Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date of Release: 11 November 2026

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Seung-ho Choi, Foreign Press Spokesperson
TEL: 82-44-201-1120
E-mail: csh9731@korea.kr

S. Korea Seeks Stronger ASEAN+3 Agricultural Cooperation and Expanded Markets for K-Smart Farms and K-Food

Sejong, 11 November 2026 — Vice Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Kim Jong-gu attended the 26th ASEAN+3 Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Meeting in Singapore on Friday, 30 October. During his visit, he also signed a memorandum of understanding on smart farming cooperation with the Singaporean government. He met with local businesses and toured agricultural facilities and K-food distribution outlets to explore opportunities for Korean companies to expand into the Singaporean market.

In his keynote address to ASEAN+3 agriculture ministers, the Vice Minister emphasised the need to prepare for food supply emergencies, address climate change through collective action, and expand the use of digital technologies in

agriculture. He highlighted South Korea's efforts to advance these shared goals and reaffirmed the nation's commitment to continued cooperation.

The Vice Minister highlighted South Korea's leading role in providing rice assistance through the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR), established in 2013. He also announced plans to provide another 5,900 metric tons this year to help ASEAN countries respond to food emergencies caused by typhoons, floods, earthquakes, and other disasters.

* ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve

The Vice Minister also highlighted South Korea's progress under the government's master plan for promoting smart farming. Key initiatives include data-driven crop growth management, AI-based pest and disease forecasting, drone-based pest control, and the forthcoming launch of specialised agricultural and forestry satellites to support more precise, science-based agricultural policymaking. He also shared South Korea's commitment to continued cooperation with ASEAN member states to modernise agricultural production systems and strengthen digital capabilities.

Vice Minister Kim subsequently met with Grace Fu, Singapore's Minister for Sustainability and the Environment. The MOU provides for the establishment of a joint committee on smart farming, exchanges of technologies, policies, and information, and closer cooperation among businesses and institutions in both countries. These measures are expected to strengthen bilateral ties in the agricultural sector.

Kim also visited GreenPhyto, which operates the world's tallest indoor vertical

farm, to observe how leafy vegetables are grown using environmentally friendly cultivation methods and automated, AI-based precision farming technologies. During the visit, he explored opportunities for technological exchanges and cooperation with Korean smart farming companies.

In addition, the Vice Minister met with representatives of Korean restaurants, agri-food importers and distributors, and Korean companies operating in Singapore. He also visited Culina, a premium food retailer, to learn about local consumer trends involving Korean beef (*hanwoo*), Korean pork (*handon*), traditional Korean alcoholic beverages, and other K-food products. These meetings provided opportunities to hear about business challenges and recommendations and discuss ways to expand Korean agri-food exports.

Vice Minister Kim stated: “The 26th ASEAN+3 Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Meeting was particularly meaningful in reinforcing regional solidarity and cooperation on food security amid increasingly frequent climate-related natural disasters and disruptions to global supply chains. We will continue to strengthen our cooperation with ASEAN member states through information sharing, emergency rice reserves, and the dissemination of smart farming technologies. We will also provide comprehensive support for information exchanges, technology transfers, research collaboration, and marketing to help South Korea’s agricultural industry, including its smart farming sector, and K-food exporters make further inroads into Singapore, a key market for premium products.”