



OPEN call for proposals

ALiSEA Small Grant Facility as part of the ASSET Project

Guidelines for application May 2022

Deadline for submission of full application (including concept note and detailed budget):
Tuesday 21st June 2022

Contact person:

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Supported by



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A - Background

The agricultural sector of Southeast Asian countries is at a transition from intensive agricultural models relying heavily on chemical inputs and capital, and innovative agroecological systems, which are less dependent on agrochemical inputs and rely on a wide range of healthier, environmentally and socially sustainable practices. This includes conservation agriculture, agroforestry and crop diversification, landscape redesign, sustainable of rice intensification, integrated crop-livestock, biological control and protection and tree systems, and organic farming. While maintaining productivity, agroecological practices can help address critical issues related to food and nutrition security, as well as adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts. Furthermore, the emerging food safety standard requirements threaten the most vulnerable food suppliers to access remunerative markets. A variety of value-chain based approaches are building on agroecological practices, which can help make food safety accessible to smallholder farmers. However, they often lack public recognition and need to be scaled up. The main challenge for the research and development community is to support the transition from chemically intensified systems to diversified production models with increasingly diverse connections to export and domestic value-chains, and food systems. The overall objective of the Agroecological and Safe food System Transitions (ASSET1) project is to make food and agricultural systems in the region more sustainable, safer and inclusive, through harnessing the potential of Agroecology to transform them. It is implemented by GRET as the general coordinator, in a strong articulation with CIRAD in charge of the scientific coordination, in partnership with a consortium of 23 International/European/National Institutions and Organizations and 2 United Nations Agencies. The ASSET project is funded by The French Agency for Development (AFD), the European Union (EU) and the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM).

ASSET will develop and promote a shared vision of Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions through a comprehensive approach that includes research, networking, policy advocacy, capacity development, awareness raising and communication using Agroecology Learning Alliance in South East Asia (ALiSEA2) network. The consortium will engage with governments, civil society, private sector and smallholder farmers to generate and transform knowledge into sustainable innovation processes and transformative policies, sensitive to youth and gender equality.

ALiSEA is a regional platform that emerged during the ACTAE³ project and which gathers to date over 150 members from different backgrounds and approaches to Agroecology. It is quite unique by its diversity of stakeholders (CSOs and NGOs, Farmer organizations, Research & Academia, Private Sector, Government...), its broad geographical focus (Greater Mekong Sub-Region), and its attractiveness. ALiSEA network aims to answer the need for a knowledge exchange and to share the wealth of experience from different regions. Through fostering a wide dissemination and understanding of the principles of agroecology, it aims to facilitate their concrete incorporation in the practices of farmers and companies, and in public policy. Its positioning is quite specific as it promotes a broad understanding of agroecology concepts; and members assert their interest in a comprehensive approach considering agroecological transition as a whole. ALiSEA helped to create a safe space for stakeholders to engage and learn from each other in regards to agroecological transition. Furthermore, ALiSEA network contributed to raise the visibility of agroecology at national and regional levels through growing media support and diverse means of communication.

Given the success of the ACTAE Small Grant Facility (SGF) from 2015 to 2019, in fostering new collaborations, ASSET project will be launching two SGF calls for proposals drawing upon ALiSEA priorities (to be fed by a collective Theory of Change development at national and regional scales). This call is the first one and is meant to help mapping initiatives on agroecology and safe food systems transitions within and beyond the ALiSEA alliance. The Small Grant Facility will incentivize and support a variety of

¹ <https://www.asset-project.org/>

² <https://ali-sea.org/>

³ ACTAE, Towards an agroecological transition in South East Asia (2015-2019, founded by AFD)

studies and approaches complementary to the ASSET flagship⁴ action research programs implemented in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, including studies on public policies on agroecology, and on agroecology performances and impact assessments and enabling conditions. Grant selection will involve the ALiSEA boards members, GRET and CIRAD from the ASSET coordination unit and be supported by the Advisory Committee of the ASSET Project.

B - Small Grant Facility: Three topics

The overall objective of this small grant call is to strengthen ALiSEA members and its partners on three major topics in support to agroecology transition in the Sub-Mekong Region.

Topic N°1: Assess the impact and effect of public policy supporting agroecology and food systems at multiple levels.

Public policies are essential drivers to enable changes towards more sustainable agriculture and food systems. While most countries recognize the limits of the productivist approach based on the principles of the green revolution, this is not yet clearly expressed in terms of public policy. Policies remain fragile and insufficiently enforced and implemented to trigger wider agroecological transition at all levels. This proposal may focus on specific assessments to evaluate the impact and effect of specific policies at provincial, and /or national level. The proposal may also undertake comparative analyses of policy implementation and enforcement between different countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region.

Policy dialogue issues related to Agroecology and Food System have become a topic of growing interest among the ALiSEA network in all countries. Late 2021, a first review of ALiSEA members' experience, lessons learned and expectations have been initiated. This process is still in progress. This topic N°1 aims to reinforce ALiSEA members to contribute to national and regional policy dialogue debates.

Topic N°2: Test and support agroecology innovations (technical, social, economic, organizational and institutional).

Multi-stakeholders' research and development processes are a key driving factor in enabling the co-creating of knowledge with farmers at the core and co-developing contextualised solutions. To respond to the critical need to accelerate the transition from conventional agricultural system to diversified and resilient systems based on agroecology principles, the proposal should address the main barriers to the implementation and adoption of agroecology for scaling up. For instance, the proposal may focus on the lack of market access for agroecological produce and the need to move beyond creating niche markets, away from export-oriented, mass retail-driven supply chains and industrially produced food. The proposal may focus on testing and supporting the development of diversified and integrated farming system that is less dependent on the use of external inputs. Another example, the proposal may address the need for innovative crop protection practices that contribute to reduce the use of pesticide.

ALiSEA members are actively engaged in Agroecology transitions for scaling up the development and adoption. The proposals may test flagship innovations of the ASSET project on their own site but also develop their own initiative able to supplement or reinforce flagships initiatives. The flagship site is a pilot territory where efforts and resources are concentrated to support and document agroecological and safe food system transitions. This topic N°2 aims to encourage co-creation of knowledge and innovations implementations at farm, value-chain and territory levels.

Topic N°3: Evaluate the performances and impacts of agricultural and food systems of ALiSEA members' field initiatives.

Despite the growing recognition and conceptualization of agroecology, there is a need to produce robust evidences on the performances and impacts of agroecology as a credible way to move toward more

⁴ The flagship site is a pilot territory where efforts and resources are concentrated to support and document agroecological and safe food system transitions. Three flagship sites have been selected as part of the ASSET project: Preah Vihear province in Cambodia, Xieng Khouang province in Lao PDR and Son La/Dien Bien province in Vietnam.

sustainable agriculture and food systems. A wide range of methods are available to assess the sustainability of farming and food systems. Moreover, the specificities of each region make it even more complicated to use a method designed for a given region. This proposal may implement one of the existing methods (FAO-TAPE, GTAE⁵ Method, ASSET Project Methodological Framework, combined methods, others etc.). Furthermore, the proposal can undertake to assess the multi-dimensions of agroecology (social, technical, environmental and economic etc.) or focus on specific dimensions (i.e.: environmental analysis, resilience to climate change, comparing pesticide-dependent approaches versus biological control in a given cropping system, gender assessments etc.). Comparative analyses between conventional agriculture and agroecology systems are also allowed. This topic N°3 aims to assess local conditions, potentials, build shared strategies for scaling up successful agroecology practices.

Proposals should address only one out of the three topics.

Besides the three topics that small grants are to address, the specific objectives of this small grant are:

- to strengthen partnerships between the ALiSEA members and encourage joint actions;
- to reinforce members' skills through building partnership with non-members;
- to broaden the network efforts of inclusiveness, representativeness of the variety of stakeholders in agriculture and food systems.

C - Expected outputs

1. Organization awarded a small grant will be requested to produce one case study report following a specific template;
2. Brief narrative and financial report will be expected (template for this will also be provided);
3. Organisations selected will also have to develop at least two knowledge products to capture the approach, the lessons learned and results of the grant. For this, the format is more flexible and shall be relevant to topic of the small grant: it could be additional case studies reports, policy paper, video, communication to conferences, etc.;
4. During the course of the small grant work implementation, organizations will also participate to at least two lessons-sharing and cross-learning events (webinar, exchange visit etc.) as part of the Small Grant Monitoring Process. These lessons-sharing and cross-learning events aim, notably, to enrich debates at local, national and regional levels within ALiSEA network and with flagship actors.

Various of the above grants expected outputs will feed the ALiSEA/ASSET Knowledge Hub and will support dissemination of the knowledge produced.

D - Budget

The total amount made available for the two calls for proposals (2022 and 2023) is three hundred thousand euros (300,000.00 €).

Size of grants:

Any grant application budget under this call must fall between the following minimum and maximum amounts with proper justification regarding the expected expenses in relation to the proposed work:

- Minimum amount: 15,000 Euros (Fifteen thousand euros)
- Maximum amount: 20,000 Euros (twenty thousand euros)

Total number of grants:

Over the two calls (2022 and 2023), at least thirteen different initiatives are to be funded.

⁵ Four French NGOs (Agrisud, AVSF, Cari and GRET), CIRAD, AgroParisTech and IRD

- At least three initiatives per country for Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam over 2022 and 2023
 - Only one grant will be provided to Thailand due to the lower number of ALiSEA members
 - Myanmar Grants will be retained for the 2nd call in 2023⁶
- In a specific country, the different selected small grants may not cover all three topics in each country;
- The lead applicant shall not be awarded more than one grant per topic;
- Consortia which receive 2022 grants are not allowed to apply in 2023.

Eligibility of costs:

Contributions

Co-funding is not requested for this call, however additional co-funding is a plus. If co-funding is indicated, there is a preference for cash co-fund but staff costs contribution could also be considered provided that it is well justified / detailed.

Overheads

A maximum of 10% of the grant may be used for overheads.

Ineligible cost:

The following costs are not eligible

- VAT taxes
- In kind contributions (= office and equipment costs). Costs of staff assigned to the action and borne by the Partner do not constitute a contribution in kind.
- Return on capital.
- Banking charges for the transfers from and to the Contracting Authority.
- Debts and debt service charges (interest).
- Provisions for losses, debts or potential future liabilities.
- Costs incurred during suspension of the implementation of the Partnership Agreement.
- Costs declared by the Partners and financed by another action or work program receiving an European Union grant (including grants from the European Development Fund);
- Purchases of land or buildings, unless according to the conditions specified in Special Conditions.

E - Application

The Lead applicant must:

- Be a member of the ALiSEA Network (<https://ali-sea.org/alisea-member/>) and
- Have at least six months of seniority in the ALiSEA Network and
- Be an organization (individuals are ineligible)
- Be directly in charge of planning, implementing and managing the action
- Be able to lead the entire action with the consortium and not be an intermediary
- Be able to justify all the costs spent under the action

Applicants must apply via a consortium. A minimum of two co-applicants is required. However, there is no maximum number of co-applicants in the consortium.

- The calls are also open to relevant non-members able to reinforce ALiSEA members' skills as long as an ALiSEA member is leading the consortium. This rule is intended to encourage non-members to join and thereby strengthen the network.
- Open to any type of agroecology stakeholders (non-governmental organization, farmers organization, private sector organization, network, research center, universities).

⁶ The 2nd call will be launched end of 2022 and implementation will begin in early 2023

Hence, consortia led by ALiSEA members, and including non ALiSEA members, are eligible to apply to the calls. This is aimed to encourage synergies and develop complementarities between ALiSEA members, ASSET project partners and other relevant non-members engaged in Agroecology.

The organizations who form part of the ALiSEA Board of Members in the three countries are eligible to apply to the call.

Location for 2022:

- Actions must take place in the following countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam.
- All provinces of these countries are eligible.
- Multi-country consortia are eligible

F - Deadline for submission and How to Apply

The deadline for submission of the full application (including concept note and detailed budget) is Tuesday 21st June 2022.

To apply for this call the lead applicants need to:

- To submit the concept note, the full proposal and detailed budget **at the same time**;
- **To submit online via this link:** <https://ee.humanitarianresponse.info/x/sT0ONEeo>
 - In case of technical issues, please contact Mr. Tik Lathsakit at this email: lathsakit.laos@gret.org

All documents must be submitted in English.

G - Implementation period

The small grant proposed work duration should not exceed **18 months**.

However, upon exceptional circumstances, the awarded consortium may request a longer implementation period providing relevant justifications are supplied.

H - Indicative Timeline for the call 2022

	DATE
Open the call for small grant	19/05/2022
Online information meeting	27/05/2022
Deadline for submission of applications	21/06/2022
Information to lead applicants (concept note) non-selected for the evaluation step 1	15/07/2022
Notification of award	12/09/2022
Contract signature with GRET	15/09/2022

Table 1: Tentative schedule for the call 2022

1 - Call for proposal

- **19th May 2022: Launch the 1st call for proposal (5 weeks)**
- **27th May 2022: Online information session at 2:00pm (Vientiane Time)**
 - Zoom link to join the online information session:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83978085265>
- **21st June 2022: Deadline for submission**
 - Online submission: full proposal including a concept note in word format and the detailed budget in excel file are to be uploaded online

2 - Evaluation process

- **4th July 2022:** Pre-screening, Evaluation of concept notes by a restricted selection committee (2 weeks)
- **End of August 2022:** Final selection of the Full Proposal by the full selection committee (3 weeks)
- **6th September 2022:** Final selection meeting

3 - Partnership Agreement

- 15th September 2022: partnership agreement signed with granted organizations

I - Evaluation Grid

Scoring: Each criteria and subsection as defined below will be given a score between 1 and 5 as follows: 1 = very poor; 2 = poor; 3 = adequate; 4 = good; 5 = very good.

Evaluation Grid of the Concept Note

The evaluation grid of the concept note is composed of 6 criteria as below.

Criteria	Note max.
Concept note selection	
Project summary	5
Initiative main objective	5
Approach and methodology	5
Relevance of the main activities	5
Communication and dissemination strategy	5
Relevance and efficiency of the partnership (potential synergies)	5
TOTAL	30

Evaluation Grid of the Full Proposal

The evaluation grid of the full proposal is divided into 4 sections and 20 subsections.

N°	Criteria	Note max.
1	Topic and partnership relevance of the proposal	25
1.1	Relevance of the proposal with the topic	5
1.2	Relevance of the proposal with the overall objectives of ALiSEA network (<i>linking and bridging “Agroecology set of practices”, contributing to the credibility, visibility and scaling up of the “agroecology movement”</i>)	5
1.3	The proposal aims to strengthen partnerships between the ALiSEA members and/or ASSET members and/or relevant non-members engaged in Agroecology	5
1.4	The proposal encourages joint actions and reinforces member's skills through building partnerships	5
1.5	The proposal broadens the network efforts of inclusiveness, representativeness of the variety of stakeholders in agriculture and food systems.	5
2	Technical offer review	25
2.1	Analysis / understanding of the context and risks / Clarity of the objectives	5
2.2	Relevance of the outputs	5
2.3	Relevance and feasibility of the activities	5
2.4	Degree to which the small grant will build on the current capacity of the organization to conduct research and encourage data use	5
2.5	Anticipated contribution to promoting agroecology transition	5
2.6	Sharing & dissemination of the findings lesson learnt from the proposed project	5
3	Consortium: Experience of the lead applicant, Partnership and Team composition	30
3.1	Experience of the lead applicant in line with the topic	5
3.2	Action/Research or Research for Development experience (references and previous works)	5
3.3	Knowledge of the intervention target area (previous work, past experiences...)	5
3.4	Knowledge of stakeholders in line with the topic	5
3.5	Relevance and efficiency of the partnership (potential synergies)	5
3.6	Technical skills and competencies of the team	5
4	Workplan & Budget	15
4.1	Time frame and flexibility of the planning proposed	5
4.2	Activities appropriately reflected in the budget	5
4.3	Realistic budget and timeline based on the proposed research/project topic	5
TOTAL		100

Annex N1: Concept Note Proposal Form

CONCEPT NOTE (2 pages maximum)	
Name of the applicant (Team leader)	•
Legal status	•
Email contact	•
Topic (N°1 or N°2 or N°3)	N°:
Implementation area	Province(s): Country(ies):
Amount in Euros	Grant: Global (if, co-financing):
Co-applicants	1 - Name: 1 - Type of organization (<i>non-governmental organization, farmers organization, private sector organization, network, research center, universities</i>): ----- 2 - Name: 2 - Type of organization (<i>non-governmental organization, farmers organization, private sector organization, network, research center, universities</i>): ----- Etc.
Project title	
Project summary (10 lines max.)	
.....	

Context and main challenges (5-10 lines max.)	
<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	
Initiative main objective	
Description of the proposed approach & methodology (10-15 lines):	
<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	
List of main activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Communication & dissemination strategy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Duration:	Expected starting date:

Annex N2: Full Proposal Form

FULL PROPOSAL (10 pages maximum)	
Name of the applicant (Team leader)	
Logo	
ALiSEA member since	
Topic (N°1 or N°2 or N°3)	N°:
Name and function of the contact person	
Full Address	
Telephone and e-mail	
Date the organization was established	
Main activity of the organization	
Co-applicant n°1	
Name of the co-applicant	
Logo	
Name and function of the contact person	
Full Address	
Telephone and e-mail	
Date the organization was established	
Main activity of the organization	
Co-applicant n°2 etc.	
Name of the co-applicant	
Logo	
Name and function of the contact person	
Full Address	
Telephone and e-mail	
Date the organization was established	
Main activity of the organization	

Project title:
Description of the context and main challenges
Objectives
Global:
Specific:
Expected outputs
Output n°1:
Output n°2:
Etc.:
Project activities Describe each activity in details and how they are connected
Activity n°1:
Activity n°2:
Activity n°3:
Etc.

Provide a detailed work plan (grey out the box when appropriate), including tentative intermediary milestones expected in relation with the monitoring of the grants:

Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Activity 1:																		
Activity 2:																		
Activity 3:																		
Etc.																		

Ways to face potential risks

Identify potential risks for sound implementation of the activities and provide short mitigation plan (5 to 10 lines max)

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Dissemination

Describe how you intend to share & disseminate findings / lesson learnt from the proposed project (10 to 15 lines max)

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Past experience & Team composition:

Describe briefly past action experiences in line with the topic (references and previous works) (5 lines max)

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Describe briefly Action/Research or Research for Development experience (references and previous works) (5 lines max)

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Describe briefly past experiences in Agroecology (5 lines max)

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Explain your historical presence in the area of the proposed project, and potential knowledge of local stakeholders (10 to 15 lines max)

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Detail the staff capacities that will be mobilised for the proposed project : technical skills and competences of the team (5 lines)

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Partnership

Justify partnerships (relevancy, efficiency) and their role in the initiative for each activity (10 to 15 lines max)

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Detail added value of the proposed partnership (5 lines)

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Annex N3: Detailed Budget

	Organization:					
	Project Title:					
	Batch No:					
	Budget Period:					
	Budget Currency:	Euros				
	Total Budget:					
	All figures in Euros	Unit	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost	Remarks
A	Staff Costs				0 €	
A1						
A2						
A3						
A4						
A5						
A6						
A7						
B	Activity Costs				0 €	
B1						
B2						
B3						
B4						
B5						
B6						
C	Local Transport				0 €	
C1						
C2						
C3						
C4						
C5						
D	Equipment				0 €	
D1						
D2						
D3						
D4						
D5						
D6						
	TOTAL				0 €	