

# ALiSEA SMALL GRANTS FACILITY RESULTS



**Empowering Agroecology in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region  
Supporting Grassroots Innovation for Sustainable Food Systems  
(2022-2024)**



**ALiSEA**

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# ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet provides a comprehensive overview of the ALiSEA Small Grant Facility implemented between 2022 and 2024 across Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand. It documents the 18 funded initiatives that contributed to advancing agroecological transitions in the Mekong region. The publication outlines the objectives of the facility, priority thematic areas, profiles of grantees, and key achievements related to innovation, capacity building, knowledge generation, and market development. It also highlights partnerships established, knowledge products produced, and major challenges encountered during implementation. Overall, the booklet serves as a formal record of the contributions made by ALiSEA members toward promoting sustainable, inclusive, and evidence-based agroecological practices in the region.



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01 Overview
- 02 Objectives
- 03 Small grant process
- 04 Members involvement
- 05 Key achievements
- 06 Impact highlights
- 07 Challenges
- 08 18 granted projects
- 09 Contact information
- 10 Connect with ALiSEA

## OVERVIEW

Over the period 2022 to 2024, the ALiSEA network awarded 18 small grants across 4 countries (Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam). The total budget allocated to the small grant facility is **337,475 euros**.

ALiSEA is a unique regional platform bringing together over 205 organizations across the Greater Mekong Sub-Region, working on agroecology from diverse backgrounds and approaches. The network includes CSOs and NGOs, farmer organizations, research institutions, private sector actors, and government representatives across Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand.

In the Mekong region, many grassroots actors in agroecology continue to face limited access to resources and visibility. Promising local innovations often remain isolated, under-documented, or under-supported. Organizations struggle to secure funds to test, implement, document, and disseminate their work on agroecology. Recognizing this gap, ALiSEA established since 2016 the Small Grant Facility (SGF) as a strategic tool to empower local initiatives and strengthen the regional agroecology movement.

The Small Grant Facility was established to address this critical gap, enabling organizations to strengthen their capacity in technical, organizational, and market-related dimensions while building partnerships and contributing to agroecological food system transitions at local and regional levels.





Figure 1: Locations of ALiSEA Small Grant Projects across the Mekong region

## OBJECTIVES

- 01 **Boost the implementation of agroecological innovations, support pilot initiatives and complement existing programs**
- 02 **Strengthen partnerships between ALiSEA members and encourage joint actions across the network**
- 03 **Reinforce members' skills through building strategic partnerships with non-member organizations**
- 04 **Engage members in producing knowledge to document their impact**

These Small Grant Facility calls for proposals were drawing upon priorities levers for agroecology transition raised by network members:

## Five Priority Topics for Agroecology Transition

### Documenting & evaluating agroecological System

Assess local conditions and potentials to build shared strategies for scaling up successful practices

### Empowering women and youth in agroecology

Encourage youth in understanding, applying, and benefiting from innovative agroecology farming approaches

### Enhancing Market Access for agroecological products

Contribute to creation or strengthening sustainable markets for agroecological products

### Testing and experimenting innovations (technical, social, economic and organizational)

Support co-creation of knowledge and innovation implementation at farm, value-chain and territory levels

### Linking field experience to public policy

Ensure transitions are technically sound, economically viable, socially inclusive, and institutionally supported



Student motivation and engagement in Integrated Agroecology, GSF-Cambodia



Sweet potato chip by using solar dryer dome, Thongmang Agricultural Cooperative, CDEA-Laos



Edible local native variety herb/vegetable, SPERI-Vietnam



# SMALL GRANT PROCESS

The Small Grant Facility follows a multi-step selection process, including a public call for proposals, an initial screening, external evaluation of full proposals, and final approval by the selection committee.



**A selection committee** composed of a diverse range of stakeholders has been established to cover all aspects of agroecology from 03 INGOs, 03 NGOs, 01 academic institution, 01 private sector, and 06 research organizations, including **GRET, Uni4Coop, Action Aid, CISDOMA, DPA, SAEDA, NUoL, RDA, CASRAD, NOMAFSI, CARES, Chrysalis Consulting, CIRAD and IRD**.

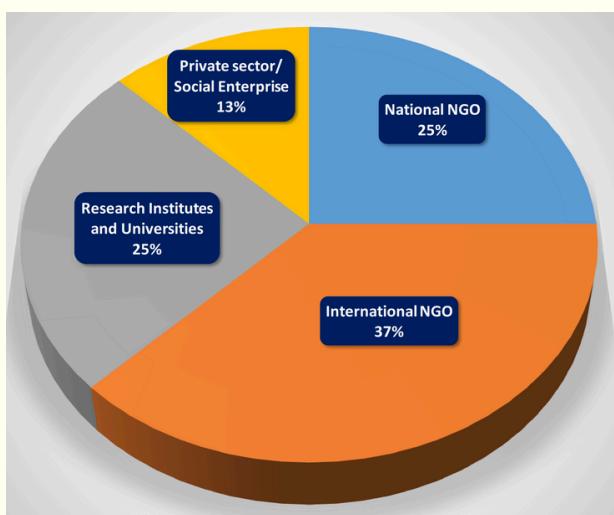


In-person session on ALiSEA Grant Information and Proposal Writing held in Cambodia

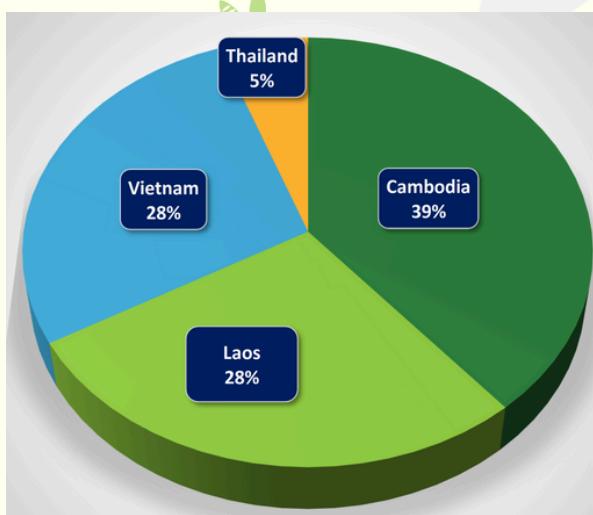
# MEMBERS INVOLVEMENT

The Small Grant Facility calls are open to all ALiSEA members, including any type of agroecology stakeholder, such as non-governmental organizations, farmers' organizations, private sectors, networks, research centers, and universities.

The team leader of the consortium must be a member of the ALiSEA Network with at least 6 months seniority of membership



**Figure 2:** Stakeholders allocation of ALiSEA grants (2022-2024)



**Figure 3:** Regional distribution of ALiSEA grants (2022-2024)

A total of **18 grantees** were supported, including 13 grants funded by the ASSET project and 5 grants in Cambodia funded by Uni4Coop with grant sizes ranging from **€15K- €20K**.

## Explore Project Details

Each grant-funded project has brought forward unique innovations and approaches to advancing agroecology in the region. From youth empowerment initiatives, technical innovations in sustainable agriculture, and to market development programs, these projects illustrate the diverse and complementary initiatives implemented in the field to support agroecological transition.

Scan the QR code to access detailed information, results, and stories from all grant projects on the ALiSEA website.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

**Boost the implementation of agroecological innovations, support pilot initiatives and complement existing programs**

- **7 pilot initiatives** built community capacity, improved market access, and expanded value-chain opportunities for farmers, youth, and women.
- **6 innovation projects** introduced agroecological solutions and practices that improved waste management, renewable energy use, biochar networks, eco-weed control, and diversified farming systems.
- **5 existing programs** built on long-term experience to deliver high outreach and measurable improvements in market linkages, pesticide monitoring, and multidimensional AE evaluations.
- **18 small-grant initiatives** have reached more than 6,000 beneficiaries—including farmers, students, teachers and local authorities, among them 3,000 women.

**Strengthen partnerships between ALiSEA members and encourage joint actions across the network**

- **42 organizations engaged** in joint actions on co-developing AE innovations, improving market access, engaging youth and women, and supporting policy dialogue.





## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

### Reinforce members' skills through building strategic partnerships with non-member organizations

- **12 non-member organizations** provided expertise in agroecology practices, biochar, renewable energy, weed management, research and evaluation, youth curriculum development, and market development.

### Engage members in producing knowledge to document their impact

- **29 videos** on sustainable production models, soil and input management, bio-inputs, and integrated farming practices.
- **16 technical leaflets** on practical agroecology techniques for crops, aquaculture, bio-inputs, and on-farm processing.
- **7 practice briefs** on bio-inputs, ecological pest management, vegetable value chains, solar dryer dome, agroecology education, and farmer adoption.
- **3 research briefs** on pesticide use, input reduction, and native herb integration, highlighting environmental and livelihood impacts.
- **2 storytelling pieces** on pioneering women farmers reducing pesticide use and a youth caravan promoting agroecology.
- **1 policy brief** on improving wastewater treatment and by-product reuse in coffee processing in Son La, Vietnam.



# IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

## Youth Agroecology Caravan

Cambodia. Implemented by **SSLA**

The project aims to empower and strengthen youth involvement in agroecology by providing opportunities for exchange, networking, capacity building, awareness raising, and innovation development, enabling young people to understand, apply, and benefit from sustainable agroecological approaches.

The Youth Agroecology Caravan project successfully engaged 131 young farmers and students (75 women) through a 4-day study tour in Siem Reap Province through the living lab innovations program (training platform) by connecting knowledge from research, field practices, and community experience, the Living Lab fosters creativity, entrepreneurship, and inclusive participation, especially among women and youth and the youth farmer forum is the event for young farmers who are practicing the Agroecology to share experience and learning from one another, and focuses on young farmers from other organizations of ALiSEA network, while establishing online platforms (website and Facebook page) to disseminate agroecological knowledge across Cambodia.



# IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

## Organic Farming Curriculum

Luang Prabang, Laos. Implemented by **BanSuanAiOun**

The RAYON project aims to empower youth, women, and rural communities in Luang Prabang through co-created training and mentoring in organic agriculture and agroecology. It builds a network of model farms as learning hubs, promoting sustainable farming, market access, and agro-ecotourism.

The RAYON project successfully brought together 4 partner farms—Ban Suan AiOun, Merci Farm, Mimi Farm, and Smile Farm—to jointly develop a hands-on training program based on farmers' know-how and experiences. The training program consists of 8 modules, covering chicken rearing, black soldier fly, small-scale piglet production, organic vegetable cultivation, frog rearing, catfish rearing, beekeeping, and business plans. The training program includes videos and technical leaflets to support learning.

The training reached 40 participants, including 15 women, made up of farmers and final-year university students. Participants gained practical skills in sustainable farming. This initiative aims to build a sustainable network of organic farms and empower youth, women, and rural communities in Luang Prabang by providing technical support and fostering market linkages.



# IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

## Pesticide Monitoring Program

Nam Dinh, Vietnam. Implemented by CGFED

The project aims to enhance the capacity of farmers and local stakeholders, especially rural female farmers in Hai Hau district (Nam Dinh province), to monitor pesticide use using CPAM tools and to promote agroecological practices for a healthier and more sustainable farming environment.

The project strengthened women-led agroecological practices and community-based pesticide monitoring through capacity building, a research brief on the use and impacts of pesticides, and model farms training for 45 female farmers; established 5 agroecological models; reached over 3,000 community members; produced key communication materials; fostered strong institutional partnerships between the Women's Union, Agricultural Service Centers, local media agencies, and community organizations; and created a sustainable network of pioneering women farmers leading ongoing pesticide monitoring and eco-farming initiatives.



# IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

## Biochar Producer Network

Thailand & Multiple Countries. Implemented by **ECHO ASIA**

The project aims to build a strong network of biochar producers and entrepreneurs in northern Thailand by training small-scale farmers to produce high-quality biochar from farm waste, enhance soil health, and access new market opportunities, including the global carbon credit market.

Biochar is a form of charcoal made by heating organic materials under low oxygen conditions. It is an exciting innovation because it helps improve soil fertility, retain nutrients and water, store carbon, and reduce waste. Promoting biochar supports farmers in adopting sustainable agroecological practices and enhances soil health. As part of a larger program.

The team trained 625 individuals from 154 organizations across Southeast Asia through 24 biochar production workshops and two regional Biochar Academy events, catalyzing the establishment of the International Biochar Asia Pacific Trade Association (IBAP) and exceeding all participant targets while producing educational videos and factsheets to support the growing biochar network.



# IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

## Market Access

Tuyen Quang, Vietnam. Implemented by **Rikolto**

The project aims to expand the market for regenerative vegetables in Tuyen Quang, Vietnam, by improving production practices and connecting smallholder farmers to inclusive value chains.

The project successfully conducted market studies and 5 practical training courses for 331 farmers, including 157 women, in regenerative agriculture techniques across 112 hectares and facilitated formal contracts between farmer cooperatives and key buyers, while providing business management training and developing traceability systems to build market trust and link farmers to formal markets, achieving 55% of vegetables sold through established value chains (exceeding the 50% target), while vegetable yields increased by 25%, soil health improved by over 20%, and farmers' incomes rose by 15-20% through reduced input costs and guaranteed purchase agreements.





## CHALLENGES

01

How to strike the right balance between the amount of the grant budget and the number of members benefiting from this small grant facility?

02

How to address the imbalance in competition between local organizations and international NGOs in the proposal development process?

03

A discrepancy was pointed between the level of procedural requirements and the limited size of the grant budget

04

In the case of Vietnam, Lengthy administrative procedures required to obtain authorization from local authorities, despite the limited budget available

05

Seasonal dependencies, natural disasters, and overlapping grants caused delays

# 18 GRANTED PROJECTS

## CAMBODIA

**Ecoland and RUA**—Multidimensional Evaluation of Agroecological (MuLAGE) in Battambang Province



**HEKS/EPER, Agri Smart Innovation and PDAFF of Kampong Thom**—Research and demonstration of climate-resilient and agroecological cashew nuts production in Kampot & Kompong Thom province



**SSLA and Bayon Education School**—Empower and strengthen Youth Involvement in Agroecology through Youth Agroecology, in Battambang, Siem Reap, Preah Vihear, Kampong Thom Province



**AVSF and PMUAC**—Strengthening organic sesame supply chain in Preah Vihear province by integrating AE practices and linking the products to markets, Phnom Penh Province



**GSF and CE SAIN**—Integrated Agroecology: Study, Implementation and Practice (IASIP), Implementation and Practice in Oddar Meanchey, Siem Reap Province



**LHCO and FNN**—Fostering Agroecological System to Table (FAST) in Kampong Chhnang Province



**FLO**—Empowering Communities, Women and Youth in Agroforestry for Sustainability (ECO-WAYS) in Kratie Province



# 18 GRANTED PROJECTS

## LAO PDR & THAILAND

**CDEA and Thongmang Organic Agriculture Cooperative (TOAC)**—Promotion of renewable energy into agriculture post-harvesting for smallholders in Vientiane Province



**CLICK and Department of Technical Extension and Agro-processing (DTEAP)**—Link and learn agro-ecology from the field in Bokeo, Oudomxai, Luangprabang, Xiengkhouang, Vientiane and Attapu Provinces



**PDDA and Peak Organic Cooperative in Agriculture (POCA)**—Scale up Agroecological Products Access to Sustainable and Integration Markets Project (SAPSISM) in Xiengkhouang Province



**ADSA and Phan-Thin**—Youth and Women Empowerment for Agroecology (YWEA) in Vientiane Capital



**BanSuanAiAoun and Luang Prabang organic vegetable group association**—Re-enchanting Agriculture for Youths through an Organic Network (RAYON) in Luangprabang Province



**ECHO Asia Foundation, Warm Heart Foundation (Warm Heart) & Biochar Life (PBC) and International Biochar Initiative (IBI)**—Strengthening a Network of Biochar Producers to Meet the Growing Demand for Biochar-Based Products in Mae Hong Son, Tak, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Lamphun, Lampang Province, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia



# 18 GRANTED PROJECTS

## VIETNAM

**CARES and FCRI**—Eco-weed control: a participatory experiment on PGS organic vegetable farms in Ha Nam & Hoa Binh Provinces



**SPERI and Farmers Union of the Po E commune**—Supporting the transition towards more diversified farming system by developing experimental cultivation of native medicinal herbs and edible herbs on upland farming areas in Kon Tum Province



**CGFED, PAN-AP, and Women's Union of Hai Hau district**—Strengthening community capacity in monitoring pesticides use and promoting agroecology for a Non-Toxic Environment in Nam Dinh Province



**NOMAFSI and Thai Viet Coffee Cooperative**—Coffee Waste Solutions: Integrating Sustainable Models for Wastewater and By-Product Management into local environmental policy in Sonla Province



**Rikolto and Tuyen Quang Provincial Agriculture Extension Center (PAEC)**—Expanding Market for Regenerative Vegetables through Improved Production and Distribution in Tuyen Quang Province



# CONTACT INFORMATION

Regional Coordinator: **Ms. Lucie Reynaud**,  
Email: [reynaud@gret.org](mailto:reynaud@gret.org)

Regional Small Grant Manager: **Ms. Manivanh Aliyavong**,  
Email: [manivanh.laos@gret.org](mailto:manivanh.laos@gret.org)

Regional Deputy Coordinator: **Mr. Pat Sovann**,  
Email: [pat.cambodia@gret.org](mailto:pat.cambodia@gret.org)

Cambodia National Secretary: **Ms. Sok Chanraksmey**,  
Email: [sok.chanraksmey@dpacam.org](mailto:sok.chanraksmey@dpacam.org)

Laos National Secretary: **Ms. Soutima Boudvised**,  
Email: [soutima2506@gmail.com](mailto:soutima2506@gmail.com)

Vietnam National Secretary: **Ms. Nguyen Thi Trang**,  
Email: [trang9099.vn@gmail.com](mailto:trang9099.vn@gmail.com)

The ALiSEA network remains committed to securing resources from a diverse range of donors in order to strengthen and expand support for its members throughout the Mekong region.

# CONNECT WITH ALiSEA



## Website

Overview of the network, news, member profiles: <https://ali-sea.org/>



## Regional Facebook Communities

**Burmese:** ဂေဟာစိုးကွေးရေး - Agroecology learning alliance in Myanmar

**English:** Agroecology Learning Alliance

**Khmer:** បណ្តាញកសិែអេកូឡូសីកម្មជាតិ - Agroecology Learning Alliance in Cambodia

**Lao:** ລະບົບນິເວດກະສິກຳໃນລາວ Agroecology Learning Alliance in Laos

**Vietnamese:** Mạng Lưới Nông Nghiệp Sinh Thái - Agroecology Learning Alliance in Vietnam



## Watch Our Stories

Youtube channel—Farmer successes, technical workshops, field stories:  
[@ALiSEAMEkong](https://www.youtube.com/@ALiSEAMEkong)



## Knowledge Hub

Your Regional Gateway to Agroecology Insights: <https://kh.ali-sea.org/>

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