

ASEAN Standard for Organic Agriculture (ASOA)

*Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards
Chair, Special Task Force on the ASEAN Standards for Organic
Agriculture (TF-ASOA)*

Terms of Reference (TOR)

AGREEMENTS

Name

Special Task Force on ASEAN Standards for Organic Agriculture (ASOA)

Nature of Work

Ad-hoc/interim Task Force working under the auspices of the Task Force on ASEAN Standards for Horticultural Produce and Other Food Crops (TF-MASHP)

Chairman/Technical Secretariat

Philippines serves as the permanent Chair of the Task Force and shall also provide the technical Secretariat for the Task Force

Responsibilities

*To develop an ASEAN Standard for organic agriculture covering crops.
To identify plans and initiatives to support its promotion and implementation*

Logistical Arrangements

Annual meeting held back-to-back with the meeting of the TF-MASHP

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Scope of Work

- The initiative covers the establishment of standard for Organic Agriculture production systems focusing on crop production inclusive of integrating all quality attributes as well as safety and labeling requirements. It will also cover guidelines on post-production practices systems and processes, of common concern to ASEAN.
- In addition, the undertaking shall also work on the development of Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) that identifies plans and initiatives to support the promotion and implementation of Organic Agriculture in the Region.
- The nature of the work of the Special Task Force on ASEAN Standards for Organic Agriculture will be interim and will be based on these tasks as approved by the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops (ASWGC) and SOM-AMAF.

Draft Outline: ASOA

Sections	Parts
I. General Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scope- Definition- Objectives of Organic Production
II. Crop Production Management Requirements	- Transition or Conversion
	- [Maintenance of Organic Management]
	- Split Production and Parallel Production
	- Avoiding Contamination
	- Land, Soil Fertility and Water Management
	- Choice of Crops and Varieties
	- Ecosystem Management and Diversity in Crop Production
	- Pest, Disease, Weed and Growth Management
III. Wild Harvest	
IV Post harvest handling, storage, transport, processing and packaging	
IV. Worker's health, safety and welfare	
V. Labeling and claims	

Draft Outline: ASOA

Sections	Parts
VII. Traceability and Record Keeping	
VIII. Requirements on the Permission of Other Substances not Specified in Appendix A - Organic Agriculture Production System	
ANNEXES	

Scheduled Activities

- Considering the scope of work to be done, the Meeting of the TF-ASOA agreed on the conduct of three workshops to further discuss the ASEAN Standards

Proposed Workshops	Date and Venue
1 st Workshop <i>Section II</i>	Philippines, October 2013
2 nd Workshop <i>Section III to VIII</i> <i>Discussion of the Draft SPA</i>	Thailand, December 2013
3 rd Workshop <i>Finalization of the ASOA</i> <i>Finalization of the SPA</i>	Malaysia, early 2014

Strategic Plan of Action (SPA)

The Meeting agreed on a draft framework of the SPA.

Proposed Strategic Approaches

Strategic Approach 1: *Establish a mechanism for the development of ASEAN Standard on Organic Agriculture*

Strategic Approach 2: *Develop ASEAN Standard for Organic Agriculture*

Strategic Approach 3: *Develop National Standards on Organic Agriculture in the ASEAN Member States*

Strategic Approach 4: *Align national Organic Agriculture standards with the ASOA*

Strategic Approach 5: *Create awareness and knowledge on ASOA*

Strategic Approach 6: *Development of an ASEAN Organic Agriculture Recognition Mechanism and Certification System*

National Focal Points

- The Meeting validated the National Focal Points for the TF-ASOA, noting the confirmation needed for Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam.

Date and Venue of Next Meeting

- The TF-ASOA shall be held back-to-back with the 10th Meeting of the TF-MASHP in Cambodia on April 2014.

Thank you...