



**SPECIAL SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING OF THE 38th MEETING OF
THE ASEAN MINISTERS ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
(SPECIAL SOM-38th AMAF), 14-15 August 2017, Singapore**

REPORT PROGRESS OF THE LAO INITIATIVE

During the 34th meeting of the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry AMAF, on the 27 September 2012, in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Lao PDR proposed to launch and coordinate an initiative to develop and disseminate CA in the ASEAN region which was endorsed by AMS Countries

In line with this initiative Lao PDR suggested to develop a Common Position on CA for AMS and therefore a Concept Note was developed and circulated to SOM-AMAF Meeting in Malaysia in 2013.

Then the 1st LICA Meeting was organized on the 5th till the 6th May 2016 in Vientiane Lao PDR with the objective to discuss and share experiences on CA

The Meeting was attended by five (5) ASEAN Member States and representative of ASEAN Secretariat. It was noted then during the meeting Conservation Agriculture was only an approach to Agroecology which during the past years expanded quite significantly in the region.

The main outcomes of the 1st LICA meeting was presented to the 23rd meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops held on 21-22 July 2016, in Vientiane Lao PDR. The meeting viewed that the initiative is a cross-cutting issue that deal with other sectors. Therefore it was suggested that the Initiative could be linked with the ASWG namely, ASWGC, ATWGARD and subsidiary body. The meeting also decided to set up technical focal points in AMS for the initiative.

Now, we would like to propose to organize the 2nd LICA meeting during this year if possible next month before the AMAF meeting in Thailand in order to present the outcomes to the Prep SOM meeting if not convenient we would like to propose to held the meeting around the end of this year.

- Issues that will need to be discussed in the 2nd LICA meeting will be:
 - i). Clarify and validate the scope of this initiative: CA and AE;
 - ii). To formalize the focal points and the networking structure aimed at facilitating exchanges between government bodies, NGOs and all stakeholders involved in CA/AE dissemination
 - iii). To share, compare and if possible homogenize the national regulations to promote AE at the regional level which will be used as a reference to draft TOR for developing Common Position of ASEAN towards CA Agro ecology.

Therefore, Lao PDR would like to propose the Special SOM meeting to endorse this proposition.