Executive Forum on Food Security: Leaders in ASEAN Agriculture and Development

levelling up leaders in public and private agriculture

6-10 June 2016
SEARCA, College, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines

Background and Rationale

The global agriculture landscape is undergoing changes and challenges, driven by a multitude of factors both anthropogenic and natural – climate change, food security, the financialization of commodities, biofuels – to name a few. In the face of these challenges, leaders in the agriculture development community in ASEAN need to level up in skills and knowledge, and be familiar with the nuances associated with managing in a changing landscape. Moreover, leaders also face the multidisciplinary nature of the issues, even their connectedness – all of which require the capacity of leaders to take more holistic views and make multilateral decisions on complex matters.

In the long run, global competitiveness is inextricably linked to sustainability and global effectiveness. In the ASEAN region, agricultural development plays strategic roles in economic development. To maximize its potential for growth, sustainable agricultural development needs bold and deliberate actions in trade and investment, which could gain the best advantage in the international market.

Considering the serious and determined efforts of ASEAN to form an ASEAN community, this executive forum will be grounded not only on the principles of sustainable agricultural development, global cooperation and competitiveness, and global effectiveness; but more so on deep knowledge and understanding of ASEAN and its primordial concerns and dynamic processes.

Goal and Objectives

The goal of the forum is to build a community of ASEAN leaders in agriculture who are empowered with knowledge on key contemporary issues in agriculture and food security, with a focus on new knowledge, high impact technologies, and innovative approaches, so that the challenges arising from a dynamic agri-food landscape may be met.

Specifically, the forum aims to:

1. Provide current knowledge on important topics which influence the global agriculture landscape, with respect to sustainable development, trade, and livelihoods.

2. Provide a comprehensive and deep understanding of factors driving the agriculture landscape in the ASEAN region, contextualized within the global and milieu of factors; and

3. Introduce to participants a change management paradigm of leadership beyond best practice based on complexity theory.
**Modules**

The forum focuses on the role of agriculture (crops and animals), together with aquaculture, in relation to four commonly expressed government goals:

- Sustainable rural development
- Conserving natural resources in the environment
- Achieving competitive agricultural exports
- Ensuring food security for rural and urban populations

This five-day forum will include lectures on leadership and learning syndicates and will cover the following modules:

**Module 1: New Elements in the Agriculture-Development Landscape**

- Globalized Environment
- Scientific Advancements and Technological Innovations
- Core Issues
- Systematic Impact Issues
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

**Module 2: The ASEAN Landscape for Agriculture vis-à-vis the Global Agriculture Landscape**

- The ASEAN Community: Dynamics and Processes
- Food Security: The Global Picture in an ASEAN Context
- Global and Regional Knowledge Management

**Module 3: New Leadership Modes**

- Management of Change and Coping with Complexity
- Essential Leadership Skills in Complex Situations
- A “Futures” Scenario in Planning for Change

**Approaches and Methods**

The forum will integrate the three modules into a learning framework and will use three “learning vehicles:” knowledge triggers, knowledge generators, and knowledge applications.

**Intended Participants**

- Middle managers to senior leaders in national agriculture, fisheries, and rural development agencies, such as Heads of Departments, with responsibility to advise the Minister or equivalent government authority on matters related to agriculture, food security, and sustainable development
- Officials in related government agencies, with responsibility for aspects on food security
- Leaders from private entities, statutory bodies, and civil society organizations
- Staff from international and regional bodies located in ASEAN
- Senior and middle-level officials of HEIs in agriculture and related fields

Technical Coordinator of the forum is **Dr. Paul S. Teng**, Principal Officer at the National Institute of Education, Senior Fellow and Adviser to the Food Security Programme, Center for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and SEARCA Senior Fellow. Professor Teng was formerly Deputy Director-General (Research) of the World Fish Center based in Malaysia. He also worked for Monsanto Company (1999-2002) as Asia Pacific Director of Science and Technology, and then Asia Vice-President for Public Affairs. Prior to this, he was with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines, as its Program Leader for Cross-ecosystems Research (1991-1998) and its Integrated Pest Management Coordinator (1987-1990).

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