



## **REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF ASEAN HEALTH CLUSTER 4: ENSURING FOOD SAFETY**

**26-28 JUNE 2019, NHA TRANG, VIET NAM**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Health Cluster 4 was held on 26-28 June 2019 in Nha Trang, Viet Nam. The Meeting was attended by delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, and ASEAN Secretariat. Invited partners attended the Open Session, namely, FAO and EU ARISE Plus. The complete list of delegates appears as **Annex 1.**

### **OPENING CEREMONY/OPENING REMARKS**

#### **Remarks of Outgoing SOMHD Chair**

2. Viet Nam as the current Chair of ASEAN Health Cluster 4 presented the progress made by the ASEAN Health Cluster 4 in the implementation of ASEAN Health Cluster 4 Work Programme. The Chair further informed the Meeting of the task given by the ASEAN SOMHD to explore the inclusion of food poisoning as one activity under the work programme. The complete remark appears as **Annex 2.**
3. A moment of silence for Dr Chin Cheow Keat, former ASEAN Health Cluster 4 focal point for ARAC, was observed by the Meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1: REPORT BY OUTGOING CHAIR**

4. Viet Nam as the current Chair of ASEAN Health Cluster 4 updated the Meeting of the completed, on-going and upcoming activities under the Work Programme. The presentation appears as **Annex 3.**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

5. The Meeting adopted the Agenda, which appears as **Annex 4.**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 3: REVIEW OF OUTCOMES FROM THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF HEALTH CLUSTER 4**

ADOPTED

6. Brunei Darussalam as the current Vice-chair of ASEAN Health Cluster 4 presented the matrix of follow-up from the decision and progress made since the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Health Cluster 4 in 2018. The Meeting noted the status of achievement and progress made by the ASEAN Health Cluster 4, and relevant progress will be further discussed in the succeeding relevant agenda. The matrix of follow-up appears as **Annex 5**.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: OUTCOMES OF MEETINGS/EVENTS RELEVANT TO HEALTH CLUSTER 4**

**4.1 ASEAN Meetings/Events (Summit, SOCA/ASCC Council/Other Non-Health Sectors)**

**a. ASEAN Summit, ASCC Council, SOCA and its related Meetings**

7. The Meeting noted the presentation made by ASEAN Secretariat on the key outcomes that transpired from 32<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit Meeting and relevant ASEAN Socio Cultural Community (ASCC) Council and the ASEAN Senior Officials for the ASCC (SOCA), which may have implications to the work of ASEAN Health Cooperation.
8. The Meeting further noted the presentation of ASEAN Secretariat on the theme and priorities of the 2019 ASEAN Chairmanship of Thailand. Some of the priority deliverables under the ASCC include the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI), and the initiation of programmes to address malnutrition, stunting, and obesity.

**b. 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD)**

9. ASEAN Secretariat presented the 13th ASEAN SOMHD Meeting in 2018 where the 13th SOMHD noted the progress made by the ASEAN Health Cluster 4 including the active participation of ASEAN Health Cluster 4 representative in the Task Force on ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework (AFSRF). The 13th SOMHD further noted the continued assistance given by the EU ARISE Plus in supporting the implementation of relevant work programme in the ASEAN Health Cluster 4 Work Programme. In the 8th ASEAN Plus Three SOMHD Meeting in 2018, the Plus Three Countries agreed on the following areas of collaboration which include food safety initiatives a) Rapid response in food safety issues and crisis; b) Traceability and recall plan; and c) Food-borne outbreak investigation capacity building. While in the 8th ASEAN China SOMHD, the Meeting agreed to include Food Safety – Risk Assessment and Standard Building as one of the areas of collaboration among ASEAN and China.
10. The 14th ASEAN SOMHD which was held on 2 – 5 April 2019 in Siem Reap, further noted the progress made by the ASEAN Health Cluster 4. Among others, the 14th ASEAN SOMHD reached the consensus on the Rules of Procedure of Engagement of Entities with ASEAN Health Sector. The 14th ASEAN SOMHD also agreed to conduct the mid-term evaluation for the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda, timeline and concept note will be updated and circulated to all ASEAN Health Clusters. Specific to the ASEAN Health Cluster 4, the 14th ASEAN SOMHD Meeting noted the progress in the implementation of ASEAN Health Cluster 4 Work Programme and the ARAC's activities. The 14th ASEAN SOMHD further noted that apart from the on-going work on the

ADOPTED

Agreement, legal scrubbing and submission to sectoral bodies for final text of the AFSRF Agreement, the endorsement by AHMM, AEM and AMAF will be done in 2020.

**c. 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting and its Related Meetings**

11. The Meeting noted that for this specific agenda was reported in the 3rd Meeting of ASEAN Health Cluster 4 and there's no updates for this matter.

The complete presentation appears as **Annex 6**.

**4.2 Other Meetings/Events relevant to Health Cluster 4**

**a. 2<sup>nd</sup> ARAC Scientific Committee Meeting**

12. The presentation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> ARAC's Scientific Committee Meeting was done by ASEAN Secretariat on behalf of Malaysia.
13. The Meeting discussed and adopted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Committee Report and its Annexes including the Risk Assessment Report. The Meeting also endorsed the publication of the executive summary of the Risk Assessment Report on the "Total Aflatoxins (AFT) and Aflatoxin B1 (AFB1) through The Consumption of Peanut and Corn" as prepared by the Scientific Panel including the proposed "disclaimer statement" to be included in the executive summary as proposed by Malaysia: *It was noted that the health risk may be an overestimate and may not reflect the actual situation due to limited data available. Both data gaps and data quality need to be addressed for future consideration to refine so as to have more accurate risk assessment output.* On the proposed new risk assessment areas, the Meeting decided to discuss this in Agenda 7.

The presentation appears as **Annex 7**.

**b. 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Task Force on ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework (TF AFSRF)**

14. The Meeting was informed by ASEAN Secretariat of the progress of the work of the TF AFSRF on behalf of TF Co-Chair Malaysia. The presentation appears as **Annex 8**.

**c. ASEAN Secretariat Food Safety Committee**

15. ASEAN Secretariat informed the Meeting that this Committee mirrors the sectors involved in the ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework (AFSRF) initiative and is composed of ASEAN Secretariat officers from the health, agriculture and trade divisions. It also tackles concerns referred to ASEAN Secretariat by the Task Force of AFSRF.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: PARTNERSHIP AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION**

**5.1 Updates: Rules and Procedure of Engagement of Entities with the ASEAN Health Sector**

## ADOPTED

16. The ASEAN Secretariat updated the Meeting that in the recent 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN SOMHD Meeting the ASEAN SOMHD endorsed the Rules and Procedure of Engagement of Entities with the ASEAN Health Sector. The 14<sup>th</sup> SOMHD further agreed that this Rules and Procedure will be reviewed every two years. The Rules and Procedure aims to determine the broader coordination and collaboration with potential entities or partners in the implementation of the four (4) Work Programmes of the ASEAN Health Clusters; and ensure that the engagement, association and nature of the entity or partner, and the proposed coordination or and collaboration are transparent and aligned with the vision and mission of the ASEAN Post 2015 Health Development Agenda.
17. The Meeting noted that this document serves as the ASEAN Health Sector's reference in engaging with current and potential new partners. The presentation and document appears as **Annex 9**.

### **5.2 Potential collaboration with ASEAN Dialogue Partners**

18. The Meeting noted the information provided by the ASEAN Secretariat on the current existing engagement of ASEAN Health Clusters with Dialogue partners supporting the implementation of ASEAN Health Cluster Work Programmes. The Meeting further noted the identified Food Safety related initiatives by the 8th ASEAN Plus Three SOMHD which are 1) rapid response in food safety issues and crisis; 2) traceability and recall plan; 3) food-borne outbreak investigation capacity building activities; and by the 8th ASEAN China SOMHD is on risk assessment and standard building.
19. ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the funding mechanism and procedure as prescribed in the Handbook on Proposal Development for ASEAN Cooperation Projects, in particular on the process undertaken by the Lead Country in developing the project proposal and the project appraisal and approval process. The handbook appears as **Annex 10**.

### **5.3 Potential collaboration with existing and potential Development Partners**

20. The Meeting noted the current engagement of WHO, FAO and EU ARISE Plus in supporting the ASEAN Health Cluster 2 implementing the ASEAN Health Cluster 4 Work Programme. ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on various development partners working with ASEAN Health Clusters, including the current mechanism on the Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and United Nations. The Meeting noted that the Comprehensive Partnership replaces the individual MOUs with UN Agencies and will comprise the plan action between ASEAN Sectoral Body and relevant UN Agencies. The presentation appears as **Annex 11**.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6: PRESENTATION FROM INVITED SECTORAL BODIES RELEVANT WITH CLUSTER 4 AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

### **6.1 Representative from the relevant ACCSQ Working Groups on Food Safety (PFPWG)**

ADOPTED

21. ACCSQ-PFPWG Chair Viet Nam reported on the outcomes of the 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of PFPWG in Manila on 20-21 June 2019. Based on the record of the meeting, PFPWG discussed and agreed to continue the close coordination with AHC 4 on areas that are potentially cross-cutting. The document appears as **Annex 12**.

## **6.2 Representative from the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF)**

22. There was no representative from SOM-AMAF

## **6.3 WHO**

23. There was no representative from WHO.

## **6.4 FAO**

24. FAO representative presented the training held on 23 to 25 April 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand on “Capacity building on risk categorization for ranking the ASEAN food hazards for developing the risk based monitoring protocol for food safety”. It was underscored that the capacity building activity was Phase 1 of the 6-phase project with AHC 4 and which has contributed to activity 7.4 led by Thailand and co-led by Malaysia on developing guideline/manual for monitoring and surveillance programme for food hazards. Close cooperation between FAO, Thailand and Malaysia will continue to complete other phases until project end on January 2021. Other phases include: a) Phase 2 on Risk ranking of ASEAN Food hazards; b) Phase 3 on Capacity Building on the risk-based monitoring procedure; c) Phase 4: Development of the ASEAN risk-based monitoring procedure; d) Phase 5: Implementation of the ASEAN risk-based monitoring procedure at national level and e) Phase 6: Review and revision of risk-based monitoring procedure. The presentation appears as **Annex 13**.

25. As an output of the activity, FAO shared that AMS participants found that the training course was useful for work related to risk-based ranking of food safety hazards. The hazard categories would later support the work of ASEAN Health Cluster 4 led by Thailand and co-led Malaysia.

26. Indonesia explored possible support from FAO on the CPE - led activity. FAO encouraged the submission of request to regional office of FAO or through the FAO country office.

## **6.5 EU ARISE Plus**

27. Representatives from EU ARISE Plus informed the Meeting of on-going and up-coming activities related to AHC 4. These include support for the following:

- a. Regulatory framework, in particular on the finalisation of AFSRF agreement and the AFSCC TOR;
- b. Risk assessment centre, through the operationalization of ARAC;
- c. Harmonisation of Food Consumption Data; and
- d. Food Safety training activities

ADOPTED

- 28.** The Meeting noted the current support given by EU ARISE Plus to the ASEAN Health Cluster 4 and appreciated the continued support. The presentation appears as **Annex 14.**

**AGENDA ITEM 7:                   UPDATES & PROGRESS FROM THE ASEAN HEALTH  
CLUSTER 4 WORK PROGRAMME**

**Monitoring and Surveillance**

**7.1   Operationalization of ARAC**

29. On behalf of Malaysia, ASEAN Secretariat informed the Meeting of the work plan of ARAC from 2016-2020 including the conduct of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Committee meeting and new areas of work of ARAC. The presentation also included the upcoming review and evaluation of the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle of ARAC work to be held in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2019. Outputs of this workshop will be submitted in 2020 to SOMHD for endorsement. The presentation appears as **Annex 15.**
30. ASEAN Secretariat reviewed the Meeting agreements on the recommendations from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Committee of ARAC in Agenda 4. These were the a) adoption of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Committee Report and its Annexes (including the Risk Assessment Report produced by the Scientific Panel); and b) the endorsement of the proposal to publish the Executive Summary of the Risk Assessment Report on Total Aflatoxins and Aflatoxin B1 through the Consumption of Peanut and Corn including the proposed “disclaimer statement” to be included in the executive summary
31. On the new areas of work to be done by ARAC, the Meeting further exchanged views and agreed on the following:
- a. Indonesia volunteered to be the Lead Country, subject to internal consultation with relevant agencies, for the conduct of risk assessment on arsenic and cadmium in rice based on the high consumption of rice among ASEAN population.
  - b. Viet Nam expressed their support and volunteered to be the Co-Lead Country, together with Indonesia;
  - c. Viet Nam volunteered to be the Lead Country to prepare the risk profile of pesticides used in leafy vegetable among ASEAN Member States.
  - d. Further internal consultation will be sought by Thailand to ensure that the two issues proposed by the Scientific Committee are the priority for the region, and as Co-Lead on the risk assessment on arsenic and cadmium in rice, Thailand will confirm accordingly.
  - e. Cambodia expressed support by committing to provide data on arsenic in rice for the risk assessment purposes.
  - f. EU ARISE Plus expressed that it can support Viet Nam in preparing the risk profiling of pesticides by providing technical assistance and an expert.
32. On the above-mentioned decision points, the Meeting agreed that the conduct of internal consultation among relevant agencies at national level will be done and for AMS to inform the ARAC through ASEAN Secretariat of the results within two months.

**Action: Indonesia, Viet Nam, Thailand and ASEAN Secretariat**

## **7.2 Presentation of recommendations from the Side-Meeting on ARAC**

33. As requested by the Chair, the ASEAN Secretariat presented to the Meeting the draft recommendations as an output of the Discussion Forum of ASEAN Health Cluster 4 on ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre (ARAC) for Food Safety.
34. EU ARISE Plus recommended the inclusion of having the Chairman/CEO of ARAC, preferably senior expert, elected by the ASEAN Member States in the recommendations.
35. The Meeting deliberated and exchanged views on the key recommendations transpired from the ASEAN Health Cluster 4 Discussion Forum on ARAC, and agreed on the following:
  - a. The Meeting agreed to delete the statement on having the Chairman/CEO of ARAC, preferably senior expert, elected by the ASEAN Member States. AMS are of view that the recommendation should not be included in the list of recommendations since this was not discussed during the AHC4 Discussion Forum on ARAC.
36. On the sustainability of ARAC, the Meeting agreed on the statement “to explore sustainability measures including contributions by AMS and Potential partners for the overall operationalisation of ARAC”. A footnote is provided on the details of this statement as tackled in the Discussion Forum. The final recommendations appear as **Annex 16**.

## **7.3 Development/updated regional system for collection of data including food consumption data that can support risk assessment in ASEAN region**

24. As requested by Malaysia, the ASEAN Secretariat presented the updates from the regional system for collection of data including individual food consumption data that can support risk assessment in the region. The Meeting noted that a workshop will be conducted in last semester of 2019 to discuss and establish consensus among AMS and proceed to enhance harmonisation and access to data including on the use of the FoodEx2, utilisation of the FAO/WHO CIFOCOs and/or GIFT platform and cooperation with FAO/WHO. The presentation appears as **Annex 17**.
25. The Meeting noted the request from Lead Country Malaysia for the support and commitment from the AMSs are important for the development of harmonised ASEAN food consumption data that can support Risk Assessment in Food Safety in ASEAN Region.

## **7.4 Develop guideline/manual for monitoring and surveillance programme for food hazards**

26. Thailand informed the Meeting of updates from an activity leading to the development of the guideline/manual for monitoring and surveillance programme for food hazards (Phase 1). The activity was funded by the FAO Regional Office in collaboration with lead country Thailand and co-lead Malaysia. The workshop/ training conducted fulfils the expected output of Thailand on capacity building. On Phase 2 on risk ranking of ASEAN one common food hazard, Thailand mentioned that the selection of one common hazard, will

ADOPTED

be started by Thailand by setting up an electronic working group. The Terms of Reference of the electronic working group will be developed by Thailand and Malaysia for circulation to AMS through ASEAN Secretariat. The presentation appears as **Annex 18**.

**Action Line: Thailand, Malaysia and ASEAN Secretariat**

27. Challenges related to this activity include the delay in achieving the timeline due to seeking technical and funding support, lack of quality information or evidence for risk ranking and prioritisation, development of tools for risk ranking and prioritisation (scaling system) and identification of expert for developing risk-based monitoring and surveillance procedure/manual.
28. The Meeting noted FAO's report on the Capacity building on principles or guidance for monitoring and surveillance programme and the linkage with risk assessment for food safety.
29. The Meeting approved the establishment of the electronic working group but emphasized the importance of developing of the TOR. Thailand requested ASEAN Secretariat to circulate the request for the establishment of E-Working Group, pending TOR to be drafted by Thailand and Malaysia.

**Action Line: ASEAN Secretariat**

30. The Meeting further agreed on the proposed timeline for selecting one common hazard and the proposed screening criteria for scoping the hazards.
31. Singapore underscored the importance for this activity as it complements the work of ARAC. For the screening criteria, the electronic working group shall further refine the screening criteria as suggested by Singapore.

**7.5 Strengthen laboratory capacity for food safety including the possibilities using the ASEAN Food Reference Laboratory (AFRL)**

32. The Meeting noted Singapore's presentation on the concept note on capacity building/training of AMS in food testing laboratories to meet the testing requirements of globally accepted food safety standards. This activity was proposed to be implemented with probable support from EU ARISE Plus. It aims to tap into the network of laboratories through the ASEAN Food Reference Laboratory (AFRL). The presentation appears as **Annex 19**.
33. Concerns mentioned in conceptualising this activity include funding mechanisms and the ability to link with the correct in the AMS to notify the interested parties to attend the various activities. As AFRL activities are open to all AMS, Singapore requested the AMS to provide their focal points on laboratory to facilitate coordination on capacity building activities under the AFRL platform. The Meeting agreed to share AMS contact point on food laboratory to Singapore within one month. On the funding, ASEAN Secretariat agreed to link Singapore with EU ARISE Plus to clarify the funding mechanism.

**Action Line: ASEAN Health Cluster 4 and ASEAN Secretariat**

**Appropriate Mechanism for Food Safety Information Sharing and Rapid Response [Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam]**

- 7.6 Rapid response in food safety issues and crisis: develop/update food safety emergency/incidence response plan including responsibility of food business operators**
- 7.7 Traceability and recall plan**
- 7.8 Sharing of information to external parties/agencies (INFOSAN)**

34. Indonesia informed the Meeting of updates on the combined activities. Proposed activities include the compilation of FSER plan in AMS and capacity building on FSER. The proposed implementation period is July 2019- March 2020. An electronic working group was proposed will be created in compiling the FSER plans, and the Meeting agreed Indonesia to draft the TOR for the electronic working group. The presentation appears as **Annex 20**.

**Action Line: Indonesia**

35. The Meeting endorsed the comprehensive concept note presented by Indonesia and supported the FSER/ INFOSAN proposal led by Indonesia and co-led by Thailand. Suggestions to prioritize and strengthen INFOSAN prior to focusing on linking INFOSAN with ARAFFs were put forward.

**7.9 Food-borne outbreak investigation capacity building**

36. The Meeting noted the revised concept note which involves a 3-day training with AMS on food borne outbreak investigation with probable funding from EU ARISE Plus. Concerns for consideration include the conduct of a training of trainers, and response systems including the levels of development and complexity of systems across AMS and whether to cover food borne and / or water borne outbreak investigation. The presentation appears as **Annex 21**.

37. Chair requested ASEAN Secretariat to facilitate the submission of the revised concept note on food borne outbreak investigation to EU ARISE for funding.

**Action Line: Viet Nam and ASEAN Secretariat**

**7.10 Enhance food safety information sharing in AFSN**

38. Thailand updated the Meeting on the information the status of the ASEAN Food Safety Network (AFSN), an online-sharing platform. Under the AFSN, a dedicated webpage for ASEAN Health Cluster 4 is being developed. The Meeting noted that the webpage will likely be ready by September 2019 and that the information on the ASEAN Health Cluster 4 webpage will need to be updated regularly by AMS web administrators. The presentation appears as **Annex 22**.

39. The Meeting deliberated on the specific information to be shared in the AFSN. The Meeting exchanged ideas and agreed on the following next steps:

## ADOPTED

- a. AMS to provide Thailand, through ASEAN Secretariat and within one month, the designated focal point to serve as web administrator;
- b. Thailand will provide username/s to AMS focal points/ web administrators once the webpage has been re-introduced online tentatively by September 2019; and
- c. To populate the information on the webpage for AHC 4, the Meeting agreed to start with the three (3) information points proposed by Thailand: 1) focal points of AMSs; 2) web links to food safety law & regulations; and 3) meeting/event related to ensuring food safety at regional level and/or national level such as brief articles on implemented AHC 4 Work Programme activities. The information on the 3 data points uploaded onto the webpage will be made available to the public.

### **Action Line: ASEAN Health Cluster 4, ASEAN Secretariat and Thailand**

40. The Meeting further agreed for Thailand to develop a reference to guide AMS web administrators in uploading to the AFSN – ASEAN Health Cluster 4 webpage. Thailand will circulate the draft guide through ASEAN Secretariat.

### **Action Line: Thailand**

#### **7.11 Functional cross-sectoral collaboration in the area of food safety**

#### **7.12 Discussion on the current development of AFSRF Instruments by the Task Force on AFSRF**

41. The Meeting noted that presentations and updates for Agenda 7.11 and 7.12 have been provided by ASEAN Secretariat on behalf of Malaysia and discussed in Agenda 4.2.b.

### **Food Safety Control System**

#### **7.13 Conduct a workshop to review national food safety control system and existing regional guideline on food safety control system and identity**

42. The Meeting noted that this activity has been completed by Lead Country Thailand in 2016 and that the report has been submitted to ASEAN Secretariat.

#### **7.14 Capacity building on judgement of equivalence of national food control system in ASEAN**

43. ASEAN Secretariat and Thailand provided an overview on this proposed activity. The Meeting exchanged views and agreed that ASEAN Health Cluster 4 under the leadership of current Chair Viet Nam will explore possible capacity building initiatives under the PFPWG on national food control system in ASEAN that can be extended to ASEAN Health Cluster 4.

44. The Meeting also decided to wait for PFPWG's response to the letter sent by AHC 4 on May 2019 before making a decision on the conduct of on this activity. Based on the decision made by AHC 4 in its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and recognising that this activity is cross-cutting, a letter was sent to PFPWG to inquire about past, on-going and/ or up-coming activities related to activity 7.14.

### **Action Line: AHC 4 Chair**

## **Food Inspection and Certification**

### **7.15 Capacity building on food inspection and certification**

45. Philippines presented the revised concept note to the Meeting. Lead country also informed the Meeting that the project will possibly receive support from EU ARISE Plus. AMS supported the revised concept note and Chair advised Philippines to finalise it to be submitted to ASEAN Secretariat for EU ARISE Plus funding. The presentation appears as **Annex 23**.

**Action Line: Philippines, ASEAN Secretariat**

## **Consumer Participation and Empowerment**

### **7.16 Conduct/share survey data on Primary School Community participation and empowerment on food safety**

### **7.17 Development regional framework of CPE Program in Food Safety**

46. Indonesia presented the combined concept note on the comprehensive survey data and regional framework development on consumer participation and empowerment (CPE) program on food safety. The Meeting noted the following outputs for the projects:
- a. Directory and Forum Created for National Contact Points (NCP) for CPE Programmes on Food Safety
  - b. The CPE on food safety data from All AMS
  - c. Report Analysis and data base on CPE materials in ASEAN
  - d. Compilation of CPE Model and Good Practices of CPE Program on Food Safety in ASEAN
  - e. Regional Framework of CPE Program on Food Safety
47. The Meeting noted the change in survey respondents from primary school community to general consumers, with the exception of food industries.
48. The Meeting exchanged views and agreed on the principle of the concept note and data collection tool. AMS also requested Indonesia to enhance the concept note to include the methodology for data collection, processing, and analysis of qualitative data.
49. The Meeting also noted the request of Indonesia to seek FAO technical assistance in the analysis process through the ASEAN Secretariat. Indonesia will also draft a work flow as a guide for AMS. Further consultation with AMS will be sought regarding project implementation details with the following timeline:
- a. Indonesia to submit to ASEAN Secretariat the enhanced concept and implementation details within one month; and
  - b. ASEAN Health Cluster to submit any feedback/inputs within one month after the circulation by the ASEAN Secretariat.

**Action Line: Indonesia, ASEAN Secretariat, and AMS**

ADOPTED

The presentation and tools appear as **Annex 24**.

#### **7.18 Other matters for the updates from ASEAN Health Cluster 4**

50. There were no other matters discussed.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: DISCUSSION AND FINALISATION OF SUMMARY OF AGREEMENTS AND IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS**

51. The following is the summary of the agreements and next steps:

- a. The Meeting adopted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Committee Report and its Annexes including the Risk Assessment Report.
- b. The Meeting also endorsed the publication of the executive summary of the Risk Assessment Report on the "Total Aflatoxins (AFT) and Aflatoxin B1 (AFB1) through The Consumption of Peanut and Corn" as prepared by the Scientific Panel including the proposed "disclaimer statement" to be included in the executive summary as proposed by Malaysia: *It was noted that the health risk may be an overestimate and may not reflect the actual situation due to limited data available. Both data gaps and data quality need to be addressed for future consideration to refine so as to have more accurate risk assessment output.*
- c. On the new areas of work to be done by ARAC, the Meeting further exchanged views and agreed on the following:
  - i. Indonesia volunteered to be the Lead Country, subject to internal consultation with relevant agencies, for the conduct of risk assessment on arsenic and cadmium in rice based on the high consumption of rice among ASEAN population.
  - ii. Viet Nam expressed their support and volunteered to be the Co-Lead Country, together with Indonesia;
  - iii. Viet Nam volunteered to be the Lead Country to prepare the risk profile of pesticides used in leafy vegetable among ASEAN Member States.
  - iv. Further internal consultation will be sought by Thailand to ensure the priority for the region, and as Co-Lead on the risk assessment on arsenic and cadmium in rice, Thailand will confirm accordingly.
  - v. Cambodia expressed support by committing to provide data on arsenic and cadmium in rice for the risk assessment purposes.
  - vi. EU ARISE Plus expressed that it can support to Viet Nam in preparing the risk profiling of pesticides by providing technical assistance and an expert.
- d. On the above-mentioned decision points, the Meeting agreed that the conduct of internal consultation among relevant agencies at national level will be done and for AMS to inform the ARAC through ASEAN Secretariat of the results within two months.

## ADOPTED

- e. The Meeting noted the request from Lead Country Malaysia to support and commitment from the AMSs are important for the development of harmonised ASEAN food consumption data that can support Risk Assessment in Food Safety in ASEAN Region.
- f. The Meeting noted FAO's report on the Capacity building on principles or guidance for monitoring and surveillance programme and the linkage with risk assessment for food safety.
- g. On the development of guideline/manual for monitoring and surveillance programme for food hazards, the Meeting approved the establishment of the electronic working group but emphasized the importance of developing of the TOR. Thailand requested ASEAN Secretariat to circulate the request for the establishment of E-Working Group, pending TOR to be drafted by Thailand and Malaysia.
- h. The Meeting further agreed on the proposed timeline for selecting one common hazard and the proposed screening criteria for scoping the hazards
- i. On the AFRL, the Meeting agreed to share AMS contact point on food laboratory to Singapore within one month. On the funding, ASEAN Secretariat agreed to link Singapore with EU ARISE Plus to clarify the funding mechanism
- j. The Meeting supported the FSER/ INFOSAN proposal led by Indonesia and co-led by Thailand.
- k. Chair requested ASEAN Secretariat to facilitate the submission of the revised concept note on food borne outbreak investigation to EU ARISE for funding.
- l. The Meeting exchanged information and agreed on the following next steps for AFSN:
  - i. AMS to provide Thailand, through ASEAN Secretariat and within one month, the designated focal point to serve as web administrator;
  - ii. Thailand will provide username/s to AMS focal points/ web administrators once the webpage has been re-introduced online tentatively by September 2019; and
  - iii. To populate the information on the webpage for AHC 4, the Meeting agreed to start with the three (3) information points proposed by Thailand: 1) focal points of AMSs; 2) web links to food safety law & regulations; and 3) meeting/event related to ensuring food safety at regional level and/or national level such as brief articles on implemented AHC 4 Work Programme activities. The information on the 3 data points uploaded onto the webpage will be made available to the public.
- m. The Meeting further agreed for Thailand to develop a reference to guide AMS web administrators in uploading to the AFSN – ASEAN Health Cluster 4 webpage. Thailand will circulate the draft guide through ASEAN Secretariat.
- n. On the Capacity building on judgement of equivalence of national food control system in ASEAN activity, the Meeting agreed that ASEAN Health Cluster 4 under the leadership of current Chair Viet Nam will explore possible capacity building initiatives under the PFPWG on national food control system in ASEAN that can be extended to ASEAN Health Cluster 4.

## ADOPTED

- o. The Meeting also decided to wait for PFPWG's response to the letter sent by AHC 4 on May 2019 before making a decision on the conduct of on this activity. Based on the decision made by AHC 4 in its 3rd meeting and recognising that this activity is cross-cutting, a letter was sent to PFPWG to inquire about past, on-going and/ or up-coming activities related to activity 7.14.
- p. On the CPE- project, the Meeting noted the change in survey respondents from primary school community to general consumers, with the exception of food industries.
- q. The Meeting exchanged views and agreed on the principle of the concept note and data collection tool. AMS also requested Indonesia to enhance the concept note to include the methodology for data collection, processing, and analysis of qualitative data.
- r. The Meeting also noted the request of Indonesia to seek FAO technical assistance in the analysis process through the ASEAN Secretariat.
- s. The Meeting deliberated and exchanged views on the key recommendations transpired from the ASEAN Health Cluster 4 Discussion Forum on ARAC, and agreed the following:
  - i. The Meeting agreed to delete the statement on having the Chairman/CEO of ARAC, preferably senior expert, elected by the ASEAN Member States. AMS are of view that the recommendation should not be included in the list of recommendations since this was not discussed during the AHC4 Discussion Forum on ARAC.
  - ii. On the sustainability of ARAC, the Meeting agreed on the statement "to explore sustainability measures including contributions by AMS and Potential partners for the overall operationalisation of ARAC". A footnote is provided on the details of this statement as tackled in the Discussion Forum.
- t. Under the current work programme, the Meeting agreed to report Rapid Response in Food Safety Issues or Crisis as one that addresses food poisoning to SOMHD. This activity has four (4) sub-activities that are simultaneously being implemented.

## **AGENDA ITEM 9: OTHER MATTERS**

### **As Tasked by the 14<sup>th</sup> SOMHD**

52. The Meeting deliberated on the task given by the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN SOMHD to consider the inclusion of food poisoning in the activities under the work programme. The Meeting, upon review of the current work programme strategies, identified the activity on Rapid Response in Food Safety Issues or Crisis as one that addresses food poisoning. This activity has four (4) sub-activities that are simultaneously being implemented. The Meeting agreed to report these set of activities to SOMHD.
53. For the next work programme, Cambodia suggested to the Meeting for AMS to collect food poisoning data among ASEAN Member States for profiling purposes on the common food poisoning cases among ASEAN Member States. The data can be further utilised for analytics purposes to determine/be the basis for policy development/capacity building planning among AMS.

ADOPTED

**E-Health Bulletin**

54. ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the possible submission from the ASEAN Health Cluster 4 to be published in the upcoming ASEAN E-Health Bulletin. The Meeting exchanged views and agreed for the lead countries to submit to ASEAN Secretariat articles on the following topics by early November 2019:

- a. Malaysia for the progress of ARAC including the results from the Scientific Committee Meeting and the first risk assessment report; and
- b. Thailand for the result of the workshop on national food safety control system for strengthening capacity building to minimize differences among the national food control system in ASEAN for Health Cluster 4 “Ensuring Food Safety”.

**Action Line: Malaysia and Thailand**

**ASEAN Health Cluster 4 Country Coordinators and Alternates**

55. The Meeting noted the request to ASEAN Member States to update the ASEAN Health Cluster 4 Country Coordinators and Alternates.

**Action Line: ASEAN Health Cluster 4**

**AGENDA ITEM 10: NEXT MEETING OF THE ASEAN HEALTH CLUSTER 4**

56. The Meeting noted that the ASEAN Health Cluster 4 Meeting shall be convened before the next SOMHD in 2020. Indonesia informed the Meeting that next SOMHD will be done in early April 2020.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: ADOPTION OF MEETING REPORT**

57. The Meeting reviewed and adopted the report of the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Health Cluster 4 Meeting.

**CLOSING REMARKS**

58. The Chair expressed her sincere appreciation to all AMS delegates and other ASEAN participants.

The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality.

\* \* \* \* \*