



**Midterm Evaluation Report**  
**ASEAN Food Security Information System**  
**Project (2nd Phase)**

**submit to**

**ASEAN Food Security Information and Training Center**

**by**

**Associate Professor Sarun Wattanutchariya Ph.D.**

**March 2010**

# **Midterm Evaluation Report**

## **ASEAN Food Security Information System Project (2nd Phase)**

### **Executive Summary**

The objectives of this midterm evaluation are to assess the achievements of the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Project (2<sup>nd</sup> Phase) towards the attainment of its outputs and objectives and to make recommendations for further improvement and post-project planning/strategy. The results of this study will be presented at the Meeting of Director-Generals of Agricultural Statistics and Information in ASEAN + 3 Member States (DG-ASI) and Focal Point Meeting (FPM) to be held in March 2010 in Pusan, Korea.

AFSIS Project has the objective to strengthen regional food security through the provision of information required for food security planning. The 1st phase of the Project had the period of five years, from 2003 to 2007. It was 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) of Japan is the donor through the ASEAN Trust Funds.

The 2nd Phase of the Project has the implementation period of five years starting from January 2008 and will end in December 2012. The activities of the Project include information network and human resource development. The information network development includes the maintenance of AFSIS website, database and the publication of Early Warning Information (EWI) and Agricultural Commodity Outlook (ACO) Reports. The development of human resource includes the organization of regular training program and mutual technical cooperation.

The information for the evaluation were obtained from the AFSIS Secretariat, AFSIS website and other sources as well as the circulation of questionnaires to related Director-Generals, Project's Focal Points and participants in the implemented human resource development activities from Member States.

The results from the evaluation showed that the Project succeeded in developing regional food security information network and improving the capacity of Member States in providing and analyzing the information. High satisfaction on the outcomes of Project's activities was recognized by all concerned parties in all aspects. Information network development was rated at satisfactory level especially in the usefulness to the current work or function of related agencies. The achievements in human resource development were rated at satisfactory level in terms of both personal and institutional benefit gained from the implemented activities. The implementation of mutual technical cooperation was considered successful by both recipient and resource countries as it could focus on the need of recipient countries and the results could help them to solve their problems as expected. The resource countries could also obtain great benefit due to the increase in experience and capacity of their staff who were sent to be the instructors in the training course in recipient countries.

In overall, the Project had significant impact on the efforts to strengthen food security in the region as it could provide information required for policy planning and improve the capacity of staff and agencies in Member States in the development of information system. The Project had indirect impact on the promotion of cooperation, mutual understanding and awareness of food security problems in the region.

For further improvement and post-project planning/strategy, the evaluator proposed the Project to 1) standardize information systems in the region 2) enhance database to include more commodities and data items 3) report the information of each area in Member States separately when conditions regarding food security in those areas are different from others 4) identify and coordinate with end-users to verify and improve the usefulness of the information network 5) monitor and analyze potential effects of global warming 6) design training program to specifically serve different target groups 7) make arrangements to ensure that Member States can apply knowledge and skills obtained from the Project to their work 8) provide more support for the training at national level 9) publicize its activities to increase users and keep the existing ones updated.