better natural environment for all in the next ten years.*

ACIAR is a member of the CGIAR System Council and wishes to provide practical support for this program which is focussed on countries of greatest relevance to ACIAR's research and development brief. In this regard, this project aims to support the consultation, scoping phase, and endorsement process of an ASEAN- CGIAR Integrated Regional Program that is currently underway. This Initiative will facilitate much closer linkages between ASEAN and Australian research organisations.

Through this project, the following consultation, scoping and endorsement activities were undertaken:

- **AMS Consultation Workshops & Bilateral Meetings (March - April 2022):** Consultations in the form of workshops or direct engagement with focal authorities have been held in all 10 member states during March and April 2022. Consistent messages that emerged from all the consultation exercises were taken into account in developing nine themes and twenty-three proposed project areas.
- **16th ASEAN Technical Working Group on Agricultural Research and Development (ATWGARD) Meeting (April 2022):** A concept note based on the initial themes and areas was developed and presented to the heads of the NARES of the AMS. ATWGARD representatives endorsed the concept note and gave permission for CGIAR to proceed with the proposal development process.
- **Online Survey of Priority Areas (May 2022):** To guide prioritization, CGIAR requested key stakeholders to respond to an online survey that would rate each

potential project area. CGIAR received responses from the ASEAN Secretariat, AMS and Key investors. Most of the project areas received a high score which indicates that outcomes of the country consultation process were well reflected in the set of potential project areas. This was taken into consideration in the next steps.

- **Development of Intervention Packages (May - June 2022):** Based on the nine themes and project areas and taking into account feedback from funders and the ASEAN Secretariat, the CGIAR technical development team (TDT) together with a representative of the ASEAN Secretariat, developed integrated intervention packages for the ASEAN - CGIAR Program.
- **Workshop to Review Intervention Packages (July 2022):** Following the development of the intervention packages, CGIAR held a hybrid planning workshop that brought together more than 60 representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, the AMS, CGIAR, ASEAN Centers of Excellence, and key funders in the region with the aim of: strengthening and evaluating intervention packages, identifying linkages to ongoing stakeholder initiatives, and agreeing on next steps. Feedback and discussions from the workshop were used systematically to revise and strengthen the different intervention packages and compile them under one document.
- **43rd Special Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) (August 2022):** The document was presented during the 43rd SOM-AMAF and meeting where senior officials supported the program in principle and encouraged CGIAR to work closely with the ASEAN Secretariat and various sectoral working groups to finalize the regional program.
- **Scaling Innovations Exercise (September - October 2022):** Individual sessions with an independent specialist on scaling were conducted for each of the intervention packages to review the innovation bundles to be implemented and identify the immediate opportunities for the first year of the program.
- **44th ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) Meeting (October 2022):** The document was updated, taking into account the output from the scaling innovations exercise. This was presented during the 44th AMAF meeting where the Agriculture Ministers from the AMS endorsed the program and requested CGIAR to work closely with the ASEAN Secretariat and sectoral groups to implement the program.

Under the ASEAN-CGIAR *Innovate for Food* Regional Program, the following eight intervention packages (IP) were developed, further details of which were discussed with the ASEAN Secretariat, AMS, funders, and other partners from November to December of 2022. A full proposal is currently being drafted and is expected to be finalized by March 2023.

Intervention Package 1:

Regenerative Agriculture & Aquaculture and Agro-Chemical Use

The IP seeks to support the implementation of regenerative agriculture practices, including circular economy principles and reduced use of harmful agrochemicals, in key agroecological systems in ASEAN member states through public-private sector collaboration, multi-stakeholder platforms and participatory research, and the development and implementation of facilitating policies and market systems.

Intervention Package 2:

Climate Neutrality and Circular Agriculture

The IP seeks to enhance land sinks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of ASEAN agri-food systems through low-emissions landscape and waterscape management, greater use of nature-based solutions, and reduced food losses in agricultural value chains and emphasizing circular economy.

Intervention Package 3:

Enhancing ASEAN Agrobiodiversity use and landscape biodiversity

The IP seeks to strengthen regional cross-sectoral cooperation and help develop evidence-based policies that safeguard and harness the use of agrobiodiversity (plant, animal, aquatic) for diversified production, improved diets and nutrition and more resilient landscapes. A particular focus will be on developing community-based approaches that enhance income and livelihoods, especially of women and youth.

Intervention Package 4:

Enhancing Value Chains and Regional Trade

The IP seeks to provide evidence on the types of innovations and policies that are the most effective for stimulating inclusive, efficient, safe and sustainable agri-food trade and value chains in ASEAN.

Intervention Package 5:

Transboundary Pest and Disease

The IP seeks to better prevent, control and manage plant and animal pests and diseases and food safety including AMR across ASEAN countries with emphasis on (traditional) supply chains. This will be achieved through using a regional food systems and One Health approach.

Intervention Package 6:

Private Sector Investment and Sustainable Financing

The IP seeks to combine existing traditional investment methodologies with CGIAR-derived science and data-driven tools coupled with strategic partnerships at multiple stages of the investment cycle, for multi-dimensional assessment, selection, and de-risking of investments.

Intervention Package 7:

Farmer-led irrigation for Climate-Resilient Agri-Food Systems

The IP seeks to increase the resilience, diversity and productivity of agri-food systems in the ASEAN region to future climates by securing better and more affordable access to water resources using, where feasible, renewable energy for water abstraction and conveyance.

Intervention Package 8:

Food Systems Transformation for More Nutritious and Healthy Diets

The IP seeks to stimulate the demand for and consumption of sustainable healthy diets, the supply of sustainable and healthy foods, while improving livelihoods, gender equity and social inclusiveness in sub sectors of food systems in ASEAN.

3 Background

Challenges

The ASEAN region is very dynamic and diverse. It hosts rich but also vulnerable land- and waterscapes important for the maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem services that are intertwined with agri-food and fish systems. However, the region faces various challenges, including

- **Climate change** causes irregular, more frequent, and sometimes intensified events like droughts, floods, pest and disease outbreaks, and other disasters.
- **Sea-level rise and the sinking of major agricultural deltas and megacities** in the region are increasing the threat of food insecurity and mass migration.
- **Excessive use of agrochemicals, unsustainable use of water, soil degradation, and biodiversity loss** are all contributing to declines in agricultural productivity.
- **Rapid urbanization** presents various challenges to agriculture and fisheries, like competition for land and other resources, emergence of diseases and food safety challenges, migration of labor, and slowed rural development.
- **The region produces vast amounts of agricultural waste**, primarily from the oil palm industry and rice production; while food waste is one of the most pressing environmental and social problems in ASEAN and globally.
- **Transboundary pests and diseases** are another problem, globally and regionally, being a threat to food security and with potential for severe public health issues, the COVID-19 pandemic being the most recent. Foodborne diseases and antimicrobial resistance are a further emerging threat.
- **The COVID-19 pandemic** has caused widespread disruptions in consumption, production, value chains, distribution, and trade of food systems across the region, and significantly increased poverty and hunger in many countries, with rural areas and women and youth being disproportionately affected.
- **Environmental, social, and economic costs of “linear” modern food production systems** are significant and food-related greenhouse gas emissions could double by 2050 without changes to the current unsustainable food systems and consumption patterns.

This alarming situation has led ASEAN Member States (AMS) to develop and work toward a shared vision of the future ASEAN food system: *‘A competitive, inclusive, resilient and sustainable Food, Agriculture and Forestry sector integrated with the global economy, based on a single market and production base contributing to food and nutrition security and prosperity in the ASEAN Community.’*

To realize the ASEAN vision, a comprehensive, holistic implementation program will be needed. Such a program is timely in the global context because achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 requires AMS to work collaboratively to address these complex and interrelated challenges.

Role of Innovation in Transforming Food Systems

Food systems¹ are at the nexus of food security, nutritional health, viable ecosystems, resilience to climate change, and prosperity. Transformation of food, land, and water systems offers tremendous opportunities to encourage responsible use of natural resources, prevent and mitigate climate-induced impacts, protect biodiversity, improve the nutritional status of people through healthy, safe, and affordable diets, and provide significant economic benefits to people involved in food production and distribution. However, transformation of the ASEAN food system to become economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable will require widespread adoption of innovations and deeper understanding of the technological, social, and institutional drivers of the food system.

For innovations to be adopted ASEAN wide, the incentive structures for food value chain actors must be aligned as far as possible from farm- or pond- to-fork. For example, smallholder farmers and fishers, who produce much of the food consumed in the region, must be able to generate an income that is commensurate with their time, cost, and effort in producing that food. In general, without jobs, wages, and profits for food chain actors, the social and environmental public goods are unlikely to be achieved.

Further, making agricultural value chains and trade more efficient and inclusive is crucial for reducing rural poverty, stimulating economic transformation, and fostering inclusive growth. AMS vary widely in economic development and capacity to deal with the region's emerging challenges. Policy, institutional, regulatory, and technological innovations are therefore needed to reduce trade barriers and increase market integration and trade flows.

The participation of young people and women in building resilient food systems through innovation and entrepreneurship can play an important role in the post-pandemic recovery in the region. There is a need for a clear strategy to support women and young people in becoming entrepreneurs in the agri-food and fisheries sectors, integration of gender and social dimensions in a circular economy, particularly of diversified rice-based systems, and strengthening the existing regional network of women and youth entrepreneurship.

Circular agriculture can greatly improve sustainably and incorporate scientific advances, innovations, and new technologies. Key elements include mixed crop/livestock and organic farming, agroforestry, water recycling, and wastewater. Such kinds of agriculture are particularly suited for labor-intensive smallholder farming, including use of farmer-led irrigation, and contributes to more inclusive and gender-sensitive economic development in rural areas.

The potential to reuse organic waste, including expired packaged food, from wholesale and retail outlets requires the waste to be efficiently collected for recycling. Waste from restaurants is often collected by livestock farmers for pig rearing. Domestic waste separation into organic and nonorganic categories is possible but not frequently practiced due to the cost of collection and processing. This is another area where innovative incentives are needed.

The need for a Regional R4D Program

AMS have articulated an ambitious and compelling vision for the future ASEAN food system: *'A competitive, inclusive, resilient and sustainable Food, Agriculture and Forestry*

¹ Food systems include all activities involving the production, processing, transport, and consumption. Issues concerning the food system, including the governance and economics of food production, its sustainability, the degree to which we waste food, how food production affects the natural environment and the impact of food on individual and population health. (<https://www.futureoffood.ox.ac.uk/what-food-system>)

sector integrated with the global economy, based on a single market and production base contributing to food and nutrition security and prosperity in the ASEAN Community. To meet that vision, AMS have also recently developed the ASEAN Regional Guidelines for Sustainable Agriculture 2022, and the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (ASEAN RAI).

On its part, the CGIAR has been engaged in delivering critical science and innovations to support food and nutrition security and inclusive rural economies around the developing world for more than 50 years. Many AMS and CGIAR have enjoyed long and highly successful partnerships since the 1970s, with many projects and programs contributing to greatly enhanced food and nutrition security in the region.

CGIAR is undergoing its own transition to a new framework, whereby all CGIAR Centers have come under a unified governance and research delivery structure. Under this new framework, CGIAR can offer more integrated and enhanced opportunities for cooperation with ASEAN through its eight global research centers operating in Southeast Asia with over 1,500 staff based in the region. In brief, the new framework offers:

- **A multidisciplinary approach** that balances food production, supply, and consumption with food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation, social development, and equity; and environmental needs and priorities
- **Integrated capabilities from CGIAR Centers** operating under a unified mission, ensuring that the required skills and expertise can be mobilized at scale to address food, land, and water system challenges
- **A holistic perspective and demand-driven research agenda** that addresses realities on the ground and embraces bottom-up and locally and culturally acceptable solutions
- **A shift of focus from agriculture and fisheries to food, land, and water systems** that will enable greater emphasis on broader food systems challenges rather than a sectoral view
- **A focus on developing outcome-based solutions** that directly address the food, nutrition, safety, and environmental challenges
- **Promotion of food, land, and water systems** that allow fishers, herders, and farmers to benefit from new products as well as build a foundation of economic resilience and environmental sustainability

A strong partnership between CGIAR and ASEAN would, therefore, greatly help to realize the ASEAN vision for its food system and help it develop an evidence-based implementation program - one that is resilient to climate change and capable of achieving key economic, social, and environmental goals.

In furtherance of this, the ASEAN Secretariat, AMS, CGIAR, and a range of partners came together in 2022 to develop the multiyear research and innovation program to provide bold integrated solutions around three strategic issues: resilience of the food system to climate change, recovery from COVID-19, and transformation of the food system.

ACIAR is a member of the CGIAR System Council and wishes to provide practical support for this initiative which is focussed on countries of greatest relevance to ACIAR's research and development brief.

This project aims to support a consultation, scoping phase, and endorsement process of an ASEAN- CGIAR Integrated Regional Program that is currently underway. This Initiative will facilitate much closer linkages with ASEAN and Australian research organisations.

4 Objectives

The project aims to:

1. To support a consultation and scoping phase of the ASEAN - CGIAR Integrated Regional Program
2. To support endorsement of the ASEAN - CGIAR Integrated Regional Program

5 Methodology

The Methodology is divided into two and detailed as follows:

- A. ASEAN Engagement and Proposal Development Process
- B. ASEAN Endorsement Process

A. ASEAN Engagement and Proposal Development Process

The scoping study undertook a number of activities under the ASEAN Engagement and Proposal Development Process:

1. **ASEAN Consultations and Development of Priority Areas:** Consultations with AMS were held in the first quarter of the year to get initial guidance on how to take the regional engagement forward.
2. **Online Survey of Priority Areas:** To guide in the project identification and prioritization process, CGIAR requested key stakeholders to respond to an online survey that would rate each potential project area according to their priorities.
3. **Development of Intervention Packages:** Based on the project areas, and taking into account feedback from funders and the ASEAN Secretariat, the CGIAR technical development team (TDT) together with a representative of the ASEAN Secretariat, developed intervention packages for the ASEAN - CGIAR program.
4. **Workshop to Review Intervention Packages:** A hybrid planning workshop was planned to review and provide initial feedback to the newly developed intervention packages.
5. **Refinement of Intervention Packages:** Feedback and discussions from the workshop were used systematically to revise and strengthen the different intervention packages.
6. **Scaling Innovations Exercise:** A systematic, participatory innovation portfolio design process was implemented to ensure that innovations co-developed and scaled by the intervention packages complement each other.

B. Program Endorsement at ASEAN

To ensure the program will be a success, it was also imperative to have the endorsement from the ASEAN Member States at every step of the proposal development process.

The initial concept was presented by the CGIAR Regional Director for the Southeast Asia and Pacific region during the 42nd Special Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) in August 2021 and AMAF Meeting in October 2021. The Senior Officials and Ministers endorsed the concept and asked CGIAR to work with the ASEAN Secretariat and AMS to develop the technical proposal.

Presentations of progress of the proposal development process was done at the following high-level events to get the endorsement of the ASEAN ministers and senior officials in agriculture:

- **16th ASEAN Technical Working Group on Agricultural Research (ATWGARD) (April 2022)**
- **43rd SOM-AMAF (August 2022)**
- **44th AMAF (October 2022)**

6 Achievements against activities and outputs/milestones

Objective 1: To support a consultation and scoping phase of the ASEAN - CGIAR Integrated Regional Program

No.	Activity	Outputs/ milestones	Completion Date	Comments
1.1	Country Consultations and bilateral meetings with the 10 AMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 virtual consultation workshops and 3 bilateral meetings conducted • 700+ stakeholders engaged across the 10 AMS • Country (for 7 AMS) reports consolidating feedback from discussions on 9 thematic areas 	March - April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation workshops were conducted in 7 AMS and Bilateral meetings in Myanmar, Singapore, and Brunei. Consultations were co-organized with the Ministries of agriculture
1.2	Conducting a survey of priority thematic areas across the AMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 47 survey responses from stakeholders • Themes and Project Areas Survey Report 	May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders include the ASEAN Secretariat, representatives from the 10 AMS and Key Investors (ACIAR and FCDO)
1.3	Development of Intervention packages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEAN- CGIAR Virtual Writeshop conducted with 12 staff from 7 CG Centers and a representative from the ASEAN Secretariat • 7 Intervention packages and related concept notes developed 	May - June 2022	
1.4	Review of Intervention Packages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hybrid Planning Workshop held in Manila with over 60 participants • Additional intervention package developed on nutrition 	June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants include CG Staff, key representatives from the NARES and Ministries of Agriculture of the 10 AMS and key investors (ACIAR and FCDO)
1.5	Scaling Innovations Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 virtual deep dive innovation package design sessions were held with CG Staff 	September-October 2022	

1.6	Further consultations with Partners to finalize intervention packages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 virtual meetings were held with various partners to get feedback on the intervention packages 	November - December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual meetings include Australian partners: (1) Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia and (2) Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
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PC = partner country, A = Australia

Objective 2: To support endorsement of the ASEAN - CGIAR Integrated Regional Program

No.	Activity	Outputs/ milestones	Completion date	Comments
2.1	Endorsement at the 16th ATWGARD	ATWGARD Framing Document	April 2022	
2.2	Endorsement at the 43rd SOM-AMAF	SOM-AMAF Document	August 2022	
2.3	Endorsement at the 44th AMAF	AMAF Document	October 2022	

PC = partner country, A = Australia

7 Key results and discussion

ASEAN Consultations and Development of Priority Areas

Consultations with AMS were held in the first quarter of the year to get initial guidance on how to take the regional engagement forward. AMS requested that under the proposed program, CGIAR ensures that it

- **Links the program to national priorities** and focuses on contributions where the CGIAR has a comparative advantage and brings added value to the partnerships with the National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems and private sector;
- **Makes use of the ASEAN Platform** (ASEAN Secretariat, Working Groups, Programs and Funds) to get confirmation on the different thematic priorities and ensure both national and regional demand; and
- **Contributes toward achieving impact at scale** by working together with the appropriate partners in countries to ensure innovations can make a difference.

In addition, there were some consistent messages that emerged from all the consultation exercises. These messages were taken into account in developing the 9 themes and 23 proposed project areas below.

Themes	Potential Project Areas
Policy, Market Integration, and Trade	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data-driven input and output agricultural market diagnostics 2. Policy reform and Improved policy framework
Harnessing the Use of Agricultural Biodiversity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biodiversity for food and nutrition 2. Resilient rice-based landscapes 3. Strengthened regional cooperation for agrobiodiversity
Nourishing ASEAN Megacities and Peri-Urban Areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food production within the urban environment 2. Circular economy 3. Peri-urban areas
Youth and Women Entrepreneurship and Technology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integration of gender and social dimensions in a circular economy of diversified rice-based systems 2. Strengthening the existing regional network of women and youth entrepreneurship
Climate-smart Agriculture and Aquaculture	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Innovative digital solutions 2. Climate-resilient water management
Climate Change and Green Recovery	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate information and risk assessments for adaptive planning and infrastructure investment 2. Attracting private sector investment 3. Building the evidence base for agriculture, forestry, and land use change (AFOLU) and aquaculture actions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and sequester carbon
Germplasm Exchange and Evaluation Network for Regional Safety	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening national breeding programs in key crops, livestock, and fisheries 2. Accelerating varietal release process for CGIAR advanced breeding lines 3. Strengthened seed systems of local land races and noncereal crops

Mechanization and Modernization of Agriculture	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deploying best-bet resource conserving farm machinery to benefit smallholders 2. Accelerate smallholder access to scale-appropriate farm mechanization 3. Human centered design solutions to improve reach of and effectiveness of digital tools
Strengthened Cooperation through Institutions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harmonizing regional policies and strengthening across-country intersectoral collaboration and communication 2. Exploring and testing modalities to strengthen in-country intersectoral collaboration

Online Survey of Priority Areas

To guide in the project identification and prioritization process, CGIAR requested key stakeholders to respond to an online survey that would rate each potential project area using a likert scale, with 5 = very important, and 1 = not at all important. CGIAR received 42 responses from the ASEAN Secretariat, 10 AMS, and key investors. Most of the project areas received a score of 4 or 5, which indicates that outcomes of the country consultation process were well reflected in the set of potential project areas.

Development of Intervention Packages

Based on the project areas, and taking into account feedback from funders and the ASEAN Secretariat, the CGIAR technical development team (TDT) together with a representative of the ASEAN Secretariat, developed seven intervention packages for the ASEAN - CGIAR program:

- Intervention Package 1: Regenerative Agriculture and Aquaculture and Agrochemical Use
- Intervention Package 2: Carbon Neutrality and Circular Agriculture
- Intervention Package 3: Enhancing ASEAN Agrobiodiversity use and Landscape Biodiversity
- Intervention Package 4: Enhancing Value Chains and Regional Trade
- Intervention Package 5: Transboundary Pest and Diseases
- Intervention Package 6: Private Sector Investments and Sustainable Financing
- Intervention Package 7: Farmer-led Irrigation for Climate Resilient Agri-food Systems

Workshop to Review Intervention Packages

Following the development of the intervention packages, CGIAR held a hybrid planning workshop on 27-29 July 2022 that brought together more than 60 representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, AMS, CGIAR ASEAN Centers of Excellence, and key funders in the region, with the following aims:

1. Strengthening intervention packages, focusing on a regional engagement perspective
2. Evaluating proposed innovations (bundles) for their readiness
3. Developing key elements of theories of change across and for each intervention package, including related partnerships
4. Identifying linkages to ongoing ASEAN regional and AMS initiatives and CGIAR Initiatives
5. Agreeing on next steps, partner engagement and timelines.

Refinement of Intervention Packages

Feedback and discussions from the workshop were used systematically to revise and strengthen the different intervention packages. This included creating a new intervention package (IP 8) focused on **Food Systems Transformations for more nutritious and healthy diets**, which was identified as an important gap.

The following considerations were taken into account in the design of the packages based on AMS feedback.

- **Providing training and capacity building**, inclusive of all demographics, including smallholders and women
- **Creating an ASEAN network of boundary organizations or impact hubs** for co-production of research, policy, and practice
- **Raising awareness of an integrated value chain approach** that delivers benefits from food production and natural capital to food consumption and waste
- **Encouraging innovation through initiatives that build capacity and provide seed funding**, particularly targeted at increasing employment and engaging women and youth in this sector
- **Enhancing the perception of the agriculture sector for youth** through the impact hubs, which should consider public engagement, including developing educational interventions in schools
- **Assisting cross-ASEAN collaborative and strategic work** in the agriculture and food sector

Scaling Innovations Exercise

The ASEAN - CGIAR Innovate for Food program implemented a systematic, participatory innovation portfolio design process to ensure that innovations co-developed and scaled by the intervention packages complement each other. In the process, CGIAR and ASEAN participants at the workshop in Manila were introduced to scaling and impact readiness methodologies by an independent expert consultant. In follow-up online meetings with the expert consultant, 13 'deep-dive' innovation package design sessions were held. Outputs were used to finalize innovations to be prioritized in each of the intervention packages.

Further Consultations

From November to December 2022, additional consultations and bilateral meetings were held with the ASEAN Secretariat, NARES representatives of the AMS, ASEAN sectoral working groups, and other partners to further flesh out and finalize details of the various intervention packages.

CGIAR is currently working on drafting the full proposal which is expected to be finalized by March 2023.

Endorsement of the ASEAN - CGIAR Integrated Regional Program

The CGIAR Regional Director for Southeast Asia and Pacific, with support from the program director and co-director, presented the ASEAN - CGIAR Regional Program during the 16th ATWGARD, 43rd SOM-AMAF, and 44th AMAF meetings in April, August and October 2022 respectively. The program was endorsed in all three meetings.

- **16th ASEAN Technical Working Group on Agricultural Research and Development (ATWGARD) Meeting (April 2022)**: A document based on the initial themes and areas was developed and presented to the heads of the NARES of the

AMS. ATWGARD representatives endorsed the concept note and gave permission for CGIAR to proceed with the proposal development process.

- **43rd Special Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) (August 2022):** The program and the updated document for SOM-AMAF was presented during the 43rd SOM-AMAF and meeting where senior officials supported the program in principle and encouraged CGIAR to work closely with the ASEAN Secretariat and various sectoral working groups to finalize the regional program.
- **44th ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) Meeting (October 2022):** The program and updated document for AMAF was presented during the 44th AMAF meeting where the Agriculture Ministers from the AMS endorsed the program and requested CGIAR to work closely with the ASEAN Secretariat and sectoral groups to implement the program.

8 Impacts

Given that the project is an initial scoping phase, activities were focused on outlining potential impact of the ASEAN - CGIAR *Innovate for Food* regional program.

Guided by the ASEAN Vision and Strategic Plan for Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2016 - 2025, the ASEAN Regional Guidelines for Sustainable Agriculture 2022, as well as the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry, (ASEAN RAI), the program aims to deliver the following impacts across agri-food systems with its partners in the ASEAN region:

- Improved environmental sustainability through:
 - reduced harmful agrochemical use
 - reduced greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint
 - enhanced use of biodiversity of plant, animal and aquatic species
- Improved agri-food trade and value chains
- Improved access to capital through better facilitation of private sector investments and other financing schemes
- Better prevention, control, and management of plant and animal pests and diseases, and Improved food safety
- Increased productivity and production through better and more affordable access to water resources
- Better nutrition through greater availability of more nutritious, safe, and healthy diets
- Improved institutional coordination of policies, programs, and projects in the agriculture, food, and forestry sector in the region
- Better access by women, youth, and marginalized groups to resources in the agri-food value chain

9 References

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10 Appendixes

No Appendix included in the report.