



Lao Initiative on Conservation Agriculture and Agroecology in ASEAN (LICA)

February 2018 Update

1. Since the **34th ASEAN AMAF Meeting in Vientiane**, on the 27 September 2012, Lao PDR is in charge by ASEAN to coordinate an initiative to develop and disseminate Conservation Agriculture in the ASEAN region, and to make it endorsed by AMS Countries (the Lao Initiative on Conservation Agriculture -LICA). The **Special 38th ASEAN SOM AMAF meeting in Singapore, 14-15 August 2017** enlarge the scope of LICA to all agroecology (AE) practices. The objective of this initiative is now to develop a Common Position in AE for ASEAN.
2. Lao PDR has launched since 2016 a program at its own country level to feed a first LICA proposal for ASEAN. A bottom-up participatory process has been implemented to collect proposals from experienced Lao practitioners in AE (government staffs, private sector, civil society and experienced farmers). Outputs from this reflecting process are structured into some policy mechanism proposals (i.e. the *LICA concept-note*) which is summarized as following.

Summarize of proposed elements for a SEA common position on agroecology

- Agreement on a shared purpose: the agroecology transition. The diversity of environment-friendly agricultural practices in SEA can be seen as ***different stages of an agroecology transition***. This reasonable and operational view leaves room for diversity within a common policy framework that accompanies a gradual shift towards agroecology farming systems.
- A shared mechanism gathering SEA gained experience to boost AE transition:
 - A facilitation mechanism for an ASEAN community of experienced AE practitioners, (public and private actors, experienced farmers, processors, traders, and other practitioners) which structures and eases experience transferring to countries teams, trainers, and practitioners.
 - An on-line resources platform that links countries information, knowledge, tools and sourcebooks.
 - An ASEAN agreement of common of agroecology standards, labelling and testing processes, and their country adaptations.
 - An AE farming & marketing apprenticeship scheme in partnership with small-scale social farms, benefiting from marketing experience and networks of these farms.
 - A decentralized multi-stakeholder mechanism for an enabling environment: Information campaign, trainings, participatory labelling, private-public partnerships, value chain structuring... have to be designed then managed at local territory levels, in order to be adapted of local AE issues and to succeed on involving key local actors (like traders).

3. **On 21st March 2018, the 2d ASEAN LICA meeting is hold in Vientiane.** The purpose is to launch a shared 2018 action plan between AMS countries, in order to present a LICA proposal to ASEAN in late 2018. Lao PDR presents its 2017 bottom-up networking of experienced AE practitioners and the resulted LICA proposal. The meeting will share countries experiences then establish a shared action plan for the next months (see 2018 LICA Action plan enclosed) to complete the LICA proposal and to support the resulted LICA common position towards ASEAN.
4. If endorsed, the LICA concept-note will be presented to ***the next special SOM meeting*** in Thailand in September 2018, then at ***the 40th ASEAN MAF meeting***. An action plan will be established in partnerships with donors in order to develop national and regional actions and mechanisms in accordance with LICA proposals.