Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions

PHANO
Hội Khoa học Phát triển Nông thôn Việt Nam

ALiSEA
AGROECOLOGY LEARNING ALLIANCE IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

Agroecology in National Action Plan

of Food system transformation by 2030, Vietnam

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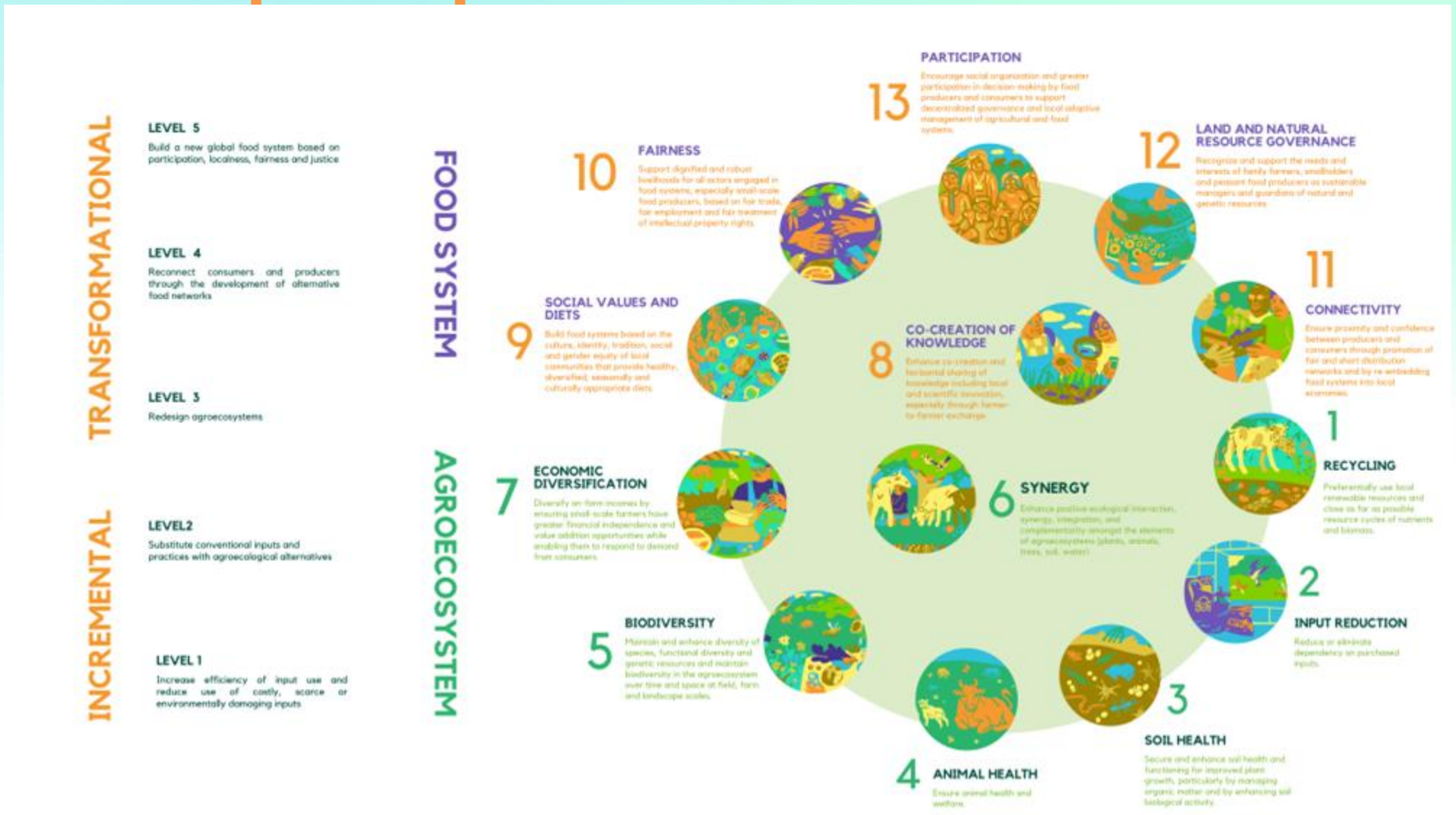
Agroecology as a Strategic Approach of Vietnam's Agriculture

- 13th National Communist Party Congress Documents (Jan 2021) and Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development 2021–2030, Vision 2050 (2021), Biodiversity Strategy 2030 (2022)
- **National Action Plan for Transforming a Transparent, Responsible, and Sustainable Food System to 2030 (March 2023)**
- Decree 109 (2018) and guidance on Organic Agriculture
- National project on production and use of biopesticides to 2030, vision 2050 (Dec 2023)
- National project on Integrated Plant Health Management (IPHM) to 2030 (Dec 2023) and One Health Partnership
- National project on science, application, and technology transfer to promote Circular Economy in agriculture to 2030 (June 2024)
- National project on Soil health and crop nutrition to 2030, vision 2050 (Oct 2024), upgrading to Draft of Soil Health strategy by 2030 (Sep 2025)
- National project on Crop production reducing GHG emission period 2025-2035 (Sep 2025)
- Integration AE into National Targeted Program in New Rural Development-Poverty reduction and Extension Strategy by 2035 (2025)

Approach of Agroecology transition:

13 principles and 5 levels



National Action Plan on FST (Decree 300/QĐ-TTg ngày 28 March 2023)

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATIONS

Task 1

Review, assess, and refine mechanisms, policies, procedures, standards and technical regulations for production, processing, and consumption toward transparency, responsibility, and ...lity.

Task 2

Develop input supply systems for agriculture aligned with transparency, responsibility, and sustainability.

Task 3

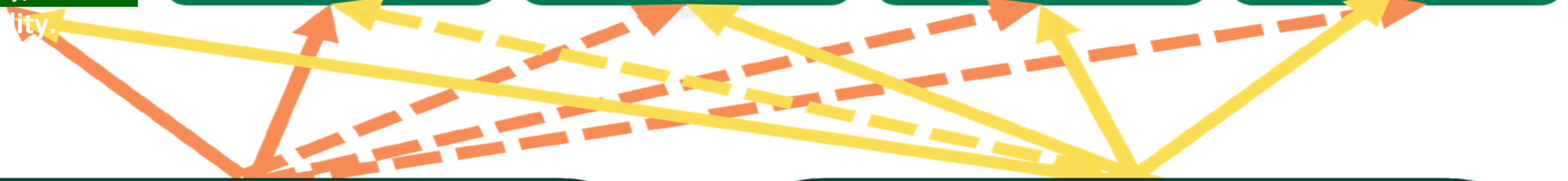
Develop agricultural production toward transparency, responsibility, and sustainability through Agroecology.

Task 4

Develop food processing and distribution systems toward transparency, responsibility, and sustainability.

Task 5

Promote responsible and sustainable food consumption practices.



AGROECOLOGY

HEALTHY DIETS

FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION PARTNERSHIP (NAP FST)

Chair: MAE Minister + International partners

MOH

MOIT

MAE
(Standing)

Other ministries and agencies;

International organizations; provinces; others

National Action Plan for for transformation to a transparent, responsible and sustainable food system

Task 1: Review, evaluate and improve relevant mechanisms, policies, processes, standards and regulations on food production, processing and consumption in a transparent, responsible and sustainable manner

Task 2:
Develop input supply systems for agricultural production towards transparency, responsibility and sustainability

Task 3:
Develop agricultural production towards transparency, responsibility and sustainability

Task 4:
Develop food processing and distribution systems towards transparency, responsibility and sustainability

Task 5:
Promote food consumption practices towards transparency, responsibility and sustainability

Working Group members in NAP FST

Governance

- Representative of MAE as Chairman of the Working Group, and representatives of MOH, MOIT as core members, as well as representatives of other line ministries depending on their interest and commitment; ISPAE
- Representatives of the provincial People's Committees;
- International development partners, United Nations organizations, non-governmental organizations;
- Enterprises, farmers' union, socio-political organizations, unions, associations;
- Research institutes, universities, experts, media.

Agroecology

Coordinating and co-chairing:
ICD, DRDC (MAE); French team/CIRAD Vietnam, …

Participating:
Department of Crop Production; Department of Livestock; AgroTrade; PSAV, VAAS, CIAT, MALICA research group, **ALiSEA** Southeast Asian Agricultural Science Network,
Association of Organic Agriculture, Cooperative Alliance, Enterprises, Farmers' Association, Women's Association,

Food Loss and Waste

Coordinating and co-chairing:
ICD (MAE), Import-Export Department, Domestic Market Department (MOIT); Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Climate Change (MAE); FAO Vietnam

Participating:
Department of Crop Production; Department of Livestock Production; PSAV, VAAS, Institute of Agricultural Environment, VIAEP;
UNIDO, UNDP, WHO, CIAT,
Bioversity & CIAT Alliance, Organic Agriculture Association, Cooperative Alliance

Nutrition and Local Food Diversification

Coordinating and co-chairing:
ICD (MAE), MOH, UNDP

Participating:
Department of Crop Production; Department of Livestock Production; Department of Environmental Pollution Control, National Coordination Office for NRD, PSAV, Organizations the SUN, UNDP, FAO, WHO, UNICEF CIAT; VAAS
NIN, Institute of Agricultural Environment,
Farmers Association, Women's Union, Organic Agriculture Association, Cooperative Alliance,

Distribution and Responsible Consumption

Coordinating and co-chairing:
Domestic Market Department (MOIT) NIN (MOH), ICD (MAE)

Participating:
Bioversity & CIAT Alliance
Industry Associations, Consumer Association
Research institutes and universities, VAAS, ISPAE

Tasks assignment of Decision 300 for AE TWG

1. Mechanisms, policies and standards	1.3. Update and develop standards, technical regulations, production instructions, procedures for quality management and traceability for agroecology and low-emission agricultural products.	Agroecology TWG
2. Input supply system	2.1 Innovate the modes of management, use and trade of agroecological materials towards professional agricultural production 2.2 Develop and organize instructions on the production and use of organic fertilizers; instructions on the use of biological pesticides. 2.3 Research, transfer and apply varieties with high productivity, quality, nutrition and climate resilience; technical and mechanized measures suitable for agroecology. 2.4 Develop models for efficient use of land, water, and plant and animal genetic resources; maintain and promote indigenous knowledge 2.6 Build disease-free areas/facilities for livestock and poultry serving domestic consumption and export	Agroecology TWG
3. Agricultural production development	3.1; 3.2; 3.3; 3.4; 3.5; 3.6; 3.8; 3.9	Agroecology TWG
4. Processing and distribution system	4.2. Enhance the capacity of testing, consulting, inspection, and certification organizations in food quality and safety in line with the socialization approach.	Agroecology TWG
5. Food consumption	5.1. Food balance sheet 5.2. Develop a database on food quality, safety, and traceability	Agroecology TWG

FST activities need to be reviewed and adjusted by AE TWG

3.1. Management of agricultural production data and the origin of agricultural products: 3.1.1; 3.1.2; 3.1.3

3.2. Digitization of information on weather, climate, natural disasters, diseases, and markets;

3.3. Technical protocols and standards for agroecological (organic, circular, low-emission, etc.); linking with agroecology-tourism

3.4. Management of enterprises, cooperatives, and farmers' organizations by digital tools

3.5. Control precision agriculture, monitor greenhouse gas emissions: 3.5.1; 3.5.2; 3.5.3

3.6. Enhance awareness and capacity of producers and businesses according to safety and nutritional standards, reducing losses

3.8. Inter-sectoral coordination for 'One Health' (human, animal, plant, environment);

3.9. Risk governance related to economic, social, and environmental factors; improving agricultural insurance policies.

Agroecology practices exhibit considerable diversity across local contexts

According to the ALiSEA Network (ali-sea.org)

According to AE communities in Vietnam

- Organic/PGS: reduced synthetic inputs, biological IPM, use of composts, participatory certification, and diversification.
- Regenerative & Conservation Agriculture: rebuild soil fertility (cover crops, mulching, rotations), minimum tillage, and shade trees.
- Agroforestry & Integrated Systems: long-term crop–tree intercropping; VAC, rice–shrimp, mangrove–shrimp; circular nutrient flows.
- CSA/NbS & Permaculture: water-saving management, climate-tolerant varieties, landscape design; learning/tourism uses in peri-urban farms.
- Circular Agriculture & Ecological Livestock: biogas/composting, insect bioconversion (BSF), by-product recycling, rotational grazing.
- VietGAP, Natural Farming

Constraints in the Upscaling of Agroecology in Vietnam

- Agroecological production models remain small-scale and fragmented, lack of scalable methods at the territorial level.

- Inadequate extension materials & Lack of specific guidelines in agroecology practices tailored to regional characteristics based on agroecological principles.

- Lack of mechanisms and methods for inter-sectoral coordination at the local level for agroecology transition; Absence of statistical and reporting criteria for agroecology at the local level and Insufficient information and tools to support agroecology management (e.g., natural resource databases, digital maps).

- Lack of appropriated green finance resources

- Limited governmental investment in research on agroecology solutions.

- Absence of standards for agroecological products and certification methods suitable for the diversity of agroecology, MRV and Traceability services

- Limited communication about agroecology transition to the public and consumers.

Lessons learnt from ASSET for AE upscaling: multi-level interventions

- Participatory theory of change for AE transition at provincial level
- Research and training for innovative AE practices for farmer level
- Provincial policy dialogues
- At national level: intergration of AE into National action plan of Food system transformation
- At regional level: ASEAN guideline for AE transition policy
- Building knowlegde hub and Networking for AE learning (ALISEA): connecting scientific knowledge and local knowledges

Technical supports for planning of NAP FS in provinces of Sơn La và Đồng tháp (2024-2025):

CIAT/VAAS/ISPAE/NIN

Establishing FS Intersectoral technical group at province level

Kick-off • 06/2024

Training on FS • 9/2024

Building provincial FS Profile • 10-11/2024

- Identifying Indicator set for FS
- Identifying the role of Lines Agencies in PAP
- Collecting information of policies, program and project realizing in the provinces

Done

2024

Prioritizing of FS activities & resources • 11/2024

Experiences sharing among partners

Building PAP FS (Plan 161) • 1-7/2025

2025

Resource indentification for realizing Plan 161 (VAAS) • 8-12/2025

Meeting between VAAS and provinces 10/2025

MEL (ISPAE) • 10-12/2025

On-going

Selected Constraints in Mobilizing Domestic Resources:

Opportunities for Innovation

1. National Program integration: Integration of National Target Programs (e.g., Poverty Reduction, New Rural Development, Socio-economic dev of ethnic…) and Agri-Extension Strategy are underway.
2. Interdisciplinary planning challenges: Provinces and cities struggle to plan food-system (FS) and agroecology (AE) transitions due to their cross-sectoral nature.
3. Global agendas underutilized: Climate finance and mechanisms for biodiversity conservation have not been effectively mobilized for agroecology.
4. PPP hurdles: Public–private partnership (PPP) mechanisms for agroecology remain difficult to operationalize.
5. Limited green finance tools: Green credit and agricultural insurance are not yet widespread.
6. Value chains & markets: Value-chain development and market access for agroecological products remain constrained.
7. R&D investment: Investment in R&D for agroecology - to mobilize knowledge resources - remains limited.

Proposed Resource Mobilization Package:

From Policy to Field, From Farm to Market

1

Integrate resources from National Target Programs at the local level through Action Plans (NAP) for food-system transition (SFS). Each province establishes 3–5 “landscapes” to pilot integrated intervention packages grounded in the 13 agroecology (AE) principles.

2

Localities develop an Investment Guides and structure their food systems around ecosystem-/product-based priority investment packages.

3

Strengthen agroecology extension capacity: Implement a training-of-trainers (ToT) model for commune-level community extension; establish regional soil laboratories; deploy simple MRV indicators at the household/cooperative level to reduce measurement costs.

4

Promoting green credit and insurance in line with agroecology principles and pilot results-based financing (RBF).

5

Market development linked to consumers and tourism.

- Build regional branding and digital traceability anchored in landscape and nutrition identity.
- Develop retail/culinary/tourism channels.
- Expand near-origin pre-processing, the cold chain, and packaging.
- Deploy digital commerce platforms with integrated payments and traceability.

Disseminating Agroecology Knowledge to the Community:

Agroecology Networks in Southeast Asia (ALiSEA)

- ALiSEA is a regional platform established under the ASTAE project (2015-2019) meeting the demand for knowledge exchange and sharing experiences in the fi Agroecology in Southeast Asia.
- The alliance promotes a broad understanding of agroecology concepts, and its members affirm their commitment to a holistic approach when considering the entire process of agroecological transition.
- With ALiSEA, stakeholders can engage and learn from one another about the agroecological transition process and contribute to enhancing the vision of agroecology at national and regior levels through the increasing support of media and various communication channels.
- ALiSEA includes a diverse range of stakeholders (CSOs and NGOs, farmers' organizations, research and academia, private sector, and government…) and focuses on a broad geographic scope (Mekong region).
- **By 2025**, it has brought together more than **210 members (64 organzations from Vietnam)** from different platforms and approaches to Agroecology.
- For more information about the ALiSEA network, visit their website at:
- https://ali-sea.org/

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Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions in Southeast Asia (ASSET)

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Chuyển đổi Nông nghiệp sinh thái và Hệ thống Thực phẩm An toàn

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