



TERMS OF REFERENCE

ALiSEA website content manager (internship full time, Vientiane, Lao PDR)

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The French Government through the Agence Française pour le Développement (AFD) has committed to funding the project “Accompagner la Transition Agroécologique dans la region Mékong” (Toward Agroecology Transition in the Mekong Region), ACTAE in short, in four Mekong region countries over an initial period of 3 years, with the preparatory steps starting in March 2015.

This project follows up a feasibility study commissioned in 2013 by AFD in Laos addressing the promotion of agro-ecological principles and practices in the Great Mekong Sub-region-GMS- countries: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and Yunnan-China.

The study was coordinated by Gret and jointly carried out by Jean Christophe Castella (IRD/CIRAD) and Jean François Kibler (Gret). It relied on a 3 phases approach:

- Taking stock of practices, actors, experiments (e.g. success stories, constraints to adoption) related to agro-ecology in the Mekong countries
- Lessons learned from Mekong networks
- Scenarios for a regional agroecology network

The feasibility study used a combination of literature review with country-based consultation workshops (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam) and expert surveys (Thailand, Yunnan-China). Presentation and discussion of preliminary results (initial desk studies) were carried out with key stakeholders of agro-ecology in each country. it led to the identification of potential partners (118 NGOs, research organizations, government agencies, private companies in the 6 target countries) who can enrich the future network with a diversity of experiences (conservation agriculture, agro-forestry, SRI, IPM, organic agriculture...). Attention was given to incorporate expectations from the main players in the agro-ecology arena vis-à-vis a new regional agro-ecological network in the exploration of governance scenarios for a vibrant regional network.

The agro-ecology regional project is expected to provide institutional and operational backstopping to the Conservation Agriculture Network for South-East Asia (CANSEA) while enlarging its scope to cover the whole field of agro-ecology, conservation agriculture being one component of the diversity of practices fund under the term agro-ecology. The Project will assist the actors of agro-ecology in the region in increasing their visibility and impacts by supporting the development of synergies between all operators in the sector: farmers, development agencies, private companies, etc.

The project is being implemented by Cirad and GRET. The Project has been designed as a 10 year project (organized in different phases). Cirad is the lead contractor for the first 3 year phase of the project that will be funded by AFD.

Country Focus: Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam.

The Regional Coordination Project Teams from Cirad and Gret are located in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

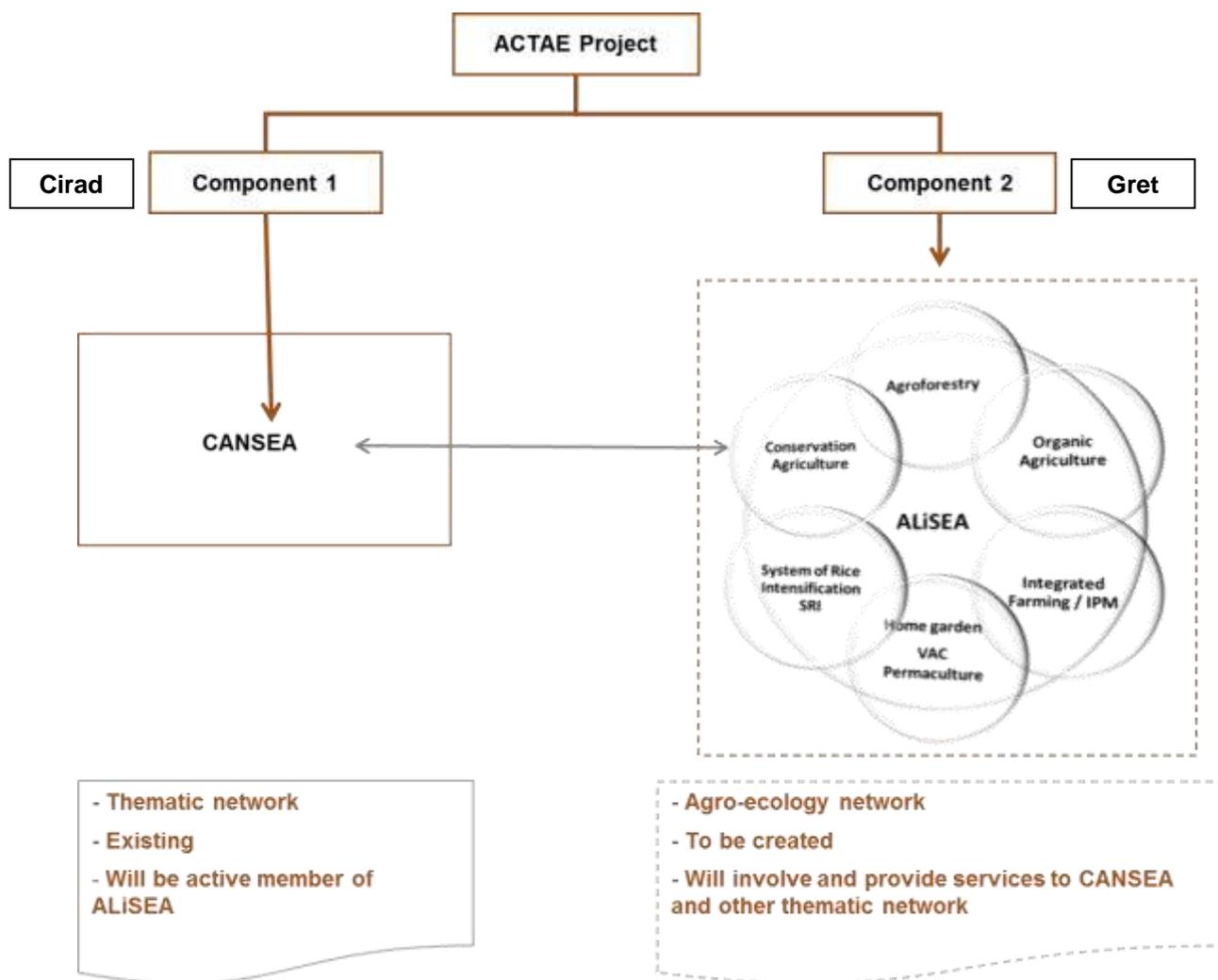
The overall objective of the project is to build durable and effective mechanisms to facilitate synergies among initiatives contributing to an agro-ecological transition in South East Asia. Agro-ecology approaches are seen as convincing and evidence-based alternatives to the current agrifood system. They clearly aim at strengthening innovation capacity of family farms, as well as the recognition of their contribution to food sovereignty in the region. They cover technical, economic, societal and policy dimensions of the agrifood system, including all stakeholders involved in the value chains. The project will increase the credibility and visibility of agro-ecology practices towards small-holder farmers, consumers and policy makers.

Two specific objectives are proposed that correspond to two components of the ACTAE Project:

- **Component 1** (implemented by **Cirad**): Strengthen and institutionalize the existing conservation agriculture network in South East Asia - **CANSEA** - in its function of promoting Conservation Agriculture effective adoption, notably through involving a wider spectrum of stakeholders, building alliances with agro-ecological movement, and diversifying funding sources.
- **Component 2** (implemented by **Gret**): Promote the emergence of a new regional agro-ecological learning alliance in South East Asia - **ALiSEA** - aiming at strengthening knowledge and experience sharing among agro-ecological initiatives and actors, at increasing the visibility and the credibility of agro-ecological movement towards policy makers and consumers, and at scaling up the development and adoption of agro-ecological practice among farmers.

These two regional networks are different and complementary. The existing CANSEA is a regional thematic network, specialized on conservation agriculture, and the objective of the Project is to strengthen and institutionalize it. On the other hand, the ACTAE Project will support the emergence of the future ALiSEA which will cover all schools and initiatives contributing to an agro-ecological transition.

1. CANSEA (Cirad)	2. ALiSEA (Gret)
R1.1. CANSEA has a wider and more diversified membership and a consolidated governance and management	R2.1. A data base on agro-ecological practices, experiences and network in the 4 countries is publicly available and regularly updated
R1.2. CANSEA is able to sustainably promote and synergize projects at national and regional level, which implement research / development on conservation agriculture practices, and which contribute to scaling up their adoption by small holder farmers and policy makers	R2.2. Agro-ecological practices and experiences are evaluated and documented (case studies), and the conditions for scaling-up their adoption by small holder farmers are characterized
R1.3. CANSEA has built long term partnerships at GMS and ASEAN level providing political and financial support to the network and its members.	R2.3. A wider concept of "agro-ecological transition" is shared by a wide range of agro-ecological actors, and starts being recognized by small holders farmers, consumers and policy makers
R1.4. CANSEA is active member of the new regional agro-ecological learning alliance - ALiSEA.	R2.4. The conditions are set up for ALiSEA to become an effective and recognized regional "agro-ecological learning alliance", providing useful services to their members and to the agro-ecological movement as a whole.



IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

As far as the component 2 (ALiSEA) is concerned, the operational set up is as follow:

- **ALiSEA Network officers** in Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR facilitate and organize exchange, learning and cooperation between government, civil society, research institute, universities and private sector stakeholders.
 - o In Myanmar, the project has hired a national network coordinator on a part time basis for 30 months (Dr Htet Kyu)
 - o In Cambodia, the project relies on APICI (GRET project in the Province of Siem Reap) Technical Assistant (Ms Lucie Reynaud) on part time basis for 2 years
 - o In Lao PDR, the project has hire a National Network Facilitator on a part time basis (50%), Ms Hongnapha Phommabouth
 - o The Regional Coordinator of ALiSEA is based in Laos as well and work full time on the project, Mr Pierre Ferrand

- A **board of national experts** has been set up in Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam in order to provide inputs in drafting call for proposals, selection & evaluation of the Small Grant Fund projects
- **National secretariats of ALiSEA** have been established and hosted by existing partners in Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam with the objective to support (and later on takeover) the national network facilitation, organize Annual General Assembly of ALiSEA members and more widely, to contribute to shaping governance, finance and management model of ALiSEA
- A “**Small Grant Fund**” (SGF) has been established and aims at co-funding activities for linking stakeholders, sharing experience, documenting case studies, building innovative concepts... This SGF provides flexibility and reactivity for promoting stakeholders initiatives for sharing experiences (e.g.: field visits, training sessions...), documenting case studies (e.g.: crossed evaluations), testing new practices (e.g.: a group of farmers willing to experiment new agriculture practices...), disseminating success-stories (e.g.: video...), or even raising funds (e.g.: formulation of specific projects for ALiSEA members...).

Presentation of ALiSEA: <http://ali-sea.org/who-are-we/>

Summary of activities implemented in 2015-2017: <http://ali-sea.org/alisea-1st-annual-general-meeting-in-laos-vientiane-24-25-july-2017/>

GOAL OF THE ALiSEA WEBSITE

ALiSEA website (<http://ali-sea.org>) is an attractive and user-friendly regional online knowledge-sharing platform on agroecology.

This website is instrumental for ALiSEA as a regional network since it fosters information and document sharing, enhance visibility of its members’ initiatives, and contributes to a better credibility of agroecology practices towards farmers’ federations, consumers and policy makers.

In the long run, ALiSEA’s goal is to enable local and regional agroecology stakeholders to leverage one another’s expertise to produce evidence based studies and share them broadly to support a regional transition towards agroecology.

Research dissemination and analysis, updates on local, national and regional agroecology related events, mapping past, current and future field level initiatives...—all shared via the ALiSEA website—are meant to make this possible.

The ALiSEA website must stay dynamic, informative, and appealing—adding value to members’ work—if it is to successfully persuade busy members of the governmental and nongovernmental agroecology community to join, participate, and sustain their interest over the long-term.

JOB DESCRIPTION / WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

The ALiSEA website content manager will work under the direct supervision and close support of the ALiSEA Regional Coordinator (expatriate based at Vientiane, Lao PDR) and the National Network Facilitator (lao national, based in Vientiane, Lao PDR).

This position is full time, about 22 days per month.

The ALiSEA website content manager will be based at Vientiane at Gret office with potential travels within the country and the Mekong Region.

Duties:

The ALiSEA website content manager will support the ALiSEA network in managing part of the website, especially:

- Summarize resources (articles, reports, books) and upload them to the online library (<http://ali-sea.org/online-library/>)
- Upload posts about conferences, workshops, forum, training
- Upload job and training vacancies
- Create and manage a photo database
- Manage ALiSEA YouTube channel and upload videos whenever necessary
- Organize knowledge products collected from all SG initiatives

Qualification

- Degree in fields related to Information Technology (IT), Computer science, Communication

Experience, skills and knowledge:

- Good command of pack office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher),
- Good command of Wordpress and Social Media (Facebook, YouTube....)
- Good command of Lao and English languages
- Interest for Rural Development, Sustainable Livelihoods, Food Security, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Farmers' Associations or Non-Profit Associations
- Ability to deal with a range of people from various cultures and different capacities
- Ability to take initiative and work independently when needed
- Ability to show perseverance and tenacity
- Good knowledge in mapping and statistic software is a plus
- Knowledge about Organic Farming, System of Rice Intensification, Agroforestry, Integrated Pest Management, Conservation Agriculture, Rural livelihoods, Participatory approach would be a valuable asset