



Lao facilitated ASEAN Initiative on Agroecology (LICA)

May 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. During the *Special 38th ASEAN SOM AMAF meeting in Singapore, 14-15 August 2017* the scope of LICA is enlarged to all agroecology (AE) approaches. ***The objective of this initiative is now to propose a Common Position in Agroecology for ASEAN.***
2. **In 2017**, Lao PDR has launched, first at its own country level, a bottom-up participatory design of four elements that will feed a regional reflection on an ASEAN common position on agroecology:
 - a) Set up a network of Lao field practitioners about the different AE approaches (a **“LICA practitioners community”**, **on-line available**), then facilitate their knowledge exchanges,
...as a first step of a following regional LICA community of AE experts.
 - b) Facilitate these Lao practitioners to set a first (Lao) **concept-note for an ASEAN Common position on agroecology** (shared understanding of AE, relevant policy mechanisms and tools, key actions and teams to be linked),
...as a first step before following proposals from the other countries “LICA communities”.
 - c) Facilitate these Lao practitioners to identify a **“lead action for LICA”** in Lao PDR that could be followed by a regional LICA community,
...as a first step before other AMS countries’ suggested lead country actions.
 - d) **Link up LICA with the other initiatives in Lao PDR**, included ASEAN initiatives in Lao PDR, that are closed to LICA issue. A scoping study identified these initiatives and their focal points, which will be involved into the next LICA steps.
...as a first step before other AMS countries’ suggested lead country actions.
3. **In 2018**, Lao PDR is starting to expand this facilitation process to three other countries (Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar), with the help of countries LICA focal points:
 - a) A regional meeting was hold on 21st March, who brought together ASEAN secretary, Lao officials, and country LICA focal points from Cambodia, Vietnam, and Myanmar.
 - b) A first directory of Cambodian, Vietnamese, and Myanmar field practitioners (a **regional “LICA community”**) will be set before June 2018.

Funds are sought to achieve this first process into the three countries:
 - c) A scoping study in the three countries, in order to identify, and then involve in the LICA process and practitioner community, the other countries initiatives, included ASEAN initiatives in these countries, that are closed to LICA issues.
 - d) A working meeting in the three countries, in order to design the three countries first concept-notes for an ASEAN Common position on agroecology, and to identify their country “lead action for LICA”, which will afterwards be followed by a regional LICA community (facilitated by Lao PDR).
4. In July 2018, LICA initiative will be proposed to integrate the ASEAN Working Group on Crops and to share LICA inputs (LICA regional community, country concept notes for an ASEAN AE position, monitoring of countries LICA lead actions).
5. **In 2019**, if available funds LAO PDR will facilitate the **regional LICA practitioners community**:
 - a) Cross-countries exchanges on experiences and knowledge supports
 - b) Shared monitoring of countries “LICA lead actions”
 - c) Shared design of a LICA proposal for an ASEAN common position on Agroecology.

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