



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



Tentative road map – December 2017

BACKGROUND

1. The Lao Initiative on Conservation Agriculture (LICA) had been endorsed in the SOM-AMAF and the **34th AMAF Meeting in Vientiane**, Lao PDR, on the 27 September 2012. 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 developing a Common Position on CA for AMS. A Concept Note was developed and circulated to **SOM-AMAF Meeting in Malaysia in 2013**. Then, in August 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, the **Special SOM 36th AMAF** suggested that Lao PDR should continue the initiative and urged AMS to actively participate in LICA.
2. The **1st Lao Initiative Conservation Agriculture Meeting** was held on 5th to 6th May 2016, Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Meeting was attended by five ASEAN Member States (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Singapore), ASEAN Secretariat, and domestic senior officials. It has been asked to enlarge the scope of LICA to all agroecology (AE) practices. The main outcomes of this meeting were presented to the **23rd meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops** held on 21-22 July 2016, in Vientiane Lao PDR.

It was agreed that Lao PDR facilitates the LICA initiative by establishing a coordination unit that is composed of a focal points (country representative) from each respective countries. Lao PDR will be in charge to facilitate stock-taking studies about current practices implemented among AMS. The meeting viewed that the initiative is a cross-cutting issue that deal with other sectors and suggested to set links with others ASWG and *Climate Change adaptation initiative*.

3. At **the Special 38th SOM AMAF meeting in Singapore, 14-15 August 2017**, it was confirmed that the scope of this initiative is not only CA but AE and that the objective of this initiative is to share, compare and as much as possible homogenize national regulations on AE, in order to progressively develop a Common Position of ASEAN. Lao PDR proposed to organize the 2^d LICA regional meeting, in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

NEXT STEPS

4. The **2d LICA meeting will be held in Vientiane, 21 March 2018**, in order to deeply involved LICA countries representatives in formulating an ASEAN shared position on Agroecology. LAO PDR has drafted a first *LICA concept-note* on a common position on AE for the ASEAN states, which will be shared with LICA countries representatives. The first objective of this meeting is to integrate countries experiences and proposals into the *LICA concept-note*. The second objective is to establish an action plan for the LICA country representatives to develop, especially as regards operational mechanisms and tools, and to support the LICA common position.
5. **In the next special SOM meeting, tentatively in Thailand in September 2018**, the concept note on common position of ASEAN member states towards AE, which will integrate outputs from the action plan, especially as regards operational mechanisms and tools, that the countries representatives will implement from January to August 2018, will be presented to the ASEAN member states for endorsement.
6. **Late 2018:** If endorsed, the LICA concept-note will be presented to the 40 **ASEAN MAF meeting** in Thailand. An action will be established in partnerships with donors in order to develop national and regional programs in accordance with LICA proposals