

Agriculture Unit



ERIA's food and agriculture research activities have been conducted as needed since ERIA's establishment in 2008. Although the contribution of the agricultural sector to overall economic growth is not necessarily large, its importance to the socio-economic situation of each country remains unchanged, especially in the ASEAN region – the food and agriculture sector is a major source of employment and income for a large proportion of the population, and ensuring food security and food safety is of critical importance for all human beings. Given the importance of the food and agriculture sector, the Agriculture Unit was established in 2016 as one of ERIA's Research Departments to intensively and constantly address various emerging topics in the food and agriculture sector. Since its establishment, emerging issues such as the food value chain, the

cold chain, and the digitalisation of agriculture have been addressed through research works as well as capacity building activities such as knowledge sharing workshops. The main priority of the Agriculture Unit is to contribute to the development of policies for the ASEAN food and agriculture sector.

In 2021, the Agriculture Unit focused on the implementation of the 'Enhancing Food Supply Chain Resilience and Food Security in ASEAN with Utilisation of Digital Technologies' research project. This project was composed of three components: (i) a COVID-19 impact analysis on food security and the food value chain in ASEAN through macro-data scenario analysis, (ii) a technical assessment of the enabling policy environment in ASEAN and other countries, and (iii) the formulation of

draft regional guidelines on digital agriculture. Through the project, ERIA supported ASEAN in developing the 'ASEAN Guideline on Promoting the Utilisation of Digital Technologies for ASEAN Food and Agriculture Sector', which were endorsed at the 43rd Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF). The president of ERIA reported the outcomes of the project to the ministers at the 21st Meeting of the AMAF and the Ministers of Agriculture of China, Japan, and the Republic

of Korea (AMAF Plus Three), and ERIA's support in developing the ASEAN guidelines was highly appreciated in the joint statement of the AMAF and AMAF Plus Three meetings. The Agriculture Unit will continue practical research and related activities to support the region's policy development in this field. For the next years, the unit will focus on research and related activities for support to building and enhancing the sustainable food system in the region.

