



**ASEAN-INDIA JOINT LEADERS' STATEMENT  
ON STRENGTHENING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION  
IN RESPONSE TO CRISES**

**Jakarta, 7 September 2023**

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**WE**, the Member States of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Republic of India, gathered on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit on 7 September 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia;

**Recognising** the inter-connectedness and vulnerabilities of the Indo-Pacific region in the face of the regional and global challenges, such as the multidimensional impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, heightened volatility in the global financial market, inflationary pressures, and geopolitical tensions that impact among others, the global food and energy security, all of which could potentially affect economic and trade relations between ASEAN and India, thus recognising the importance of joint efforts and mutual support in the region and beyond,

**Do hereby declare to:**

1. Commit to maintaining and supporting ASEAN as the epicentrum of global growth and to increase concerted efforts between ASEAN and India in sustaining supply in the food trade supply chain despite disruptions.
2. Welcome the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises adopted on 5 September 2023.
3. Exchange information on national policy frameworks particularly for rice and other priority crop commodities as well as agricultural diversity to enhance food security and nutrition, and intensify coordination of food security and nutrition policies across ASEAN Member States and India.
4. Acknowledge nutritional richness, climate resilience, health benefits and ecological sustainability of millets, considering that millets are good for the consumer, cultivator and climate; and support efforts to mainstream the cultivation and harvesting of millets for ensuring global food security, promoting biodiversity and transforming agrifood system.
5. Strengthen cooperation on food security and nutrition, through promoting trade and investment, capacity building, research and development, technology and innovation,

sustainable management, infrastructure development and sharing of information, experience and best practices in the food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors.

6. Collaborate on rapid actions to strengthen food security and nutrition in response to crises, including by ensuring unimpeded trade and flow of foodstuffs and other essential agricultural inputs, including the supply of fertilisers, pesticides, and their raw materials as well as enhancing market connectivity and distribution networks for agriculture and food products.
7. Promote efforts for public food stockholding, where relevant, for food security programmes and explore exports of food grains from public stocks on a government-to-government basis for humanitarian purposes in times of crises.
8. Support ASEAN-India preparedness for long-term resilience and sustainability of agrifood system, including by strengthening local and regional food value chains, including cooperation to develop local food sources diversification and optimise the utilisation of available resources for food production, especially for small-scale farmers, fishers, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
9. Encourage financing climate-friendly technologies, in partnership with Multilateral Development Banks and development finance institutions on ASEAN-India mutually agreed terms, and adopting a climate-smart approach based on agricultural system models for sustainable agricultural production.
10. Explore exchanging best practices on social protection and strengthen infrastructure for small and marginal farmers, women and youth, and make use of growing economic opportunities to promote inclusive agriculture value chains, and food systems to enhance the resilience and efficiency of the chains.
11. Promote the use of digital technologies in supporting the transformation of agriculture, including exploring interoperability of relevant digital public infrastructure.
12. Promote, where possible, adoption of organic farming to protect the quality of soil, its productivity and ecological sustainability.
13. Task the relevant sectoral bodies of ASEAN-India to follow-up and implement this Joint Statement, in order to ensure regional food security and food availability and rapid response in times of crises.

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