

# Facilitating Trade for Agricultural Goods in ASEAN

Project helps facilitate movement of perishable goods across neighbour countries

## Why did we initiate the project?

Within ASEAN approximately 30 per cent of trade takes place between the Member States. For fresh agricultural goods, one explanation of this constraint includes gaps in the regulations on food safety and phytosanitary measures among ASEAN countries, which can hinder and slow down the movement of goods across borders.

The fresh agricultural goods, for example, vegetables and fruits, due to their perishable nature are, in particular, affected and wasted. In Asia, about 40 per cent of food losses occur at post-harvest.

**Facilitating Trade for Agricultural Goods in ASEAN or FTAG** was, therefore, initiated to encourage free movement of goods to increase intra-ASEAN trade, which is one of the goals between ASEAN Member States in the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint.

ASEAN defines trade facilitation as “creating a consistent, transparent, and predictable environment for international trade transactions that increases trading opportunities and help businesses, including small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), to save time and reduce costs.”

FTAG is part of the Trade for Development Fund and is implemented in collaboration with ASEAN Member States under the umbrella of the existing ASEAN-German project ‘Sustainable Agrifood Systems (ASEAN SAS)’.

Outcomes and recommendations drawn from the project will be channelled into ASEAN.

Project name	Facilitating Trade for Agricultural Goods in ASEAN
Countries	Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia</li> <li>Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand</li> <li>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam</li> </ul>
Duration	June 2017 – June 2019

## What is the objective?

To develop recommendations for the alignment of the regulatory framework concerning food safety and phytosanitary measures and procedures between ASEAN and specific countries

## What are the expected results?

Pilot countries align the **regulatory framework** for trade export and import for selected agricultural goods in accordance to ASEAN guidelines

Pilot countries align **processes** for trade export and import for selected agricultural goods in accordance to ASEAN guidelines

Pilot countries consider **recommendations** for simplification and streamlining of sanitary and phytosanitary and food safety related procedures for border crossing





## Voices from our partners



**H.E. Hean Vanhan, Director General, General Directorate of Agriculture,  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**

“Cambodia tries our best to be the new exporter. We try to export our agricultural products to the international market, but now as the figure shows that only 30 per cent that we trade internally among the ASEAN Member States, so why don't we increase our trade [in ASEAN]?”



**Mr. Wichar Thitiprasert, Advisor,  
National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS)**

“In ASEAN, we have committed on the facilitation of trade to put forward the concept of the free movement of goods among the ASEAN Member Countries. So this project is to be acted as a model for the whole ASEAN Member Countries, how to facilitate the free movement of goods on agriculture.”



**Ms. Tran Thuy Dung, Government Officer,  
Vietnam Sanitary and Phytosanitary Notification Authority and Enquiry Point (Vietnam  
SPS Office), Department of Agriculture and Rural Development**

“As far as I know, this is one of the very first project that deal with just facilitation among the ASEAN Members, especially in the sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and also regulations relating to that, so I really hope that this project would come up with some fruitful outcome.”

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On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

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