



Agroecology and  
Safe Food System  
Transitions



**ALiSEA**  
Agro-ecology Learning alliance in South East Asia

# Results of the Foresight & Theory of Change Workshop on Agroecology and Safe Food Systems in Laos

Vientiane, 29 November 2022

By Mr Sayvisene Boulom, NUoL, FAG

Funded by the European Union and the French Development Agency



FONDS FRANÇAIS POUR  
L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL

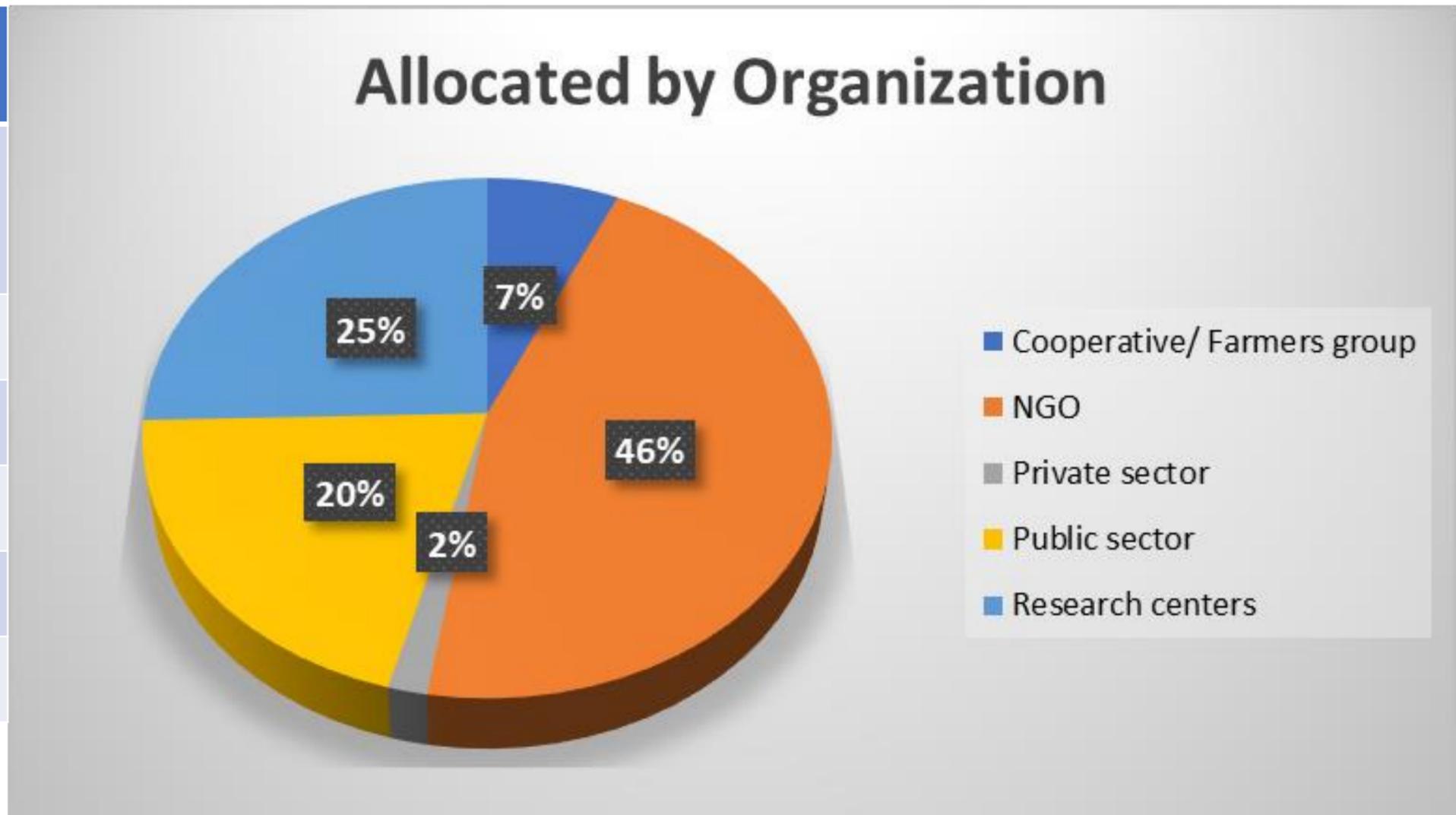
# Objectives: Why imagine the future at country level?

- To engage all key stakeholders involved in agroecology in a reflection about:
  - *the **future of the agricultural and food systems** in LAOS*
  - *the **potential of agroecology** in driving changes towards sustainability*
- To engage into a transformative approach and feel a sense of belonging to a common vision for agroecology and safe food systems
- To guide a road map for the ALiSEA at the national level

# Participants in the workshop

There were 59 participants including 25 women

Organization	No.
Cooperative/ Farmers group	4
NGO	27
Private sector	1
Public sector	12
Research centers	15



# Photos from the workshop



# What did we want to achieve?

## 1. A shared understanding of agricultural transformations

- *Global to local trends that drive socio-economic and environmental changes*

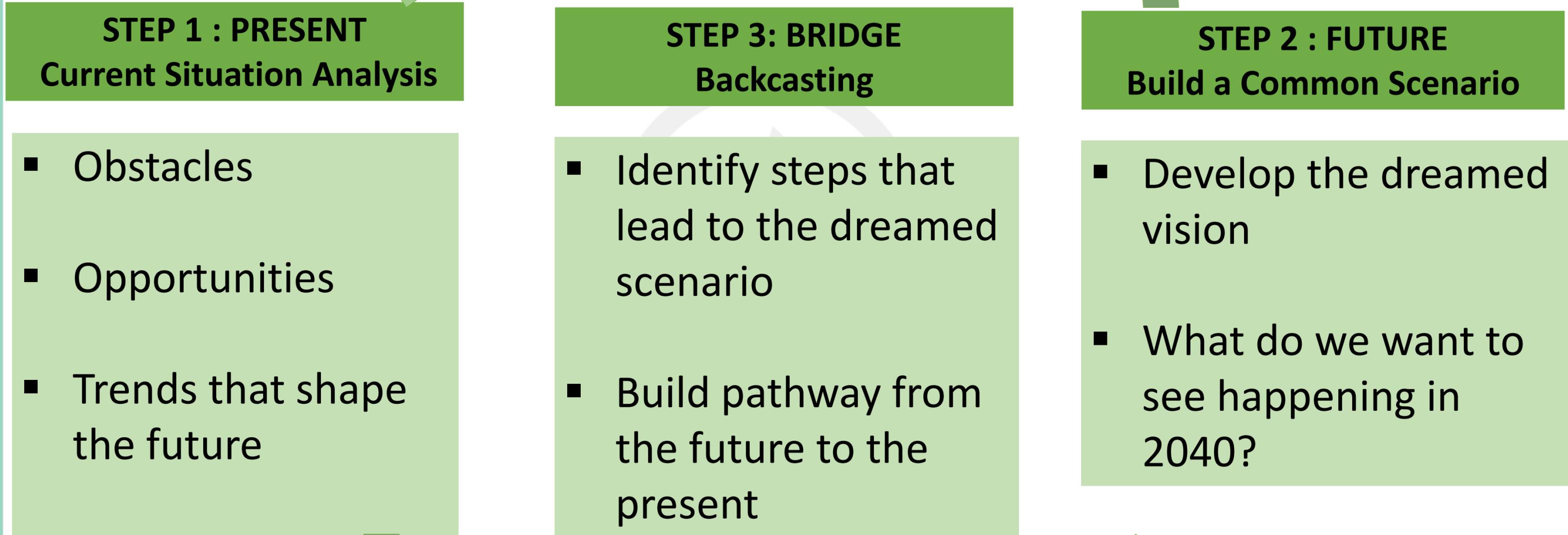
## 2. A vision of agroecology and safe food systems transitions shared among national actors engaged in AE

- *Pathways and leverages to drive changes and achieve impact*

## 3. A roadmap that provides a common framework for action for ASSET projects and ALiSEA members

- *Identify and involve key stakeholders into collective action*
- *Guide our agenda, make decisions on our own activities*

# Foresight Approach



# Results of STEP 1 : PRESENT

# Obstacles to Agroecology Transition in Laos

## Results

- Policy and regulation implementation gap
- High cost of AE products because production and transportation costs make them less effective than conventional products
- Limited technical capacity of smallholders, farmers organisations, technicians for AE, SF and marketing
- Limited database of AE techniques and access to data for farmers
- Poor management of agricultural chemical use
- Poor management and monitoring of food safety
- Poor knowledge and interest in food safety of consumers
- Natural disasters
- The youth are not encouraged to pursue farming activities

# Opportunities for Agroecology Transition in Laos

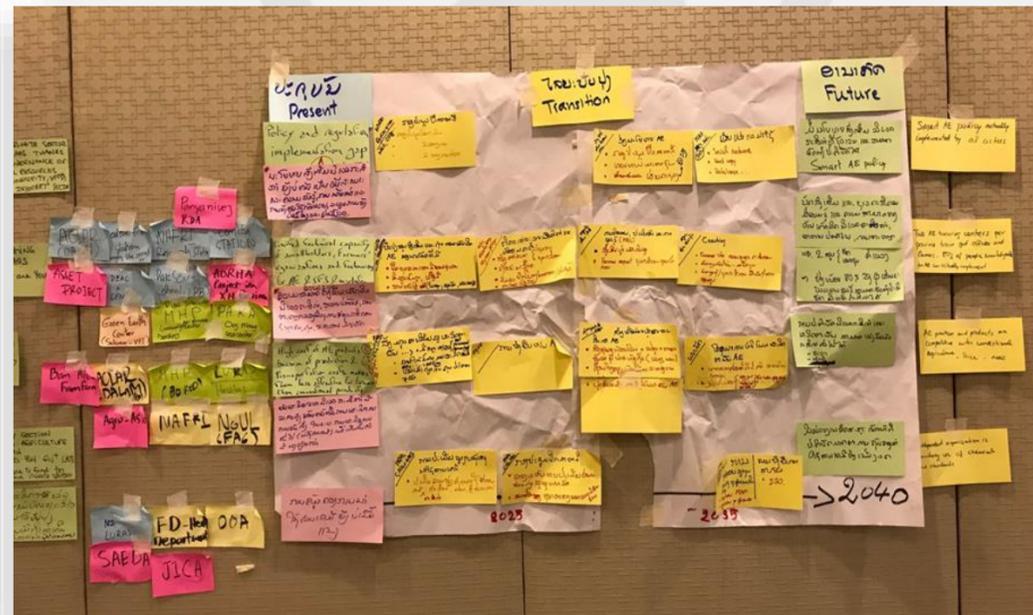
## Results

- Attractive investments for private sector on AE because of abundant and rich natural resources
- Increasing knowledge from national and international exchanges. Youth moving back to Laos to start AE farm businesses
- Farmers access to information on market and practices via Mobile App
- Government law supporting creation of farmers cooperative and union
- Many existing mobile apps used by citizens (mobile application to ease access of market and AE techniques information)
- Central logistics for goods transportation in country and outside Laos, e.g. train

# Trends that shape the future

## Results

- Increase agroecology tourism
- Increasing trend of AE/SF products due to increased middle class, food safety knowledge and health problem
- The government design & policy to support intensive agriculture



# Results of STEP 2: Future

*What will Agriculture and Food Systems look like in 2040 ?*

# Vision in 2040

## Policy:

- Smart Agroecological policy is actually implemented by all actors
- Agroecology section included in agriculture master plan developed by the government of Laos, including access to fund for farmers and the private sector

## Agroecological training and practices :

- Two Agroecology training centres per province train government officer and farmers -> 80% of people knowledgeable on Agroecology can actually implement it

# Vision in 2040

## Economic/market access/investment:

- Increased private sector investment in Laos thanks to good governance of land, natural resources (soil, water, biodiversity, seed)
- 30% of agricultural businesses are managed by agroecological farms in Laos (15% of that group are youth)
- Agroecological practices and products are more competitive than conventional agriculture in terms of price and access
- 20% of smallholder farmers get 40% additional income from agroecology tourism

# Vision in 2040

## Quality standards:

- Independent organisation is monitoring the use of chemical and quality standards,
- More than 50% of commercial agricultural products meet safe food standards (e.g. GAP)
- More than 50% of consumers can access safe food (both in rural & urban areas)

## AE technical innovation:

- At least 50% people using mobile app on Agroecological practices and market including farmers and private sectors

# Results of STEP 3: Transition Pathways

*How can we go from the current situation  
to the future we dream about?*

# 9 Transition Pathways Laos

## PRESENT

1/ Attractive investment for private sector on Agroecology because of abundant and rich natural resources

2/ Increasing knowledge from national and international exchanges. Youth moving back to Laos to start Agroecology farm business

3/ Farmers access information on market and practices via Mobile App

## TRANSITION

- Identify the appropriate area to produce AE and SFS
  - Monitoring and Evaluation on AE and SFS
    - Taskforce AE and SFS- Foster green business
    - Plan adaptation for each period every 5 years

- Building a training centre in each province and districts, model farmers develop food
  - Sharing lesson learned from farmers to farmers
  - Create AE and SFS curriculums
    - Access to the fund and credit, Fund support AE and SFS
  - Promote the good practices for commercial production (media production, video....)

- Survey and list the existing apps how many app and collection the AE existing
  - Develop mobile AE app Create AE and SFS application
    - Test AE app and improve of AE mobile app
    - Dissemination through media, event, workshop, Facebook

## FUTURE VISION

1/ Increased private sector investment in Laos thanks to good governance of land, natural resources (soil, water, biodiversity, seed)

2/ 30% of agricultural businesses are managed by agroecological farms in Laos (15% out of 30% are youth)

3/ At least 50% of people use the mobile app on Agroecological practices and market, including farmers, private sector

2022

2030

2040

2045



# Transition Pathways Laos

## PRESENT

## TRANSITION

## FUTURE VISION

4/ Government law supporting create of farmers cooperative and union

- Develop a concept note on AE master plan
  - Create Sub-sector working group on AE
  - Organise internal farmers forum
  - Specific policy and Roadmap is developed
- Share results and make action plan 2026-2030 to implement

4/ Agroecology section included in agriculture master plan developed by Lao government, including access to fund for farmers and private sectors

5/ Policy and regulation implementation gap/The government design & policy to support intensive agriculture (standards of commercial agriculture)

- Government, farmers organisations, NGOs, CSOs organise consultation meeting using the existing platforms: round table meeting, sectors meetings, sub-sectors meeting
  - Planning department of MAF draft the smart policy on AE promotion
- MAF, PAFO, DAFO, DoPC dissemination and use of smart AE policy:
- Exists government quota + standard - Exist international standard labs and certification systems

5/ Smart Agroecological policy is actually implemented by all actors / More than 50% of commercial agricultural products meet safe food standards (e.g. GAP)

2022

2030

2040

2045

# Transition Pathways Laos

6/ Limited technical capacity of smallholders, farmer organisations, technicians for AE, SF and marketing/ Increasing trend of AE/SF products due to increased middle class, food safety knowledge, and health problems

7/ High cost of AE products because of production and transportation costs, makes them less effective than conventional products

## TRANSITION

- The government and other supporters improve the existing AE promotion centre and transfer AE techniques to the public sectors
- Private' model farm, NGOs, stakeholders and farmer organisation organise exchange study tour events for technician and farmers to share the AE informations and practices
- AE centres, farmer organisations and private farms support the best practitioner to be the AE expert from each site
  - Nutrition extension / promotion in rural areas

- The producers create added value of the products
  - Certification of AE products by food & drug department
  - Networking of farmer organisations and private sectors act
- Transportation sectors provide services to AE products delivery in the country
- Government promotes consumption of AE products in existing national events

## FUTURE VISION

6/ Two Agroecological training centres per province train government officer and farmers -> 80% of people knowledgeable on Agroecology can actually implement / More than 50% of consumer can access safe food (both in rural and urban areas)

7/ Agroecological practices and products are competitive with conventional agriculture in terms of price and access

2022

2030

2040

2045



# Transition Pathways Laos

PRESENT

TRANSITION

FUTURE VISION

**8/ Poor management of agricultural chemical use**

- DAFO, PAFO, NGOs, CSOs assess the management agricultural chemical use at the household, farm and cooperative level and organise the consultation meeting with relevant stakeholders of government to report the result of assessment and identify the participatory solution option regard the management of agri-chemical use in Laos

**8/ Independent organisation is monitoring use of chemical and standards**

**9/ Increase agroecology tourism**

- Promotion of AE by media  
- Promotion and extension of AE  
- Training to hospitality and tourism service  
- Promotion and extension of AE techniques

**9/ 20% of smallholder farmers get 40% additional income from agroecology tourism**



2022

2030

2040

2045



# Expected Results

- Guide the **design of the ALiSEA national action plan**
- Share the results with ALiSEA members to **inspire their own strategy and use it to develop proposals**
- **Guide the priority topics for the next Small Grant Call** for proposal

# THANK YOU

The project is funded by



ASSET Partners

