



Agroecology and
Safe Food System
Transitions



ALiSEA National General Assembly

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Policy Dialogue Main Achievements

18/11/2025 in VTE, Lao PDR

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ALiSEA FUTURE VISION FOR AGROECOLOGY IN LAO PDR BY 2040

#	3 priority Pathways of ALiSEA Lao by 2040
Pathway N1	<p><i>Support Young Farmers. Increase Knowledge from national & international exchanges.</i></p> <p><i>To support and empower young farmers in agroecology transition for better livelihoods.</i></p>
Pathway N2	<p>Limited technical capacity of FOs, technicians on AE, SF and increasing trend of AE/SF products due to health and safety concerns.</p> <p>To improve and foster technical knowledge sharing, to document experience and to build capacities of smallholder farmers, farmer organizations and technicians on agroecology production and market access</p>
Pathway N3	<p><i>Limited management of agricultural chemical use</i></p> <p><i>To support reduction of chemical pesticides uses in the agriculture through diversification and efficiency</i></p>

ALiSEA Key achievements in 2025

ALiSEA Policy Dialogue Workshop on agricultural inputs to promoting agroecology and sustainable production in Lao PDR March 12, 2025 in Vientiane, Lao PDR

- Seed Inputs
- Inputs for organic fertilizers and management the chemicals fertilizers and pesticides
- Inputs for machineries



Prioritized	Key challenges	Recommendations
Seeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of capacity on seed development - Lack of national seed producers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity for farmers and support community seed bank - GoL center develop seeds and sufficiency and control quality
Machineries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All export with high cost - Lack of specific policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specific policy for small farmers - Policy development and enforcement
Pesticides/ fertilizers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase use of farmers and private sectors - Weak of control in Local and national (incl. farmers and suppliers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased control and law enforcement effectiveness full value and collaboration of related offices - Stakeholders consulting, research and monitoring
Organic/bio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of promotion and practicing - Lack of capacity of producers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase promote organic fertilizers/bio-insecticides - Increase training for farmers and local extension workers

National Consultation on National Consultation Workshop on the ASEAN Policy Guideline for Agroecology Transition on 7-8 Aug 2025 in VTE, Lao PDR

1. Issues: Introduction ALISEA, ASEAN Agroecology Transition (AET), National Policy on Agroecology and relevant policies of MAE, discussion 7 principles, discussion on youth perspectives and pesticide risks and mapping 07 Guideline on Agroecology in action of ALISEA members

2. Recommendation:

- Capacity building on 7 principles of agroecology to ALISEA members
- Research and strategic planning for enforcement
- Promote youth in agro-ecology farming and market link
- Pesticide risk management
- Integrating agroecological curriculum
- Documenting and disseminate agroecology and success stories from the field
- Networking and sharing among members and multi-stakeholders in national and international
- Local seed development
- Policy recommendation and engagement



Sector	No. of Partici.
NGOs	14
CSOs	13
GoL	8
Privates	3
Farmer groups	3
Universities	2
Donor agencies	2
Total	45 (18 F)

National Consultation Workshop to promote ASEAN Policy Guidelines on Agroecology Transitions in Laos in August 2025

Summary results of priority level points of the discussion by group

7 Prioritized leverage points	FGD 1	FGD 2	FGD 3	Total
1. Planning for agroecology transition)	1	1	1	3
2. Working with farmers			1	1
3. Promoting transitions across the value chains		1		1
4. Multi-stakeholder engagement	1		1	2
5. Building capacity				
6. A research agenda a for agroecology transition				
7. Financing agroecology transition	1	1		2

National Consultation Workshop to promote ASEAN Policy Guidelines on Agroecology Transitions in Laos in August 2025

Prioritized	Key challenges for AET	Recommendations
1.Planning for agroecology transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth labor and farmers - Natural disasters due to climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create awareness raising for young labor and CSA - Need a clear AE and CC policy framework national and locality
2.Working with farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farmers could not access AE information and markets - Farmers expect long-term benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need more capacity building on AE for a village level - Create a channel to a market access
3.Promoting transitions across the value chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited integration of research and development with extension networks - No clear action plans and enabling supports along the value chain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish evidence-based platforms to promote AE - Develop concrete action plans for AE (clear detailed plans)
4.Multi-stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not enough dissemination of information about each country's programs - Not enough effective collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create more joint activities among ASEAN member states - Improve and enable the coordination and collaboration of stakeholders
7.Financing agroecology transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget allocation - The engagement of farmers due to the short-term nature of the benefits AE offers since farmers often prioritize immediate returns over sustainable practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocate donor agencies to more invest on AE - Implementing a specialized financial program to facilitate access to funding for AE enterprises.

Policy paper on Strengthening Pesticide Regulation and Promoting Agroecology in Laos

The paper proposes 5 actionable recommendations to reduce pesticide-related risks and promote safer agriculture in Laos:

1. Strengthen enforcement and good governance
2. Expand monitoring systems
3. Support agroecology and farmer empowerment
4. Reform contract farming
5. Protect vulnerable, women and children groups



ALISEA
AGROECOLOGY LEARNING ALLIANCE
IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

SAEDA

ALISEA Policy Paper

STRENGTHENING PESTICIDE REGULATION AND PROMOTING AGROECOLOGY IN LAOS
Reducing health and environmental risks through coordinated action

Executive Summary

Extensive research, field studies, and national consultations highlight the increasing risks associated with pesticide use in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), including impacts on human health, biodiversity, and compliance with international standards. While Laos has adopted important regulatory frameworks and international commitments, further efforts can be made to strengthen implementation at all levels.

This policy paper presents five priority measures that together form a practical and achievable roadmap toward safer and more sustainable agriculture. First, compliance can be enhanced by making Lao-language labelling mandatory, updating the banned and restricted pesticide list on an annual basis, improving inter-ministerial coordination, equipping inspection teams, and applying appropriate penalties. Second, a national monitoring system can be gradually developed, combining a Treatment Frequency Index (TFI), GIS-based hotspot mapping, and regular residue testing of food, water, and human samples. Third, agroecology can be further scaled by expanding Farmer Field Schools and IPM-oriented extension, strengthening cooperatives, and providing targeted incentives to reduce chemical inputs. Fourth, contract farming can be improved through binding pesticide clauses in all agreements, the use of standard templates approved by authorities, and regular inspections. Finally, vulnerable groups - particularly women, children, and seasonal workers - can be better protected through awareness campaigns, affordable protective equipment (PPE), integration of pesticide safety into schools and rural health programs, and improved systems for safe storage and disposal at community level.

Together, these measures contribute to stronger enforcement, expanded monitoring, broader support for agroecology, improved contract farming, and better protection of vulnerable groups. By combining regulation, monitoring, education, and investment in sustainable practices, Laos can further reduce health and environmental risks while advancing its commitments under national and international frameworks.

The paper proposes 5 actionable recommendations to reduce pesticide-related risks and promote safer agriculture in Laos:

- Strengthen Enforcement and Governance:** Make Lao-language labelling mandatory⁽¹⁾; update the banned/restricted pesticide list annually in line with WHO/FAO/ASEAN guidance; improve inter-ministerial coordination; train and equip inspectors, including mobile units; and introduce penalties for illegal imports, sales, or mislabelling.
- Expand Monitoring Systems:** Develop a national Treatment Frequency Index (TFI)⁽²⁾ integrated with GIS mapping; regularly test pesticide residues in food, water, and human samples; identify and monitor hotspots in monoculture and contract farming areas; and coordinate data collection across ministries and research institutions.
- Support Agroecology and Farmer Empowerment:** Expand Farmer Field Schools⁽³⁾ and extension services for agroecology and IPM; support cooperatives and producer organizations to strengthen bargaining power and market access; and provide financial incentives for reducing chemical inputs and adopting sustainable alternatives.
- Reform Contract Farming:** Require pesticide management clauses in all CF agreements⁽⁴⁾, with full disclosure of active ingredients, dosages, and safety measures; use a standard contract template approved by local authorities; and ensure regular inspections to verify compliance.
- Protect Vulnerable Groups:** Conduct targeted awareness campaigns on pesticide health risks, focusing on women and children⁽⁵⁾; distribute affordable protective equipment; integrate pesticide safety into school curricula and rural health programs; and improve local systems for safe storage and disposal.

ALiSEA Policy Dialogue Lesson Learned

- **ALiSEA is diversity and multi-stakeholders networks in Laos and regions** (*Vietnam, Cambodia, Thai and Myanmar*)
- **Policy dialogue working and actions** *based on members' interests and requests*
- Platform for sharing and **discussions with members to reinforce legitimacy of AE Transition** (*including IEC tools in soft and hardware*)
- **ALiSEA network built collaboration with government partners** (*e.g. ASSET, national ToC, national policy dialogue, SWG-AE, ASEAN policy guidelines consultation, regional TARASA, LICA, AE-TPP, ESCAP, and others....*)
- **ALiSEA members increased and interested in policy** on AE, seeds, pesticides, food safety, market, certifications, green agriculture, contract farming and others...
- **Documenting policy papers** on pesticides and good experiences from field practicing by ALiSEA and members
- **ALiSEA members increase capacity** from attending, receiving small grant, field learning and sharing in local, national and regional level
- ALiSEA increase known well in **national and regional platform**

Thank you very much!



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