



**Summary of Discussion of
The Second Lao Initiative on Conservation Agriculture
(The 2nd LICA) Meeting 21st March 2018
Vientiane, Lao PDR**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Lao Initiative Conservation Agriculture (the 2nd LICA) Meeting was held on 21st March 2018, at the Mercure Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR. The 2nd LICA Meeting was attended by 4 delegates from 4 ASEAN member states: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam, and domestic senior officials/guest from relevant departments, ministries, and international organizations. The list of delegates appears as [ANNEX 1](#).

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING SESSION

2. The 2nd LICA Meeting was opened by Mr. Oukham Phiathep, Deputy Director Department of Planning and Financial(DDG of DoPF). He conveyed his warm welcome to all participants from ASEAN member states for their presence in the 2nd LICA Meeting. He provided a brief development of the Agriculture Development Strategy setting the framework for a national strategy to 2025 and vision to 2030 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and also emphasized on two formulated priorities: 1) ensuring food security, producing comparative and competitive potential agricultural commodities, developing clean, safe and sustainable agriculture, 2) and shift gradually to the modernization of a resilient and productive agriculture economy. Besides also raised to see the negative ecology impact for over past year from joint process of new lands extension and agricultural intensification such as soil erosion and gradual soil degradation particularly in the upland areas, and also raised up to see the endeavour of Lao government to preserve the ecological environment as well as improve soil property and soil quality, soil erosion control via adopting and introduce a lots of conservation Agriculture techniques like no soil tillage with residue conservation and etc . . . , at the end the co-chair express highly thank and do hope that this meeting will build up a platform for all participants from ASEAN Member Countries to exchange view and experiences on how to overcome of the negative impacts of conventional agricultural practices and after this one day Meeting we will be able to formulate an ASEAN shared position on Agro ecology.

Then just after opening speech, Mr. Bandith Ramangkoun the co-chair from DDG of DALaM took the lead of the meeting by following to meeting agenda.

Please refer to the [ANNEX 2](#) for full text of the Opening Speech.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. The meeting considered and adopted the agenda, which appears as [ANNEX 3](#).

AGENDA ITEM 3: THE 2nd LICA MEETING PURPOSE

The objectives, and expected outcomes of the 2nd LICA meeting were:

The objectives

- 1) To share experience, knowledge of the countries (AMS countries) on CA and AE to formulate their concept note
- 2) To formulate the Action plan for CA and AE implementation and particularly tool and supporting mechanism of each ASEAN member country and AMS country .

The expected outcomes from 2nd LICA meeting were:

- 1) Throughout discussion and commendation of the representative countries in this meeting being the main reference and contribute of determining the ASEAN common position on CA and AE, also the first version of the concept note on CA and AE of ASEAN member stages will be formulated.
- 2) The action plan for LICA work of each country representatives are going to formulate as the first draft and will be the main reference document for further improvement / developing and particularly the implementation tool and mechanism for supporting the LICA work.
- 3) Prepare documents as well as concept note on ASEAN common position on CA and AE, and action plan to present to the 40th special SOM AMAF meeting in Thailand on September 2018.

AGENDA ITEM 4: THE LICA CONCEPT-NOTE

5. To be the guideline and understanding for LICA concept note formulation, the meeting and particularly 4 ASEAN representative countries were presented the format of “the concept note on a ASEAN position on agro ecology” by the CIRAD expert. In addition, the ALiSAE (Agro ecology Learning Alliance in South East Asia) of GRET project had provided the information on online knowledge sharing platform for CA and AE in the Mekong region.

The Full text of the LICA concept note appears as [ANNEX 4](#).

AGENDA ITEM 5: COUNTRY PRESENTATION OF AE COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

6. The meeting note the presentation on the country experience on Agro Ecology. The presentation were emphasized on the movement and development and including its transition situation of CA and AE from the pass up to present. Besides, the advantage, disadvantage point and prospective way of solution were also presented.

7. The Meeting noted the country presentation on “the Agro Ecology transition in Myanmar” which appears as [ANNEX 5](#). The presentation had focused to show the process; development; and scaling up of AE in Myanmar country. The CA and AE working is well performed and development

8. The noted the country presentation of Cambodia made the presentation on “*Conservation Agriculture in Cambodia*” which appears as [ANNEX 6](#). The presentation had focused to 4 main points like: Overview of Agrarian context; CA systems: Principles & benefits; CA cropping systems; and Challenges and opportunities for scaling up CA in Cambodia. In general context, the CA and AE in Cambodia is also well developed particularly the endeavor of all concerned party to resolve the problem deal with impact from pesticide and herbicide by adopting CA and AE techniques practice.

9. The Meeting noted the country presentation of *Vietnam* on “*Current Status of Agro Ecology in Vietnam*”, which appears as [ANNEX 7](#). The presentation had covers 5 importance issue like: Principles of agro ecology; The definition/concept of agro ecology in Vietnam; Main agro-ecological practices in Vietnam; Agro ecology transition in Vietnam; The policy and government support conditions in Vietnam and The present policy and government support conditions in Vietnam.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

(Agenda item 6: Working groups and discussion session)

The working group and discussion session had covered the topics as follow:

1) **Expanding to other countries the pool of AE experiences and experienced practitioners the LICA Lao team has listed for Lao PDR**

Participants have discussed about the relevant ways to expand the *Community of AE experienced practitioners* and the *database on Agroecology best experiences* (see annex 2), that are from now set up only for Lao PDR. Countries representatives may lead sharing information between national stakeholders, either from starting a brief, or a Meeting, or through a task forces, depending on available people and funds. Within the next weeks, the Lao LICA team will facilitate and accompany these countries commitments (see annex 1).

2) **Formulate shared concept note on Common position on agroecology**

The participants have agreed to the scope of the Lao concept note formulating that has been presented, and on the methodology that was used (asking to the country community of experts to make the first proposal). The representatives of ASEAN member state countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam) have agreed to reflect on the ways to add to their own country perspectives into the concept note, according to the way they set their Community of practitioners. The Lao LICA team will facilitate and accompany these countries commitments.

3) **Formulate/make the action plan (see annex 1 below)**

The representatives ASEAN member state countries had also made deeply discuss on the further direction and rule for LICA work implementation as well as action plan formulation. They accorded to set their own action plan and to propose to their respective organization for consideration and approve. The Lao LICA team will facilitate and accompany these countries commitments.

4) **Other discussion and agreement**

(1) Insert the LICA work into the working system of ASEAN

In order to facilitate the convenience for working of the LICA, all of the meeting participants had fully agreed to make a proposal and submit to the SOM-AMAF meeting for considering inserting the LICA work into any existing working group like the working group on Crop. These working groups have regular meetings and it will be more convenient for LICA to be view as a topic of the WG on Crops than to add another heavy meeting process. Moreover, some participants are

members of the ASEAN WG on Crops and can support the LICA initiative into this ASEAN Group, and It will be take time when propose to create new more working group for LICA.

(2) Before introducing the working group for LICA work is that:

- Lao PDR LICA representative contact the ASEAN Working Group on Crop to submit LICA initiative
- Preparing some outputs (see annex 1) that can be presented at the ASEAN Working Group on Crops

(3) Organize some inter-countries exchanges to share countries experiences in each level like:

- Between provinces who implement comprehensive support to AE transition
- Between educational institutions who implement innovative training course and schemes
- Between other types of stakeholders

(4) The ALISEA (Agroecology Learning Alliance in South East Asia) of ACTAE project supported by AFD has an activity relate to Online Knowledge Sharing Platform on AE in the Mekong region and well come to encourage and support the information via their Online Knowledge Sharing Platform, to become an online platform on LICA, that could be presented as an output of LICA to ASEAN

(5) Countries representatives have shown a real interest and gave us very useful suggestions. The most important one is that the LICA initiative has to be submitted to the *ASEAN Working Group on Crops*, and propose them to include LICA as one of their topics. First, it will allow LICA to benefit from their regular meetings (four per year!) instead of suffering to organize ASEAN LICA meetings in a separate way. Secondly, it will secure the other countries involvement (and meeting participation) as their representatives regularly come to the WG meetings. So the essential next step is to propose a LICA presentation to the next ASEAN WG on Crops meeting.

(6) That means setting right now strong links with the Lao representatives to this Working Group. That also means launching before late June a deeper involvement and facilitation of Lao institutions, in order to make them support this initiative towards Lao representatives to this Working Group. Lao staff will be in charge on if this facilitation.

**The meeting ended at 17:00 hrs.*

Remarks:

The Leader SOM-AMAF of Lao PDR had agreed and suggested to circulate this meeting report to the ASEAN Member States, and it will be raised the issue in the upcoming AMAF Special SOM meeting scheduled in Thailand sometime in July or August.

In the weeks following the meeting, the Lao LICA team has set an action plan to facilitate and accompany the countries commitments. A member of the Lao team will visit in May the three countries and help them to set a first directory of country experts before end of June, that will be inserted into the on-line LICA data base (see annex 1).

ANNEX 1

(Following action plan)



Lao facilitated ASEAN Initiative on Agroecology (LICA)



Action plan

May 2018 Update

1. Since the *34th ASEAN AMAF Meeting in Vientiane*, on the 27 September 2012, Lao PDR is in charge by ASEAN to coordinate an initiative to develop and disseminate Conservation Agriculture in the ASEAN region, and to make it endorsed by AMS Countries. During the *Special 38th ASEAN SOM AMAF meeting in Singapore, 14-15 August 2017* the scope of LICA is enlarged to all agroecology (AE) approaches. ***The objective of this initiative is now to propose a Common Position in Agroecology for ASEAN.***
2. **In 2017**, Lao PDR has launched, first at its own country level, a bottom-up participatory design of four elements that will feed a regional reflection on an ASEAN common position on agroecology:
 - a) Set up a network of Lao field practitioners about the different AE approaches (a **“LICA practitioners community”**, **on-line available**), then facilitate their knowledge exchanges, ...as a first step of a following regional LICA community of AE experts.
 - b) Facilitate these Lao practitioners to set a first (Lao) **concept-note for an ASEAN Common position on agroecology** (shared understanding of AE, relevant policy mechanisms and tools, key actions and teams to be linked), ...as a first step before following proposals from the other countries “LICA communities”.
 - c) Facilitate these Lao practitioners to identify a **“lead action for LICA”** in Lao PDR that could be followed by a regional LICA community, ...as a first step before other AMS countries’ suggested lead country actions.
 - d) **Link up LICA with the other initiatives in Lao PDR**, included ASEAN initiatives in Lao PDR, that are closed to LICA issue. A scoping study identified these initiatives and their focal points, which will be involved into the next LICA steps. ...as a first step before other AMS countries’ suggested lead country actions.
3. **In 2018**, Lao PDR is starting to expand this facilitation process to three other countries (Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar), with the help of countries LICA focal points:
 - a) A regional meeting was hold on 21st March, who brought together ASEAN secretary, Lao officials, and country LICA focal points from Cambodia, Vietnam, and Myanmar.
 - b) A first directory of Cambodian, Vietnamese, and Myanmar field practitioners (a **regional “LICA community”**) will be set before June 2018.

Funds are sought to achieve this first process into the three countries:

 - c) A scoping study in the three countries, in order to identify, and then involve in the LICA process and practitioner community, the other countries initiatives, included ASEAN initiatives in these countries, that are closed to LICA issues.
 - d) A working meeting in the three countries, in order to design the three countries first concept-notes for an ASEAN Common position on agroecology, and to identify their country “lead action for LICA”, which will afterwards be followed by a regional LICA community (facilitated by Lao PDR).
4. In July 2018, LICA initiative will be proposed to integrate the ASEAN Working Group on Crops and to share LICA inputs (LICA regional community, country concept notes for an ASEAN AE position, monitoring of countries LICA lead actions).
5. **In 2019**, if available funds LAO PDR will facilitate the **regional LICA practitioners community**:
 - a) Cross-countries exchanges on experiences and knowledge supports
 - b) Shared monitoring of countries “LICA lead actions”
 - c) Shared design of a LICA proposal for an ASEAN common position on Agroecology.

ANNEX 2

An on-line database on

- (i) a regional Community of Experienced practitioners
- (ii) a pool of experiences and resources on AE

On-line interface of LICA experts' database

on-line available - Traduction | Experts | ALiSEA :: Agro-ecolo

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ALiSEA Agro-ecology Learning alliance in South East Asia

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