

# SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

UNFSS Regional  
Briefing  
Session

24 October  
2013

# ON VOLUNTARY SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS (VSS)

- **VSS should be viewed as a tool that can be used to advance sustainable production and consumption methods including opportunities.**

# VSS IN THE ASEAN CONTEXT

- **Sustainability standards is market-driven, better yet consumer-driven. It started in developed economies, rather than in developing countries for a very fundamental reason – they have the money to pay extra.**
- **In most cases, VSS are not food safety based – some addresses other considerations like social aspects**
- **Highlighted the concern of many Codex members on the proliferation of private food standards as they may act as commercial requirements for market access**

# ITC STANDARDS MAP

- ITC is a program and not part of the core UN organization, extra-budgetary funded by donor organizations
- Technical assistance projects with key objective of trade facilitation, market access and market intelligence
- ITC as a program has provided support in benchmarking of GAP standards

# INTRODUCTION ON PUBLIC GAP & COMMERCIAL GAP STANDARDS

- **national GAPs should address both the commercial context and the non-commercial sustainability aspects, including benefits for**
  - **national food safety strategy;**
  - **agricultural development and rural livelihoods;**
  - **export promotion strategy.**

# INTRODUCTION ON PUBLIC GAP & COMMERCIAL GAP STANDARDS (CONT'D)

- **GAP Schemes are not:**
  - All farms should comply with commercial GAP schemes;
  - All countries should define a national GAP
  - Make compliance with national GAP legally mandatory (should be voluntary)
  - All farmers large & small will apply the same GAP now (=everyone or no one strategy)

# THAIGAP EXPERIENCE

- ThaiGAP and QGAP systems are complementary, depending on the preference of the farmer stakeholders.
- Stressed the need for awareness training for smallholders – FOOD SAFETY being the minimum requirement
- QGAP & ThaiGAP standards & certification
  - QGAP must be mandatory and enforced by law
  - ThaiGAP – have 2 levels depending on the market where the product is intended to be sent

# ROLE OF ASEAN GAP IN THE FUTURE MARKET

- ASEAN GAP is identified as one of the tools that can be used by the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) to gain market access and promote inter- and extra- ASEAN trade
- Mentioned the new ASEAN GAP SPA Priority Activities and the vision / activities of the new AADCP Project re: gaining global recognition for the ASEAN GAP



# PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVE – GLOBALG.A.P.

- GLOBALG.A.P is a holistic approach for food safety
- More than half of the criteria is related to Food Safety, but some of the elements (environment, workers welfare, traceability) is an indirect correlation with food safety

# THE PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVE ON GAP – K-FARM MALAYSIA

- The K-Farm GAP Project was basically launched to help smallholder group gain market access considering their limitations in resources
- Based on the experience, the signing of the contract of K-Farm with contract growers signified the very strong commitment in ensuring a ready market for the Carambola farmers

# THE GOMA PROJECT: LESSONS LEARNED

The GOMA Asia Project results constitute a rich pool of resources that the ASEAN can use and that can be incorporated in their activities in support of the AEC. These results are already calibrated in the ASEAN framework and guidelines

# THE ASEAN ORGANIC STANDARD

- Developed the following during the 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop of the Special Task Force in the Philippines
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the ASEAN Organic Agriculture
  - 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the Strategic Plan of Action for Organic Agriculture

# THE PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVE ON DEVELOPING ASEAN ORGANIC STANDARD

- One of the key opportunity for the development of the ASEAN organic standard is its role in the ASEAN Economic Community Integration
- Most member countries are more-oriented towards the lucrative market in Europe and North America with less trading among members, because we have the same conditions and same products. Thus, competition for the same niche market within the region.

# STANDARD-SUPPORTIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE ADB

- Providing funds for the institutionalizing mechanism for regional cooperation
- Under Pillar 1 – there is much opportunity in submitting proposals since this support activities related to food safety harmonization. Under this pillar also, capacity building initiatives for formal and informal certification systems (e.g. PGS) are also funded.

# SUGGESTIONS:

- To develop / establish a forum between UNFSS and the ASEAN Region to talk about the 3 pillars presented. This can be held back-to-back with the meetings of the Special TFASOA and/or EWG ASEAN GAP
- To upload in the website the tools developed under the GOMA project, which the ASEAN Member States can use