

**REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL SEMINAR ON
BIOMASS FOR GROWTH: POTENTIALS AND CHALLENGES OF BIOENERGY IN
AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ASEAN REGION**

***Under the framework of the Project on Promotion of Biomass Energy for
Agricultural Communities and Rural Development in ASEAN Region***

25 - 26 July 2019 Bangkok, Thailand

1. The Technical Seminar on Biomass for growth: Potentials and challenges of bioenergy in Agricultural Communities and Rural Development in ASEAN Region, under the framework of the Project on Promotion of Biomass Energy for Agricultural Communities and Rural Development in ASEAN Region funded by JAIF, was held on 25 – 26 July 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Seminar was co-organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam (MARD) as the lead country of the Project and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand as the host country of the Seminar. The Seminar was attended by participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. Speakers and specialists from several universities and organizations in ASEAN region were also invited to attend and share policy and technical information with ASEAN member countries (AMCs).
2. The Technical Seminar was co—chaired by Ms. Pham Thi Hong Hanh, Head - Global Integration and Foreign Investment Division of the International Cooperation Department, MARD; Mr. Dao The Anh, Vice-President of Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS) and Ms. Sumana Ngampongsai, Director of Field and Renewable Energy Crops Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand.
3. The Seminar aimed to provide an overview of biomass energy in ASEAN region with the current status, trends and future settings. It discussed the sources and types of biomass from agricultural wastes, the opportunities for biomass energy in climate policy and finance, and the potential for biomass energy using different and specific agriculture products such as oil-palm and sugarcane. It also served as the platform to discuss the framework and provide inputs to develop the regional strategy and policy recommendations in enhancing biomass energy for agricultural communities and rural development in the ASEAN region. The Seminar included a session of Country Papers presentation in order to exchange the status as well as the innovations of respective countries in the area of biomass energy. Detailed of the Technical Seminar Program appears as **ANNEX 1**.
4. Seven (07) presentations have been made at the Technical Seminar, which appear as **ANNEX 2**, including:
 - i) Biomass energy in ASEAN region: Current status, trends and future settings: Overview of bioenergy application in ASEAN region, legal

framework, advanced technologies up to date, targets for the introduction of renewable energies in ASEAN countries and recommended biomass energy strategy at ASEAN region in the context of circular economic

- ii) Sources and types of biomass from agricultural wastes - Potentials and challenges for sustainable bioenergy for rural development in ASEAN region: Definition of biomass, agri-wastes and agri-byproducts as the main sources for biogas / biomass energy promotion; recommended policy intervention to address challenges and create opportunities for rural communities to engage more efforts for biomass development.
 - iii) Opportunities for biomass energy in climate policy and finance: Introduction of ASEAN network for climate change combating and the international financial mechanism to support climate change adaptation projects including bio-energy development, namely: Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Climate Bonds Standard and Certification Scheme, Climate Bonds Initiative...
 - iv) Policy and status of liquid biofuels in Thailand: Situation of biofuel in respective ASEAN countries, with more focus on Thailand, including status and strategies for different products such as gasoline ethanol (from sugarcane and cassava, biodiesel from oil palm).
 - v) Using Global Bioenergy Partnerships (GBEP) indicators for Economic, Social and Environmental sustainability of Biomass energy pathways: Introduction of GBEP, its aims, missions and priorities, focusing on facilitating the sustainable development of bioenergy and capacity building for sustainable Bioenergy.
 - vi) Research of Biomass on oil palm: Introduction of oil-palm, oil-palm biomass and composting technologies.
 - vii) Multipurpose Sugarcane: Introduction of sugarcane production in Thailand, its multi-purpose uses, the sugar and ethanol production from high biomass cane introducing the selective fermentation technology.
5. Summary of discussions, agreements and conclusions of the Seminar:
- i) There was a need to exchange research, policy experiences, strengthen communication systems and develop a common strategy for sustainable development of biomass energy in the region.
 - ii) Proper use of agricultural residues for sustainable biomass application in several ASEAN countries
 - iii) There were financial support opportunities for bio-energy for ASEAN member countries.
 - iv) Important role in using the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) with the economic, social and environmental sustainability of biomass energy pathways.

- v) Biomass should be not only for energy but other uses which has to be taken into account when the Project develops regional strategy and policy recommendations in enhancing biomass energy in ASEAN region.
- vi) The website developed by the Project should be designed as the ASEAN Biomass Use Platform to enable information exchange in the region.
- vii) Outcomes and recommendations of the Seminar would be reported to the ATWGARD and the SSOM-AMAF Meeting held in Viet Nam from 5 – 8

6. Country Papers were presented by AMCs in order to share the situation of biomass energy in the respective ASEAN countries, which appear as **ANNEX 3**.

7. The Seminar spent a session for group discussion in order to provide inputs for formulation of the regional strategy and policy recommendations in enhancing biomass energy in ASEAN region. The group discussions addressed the following issues: (i) What are the gap of the research and innovation for biomass energy? (ii) What are the national policies needed to support biomass energy? (iii) What are the regional strategies, including the link with climate change for sustainable development of biomass energy? and (iv) What are your expectations from ASEAN biomass use platform website?

8. In conclusion, the Seminar Chair thanked speakers from different countries and organizations in the region to share with ASEAN a comprehensive picture of bio-energy in the region as well as worldwide, the available technologies applicable for biomass energy development and sound recommendations for ASEAN to address the challenges on that aspect. She also thanked the participants for their active participation and contribution to the Seminar, particularly to provide inputs for the formulation of the regional strategy and policy recommendations in enhancing biomass energy in ASEAN region, which is the most important outcome of the Project.

9. The Technical Seminar was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN cordiality and solidarity.

