Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions

ALiSEA

# LESSONS LEARNT FROM SMALL GRANT ACTIVITIES, KEY RESULTS AND SOME REFLECTIONS

## ALiSEA Small Grants

National General Assembly

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A project funded by

In partnership with

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
Liberté
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Co-funded by the European Union

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# ALiSEA Small Grants: Overall Objective

Strengthen **ALiSEA members and partners** on three major topics to support Agroecology Transition in the Sub-Mekong Region.


# Small Grants: Key Figures in Vietnam

**Diversity of selection committee members :** DPA, UNI4COOP, Action Aid , CIRAD, GRET, CARES, CASRAD, SAEDA, CISDOMA, IRD, NOMAFSI and Scientific Secretariat of the Advisory Committee.

**16** **Projects proposals** received in Vietnam

**5** **Grants awarded** Team leaders of consortium : 3 Research institutes, 2 NGOs.

**1 Small grant Guidelines developed**

**18** **Knowledge Products created (expected 10 in total, 2/grantee)**

**146 ha**

**3994 people**

**2278 women**

Budget: €15–20k per grant; €96k total Vietnam

Sources of funding : ASSET project (AFD/EU)

# 5 Grants awarded in 2022-2023

## Call 2022: 3 grants

Eco-weed control: a participatory experiment on PGS and organic vegetable farms.

Strengthening community capacity in monitoring pesticides use and promoting Agroecology- for a Non-Toxic Environment.

Supporting the transition towards more diversified farming system by developing experimental cultivation of native medicinal herbs and edible vegetables on upland farming areas.

## Call 2023: 2 grants

Thai Viet Coffee cooperative

Coffee Waste Solutions: Integrating Sustainable Models for Wastewater and By-Product Management into Local Environmental Policy.

Expanding Market for Regenerative Vegetables through Improved Production and Distribution.

# Small Grant Sharing results: CGFED

## *Achievements and Results*

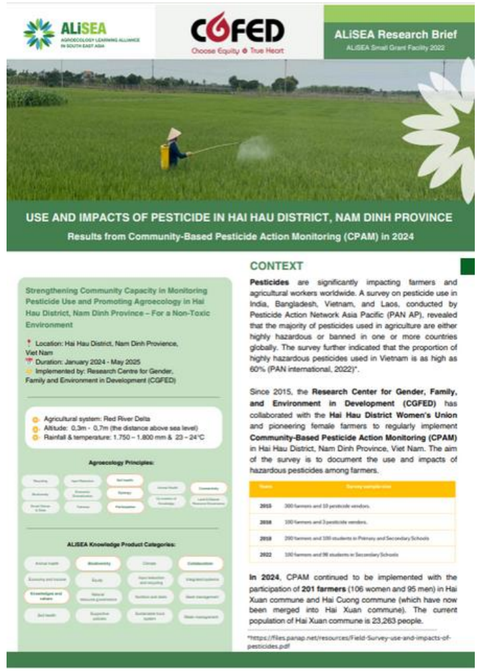
- Trained rural female farmers and leaders in **CPAM tool and biodiversity monitoring**, raising awareness among the community and stakeholders in **monitoring pesticide use;** implement communication campaigns and advocate for environmental and health protection to promote agroecology.
- **Practicing ecological agriculture** in 5 household models

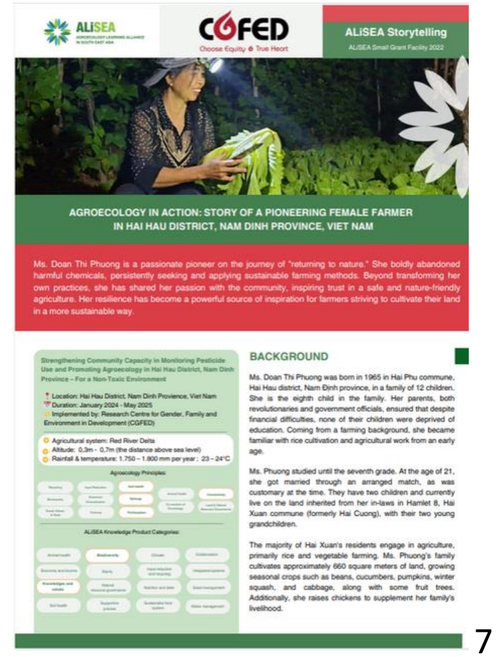
- Total Beneficiaries: **3278 people** (students, teachers, farmers, local authorities) included **2000 women.**

- Knowledge Management: **1 report** and **1 research brief** on the use & impact of pesticides, **1 story-telling** on a pioneering female farmer and **2 videos** on best practice and storytelling of **a pioneering female farmer.**

**Challenge:** Small scale and model

**Lessons learned:** Mobilize community and stakeholder participation to achieve success, with particular emphasis on **the key role of women farmers.**

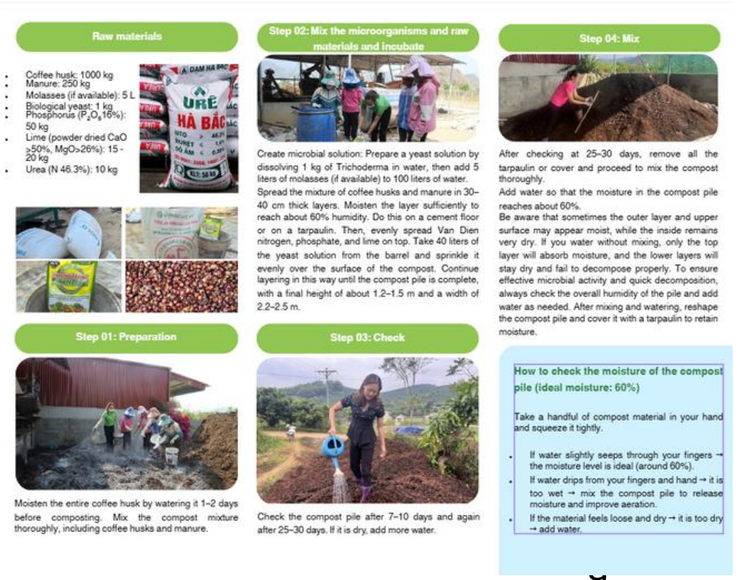


# Small Grant Sharing results: NOMAFSI

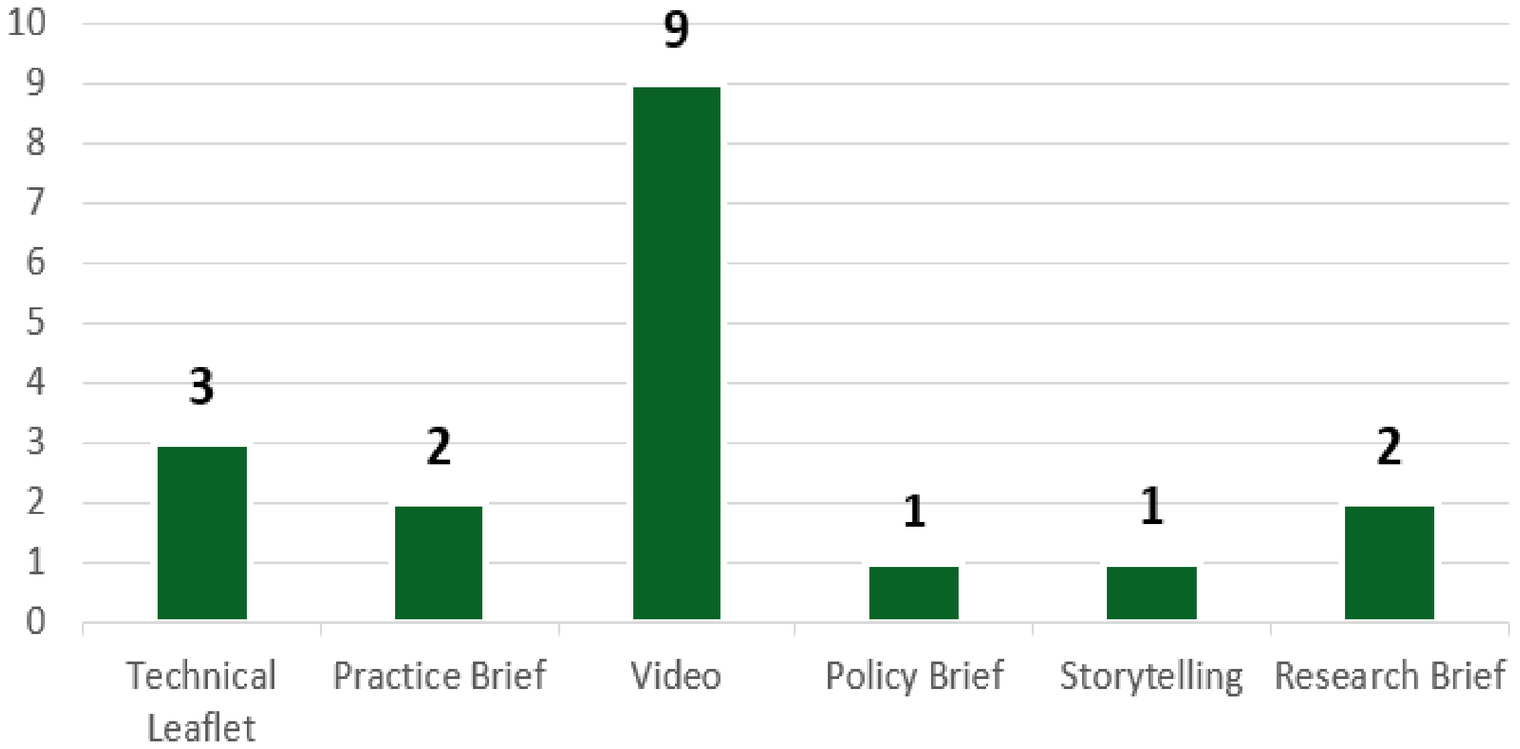
## *Achievements and Results*

- Piloted wastewater by-product treatment models in coffee processing, proving technical feasibility, environmental benefits, and potential for reuse in agriculture.
- Total Beneficiaries: **175 farmers** included **72 women**
- Knowledge Management: **2 technical briefs** (1 on processing coffee husk & 1 on treating wastewater from coffee cherry) **2 videos** and **1 policy brief** are under development.

# Overview of all Knowledge Products per format

**Total : 18**



# Lesson learned

- **RECURRENT QUESTION** : grants budget versus number of members  benefiting

- **Why small grants are important?**
  a. Engaging further youths groups to continue Agriculture (knowledge, skills, and scaled)
  b. Agro-Ecosystems Resiliency (against highly vulnerable Climatic impacts) as lately visible in the Northern & Central regions due to storms and floods;
  c. Agro-Ecosystems and services (transitioning from farms to landscapes) still insufficient pilots and not-yet assessed and performed at-scaled.
  d. Supporting Extension Services, Farmers Unions and Producers Cooperatives, Entrepreneurs, private sectors whilst strengthening these partnerships and with the new administration and authorities on AE (given their knowledge gaps).

# Lesson learned

- **How to increase skills for more national organizations** (given they are limited in experiences and English) ?
  - Providing direct supports to proposals writing, support skills in project implementations and monitoring,
  - Translate guidelines and templates in national languages;
  - Increase supports to Human Resources (better equipped-skills to M&E Agroecological practices and tracking areas for Database/Knowledge Management);

- **Discrepancy** between procedures requirements and grant size budget

# Conclusion

**Small Grants Facility is a very useful mechanism to**

1. Provide **direct fundings to local organizations** and a variety of actors to test innovations and expanding AE transitioning programs

1. Engage members to **document their practical work & results** & lessons learned to generate **knowledge-by-practice, using these field-evidences for better inform public policies;**

1. **Foster partnership** between ALiSEA & non members to interact, mutual learning and outreaching transitioning practices, lessons and beneficiaries;

# PERSPECTIVES

- Seeking for funding to launch new calls in 2026 – 2027
- Collaboration with Agroecology Fund : Nomination Process for submitting a Small Grant Proposal to AE Fund

AGROECOLOGY FUND

- ALiSEA network is **eligible to nominate members organizations**
- **Members Organizations allowed to submit a full proposal directly to AEF**.
- **Final funding decisions are made solely by the AEF**, without any involvement from the ALiSEA team.

Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions

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# THANK YOU !

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

វិវឌ្ឍនាការកសិអេកូឡូស៊ី និងប្រព័ន្ធស្បៀងអាហារសុវត្ថិភាព

ການປັບປຸງລະບົບນິເວດກະສິກຳ ແລະ ຄວາມປອດໄພຂອງ ອາຫານ

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

Funded by: AFD, Co-funded by the European Union, Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial

# Current Organizational Challenges for the Small Grant Facility program in Vietnam

| Submission & Implementation | Monitoring & Support | Finance & Admin Management | External Factors |
|---|---|---|---|
| ○Grantees faced gaps in project management and implementation, due to a disconnection between proposal writers and implementing teams; | ○Reliance on online monitoring with limited field visits; | ○Delays in obtaining local permits (above 1 year) | ○Delays were mainly caused by seasonal disruptions, natural disasters, grantee illnesses, and simultaneous management of multiple grants. |