

Developing Mechanisms and Processes Capable of Handling Health Impacts Resulting from ASEAN Integration, Especially for Food and Agricultural Food Products

1. Related Definitions

The Agricultural Standards Act, B.E. 2551¹ prescribes the following definition.

1.1 Agricultural commodity means produce or a product derived from agriculture, fishery, livestock or forestry and by-product of such produce or product.

The Food Act, B.E. 2552² prescribes the following definition.

1.2 Food refers to items of consumption or items of sustenance, namely:

- (1) All items and types humans consume, drink or bring into their bodies in any way or in any form; excluding psychotropic substances or illegal drugs stipulated by Acts of law prescribing such cases.
- (2) Items intended for use or used as mixtures in food production; including food additives, colors and flavoring agents.

1.3 Agricultural Food Product No legal definition has been found for this term, but from the definitions provided in 1.1 and 1.2, it can be seen that agricultural products are available in many forms, from energy plants, decorative plants (such as orchids) and propagation plants to food plants. Furthermore, agricultural food product includes breed stock animals, animal products used in industry (such as animal skin) and food animals. In this respect, **agricultural food products** here refer to products of agriculture prior to processing for consumption, of which the intended use is for food only.

In addition, the National Food Committee Act, B.E. 2551³ provides the following definitions for related terms and phrases.

1.4 Food Safety refers to the management of food and agricultural products used for human consumption to ensure that they are safe and to ensure that they are free from the characteristics of impure food, as prescribed by food laws and other related laws, including food having any of the following characteristics.

(1) Food contaminated with disease causing micro-organisms or substances causing health hazards.

(2) Food containing chemical substances or objects, as prescribed by relevant laws, at a level which may be hazardous or at a level which may accumulate in the body to cause disease or health effects.

(3) Food produced, cooked, prepared, packed, transported or stored in unsanitary conditions.

(4) Food produced from diseased animals or products of animals with diseases transmittable to humans.

(5) Food produced, cooked, prepared, from animals and plants; or products of animals and plants containing residual hazardous chemicals, chemical pharmaceuticals or anti-biotics.

(6) Food placed in containers made from substances which may be hazardous to health.

1.5 The food chain refers to the cycle of food production, from raw materials, production factors, cultivation, husbandry, trimming, processing, transport, cooking, preparing, packing, storing, distributing; to disseminating to consumers, including import, transit and export.

1.6 Food quality refers to food possessing desired physical characteristics and components; and food having appropriate nutritional qualities.

1.7 Food studies refers to the process of promoting, developing and conducting research to obtain appropriate food chain and food consumption knowledge, awareness and behavior.

1.8 Risk analysis is defined by the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards as⁴ a process involving three steps: risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.

2. The ASEAN Community: Principles and Components

About 45 years ago, ASEAN or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations was established on 8 August 1967, with the Bangkok Declaration. It then comprised 5 founding member countries, but at present, there are 10 members in total¹. Latest figures from 2010 indicate that ASEAN has a population of approximately 600 million or 9% of the world's population. Its total GDP accounts for about 3.2 Billion Dollars (4.1% of world GDP).

In 1997, the ASEAN Summit established the ASEAN Vision 2020, which aims for ASEAN integration by 2020 and the Declaration on ASEAN Concord II, or the Bali Concord II, in 2003, prescribed the three pillars of ASEAN, namely the ASEAN Security Community (ASC), or the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. Later in 2007, the Cebu Declaration imposed a shorter timeframe for ASEAN integration, moving it up by 5 years and specifying the completion of the ASEAN Community by 2015 under the motto "One Vision, One Identity, One Caring and Sharing Community"^{5 6}.

The ASEAN Community comprises three pillars, each having its own roles and responsibilities but directed by a common blue print, roadmap and implementation time frame. The majority of agricultural product and food aspects, especially in relation to food safety, are contained within the ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community pillars.

3. Statistical Data on the Value of Agricultural Food Product and Food Trade between Thailand and ASEAN members

Table 1: Value of Top 20 Food and Agricultural Food Product Import-Export between Thailand and ASEAN Countries (Million Baht)

Year	Export			Import		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Singapore	6,622.0	6,504.1	8,262.4	7,874.8	9,293.4	11,029.4
Cambodia	11,546.2	11,722.6	14,739.7	1,654.8	1,498.1	1,281.4
Brunei	1,413.7	1,257.8	1,365.1	1.4	1.6	5.6
Laos	3,206.6	2,955.8	6,188.7	1,337.1	1,288.8	1,900.2
Indonesia	15,693.0	25,536.5	38,782.4	8,871.8	10,175.6	13,252.4
Philippines	3,552.8	5,169.0	5,382.5	2,004.8	1,991.7	3,086.1
Vietnam	3,327.1	6,746.3	9,084.5	3,168.3	4,122.1	7,134.1
Malaysia	1,878.4	4,563.8	12,160.1	3,527.0	5,606.6	9,256.5
Myanmar	7,155.4	9,333.6	12,570.6	3,815.0	3,247.5	2,575.2
Total	53,395.1	73,789.5	108,536.0	32,255.0	37,225.5	49,521.0

¹ In 1967, the founding members were the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of Philippines, the Republic of Singapore and the Kingdom of Thailand. The next member country was Brunei Darussalam (1984), followed by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (1997), Lao PDR and the Union of Myanmar (1997) and the Kingdom of Cambodia (1999), respectively.

Source: ICT Center, Ministry of Commerce Office of the Permanent Secretary, through co-operation with the Customs Department

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- 1 พระราชบัญญัติมาตรฐานสินค้าเกษตร พ.ศ. ๒๕๕๑
 - 2 พระราชบัญญัติอาหาร พ.ศ.๒๕๒๒
 - 3 พระราชบัญญัติคณะกรรมการอาหารแห่งชาติ พ.ศ. ๒๕๕๑
 - 4 ประกาศคณะกรรมการมาตรฐานสินค้าเกษตรและอาหารแห่งชาติ เรื่อง กำหนดมาตรฐานสินค้าเกษตรและอาหารแห่งชาติ: หลักการทำงานในการวิเคราะห์ความเสี่ยง พ.ศ.2548.
 - 5 ASEAN Secretariat. *ASEAN Vision 2020*. 1997 [cited 2012 29 January 2012].
 - 6 ASEAN Secretariat. *Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II)*. 2003 [cited 2012 29 January 2012].