



Agroecology and  
Safe Food System  
Transitions

# **Report of the National foresight and theory of change workshop in Laos**

Vientiane, 18 – 19 October 2022

October 2022

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## 1. Introduction

The Agroecology Learning Alliance (ALiSEA) aims to:

- Connect organisations with diversity of background, practices and approaches for scaling up agroecology; it gathers over 150 members from the Mekong region;
- Promote a broad understanding of agroecology concepts and principles;
- Strengthen capacity and increase ownership of stakeholders.

The ASSET Project aims to:

- Transform food and agricultural systems into more sustainable systems, by harnessing the potential of agroecology in Southeast Asia Strengthening capacity and increasing knowledge of stakeholders of the agroecological and safe food system transitions
- Provide evidence of the performance and impacts of agroecological practices within safe food systems

The workshop was organised as part of the ASSET project activities to engage into a transformative approach and feel a sense of belonging to a common vision for agroecology and safe food systems, but also to strengthen ALiSEA as a coalition and community of practice.

This report provides a chronological presentation of the activities and outputs of the workshop and highlights key steps forward for the roadmap of ALiSEA members in Laos towards the agroecology and safe food system transitions in the country.

## 2. Objectives of the workshop

The national foresight and theory of change workshop aimed to:

1. Engage key stakeholders involved in agroecology in Laos in a reflexion about:
  - the future of the agricultural and food systems at the national level,
  - the potential associated with agroecology in driving changes towards sustainability.
2. Guide the interventions of the ASSET project and inform its Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) strategy

The expected outputs of this workshop were:

- A shared vision of agroecology transitions among stakeholders involved in agroecology in Laos
- Key orientations at country level for a common framework for action and interventions, for the ALiSEA network and for resource stakeholders involved in agroecology

To start up the workshop, the ASSET team presented the objectives of the workshop and then shared the results of the Agroecology key principles consultation workshops (held in May and June, 2022) in order to introduce elements of agroecology and safe food systems that the ALiSEA members and the ASSET project partners had previously discussed.



The key principles of agroecology and safe food systems addressed in the case of Laos were:

- Practices at farm and field level : composting, no pesticide use, crop rotation, open pollinated seeds, livestock management,
- Environmental issues related to biodiversity, sustainable management of NTFP, preservation of local species and resources, residue recycling, healthy air and clean water, waste management
- Nutritional aspects: healthy and diversified diets, nutritive food
- Food quality and safety standard (GAP, OP, GI), clean food free pesticide that meet requirements for export market

The principles of agroecology that are less addressed in the context of Laos are:

- Social = family farming, quality of life, access to information on agroecology, awareness raising
- Economic = better job, better income for farmers
- Synergies and collaboration between stakeholders, extension systems supporting rural community at district level
- Support policies and collaboration of the governmental authorities at different levels, and inter-ministries, public support to credit, setting up youth farmers

Dimensions not addressed so far are:

- Co-creating of knowledge, participation, gender, resilience,
- Consumers-producers linkages, trust enhancement through short value chains and proximity,
- Diversified, local and healthy diets, ethnic food culture and culinary habits
- Holistic approach to production, processing, distribution, awareness of consumers, cooperation between actors

The pending questions and key challenges identified for the future during preparatory workshops were:

- How to spread agroecology at a large scale beyond project niche areas?
- How to deal with trade-offs and opposite policies and trends? E.g. government's objectives and targets for food sovereignty and export, sustainable land management and modernization of agriculture through land concessions in favour of mono-cropping and chemical inputs.
- How to fill the gaps between unemployment of young people (graduated from university) and the urgent need of human resources in public agencies? Lack of AE and SFS curriculum program at school, lack of strategy to support young farmers resulting in low opportunities in agriculture and low income.

In order to get the reflection going, participants were asked to write down in their opinion, how will agriculture in Laos look like in 2040? (See figure1)

To summarise participants' vision of Lao agriculture in 2040, there will be less chemical use, or no chemical at all. Agriculture should become self-sufficient in inputs to reduce its dependency on imports. Production costs are still high today and we need to reduce production costs to be able to



compete with imported crop products in terms of price and even to export our own agricultural products. In terms of food supply, domestic consumers will emphasise the quality and safety of the food in 2040. Participants would like to see a balance between production and the environment. We should ensure agricultural practices will be innovative and maintain ecological and economic balances. Monitoring systems for product quality certification and agroecology policies are also important aspects of the vision to 2040.

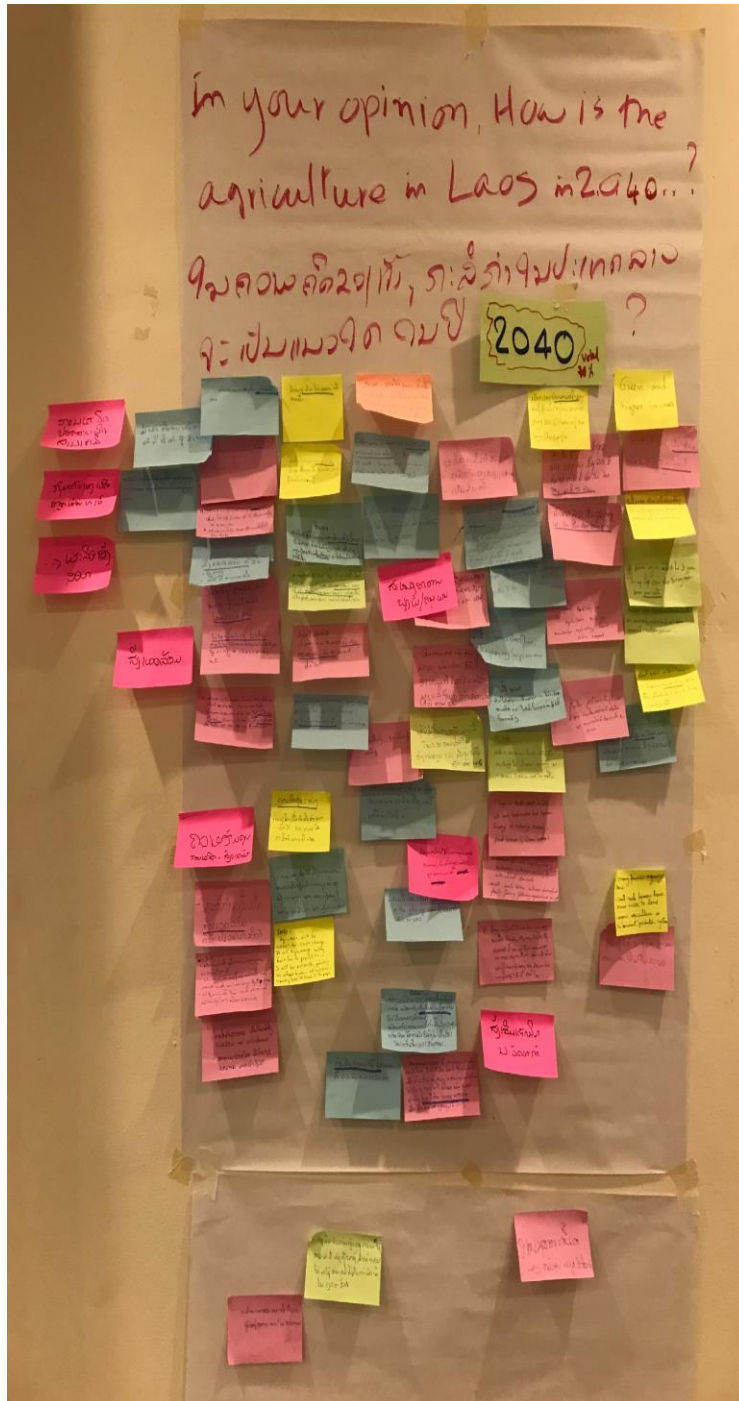


Figure1: In your opinion, How is the agriculture in Laos in 2040?



### 3. Setting the scene: keynote presentations

Three keynote presentations introduced the discussions of the workshop by:

- Presenting megatrends on agriculture and food systems transformations, their drivers, key issues around Agroecology and Safe Food System in the country
- Introducing key narratives and stakeholder groups that support these narratives about the future of agriculture and food systems

Keynote 1: J-Christophe Castella (IRD) - Changes in agriculture in Lao PDR  
Keynote 2: Stephane Gueneau (CIRAD) - Impacts of shocks and crisis on agriculture and food systems transformations: key issues around agroecology and safe food systems in Lao PDR

Keynote 3: Phoutasinh Phimmachanh (LFN) - Role and future of smallholder farmers on agriculture

Two main topics were addressed by the keynote speakers: the changes that are happening and their drivers. Drivers of change in crop production were historically related to demographic changes and people migrations, to changes in agricultural practices, to environmental circumstances and policies of the government to e.g. promote rural employment or turn land into capital. Contract farming has contributed to change production and marketing practices in Laos. Technical development and use of adapted machinery has contributed to modernise agriculture. Changes in transportation and communication systems have transformed the relations between agricultural producers and consumers.

Climate change has led to increased risks for the economy, emergence of diseases and impact to agricultural production. It has also destroyed infrastructures that are the foundations of farmers marketing of products to the market. Droughts also have a negative impact on production. The Covid 19 outbreak has pointed to the resilience of rural areas in terms of food systems despite price increase on the market and shortage of labour. Farmers have consumed their own food instead of selling for a revenue, showing a remarkable resilience to economic shocks. Floods however are of short-term impact in limited areas that allows farming communities to recover in a limited period of time while droughts may have a larger and lasting impact on agricultural production.

Over 80% of agricultural production relies on family farming in Laos. If smallholder agriculture collapses we will face a major food crisis. It is therefore important that family farms continue to produce a range of agricultural products. Monocropping is not an issue when produced through agroecology practices.

### Workshop agenda

Day	Time	Objective	Participants
<b>Day 1 – 18 October</b>			
	9:00-10:00am	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where do we stand in the process and objectives of the National Theory of Change workshop</li> <li>Share the results of the Agroecology key principles consultation workshop</li> <li>Introduce elements of an Agroecology and Safe Food System scenario at national level based on previous workshops and existing knowledge</li> </ul>	All
	10:00-12:00pm	<b>SETTING THE SCENE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present megatrends on agriculture and food systems transformations, their drivers, key issues around Agroecology and Safe Food System in the country</li> <li>Introduce key narratives and stakeholder groups that support these narratives about the future of agriculture and food systems</li> </ul>	All
	12:00-13:30pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
	13:30-14:00pm	<b>SCENARIO BUILDING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the question over which the scenario will be built: agroecology becomes mainstream? Other themes around the transition?</li> </ul>	All
	14:00-15:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the obstacles/weights of the past, opportunities/pushes of the present, and other trends/pulls of the future that favour or hinder the identified scenario</li> </ul>	Split into 3 groups
	20min	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
	15:50-17:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restitution of obstacles, opportunities, trends and finalise the narrative of the scenario on the Agroecology and Safe Food System transition in the country</li> </ul>	All
<b>Day 2 – 19 October</b>			
	9:00-9:30am	<b>SUMMARY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summary of previous day results and presentation of the objectives of the day</li> </ul>	All
	9:30-11:30am	<b>BACKCASTING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build the pathway from the future to the present: all the events, actions and changes that make the scenario a reality in the next 10 to 20 years</li> </ul>	Split into 2 or 3 groups
	11:30-12:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plenary restitution of each group</li> </ul>	All
	12:00-13:30pm	<b>Lunch</b>	





13:30-14:00pm	<b>BACKCASTING</b> Discuss the results of the backcasting	All
14:00-14:30pm	<b>INDICATORS OF SUCCESS</b> ● Identify few key indicators that would show that the envisaged scenario is happening, is successful	Split into 2 or 3 groups
14:30-15:30pm	<b>ASSET AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS</b> ● Identify what are the actions of the ASSET project that already contribute/will contribute to this pathway ● Identify what are the actions of other stakeholders or projects that already contribute/will contribute to this pathway	Split into 2 or 3 groups
20min	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
15:50-17:00pm	<b>CONCLUSION</b> Present group results and summarise Open discussion on next steps for the road map on the agroecology and safe food system transition	All



#### 4. Understanding the obstacles, opportunities and trends

The participants split into three groups and joined three topics to discuss:

1. The current obstacles to the agroecological transition
2. The current opportunities to the agroecological transition
3. The perceived trends that will shape the future of agriculture

The three groups turned every 20 minutes so that each group could discuss the three topics. The topic facilitators summarised the discussion of the previous group before launching the discussion with each new group. Key typologies of obstacles, opportunities and trends are presented in Table 1.

The topic facilitator synthesised and presented results to the next group.

*Table 1 Typologies of obstacles, opportunities and trends*

Obstacles to the AE transition	Opportunities to the AE transition	Future trends in agriculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Policy and regulation implementation gap</li> <li>● High cost of AE products because of production and transportation cost makes them less effective than conventional products</li> <li>● Limited technical capacity of smallholders, farmer organisation, technicians for AE, SF and marketing</li> <li>● Limited database of AE techniques and access to data for farmers</li> <li>● Poor management of agricultural chemical use</li> <li>● Poor management and monitoring of food safety</li> <li>● Poor knowledge and interest in food safety of consumers</li> <li>● Natural disasters</li> <li>● The youth are not encouraged to pursue farming activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Attractive investment for private sector on AE because of abundant and rich natural resources</li> <li>● Increasing knowledge from national and international exchanges. Youth moving back to Laos to start AE farm businesses</li> <li>● Farmers access to information on market and practices via Mobile App</li> <li>● Government law supporting create of farmers cooperative and union</li> <li>● Many existing mobile apps used by citizens (mobile application to ease access of market and AE techniques information)</li> <li>● Central logistic for goods transportation in country and outside Laos, e.g. train</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase agroecology tourism</li> <li>● Increasing trend of AE/SF products due to increased middle class, food safety knowledge and health problem</li> <li>● The government design &amp; policy to support intensive agriculture</li> </ul>

#### Key obstacles, opportunities and trends

After the three groups went through the three topics, results were summarised for each topic in plenary. After each summary, participants voted for the key elements that should be addressed to



build a future vision for the agroecological and safe food system transition in Laos. The key elements for the future vision are presented in Table 2.

*Table 2. Results of the participants' vote on key obstacles, opportunities and trends to the agroecological transition*

Key Obstacles	Key Opportunities	Key Trends
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Policy and regulation implementation gap</li> <li>● High cost of AE products because of production and transportation cost makes them less competitive than conventional products</li> <li>● Limited technical capacity of smallholders, farmer organisations, technicians for AE, SF and marketing</li> <li>● Poor management of agricultural chemical use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Attractive investment for private sector on AE because of abundant and rich natural resources</li> <li>● Increasing knowledge from national and international exchanges. Youth moving back to Laos to start AE farm businesses</li> <li>● Farmers access to information on market and practices via Mobile App</li> <li>● Government law supporting creation of farmers cooperative and union</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increased agroecology tourism</li> <li>● Increasing trend of AE/SF products due to increased middle class, food safety knowledge and health problem</li> <li>● The government design &amp; policy to support intensive agriculture</li> </ul>

## 5. Developing a future vision

The participants discussed the desired future state for the set of key obstacles, opportunities and trends in order to develop the future vision for agroecology and safe food systems in Laos. The facilitators captured the main ideas from the participants and validated them through discussion in order to achieve a narrative of the future desired for each of these elements.

The future vision is composed of the following elements:

### In 2040:

1. Smart Agroecological policy is actually implemented by all actors,
2. Two Agroecology training centres per province train government officer and farmers -> 80% of people knowledgeable on Agroecology can actually implement,
3. Agroecological practices and products are more competitive than conventional agriculture in terms of price and access,
4. Independent organisation is monitoring the use of chemical and quality standards,
5. Increased private sectors investment in Laos thanks to good governance of land, natural resources (soil, water, biodiversity, seed),
6. 30% of agricultural businesses are managed by agroecological farms in Laos (15% out of 30% are youth)
7. At least 50% people using mobile app on Agroecological practices and market including farmers and private sectors
8. Agroecology section included in agriculture master plan developed by the government of Laos,



including access to fund for farmers and private sectors

9. 20% of smallholder farmers get 40% additional income from agroecology tourism
10. More than 50% of consumer can access safe food (both in rural & urban areas)
11. More than 50% of commercial agricultural products meet safe food standards (e.g. GAP)

## 6. Backcasting: the future pathway

We then built the pathway from the future to the present: all the events, actions and changes that make the scenario a reality in the next 20 years for the 11 elements of the future vision here above.

Present	Transition	Future in 2040	Stakeholders
Attractive investment for private sector on Agroecology because of abundant and rich natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify the appropriate area to produce AE and SFS</li> <li>● Build the production guideline on AE and SFS (for private sector, farmers and investors)</li> <li>● Taskforce AE and SFS</li> <li>● Effective land use management + planning</li> <li>● Foster green business</li> <li>● Monitoring and Evaluation on AE and SFS</li> <li>● Plan adaptation for each period every 5 years</li> </ul>	Increased private sectors investment in Laos thanks to good governance of land, natural resources (soil, water, biodiversity, seed)	CCL, NTPF network, CDE, VFI, LIWG, RAI (Responsible Agriculture Investment - Fao + Helvetas + CSOs project), SAEDA, DALAM, CASE, CDEA, MHP + PLAN international (REAL project), MLRG project, Meuang Lao food company, RECOFTC, GIZ
Increasing knowledge from national and international exchanges. Youth moving back to Laos to start AE farm business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Building a training centre in each province and districts, model farmers develop food processing to earn extra money</li> <li>● Sharing lesson learned from farmers to farmers</li> <li>● Create AE and SFS curriculums</li> <li>● Access to the fund and credit, Fund support AE and SFS</li> <li>● Promote the good practices for commercial production (media production, video....)</li> </ul>	30% of agricultural businesses are managed by agroecological farms in Laos (15% out of 30% are youth)	LFN, RDA (Voice project), RULAS-Helvetas (AGREE project) in LPB -XKH, ARGISUD, MHP in Bokeo, CAMKID in Bokeo FAPPL (AYO project in Xieng Khouang), PLAN International,
Farmers access information on market and practices via Mobile App	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Survey and list the existing apps how many app (or function about AE and SFS);</li> <li>● Gathering/combine/collection the AE existing</li> </ul>	At least 50% People using mobile app on Agroecological practices and market including farmers,	ALiSEA Knowledge hub, PKL (PhaKhaoLao), Organic home delivery (Loca



	<p>form other app/LFN, LaCSA together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Develop mobile AE app Create AE and SFS application</li> <li>● Test AE app</li> <li>● Improve of AE mobile app</li> <li>● Dissemination through media, event, workshop, Facebook (benefit sharing by training video or guidebook)</li> </ul>	private sectors	<p>app), LFN mart, LaCSA app (FAO) SAMD, CLICK (LaoFAB, Lao44) online discussion group</p>
<p>Government law supporting create of farmers cooperative and union</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Develop a concept note on AE master plan</li> <li>● Create Sub-sector working group on AE (chaired by DALAM and AFD) including donors, Private sectors</li> <li>● Organise internal farmers forum to be a ready for Multi-stakeholder consultation workshop</li> <li>● Specific policy</li> <li>● AE Roadmap is developed</li> <li>● Share results of multi-stakeholders workshops to farmers network</li> <li>● Action plan 2026-2030(regulation, policy)</li> <li>● Improve action plan</li> </ul>	<p>Agroecology section included in agriculture master plan developed by Lao government, including access to fund for farmers and private sectors</p>	<p>LICA (DALAM), DEAC (DOPC) Cabinet office (MAF), ASSET project, Helvetas</p>



Figure 2. Future pathway to Agroecology and Safe Food Systems in Laos (Group 1)



Present	Transition	Future in 2040	Stakeholders
<p>Policy and regulation implementation gap</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Government, farmers organisations, NGOs, CSOs organise consultation meeting using the existing platforms: round table meeting, sectors meetings, sub-sectors meeting</li> <li>● Research institutions, universities and farmer organisations prepare evidence documents of science, and participatory research results for the showcase of AE,</li> <li>● Planning department of MAF draft the smart policy on AE promotion: includes actions - survey the current AE practices and supports in the country, revise-existing policy, organise the consultation meeting, informing the stakeholders, then submit to MAF for approval process</li> <li>● MAF, PAFO, DAFO, DoPC dissemination and use of smart AE policy: via social media, databases, distribution of documents.</li> </ul>	<p>Smart Agroecological policy is actually implemented by all actors</p>	
<p>Limited technical capacity of smallholders, farmer organisation, technicians for AE, SF and marketing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The government and other supporters improve the existing AE promotion centre and transfer AE techniques to the public sectors: training personnel to have expertise, having a database, tools, demonstration gardens (within the centre, villagers site, and private sector farm).</li> <li>● Private' model farm, NGOs, stakeholders and farmer organisation organise exchange study tour events for technician and farmers to share the AE informations and practices</li> </ul>	<p>Two Agroecological training centres per province train government officer and farmers -&gt; 80% of people knowledgeable on Agroecology can actually implement</p>	<p>Ban Aioun farm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ACIAR – DALAM (Huaphan)</li> <li>- MHP (Borkeo)</li> <li>- LURAD-Hevitas</li> <li>- NOUL (FAG)</li> <li>- NAFRI</li> <li>- Agro-Asia-</li> </ul>





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AE promotion centre implements MEL, following training or study tours to let knowledgeable people practising AE on their own farm, centres' plot. Train farmer expert for the farmer-to farmer exchange activities</li> <li>● AE centres, farmer organisations and private farms support the best practitioner to be the AE expert from each site, e.g new graduate student, farmers, technical staff by allowing them carry out trial in certain time (one cropping season or 3-6 months)</li> </ul>		
<p>High cost of AE products because of production and transportation cost makes them less effective than conventional products</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The producers create added value of the products (packaged, ready-to-eat, pre-processing products) and promote them by providing information on the production, nutrition, quality or benefits of the product and the storytelling of the product origin to consumers through social media.</li> <li>● Certification of AE products by food &amp; drug department</li> <li>● Networking of farmer organisations and private sectors act as collection centres and connector between the members in the country for distribution the AE products at local and region levels to all customers</li> <li>● Transportation sectors provide services to AE products delivery in the country</li> <li>● Government promotes consumption of AE products in existing national events, e.g. food festivals, world food day, and organise contest of Ms and Mr Healthy at provincial and</li> </ul>	<p>Agroecological practices and products are competitive with conventional agriculture in terms of price and access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ACIAR (DALAM)</li> <li>- Agriculture extension station through the country</li> <li>- NAFRI research station</li> <li>- Panyanivaj (RDA)</li> <li>- Ban Pua station</li> <li>- ASSET project</li> <li>- DEAC + LFN</li> <li>- Dakseung school (LPB)</li> <li>- ADRSA project in XH province</li> <li>- PAKA Ong Maug ecocenter</li> <li>- Green earth center (Salavan - VFI)</li> <li>- Plant international MHP country agribusiness centres (Bokeo)</li> </ul>



	national level, and raising awareness of the benefit of AE product consumption in the country.		
Poor management of agricultural chemical use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● DAFO, PAFO, NGOs, CSOs assess the management agricultural chemical use at the household, farm and cooperative level</li><li>● DAFO, PAFO, NGOs, CSOs 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</li><li>● Farmer organisation, CSOs proposing the independent organisation to MAF. The proposal includes structure, role, implemented ways and monitoring system.</li><li>● Independent organisation, MAF carry out the management trial and with monitoring of MAF and then international organisation with the ISO standard</li></ul>	Independent organisation is monitoring use of chemical and standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- LURAS</li><li>- SAEDA</li><li>- JICA</li><li>- Food and Drugs, Health department</li><li>- DOA</li></ul>

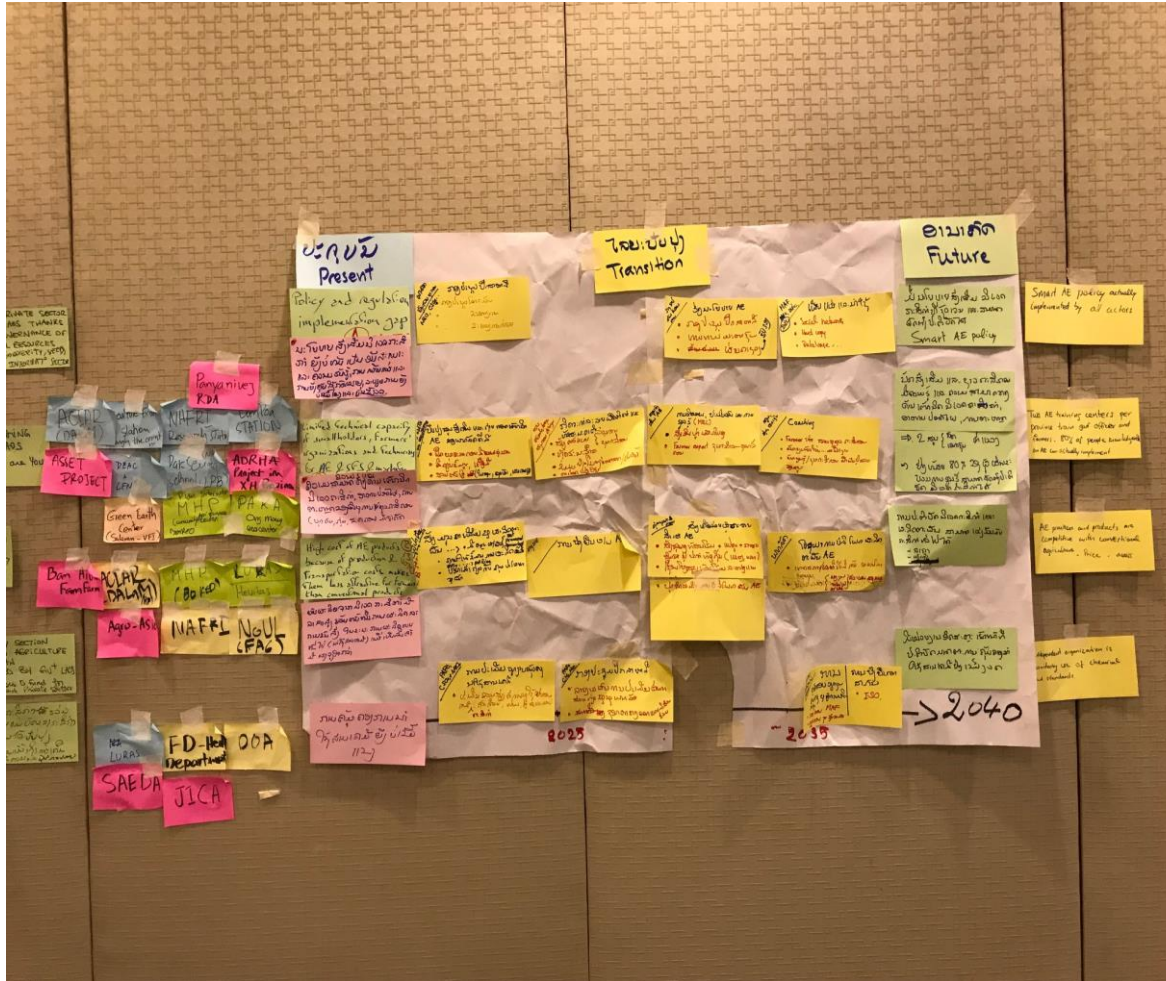


Figure 3. Future pathway to Agroecology and Safe Food Systems in Laos (Group 2)

Present	Transition	Future in 2040	Stakeholders
Increase agroecology tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Promotion of AE by media and advertisements, influencers</li> <li>● Policy support of AE tourism and national cultures (e.g. homestay)</li> <li>● Selection of plans and products of interest for AE (e.g. coffee, tea)</li> <li>● Training to hospitality and tourism service for entrepreneurs and farmers</li> <li>● Promotion and extension of AE techniques and products</li> </ul>	20% of smallholder farmers get 40% additional income from agroecology tourism	Panyanivet farms, TE TRACKYS Association Pha Tad Kae (LPB), AiOun farm (LPB), Phachalearn farm (VTE), PLAN international, Napiem + Namkad yorla pa, Green discovery
Increasing trend of AE/SF products due to increase middle class, food safety knowledge and health problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nutrition extension / promotion in rural areas</li> <li>● Promotion of safe products, practices and consumption</li> <li>● Consumer interesting in AE product increases the price of AE products</li> <li>● An increase of AE product prices leads to an expansion of AE area.</li> <li>● Training centre on AE practice</li> <li>● Experience exchange from working on AE farmers</li> <li>● Certificate inspection and monitoring system on AE food safety</li> <li>● Improve the marketing channel and increase the market place shops/online/market for AE products</li> <li>● Promotion of local products to consumers</li> </ul>	More than 50% of consumer can access safe food ( both in rural and urban areas)	IG project, AVSF, ENUFF (SNV), WFP, SUN Network, NUNIF (MHP, Helvetas, CAMKID), Nutrition / school lunch (CODA), NJA / CANTEEN (MCNY)



<p>The government design &amp; policy to support intensive agriculture (standards of commercial agriculture)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Exists government quota + standard (Gvt-Gvt contract)</li><li>● Exist international standard labs and certification systems</li><li>● Product for food security and reduce imports</li><li>● Apply smart tool, mechanisation to reduce labour demand</li><li>● Extension of local agriculture inputs (seeds, fertiliser)</li><li>● Storages facilities for food AE products -extend storage period</li><li>● Transportation system is well developed</li></ul>	<p>More than 50% of commercial agricultural products meet safe food standards (e.g. GAP)</p>	<p>ACIAR (DALAM) in Houaphan, LFN, GREEN CUP project (tea + coffee), CFAVC (ADB), CLEAN project, LACP (WB), Rural agriculture economic in Bokeo (MHP), Agriculture land use planning knowledge hub and training unit (GIZ), Mekong tea project</p>
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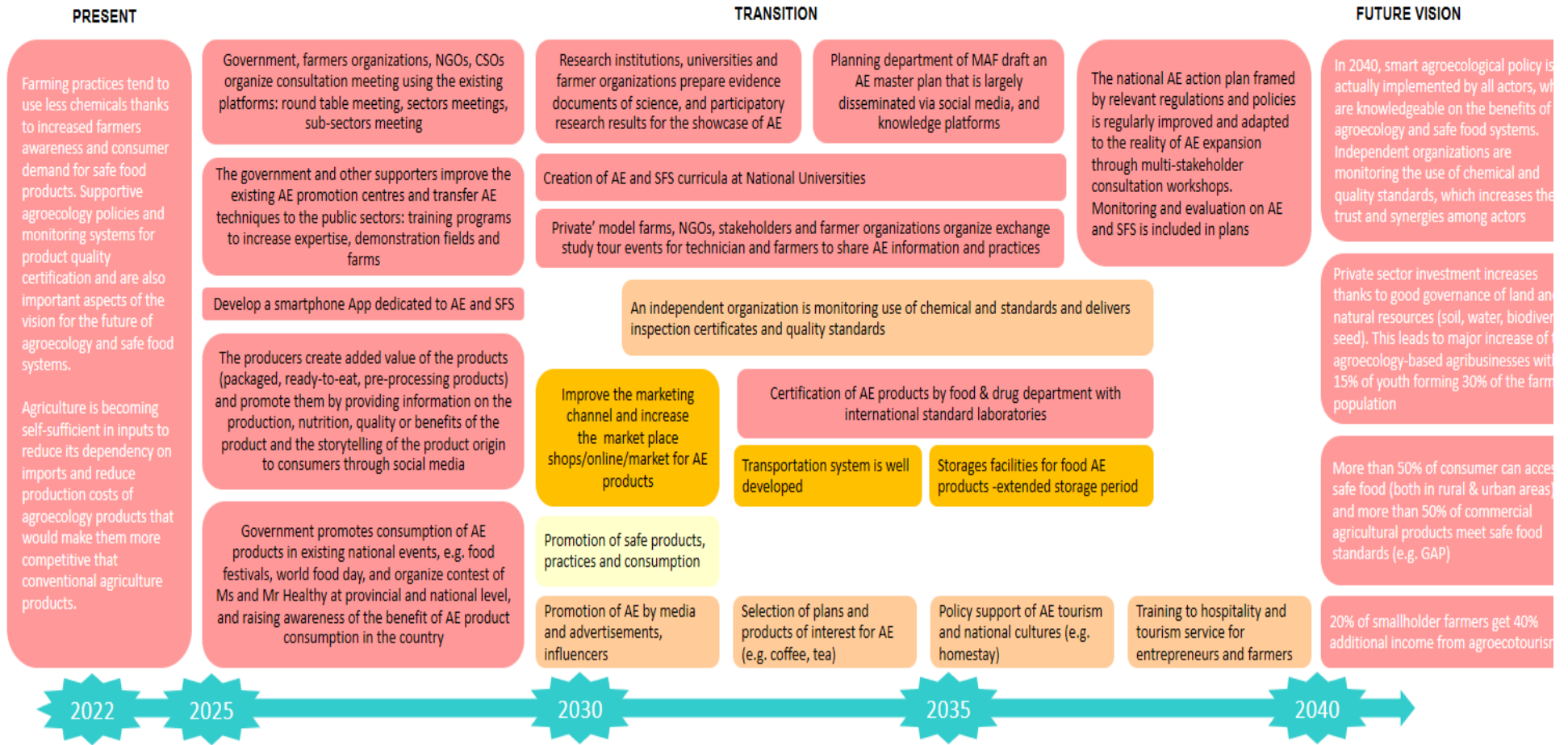


Figure 5. Summary of the national Theory of Change for Agroecology and Safe Food Systems in Laos



## 7. Conclusions

Following the two days of workshop, the facilitation team met on 20 October to develop a roadmap for ALiSEA network and ASSET project based on the results of the two previous days.

### ASSET Roadmap

Three topics out of the eleven discussed during the workshop will not be included in the ASSET roadmap at national level because of the lack of expertise, resources available or because of many existing stakeholders already engaged on the issue: 1/ agroecotourism development , 2/ standards of commercial agriculture and 3/ attractive investment for private sector.

In addition, the team decided to merge and combine topics that were similar:

- ‘Policy and regulation implementation gap’ was combined with ‘Government law supporting the creation of farmers cooperatives and unions’
- ‘Limited technical capacity of smallholders, farmer organisations, technicians for AE, SF and marketing’ was combined with ‘Increasing knowledge from national and international exchanges’.

Regarding **policies specific to agroecology** there is a need to prioritise those that will be addressed by the ASSET project among the 13 policies of interest to DoPC. One policy that came out from our discussion with CSO is related to **access of youth entrepreneurs to subsidised credit** to set up AE farming business. A knowledge gap was identified between national regulations and implementation by local authorities (districts). National policy doesn’t percolate to local levels. For example, the national regulation stipulates a 6% interest rate per year, but local banks implement 10% interest rate per year. This topic could be investigated by the policy team of the ASSET project from the flagship site to national level. In addition, we identified a need to document and assess **pesticides usage and related policies**. ASSET support to sub-sector working group meetings could engage into a pesticide usage policy consultation in relation with Agroecology national campaigns (impacts on food safety, soil quality, etc.).

**Capacity building** on Agroecology for farmers and extension officers (technical training, maintenance of the training centres) and set up **consumers’ awareness campaigns**.

Bring Agroecology stories from different provinces to combine with stories from CSOs and government agencies to develop a common understanding about the **situation and perspectives of agroecology in Laos**. Produce a document that captures the situation from 2022 to 2025, taking stock of 10 years of Agroecology work in Laos (one first volume published in 2018 by ALiSEA Network), consultation meeting to share the results with key actors engaged on Agroecology. Journalists and artists may help us to capture the lessons learned and bring them to a large public.

Developing **networking activities at national level** between government agencies, research community and CSOs, through the sub-sector working on agriculture addressing policy makers, students and multi-stakeholder platforms at national and regional (Mekong) levels. Journalists and artists may help us to capture the lessons learned and bring them to a large public.





## ALiSEA Roadmap

ALiSEA should document and capitalise on the experience of ALiSEA members, present case studies, stories from ALiSEA members combined with more systematic research studies.

Support to youths getting scholarships and coming back with inspiration and ideas to start an Agroecological business farm. The network should respond to the demand and need of the youths and avoid proposing structures or activities designed for them but not by them. Organise a consultation meeting with youths and provide support.

Results of the national ToC should be shared and disseminated to ALiSEA members to use and adapt their own strategy and develop proposals for larger projects or ASSET small grants. ALiSEA Small Grant Facility should take into account the results of the ToC for the next call for proposals.

Finally, the National Theory of Change provides a clear vision of what we are going to do in the coming years. We prioritised actions, identified stakeholders and initiatives that we could synergise project activities with and strengthen linkages with ALiSEA.

## 8. Annexes

### *Annexe 1. Workshop participants*

N°	Name of participants	Position	Organization
1	Ms. Daosouksanh Keovongsa	Technical	DoPC
2	Mr. Thidsadee Chounlamouny	Technical	DALaM
3	Ms. Manivanh Aliyavong	Small grant manager	GRET
4	Ms. Vansy Senyavong	Director	MHP
5	Mr. Samphanh Lathsakid	Web Content Manager	GRET
6	Ms. Lampheuy Kaensombath	Consultant	GRET
7	Mr. Sayvisene Baulom	Lecturer	NUoL
8	Mr. J-Christophe Castella	Researcher	IRD
9	Ms. Lucie Reynaud	Project manager	GRET
10	Ms. Marie Christine Lebret	Project manager	GRET
11	Ms. Sadmany Phomphakdee	Technical	NAFRI
12	Ms. Phonevilay Sihavong	Deputy Director	NAFRI
13	Mr. Vinaithong Nakavong	Technical	NAFRI
14	Ms. Daosavanh Bounphanoosay	Technical	NAFRI
15	Mr. Chansamoud Vongphone	Staff	PAKA
16	Ms. Vornthalom Chanthavong	C.P.M	FAO - TAPAI
17	Mr. Khamla Sibounheuang	Coordinator	FAPPL-XKH
18	Mr. Khamboua Keovilay	Officer	XKH PAFO
19	Mr. Kouherr Waxeng	Officer	FDD
20	Mr. Somlid Phengmeuangkham	Officer	FFS
21	Mr. Sengsouli Kommameuang	Technical	PSO, SCAT
22	Mr. Ang Herchuechang	Forester	BNDA
23	Ms. Bounma Phengphachanh		NAFRI



24	Mr. Fue Yang	Lecturer	NUoL
25	Mr. Michael Bruckert	Researcher	CIRAD
26	Ms. Sophie Lejeune	Technical	GRET
27	Ms. Vilakone Sayyavong	Finance	RDA
28	Mr. Mark Dubois	Country representative	IWMI
29	Mr. Anouthikone Sipaserd	Owner	BanAiOun Farm
30	Ms. Khammone Louanglath	President	Thongmang Cooperative
31	Mr. Thavixay Sonlin	Coordinator	GCA
32	Ms. Thoumma		Thongmang Cooperative
33	Ms. Chintanaphone Keovichith	K.M officer	CLICK
34	Ms. Anouthida Keodouangdy	Lecturer	NUoL
35	Mr. Albrecht Ehrensperger	Researcher	CDE
36	Mr. Sunti Xayyasith	Lecturer	NUoL
37	Mr. Chantha Ouanthavongsy	Director	CASE
38	Mr. Visith Saiyasensouk	Staff	SAEDA
39	Mr. Somsamay Vongthilath	Deputy Director	DoPC
40	Mr. Stephane Gueneau	Researcher	CIRAD
41	Mr. Phouthasinh Phimmachanh	Director	LFN
42	Mr. Khampha Keomanichanh	Director	CDEA
43	Ms. Sisavanh Vonglorkham	Technical	DoPC
44	Ms. Phoudthaphone Southammavong	Director of division	MOIC, IIC
45	Ms. Khampane Thepphavong	Staff	ADSA
46	Mr. Sisavath Kertkong	ຫົວໜ້າກອງເລຂາ	MAF
47	Mr. That vilaysak	Coordinator	APL+
48	Mr. Chanhthaxay Senelath	Technical	FFS
49	Mr. Khamphao Thongchanh	Coordinator	Agrisud
50	Ms. Onchanh Thammavong	Assistant	ARMI
51	Ms. Phouvieng Khounpaserd	Project officer	LBA
52	Ms. Souphaphim Xamouty	Technical	ສຸພາກ
53	Ms. Andy Souvanphakdy	Assistant	Pha Khao Lao
54	Mr. Anousone Inthavong	Por-assistant	VFI
55	Ms. Somchai Chanthavone	Technical	XKH PAFO
56	Mr. Mongkod Keodouangdy	Technical	DLF
57	Ms. Phonepaseuth Phaphoungun	Coordinator	LFN
58	Mr. Phouthone Thammavong	Coordinator	DALaM
59	Mr. Sisavath Phimmasone		DALaM