



## **REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF ASEAN SHRIMP ALLIANCE 21 June 2021, Cambodia (Virtual Meeting)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Eleventh Meeting of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) was organized on 21 June 2021 as a virtual meeting via BlueJeans Video Conferencing Application and was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia.
2. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the ASEAN Member States (AMSS), namely, Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, as well as representatives from FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP), INFOFISH and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC). The List of Participants appears as **Annex 1**.

### **AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING**

The Chairperson, *Mr. Charlermchai Suwannarak*, Deputy Director-General of Department of Fisheries of Thailand thanked all delegates and representatives of the international organizations for their kind cooperation to attend this ASA Meeting. It was the virtual meeting because of the coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic, which has adversely affected people throughout the world. This drives everyone to embrace the “new normal” life and alternative working patterns. The Meeting was held to open a forum for the Member States to share and exchange information on shrimp production and trade. The Meeting also promotes the development of the ASEAN Shrimp Standard, encourages the discussion on the prevention of non-tariff trade barriers, and the joint development of recommendations for actions on common issues. Moreover, the Meeting will follow up on the implementation of the Plan of Action of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance 2021-2025, share knowledge and exchange information among Member States on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, current situation, trend and trade including other issues related to ASEAN shrimp aquaculture. *Ms. Shirlene Maria Anthonysamy*, Director of INFOFISH was invited to present the Current Situation of Global and Regional Shrimp Aquaculture: Products, Trend and Trade. *Mr. Simon Funge-Smith*, Senior Fishery Officer, FAO/RAP also took part in the meeting to kindly share his knowledge and experiences with shrimp aquaculture at a global level. The cooperation among ASEAN Member States in the exchange of knowledge on the situation of shrimp aquaculture, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the shrimp industry, and the establishment of a joint working initiative corresponding to the Plan of Action of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance 2021-2025 were led to success. This would strengthen the capacity of the ASEAN shrimp industry and give rise to a concrete cooperation policy for ASEAN security. He then declared the Meeting open. His Opening Remarks appear as **Annex 2**.

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

4. The Meeting adopted the Agenda appears as **Annex 3**.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3: REPORT OF STATUS AFTER THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ASA MEETING**

5. Thailand informed the Meeting that up to the present, the ASA has made progress in 3 areas:

1) Update on the contents of ASA Websites and the AMSs were encouraged to share their recent information on the ASA Website;  
2) Nomination of AMSs' Focal Point to the ASA Secretariat; and  
3) Revision of the Plan of Action of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (PAA) 2021 – 2025 and circulation to AMSs. The presentation of the revised PAA appears as **Annex 4**.

6. The Meeting noted that the outcomes of the 10<sup>th</sup> ASA Meeting were presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of ASEAN – SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) held on 17 November 2020 in order to: (i) find a platform or experts to support an activity under Objective No. 2 of the PAA; and (ii) seek for possible financial support for activities under Objective No. 3 of the PAA from dialogue partners.

## **AGENDA ITEM 4: PROGRESS OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THE PLAN OF ACTION OF ASEAN SHRIMP ALLIANCE 2021-2025**

7. The Meeting noted the progress of activities under the PAA 2021-2025 as follows:

- *Activities under the Objective No. 1 of PAA*

Thailand had improved the ASA Website and allowed ASA Focal Points of AMSs to share information or materials related to shrimp export and shrimp production development on the ASA Website by themselves. Website testing had already been conducted. In addition, Thailand had developed the ASA Website User Manual. The ASA Focal Points of AMSs would receive their username, password and the ASA Website User Manual when the ASA Website was approved by the 11<sup>th</sup> ASA Meeting.

- *Activity under the Objective No. 2 of PAA*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ASA was unable to convene a special meeting to discuss specific topic about non-tariff barriers on shrimp trade by shrimp importing countries in 2021.

- *Activity under the Objective No. 3 of PAA*

Thailand had developed two project proposals namely:

1) Project No. 1: “Regional Collaboration for Long-term Genetic Improvement of Growth, Robustness and Resistance to Early Mortality Syndrome in White Shrimp for ASEAN Shrimp Alliance”

2) Project No. 2: “ASEAN Awareness Building on Implementing Traceability System and Aquaculture Certification”

The draft project proposals were circulated to ASA focal points. Comments from Malaysia, Viet Nam, Singapore and Cambodia were received and incorporated in the revised draft project proposals.

- *Activity under the Objective No. 4 of PAA*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ASA was unable to arrange events to promote the ASEAN Shrimp GAP in 2021.

The presentation on the progress of activities under the PAA 2021-2025 appears as **Annex 4**.

8. The Meeting agreed to adopt two project proposals developed by Thailand in order to support the activities under Objective No. 3 of the PAA 2021-2025 which appear as **Annexes 5 and 6**. The Meeting also agreed to submit those two project proposals to the ASWGFi for further consideration.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: UPDATING THE STATUS OF ASEAN SHRIMP GAP**

9. The Meeting noted ASEC's information paper highlighting the key outcomes from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Meetings of MAMRASCA Task Force as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Expert Working Group on ASEAN GAqP (EWG-ASEAN GAqP) which appear as **Annex 7**.

The following issues were highlighted:

- Revision of the ASEAN GAqP for Food Fish guidelines into a standard.
- Inclusion of ASEAN Shrimp GAP under the scope of MAMRASCA
- Possibility of including the content of ASEAN Shrimp GAP into ASEAN GAqP for Food Fish as one single standard covering all aquatic animal commodities/species.

10. The Meeting noted that the development of certification schemes for ASEAN Agrifood standards, including ASEAN GAqP for Food Fish and ASEAN Shrimp GAP, is under the purview of MAMRASCA. Therefore, the scope of the Project No.2 proposed by Thailand under Objective No. 3 of PAA will focus only on the implementation of traceability system for certified shrimp products.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: CURRENT SITUATION OF GLOBAL AND REGIONAL SHRIMP AQUACULTURE: PRODUCTS, TREND AND TRADE**

11. The Director of INFOFISH, *Ms. Shirlene Maria Anthonysamy*, presented the global shrimp production, trade and market trends. She explained that the global seafood trade had been challenging for the last 16 months. There were some positive outlooks foreseen for fishery production and producers/retailers adapted themselves in the situation of challenge. The new opportunities had emerged amid the adaptation process to the COVID-19 challenges. The rollout of vaccine program across the globe had created better consumer confidence and facilitated trade while strict sanitary requirements and inspection protocols were imposed. She delineated that the global production of cultured marine shrimp in 2020 decreased nearly 15%. The production of Asian cultured shrimp declined by 20% when compared to 2019, whereas the production of cultured shrimp in Latin America increased with the significant rise in Ecuador's harvest. The world's top importers of shrimp are the European Union (EU), the United States (US), China and Japan. The global import quantity in 2020 was 2.4% lower than that in 2019, approximately at 2.5 million tons. However, China as the single largest shrimp market was overtaken by the US in 2020, in which the import of US increased 6.65%. As for the exporter side, Ecuador overtook India as the largest exporter of shrimp. A main factor was competitive export prices in the world market. The percentage of export increased

by 52%, 23% and 55% in the US, EU and Russia, respectively. Since the second half of 2020, shrimp demand had been increased with the rise of e-commerce platforms. Ecuador remained the top supplier despite some transitory restrictions on exports to China. Imports from other suppliers declined by 14-45%, except for Greenland, Indonesia and Iran. Consumer demand for shrimp also improved during 2021, especially during the Chinese New Year. The COVID-19 pandemic affected the global shrimp industry, such as demand reduction, distribution channel disruption, value chain disruption, imbalance of seafood demand and supply, loss of markets, less workers due to movement restrictions, cancellation of domestic and international flights, shift in consumer preferences, food safety issues, higher operation costs and trade barriers. She referred to a recent report published by WTO indicating that the COVID-19 pandemic had caused a deeper but less prolonged decline in trade than initially expected. Her presentation appears as **Annex 8**.

12. The representative of FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP), *Mr. Simon Funge-Smith*, highlighted his presentation on “What was the stories behind ASEAN production, right now?”. AMSs faced difficulties in shrimp production particularly caused by shrimp disease (EMS) and former customer bases. As a result, the shrimp production of some AMSs had a big decline in the past. He recommended that the AMSs could pay attention to the trend of EU and US markets in terms of certification, feed ration and environmental footprint of aquaculture products.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: CURRENT SITUATION ON MARINE SHRIMP UNDER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

13. The Meeting noted the country presentation on the current situation on marine shrimp under the COVID-19 pandemic concerning national measures to support shrimp farmers, technology/innovation, trading and impact of COVID-19.

- Brunei Darussalam informed the Meeting on the national measures to assist the private sector in order to ensure their operational viability. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, shrimp production in Brunei Darussalam sharply increased in 2020. Major shrimp species are *Litopenaeus stylirostris*, followed by *L. vannamei* and *Penaeus monodon*, respectively. The human vaccination has been implemented by the Government giving priority to front-liners and transporters entering its territory (**Annex 9**).
- Cambodia informed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic including feed price increasing, high transportation costs and slow delivery and market demand reduction. Its national measures on the implementation of e-commerce platform for domestic shrimp markets as another marketing channel to help shrimp farmers selling their products. The Government policies have been developed to support mariculture, including shrimp production, and to collaborate with the Chinese Government on the investment in mariculture and support of tourism in Cambodia. Tax exemption for shrimp export is also introduced to reduce burdens for the shrimp producers (**Annex 10**).
- Indonesia informed its national policies and strategies to support shrimp farmers by connecting remote areas with infrastructure, revitalization of shrimp ponds and business digitalization. Various programs under the shrimp development strategies are implemented, including: (1) production

technology innovation to drive efficiency; (2) market-oriented and food safety to guarantee the quality of shrimp product, (3) promoting economic, social and environmental sustainability and (4) upstream-downstream integration and stakeholder synergy. The shrimp industry in Indonesia has been affected COVID-19 at the beginning of the pandemic such as a lack of shrimp raw materials entering into the processing plants, the decline of demand from importing countries, the shift of shrimp product destination to local markets. However during COVID-19 control program implemented, the government continued to consistently boost the program to increase shrimp production and domestic marketing. In addition, when importing countries such as the United States, China and European Union, and import gate starting to opened, Indonesia confirmed its shrimp export resiliency and shows positive export trends as mentioned in INFOFISH presentation, data from NOAA and Seafood Intelligence Trade Portal. Export data shows an increase from 207,702 tons in 2019 to 239,282 tons in 2020. In Addition, Indonesia take into account the rise of e-commerce for frozen food ([Annex 11](#)).

- Lao PDR informed that currently there is no commercial-scale shrimp culture conducted in its territory. All shrimp products are mainly imported from other countries.
- Malaysia informed that, in 2020, the production of white shrimp quantity decreased more than that of tiger prawn. They referred to FAO information that the COVID-19 pandemic would continue to inflict heavy damage on seafood markets, particularly for fresh products and popular restaurant species. As for the supply side, fishing fleets were laying idle and the deteriorating outlook had seen aquaculture producers drastically reduced stocking targets. In addition, the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on fisheries and aquaculture sector have threatened the supply chain, affected operational capacity, reduced trade–closures of borders, and shifted to the domestic market. There were three factors affecting the disruption in the supply chain of fisheries and aquaculture sector, *i.e.* the shortage in supply from deep sea fisheries, the limited production capacity by processing factors and the decrease in demand for retail products. Lastly, they focused on the recommendations in long term such as intensify mechanization and technology adoption, increase budget allocation for agrifood production and industrialization of the agrifood sector ([Annex 12](#)).
- Myanmar informed its constraints of shrimp culture concerning the availability of broodstock, semi-intensive and intensive farming systems, and shrimp diseases. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has provided regular services on the import of shrimp feed and seed from neighboring countries, facilitated the export of shrimp as a priority commodity during the travel limitation and encouraged shrimp farmers to implement GAP ([Annex 13](#)).
- The Philippines informed that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the production in the aquaculture sector in 2020 decreased by 3%. However, the production of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021 increased by 4%. Moreover, in 2020 the importation of SPF broodstock decreased by 32% due to the absence of international commercial flights. Inter-island airfreight costs

increased 2-3 times for the delivery of fresh shrimp to Manila from Visayas and Mindanao. To enhance the sanitation issue, the Philippines developed guidelines for the safe handling of shrimp products in 2020 (**Annex 14**).

- Thailand informed its measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that the DOF developed the preventive measures for COVID-19 in fish and fishery products to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. The certificate will be granted to aquaculture farmers, fishermen, fish landing sites, wholesale fish markets and modern trade that comply with such measures which are on a voluntary basis. The assessment is conducted by the DOF staff. With regards to shrimp production, there is a decrease in shrimp production after the occurrence of AHPND in 2012. Since then, shrimp production has increased slowly and become worsen by the COVID-19 pandemic. Regarding the diseases, EHP is a major shrimp disease found in Thailand. The prevalence of viral diseases in shrimp is relatively low resulting from the implementation of disease preventive measures, *i.e.* lot-by-lot inspection and mandatory standard on nauplius production. Presently, Thailand attempts to promote the use of probiotics to prevent the proliferation of pathogenic bacteria and promote shrimp growth. Other innovation and technologies in Thai shrimp farming are the development of new probiotics, the use of solar energy and the use of smart aeration control (SAC) system in shrimp farms to improve energy efficiency and environmental friendliness while reducing the electricity cost for farmers (**Annex 15**).
- Viet Nam outlined the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic including the shortage of high-quality PL, feed price increasing, high transportation costs and slow delivery and market demand reduction. The measures implemented are, for example, farm registration and certification, quality control of feed, seed and water treatment products, early warning to farmers in case of bad water quality detected, disease control program, quality control of shrimp products, and market promotion in both domestic and international markets. Presently, Viet Nam attempts to reform the value chains to improve trade value and sustainability for long-term development (**Annex 16**).

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: OTHER MATTERS**

14. The ASA Secretariat informed that the ASA Website User Manual would be circulated to ASA Focal Points of AMSs to enable the AMSs to share and update any information related to shrimp commodities.

#### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ASA MEETING**

15. The Meeting agreed to adopt the two project proposals under Objectives No. 3 of PAA and submit them to ASWGFi for further consideration.

16. Since there was no progress of activities under Objectives No. 2 and No. 4 of PAA due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, the Meeting agreed that there is a need to

accelerate the execution of those activities to meet the objectives of PAA and delivering the results within the timeframe.

17. For the benefits of the ASEAN shrimp industry, the Meeting agreed that there is a substantial need for the ASA to increase close collaboration and coordination among AMSs regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the country presentation, there is a lot of work that has been carried out by the AMSs in a positive way. Sharing that information on the ASA Website could be the first step to strengthen the collaboration and coordination among AMSs and make the ASA platform more meaningful.

18. The Meeting was informed that the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance will be hosted by Indonesia; however, the exact date, venue and arrangement (virtual or in-person) of the meeting will be informed in due course.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: Adoption of the Report of the 11<sup>th</sup> ASA Meeting**

19. The Meeting was informed that the report of the 11<sup>th</sup> ASA Meeting would be circulated *ad referendum* to the ASA Focal Points by 12.00 PM (GMT+7) of 22 June 2021, and the AMSs are requested to provide comments and suggestions, if any, by 4.00 PM (GMT+7) of 22 June 2021.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: Closing of the Meeting**

20. The Chairperson expressed his appreciation to all AMSs and the representatives from regional/international organizations for their active participation and valuable information that would support ASEAN to move forward on ASEAN Shrimp Alliance. He then expressed his special thanks to the Kingdom of Cambodia and the ASEAN Secretariat for their supports during the Meeting. Finally, he expressed the hopes for all AMS representatives to stay safe and healthy under this COVID-19 outbreak situation.