



PROCEEDING

National Consultation to Promote Agroecology in the context of ASEAN



15 March 2024

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADS	Agriculture Development Strategies
AE	Agroecology
AFD	Agency for French Development
ALiSEA	The Agroecology Learning alliance in South East Asia
AMAF	ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry
AMRDPE	ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
AMS	ASEAN Member States
ASEAN	The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEC	ASEAN Secretariat
AsiaDHRAA	The Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia
ASSET	Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions in Southeast Asia
ASWGC	ASEAN Sector Working Group for Crops
CIRAD	The French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSWG-FARD	Lao CSOs Sector Working Group on Agriculture and Rural Development
DALaM	Department of Agricultural Land Management
DoA	Department of Agriculture
DoPC	Department of Planning and Cooperation at MAF
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GAP	Good Agriculture Practices
GI	Geographical Indication
HCD	Human Centered Design
INGOs	International non-governmental organizations
IPSARD	Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development
LaoDHRAA	Lao Development of Human Resource in Rural Area
LFN	Lao Farmer Network
LICA	the Lao Facilitated Initiative on Agroecology for ASEAN
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NPA	Non-Profit Association
RAI	Responsible Agricultural Investment
SA	Sustainable Agriculture
SAEDA	the Sustainable Agriculture & Environment Development Association
SOM-AMAF	Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry
SOMRDPE	Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
SSWG-AE	Sub-Sector Working Group on Agroecology
SWG-ARD	Sector Working Group on Agricultural and Rural Development

PREFACE

The following report outlines the proceedings of the National Consultation Meeting to Promote Agroecology within the ASEAN context, which took place on 15th March 2024 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR. The event was attended by 59 representatives from various sectors including government bodies, development partners, international non-governmental organizations, civil society groups, a farmer organization, and a private sector entity. This document aims to provide a detailed summary of the discussions, recommendations, and outcomes from each session held during the meeting, with the intention of benefiting all stakeholders involved. It serves as a formal record of the meeting's activities and stands as a reference document for future actions.

The primary objective of convening the meeting was to create a platform for meaningful dialogue and the exchange of ideas, challenges, opportunities, and potentials across relevant sectors, with the goal of collectively supporting the agroecology transition in Laos. The meeting was conducted under the umbrella of the Sub-Sector Working Group on Agroecology, chaired by the Department of Agricultural Land Management and co-chaired by the Agency for French Development.

Throughout the meeting, various presentations were delivered, showcasing agroecology policies, experiences, and initiatives at regional, national, and local levels to highlight the ongoing efforts in support of the agroecology transition in Laos within the ASEAN framework. Additionally, stakeholders from diverse backgrounds such as the farmer group, the private sector, civil society organizations, academia, government bodies, the ASEAN Sector Working Group on Crops, and development partners shared their insights on the challenges and potentials associated with the actual implementation of agroecology in Laos. The meeting also facilitated group discussions, focusing on seven identified leverage points proposed for ASEAN to promote agroecology.

The key outcomes of the meeting underscored the importance of adopting a systemic approach to support agroecology policy implementation, using existing tools and platforms for collaborative networking, integrating agroecology into national

development plans and strategies, providing financial support for local implementors, and engaging other sectors to ensure the sustainability of the agroecology transition.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all participants for their valuable contributions and active engagement during the meeting. Special thanks are extended to AsiaDHRAA, ALiSEA, the ASSET project, CIRAD for their unwavering support of the LICA process since 2012, the National Focal Points for the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE), the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops (ASWGC), and the organizing team for their dedication in planning and facilitating the event. It is our hope that this document will serve as a valuable resource for planning efforts in supporting the agroecology transition in Laos and the region.

SESSION I: OPENING SPEECH

WELCOMING REMARKS BY THE CHAIR

PhD. Nivong Sipaseuth, Director General of the Department of Agricultural Land Management (DALaM), also Chair of the Sub-Sector Working Group on Agroecology (SSWG-AE), conveyed his warm welcome to all participants from government entities, private sectors, development partners, NGOs, INGOs, farmer organization, and civil society organizations for their presence in the National Consultation to promote Agroecology in the context of ASEAN. He noted that DALaM is at the forefront of integrating technologies in agricultural land management and agroecology. DALaM is currently formulating the Agricultural Land Management Strategy to 2025 and Vision to 2040, serving as the foundation for supporting the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) to 2025 and Vision 2030 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). The strategy is presently being reviewed for approval by the National Assembly.

The Director General traced the background of the Lao Facilitated Initiative on Agroecology for ASEAN or “LICA”, leading to the National Consultation. LICA was initially established under the name of the Lao Initiative on Conservation Agriculture and received endorsement during the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) and the 34th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) Meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR in 2012. Later, despite limited progress in Lao PDR, a significant development occurred in August 2015 during the 36th Special SOM-AMAF in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. During this meeting, it was recommended for Lao PDR to persist with the initiative, and call for active participation from ASEAN Member States (AMS) in the inaugural LICA Meeting. Subsequently, DALaM, appointed by MAF, took the lead in the initiative meeting in 2016 in Lao PDR. The introduction of agroecology practices was suggested during the 2nd LICA Meeting in Vientiane Capital in 2018. As a result, LICA has evolved into the Lao Facilitated Initiative on Agroecology for ASEAN, and now has been included as an integral part of the strategic plan of the ASEAN Sector Working Group for Crops (ASWGC).

PhD. Nivong Sipaseuth also highlighted the role of the SSWG-AE in drafting of *the Policy Guidelines on an Agroecology Transition* to support the LICA process in ASEAN. The preparation of these guidelines has been approved by SOM-AMAF and a detailed

outline has been shared with the ASEAN Secretariat which is currently being reviewed by member states under the ASWGC.

The Director General introduced four key objectives of the National Consultation:

- a) Raise awareness of existing ASEAN frameworks as starting points for building strategies and actions in support of food systems transformation through sustainable agriculture and agroecology;
- b) Generate inputs from national stakeholders on the on-going effort to develop an ASEAN Policy Guidelines on Agroecology Transition;
- c) Provide opportunities for farmer organizations and civil society to participate in shaping policy agenda and programming in support of their work at local and national levels; and
- d) Catalyze potential multi-stakeholder partnerships and mechanisms needed to sustain the process of developing plans and actions for Sustainable Agriculture and Agroecology.

At the conclusion of his opening address, the Director General extended his heartfelt gratitude to the National Focal Points for The Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE), Acting on Behalf of the National Focal Point of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops (ASWGC), AsiaDHRAA, and the ASSET project for their joint efforts in coordinating this gathering. He conveyed his optimism that this meeting would serve as a foundation for participants from multi-sectoral stakeholders to exchange views and experiences on best practices on agroecology (AE) and thereby enhancing progress and fostering collaboration in facilitating the transition towards agroecology in Laos.

WELCOMING REMARKS BY THE CO-CHAIR

Mr. Francois-Xavier DUPORGE, Country Director of the French Agency for Development (AFD) and as the Co-Chair of the Sub-Sector Working Group on Agroecology (SSWG-AE), conveyed his congratulations to SSWG-AE and DALaM for leading the agroecology transition in Laos. He extended his sincere appreciation to all participants for their active engagement in the meeting. Mr. DUPORGE emphasized the significance of the meeting, highlighting two key points. Firstly, the development of Policy Guidelines on an Agroecology Transition aims to translate actual agroecological practices from local levels into actionable policies. Secondly, the forthcoming signing of the declaration of commitment to the Agroecology Coalition by Lao PDR would present a valuable opportunity for knowledge exchange among several AE Coalition's

members and increasing opportunities to access agroecology investments/funds in the country, as this is one key aspect to accelerate AE impacts on the ground. He expressed gratitude to the National Focal Point of the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE), Acting on Behalf of the National Focal Point of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops (ASWGC), and all stakeholders for their active participation, both in person and online. He concluded by emphasizing that the collective engagement and contributions of partners are pivotal in driving the agroecology transition, particularly in shaping the proposed policy guidelines.

KEYNOTE MESSAGE BY THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINT OF SOMRDPE

Mr. Anosack Phengphimmavong, Deputy Director General of the Department of Rural Development of MAF and as the National Focal Point of the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE), emphasized the significance of Agroecology (AE) in rural development efforts, particularly in promoting the sustainable utilization of natural resources within rural communities. This meeting is part of a broader initiative to advance the AE transition in Laos. AE has the potential to bolster environmental conservation by leveraging local knowledge, renewable resources, soil fertility management, and sustainable agricultural practices. Furthermore, it can enhance economic stability by reducing the costs associated with agricultural inputs. By minimizing the use of chemicals, AE can help prevent contamination of rivers. Mr. Phengphimmavong also highlighted the role of AE in creating employment opportunities for young farmers/producers and women, for example, successful implementation in the Southern region of Laos. Ultimately, AE has the capacity to foster local sustainable production and enhance resilience to climate change.

KEYNOTE MESSAGE BY THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINT OF ASWGC

PhD. Thavisith Bounyasouk, Director of the Planning and Cooperation Division of the Department of Agriculture (DoA), MAF, Acting on Behalf of the National Focal Point of the ASEAN Sector Working Group on Crops (ASWGC), emphasized the importance of agroecology in bolstering the agricultural sector. Previous consultations at both ASEAN and national levels have recognized agroecology's significance. PhD. Bounyasouk mentioned the ongoing workplan by LICA to develop ASEAN Policy Guidelines on an Agroecology Transition which have been recognized by the ASEAN Secretariat. He expressed satisfaction with the progress made in Laos regarding

agroecology, emphasizing its vital role in connecting with ASEAN initiatives. Today's meeting serves as a valuable platform for national stakeholders to share insights, good practices, and challenges on actual implementations in local areas. As the National Focal Point of ASWGC, PhD. Bounyasouk assured his commitment to facilitating the endorsement process for the proposed guidelines. He is confident that the feedback and insights gathered during the meeting will accurately represent Lao PDR's perspective, positioning the nation effectively in the transition towards agroecology.

OVERVIEW OF WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES AND DESIGN

Mr. Thongdam Phongphichith, Representative from AsiaDHRRA and ALiSEA presented the workshop objectives, content, outputs, and methodologies, and briefly introduced the program schedule, and participants.

SESSION II: BUILDING BLOCKS FOR THE AGROECOLOGY TRANSITION

PRESENTATION 1: Overview of the ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2022-2026), highlighting provisions in support of agroecology

Mr. Anosack Phengphimmavong, Deputy Director General of the Department of Rural Development of MAF and National Focal Point of the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE), presented the background of the Master Plan's development. The plan was adopted during the 16th SOMRDPE Meeting in November 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, and subsequently endorsed by SOMRDPE and noted by the 11th AMRDPE. Collaborative efforts between the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) and AsiaDHRRA to devise a strategy for the master plan were hindered by the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Mr. Phengphimmavong stressed that rural development aims to enhance socio-economic conditions by targeting vulnerable groups in remote areas to ensure the most disadvantaged benefit from development initiatives. He highlighted the six ASEAN Rural Development Vision and Goals, underscoring food security as a key focus for rural communities that heavily rely on agriculture for sustenance and income generation. The integration of agroecology into the work plan was emphasized, with the imperative that its implementation should be aligned with socio-development goals under the principle of "Leave No One Behind." Additionally, Mr. Phengphimmavong referenced key

national policies, legislations, and decrees that have been used as guidance for strategic actions in Laos, notably the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025), the Agricultural Development Strategy to 2025 and Vision to 2030, the 9th Five-Year Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development Plan (2021-2025), and the National Green Growth Strategy 2030.

PRESENTATION 2: Overview of the ASEAN Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture, highlighting areas where agroecology could be integrated

PhD. Thavisith Bounyasouk, Director of the Planning and Cooperation Division of the Department of Agriculture (DoA), MAF, and as Acting on Behalf of the National Focal Point of the ASEAN Sector Working Group on Crops (ASWGC), provided an overview of the background of the ASEAN Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture (SA). These guidelines were adopted at the 44th Meeting of the AMAF on October 26th, 2022, and have recently been updated by SOM-AMAF. PhD. Bounyasouk emphasized that the guidelines are grounded in 5 key principles: 1) protecting and enhancing natural resources, 2) increasing productivity in food systems, 3) improving biodiversity, 4) enhancing resilience, 5) and improving livelihoods, with a total of 28 strategies included. A draft guideline on burning crop residues is currently under development process. The focus of the SA Guideline is on the sustainable production of agricultural inputs from available sources within ASEAN, such as agricultural biomass and food waste GAP, utilizing organic certification as a market tool to foster trust and confidence in the supply chain, ultimately enhancing the competitiveness of ASEAN agricultural produce. PhD. Bounyasouk also highlighted the need for additional guidance development, suggesting a more detailed analysis and recommendations to be included in the AE Guidelines, particularly in the Transition Process section. In conclusion, he informed that the 30th ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops has endorsed the proposal to develop additional guidelines on the Agroecology Transition, with the aim of adoption by AMAF in 2024.

PRESENTATION 3: Lao Government Policy Priorities for Agriculture and Rural Development, with specific reference to Agroecology

Ms. Daosouksan Keovongsa, a technical staff member from the Planning Division of the Department of Planning and Cooperation at MAF (DoPC), provided an overview of the key policy priorities focusing on sustainable development in line with green growth policies. The implementation of agroecology in Laos has been supported for many

years by various projects, and since 2023 by the ASSET project. She highlighted the significance of key policies such as the Agricultural Development Strategy to 2025 and Vision for 2030, the 9th Five-Year Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development Plan (2021-2025), and the National Green Growth Strategy 2030, all of which have served as references for the development of agroecology policies. Collaboration with national and regional partners has been instrumental in the implementation of agroecology initiatives. Ms. Keovongsa also shared examples of local initiatives supporting agroecology transition and safe food systems in Laos, including the Conservation Agriculture Fund in Xayaboury Province and policy dialogues through the ASSET project in Xiengkhouang Province. The Department of Planning and Cooperation (DoPC) has reviewed 85 policies against the 10 elements of AE proposed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have shown that while various policies support agroecology and safe food systems, they lack specificity and comprehensive documentation covering all 10 elements. Furthermore, she emphasized the necessity for partners responsible for assessing and evaluating the implementation of agroecology and safe food system policies. Looking ahead, Ms. Keovongsa outlined plans for the development of agroecology in Laos, including the preparation of a policy brief on agroecology to support national-level actions through Sector Working Group on Agriculture and Rural Development (SWG-ARD) and SSWG-AE, as well as the creation of a roadmap for agroecology transition and safe food system transformation in Laos.

PRESENTATION 4: Proposed ASEAN Policy Guidelines on Agroecology Transition

PhD. Thatheva Saphangthong, Deputy Director General of the Department of Agricultural Land Management (DALaM), highlighted the ongoing efforts to introduce agroecology within the ASEAN context, a journey that commenced in 2012 through LICA. The key partners involved in the designing process are ESCAP, FAO, CIRAD together with DALaM, IPSARD, GDA and DoPC. He highlighted the connections between the ASEAN Regional Guideline on Sustainable Agriculture which has noted FAO's framing of agroecology as a "viable transformative approach based on ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of sustainable and fair food system". He mentioned that LICA's primary objective is to unite ASEAN nations in expediting the shift towards agroecology, in accordance with national objectives and the strategic focus on agroecological production. Presently, LICA plays a key role in formulating Policy Guidelines for Agroecology Transition to

support the implementation of Sustainable Agriculture Guidelines. The annotated outline of these guidelines is currently under review by ASEAN member states, specifically the national focal points of the ASWGC, and awaiting feedback to be submitted through the ASEAN Secretariat. PhD. Saphangthong also emphasized the use of Human Centered Design (HCD) principles in the development of the guidelines to ensure user-centricity. He expressed optimism that the guidelines would receive endorsement from SOM-AMAF before the end of 2024. Additionally, the incorporation of the 13 principles of agroecology as a reference framework for action planning has been emphasized, with previews of the guideline's contents and some examples of key sections in the guidelines presented to stakeholders. In conclusion, PhD. Saphangthong stressed the imperative of collaborative efforts and support from various stakeholders across all relevant sectors to facilitate a successful AE transition.

PRESENTATION 5: Sharing of various Agroecology Initiatives of ALiSEA Network

Mrs. Manivanh Aliyavong, Regional Small Grant Manager of ALiSEA, provided an overview of the current agroecology initiatives being implemented by various stakeholders. ALiSEA has been actively supporting multiple stakeholders to enhance the understanding of agroecology at both sub-national and local levels. ALiSEA operates through five key modalities of action: Communication and Networking, Knowledge Management and Sharing, Capacity Building for members, Small Grant Facility, and Citizen's awareness raising to influence public policies. She explained that ALiSEA is a regional network operating across several Asian countries, primarily collaborating with NGOs/NPAs. The network's action plan for agroecology has been developed in consultation with governments and various stakeholders to establish a shared vision. Specific focus areas, such as supporting young farmers in Laos, have been identified to drive the future of agroecology in the region. Mrs. Aliyavong highlighted ALiSEA's efforts in promoting innovative farming practices, integrating smallholders into national markets, and improving living conditions. She also addressed challenges in agroecology implementation in Laos, including the limited technical capacity of smallholders and the declining interest of youth in agriculture. To address these challenges, recommendations such as providing training and extending market access for agroecological products were proposed.

OPEN DISCUSSION: The following ideas and insights were shared in the open discussion after the presentation

- Numerous theories and practices are already in place, emphasizing the need for a deeper focus on the roles that CSOs and private sectors should undertake in this context. While the definition of AE is well-defined, the connection to Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI) remains unclear. There is an evident overlap in the principles presented today, yet a distinct lack of linkages between these principles or guidelines. Hence, it is crucial to witness greater integration of RAI in AE.
- It is imperative to expand our efforts to gather more evidence to support further developments. While theories and guidelines are important, we must also create an enabling environment, establish a policy framework, and provide incentives to support farmers in transitioning. The focus of the agroecology transition should prioritize social protection schemes to ensure the success of this transition.
- Reaching the farmers is one important thing to consider and also setting a clear timeframe with milestones. Linking to the 5 principles mentioned in the ASEAN guidelines on SA will also help to boost AE transition. By incorporating these strategies, the agricultural sector can progress towards greater environmental sustainability.

SESSION III: PANEL DISCUSSION – STAKEHOLDER VOICES

The panel focused on the topic of *“Sharing expectations, perspectives, insights, and concerns regarding the agroecology transition”*

The panelists were:

Representing farmer organizations:

Mr. Bounthun Thepmanila, a representative from Lao Farm Network

Representing for private sector:

Mr. Bounthieng Lattanavong, a representative from Meuang Lao Farm

Representing Civil Society Organizations:

Mr. Thongdam Phongvichith, a representative from SAEDA, CSWG-FARD and ALiSEA

Representing for academy sector:

PhD. Xayvisen Boulom, a representative from the Faculty of Agriculture, National University of Laos.

Representing government organizations:

Ms. Sisavan Vonglorkham, a representative from the Division of Planning, Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Representing for ASEAN Sector Working Group on Crops:

PhD. Thavisith Bounyasouk, Acting on Behalf of the National Focal Point of the ASEAN Sector Working Group on Crops

Representing development partners:

PhD. Olayvanh Singvilay, a representative from Food and Organization to Laos

Moderator: PhD. Thatheva Saphangthong, Deputy Director General, the Department of Agricultural Land Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The plenary session discussed two specific questions:

First question: *What is your expectation on implementing agroecology in Laos currently?*

Mr. Bounthun Thepmanila, representative of the Lao Farmer Association (formerly the Lao Farmer Network, or LFN), stated that as a farmer implementing agroecology (AE) at the village level, AE plays a crucial role in our agricultural practices. By integrating AE methods, we could improve our livelihoods and increase income generation through diversified farming approaches. Utilizing crop residues further saves costs for our farming processes. AE not only offers alternatives for income generation but also contributes to maintaining soil fertility and supporting the natural environment. However, challenges persist in implementing AE in remote areas due to limited labor, funding, and agricultural techniques. Market access remains constrained with few customers, and the necessity for basic infrastructure, especially during rainy seasons, is a critical consideration.

Mr. Bounthieng Lattanavong, the representative from Meuang Lao Farm, highlighted the company's focus on commercializing agricultural products and conserving the ecosystem. Meuang Lao Farm also supports small-scale farmers and recognizes the importance of agroecology (AE) in farming practices. Many producers tend to prioritize immediate economic gains over sustainable practices, leading to increasingly chemical use on farms. By promoting AE and organic farming methods, farmers can improve soil fertility, leading to healthier crop production and environmental protection. However, challenges such as accessing markets and funding sources need to be addressed to fully support the adoption of AE. In rural areas, transportation issues hinder

commercialization efforts. Therefore, low-risk cash crops with high-market demand, for example, long-life fruit/vegetables, need to be promoted.

Mr. Thongdam Phongvichith, the representative from SAEDA, CSWG-FARD, and ALiSEA, highlighted the various activities that ALiSEA has undertaken to support agroecology. Sustainable Agriculture has been implemented through different approaches since 1990, which are considered essential tools for supporting agroecology. It is important to note that agroecology is not a new concept, as it has been implemented through various approaches over the years. At the ASEAN level, there are already existing policies and guidelines supporting agroecology. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have established the Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development Group to facilitate connections with different sectors within the government and ASEAN. It is crucial for agroecology to focus on traditional practices, such as seed-exchanging traditions, which are still prevalent in rural areas. Moreover, the link between agroecology and health, particularly in relation to the One Health initiative by the Ministry of Health, should be carefully considered. Additionally, the involvement of private sectors as key partners in driving the economy should not be overlooked in the context of agroecology.

PhD. Xayvisen Boulom, a representative from the Faculty of Agriculture, National University of Laos, highlighted the importance of incorporating a value chain approach into agroecology practices. This alignment of sectors and actors is crucial for promoting sustainability within the system. In order to ensure safe food systems, it is imperative to invest in standardized laboratories for certifying green agricultural products. By focusing on sensitive agriculture and nutrition-sensitive agroecology, which have been currently implemented, we aim to empower rural farmers to produce their own nutrient-rich food. Promoting the consumption of safe food among farmers is essential for their well-being. Moving forward, it is important to consider the promotion of diverse crop varieties, which Laos already has plenty of crop varieties, to enhance agricultural sustainability.

Ms. Sisavan Vonglorkham, the representative from the Division of Planning of the Department of Planning and Cooperation within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, provided an overview stating that the Ministry is presently in the process of preparing the new Agriculture Development Strategy (2026-2035) and the First Five-Year Plan (2026-2030). The department has a plan to propose for incorporating agroecology into four existing programs of the new ADS. The Ministry aims to promote

agroecology to assist policymakers, stakeholders, producers, and other involved parties at all levels.

PhD. Thavisith Bounyasouk, Acting on Behalf of the National Focal Point of the ASEAN Sector Working Group on Crops (ASWGC), emphasized the crucial role of supportive policies and farming practices in promoting agroecology. It is essential to recognize that the ecological system encompasses all aspects of our world. Within agroecology, the focus is on agricultural systems involving humans, crops, animals, and the environment. Presently, the impacts of climate change are significantly affecting agroecology, while human behavior, such as the increased use of chemicals by farmers for economic gain, is also a contributing factor. To address these challenges, it is imperative to preserve agroecology and leverage smart technologies. Furthermore, the promotion of environmentally friendly agroecological farming practices is a viable solution that must be considered. However, the success of these initiatives hinges on market-driven approaches. Consumer awareness and preference for environmentally friendly agricultural products play a pivotal role in advancing agroecology. Policy tools such as financial instruments and value-added approaches are crucial in supporting agroecology.

PhD. Olayvanh Singvilay, a representative from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to Laos, highlighted the opportune moment for the Ministry of Agriculture to formulate the new Agriculture Development Strategy (2026-2035) and the Five-Year Plan (2026-2030). He also underscored the importance of integrating agroecology (AE) into the upcoming ADS. It was suggested that the government, particularly the Ministry of Planning and Investment, should prioritize AE as a key consideration in the approval process for investments. He strongly supported for the inclusion of AE in the new ADS of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Second question: What is the next step for AE based on your existing potential (expectation for AE for the future)?

Mr. Bounthun Thepmanila, the representative from the Lao Farmer Association, highlighted that farmers are primarily seeking improved living conditions and a supportive environment, especially access to water for farming. Some concerns that the Agricultural Extension (AE) process is lagging behind the current trends in rubber

and cassava cultivation. Furthermore, the number of organic farmers has declined due to the significant depletion of natural resources.

Mr. Bounthieng Lattanavong, the representative from Meuang Lao Farm, emphasized the importance of strong implementation of policies, especially in relation to connecting with markets and private sectors. He highlighted the need for clear incentives to encourage eco-friendly production practices. Additionally, he stressed the importance of considering the impact of other sectors, such as the mining sector, on agriculture and the environment. It is crucial for the macro level to integrate agroecology with other sectors in order to mitigate any negative effects caused by other industries.

Mr. Thongdam Phongvichith, the representative from SAEDA, CSWG-FARD, and ALiSEA, highlighted the shortage of local technical staff and their related skills in promoting agroecology. He emphasized the crucial role these staff play in implementing agroecology at the local level. Additionally, he noted that farmers still perceive agroecology as primarily supporting food production rather than commercialization. It was also mentioned that farmers are not yet prepared to produce commercial products. In terms of implementation, there is a need to bring multiple sectors to work together.

PhD. Xayvisen Boulom, a representative from the Faculty of Agriculture at the National University of Laos, emphasized the crucial role of Village Development Committees as key actors in local communities. He highlighted their close relationship with farmers and their ability to provide support during times of need. PhD. Boulom stressed the importance of offering technical skills and other resources to empower these committees in their efforts to support local farmers.

PhD. Thavisith Bounyasouk, Acting on Behalf of the National Focal Point of the ASEAN Sector Working Group on Crops (ASWGC), would like to add that the government has the main role in formulating policies, programs, and projects. However, implementation needs strong and aligned collaboration with the private sector, NGOs, academia, farmer groups, and other relevant stakeholders. So, we need strong collaboration from all sectors.

OPEN DISCUSSION: The following ideas and insights were shared in the open forum after the presentation

- It appears that Responsible Agriculture and Investment (RAI) and agroecology are currently moving in different directions. RAI prioritizes economic returns over environmental preservation, while agroecology focuses on conserving nature. It is crucial to find a way to integrate these two approaches. The 10 principles of RAI developed by AsiaDHRAA already exist and could serve as a foundation for effective integration. Following these principles may help bridge the gap between RAI and agroecology.
- The Intellectual Property Department, responsible for Geographical Indication (GI) and trademark registration, indirectly promotes agroecology through promoting green products for example GI for Khao Kai Noi in Xiengkhuang and Huaphan Provinces. In the next five years for GI products, there is a plan to prevent farmers who are GI members from using chemicals on their farms. In the GI guidelines, there are clear criteria for zero chemical application. If any stakeholders are interested in GI registration, the Intellectual Property Department welcomes cooperation. To further support AE, we should have more consultation in detail on how to collaborate.
- The Investment Promotion Department of the Ministry of Planning and Investment has implemented the principles of ASEAN RAI by translating them into legislation. The focus of RAI extends beyond green principles to include considerations at the macro level. This includes the responsible use of chemicals within safe limits, obligations to society, and responsibilities to one's own organization. Clearer policies on agroecology are needed to promote agricultural products that cater to a variety of consumers, as not all consumers may be able to afford 100% green products.
- Agroecology typically consists of four main components: humans, crops, animals, and the surrounding environment. It is crucial to take into account these components and assess any potential impacts on them. Increasing commercialization on a larger scale may lead to adverse effects on forest areas, consequently affecting the agroecological system. The consideration of labor is essential when expanding farming areas, as it could result in increased chemical usage to reduce costs. Analyzing the potential of each agroecological system in Laos is imperative for promoting sustainable agroecology.
- At the household level, there is a noticeable shortage of young labor, which poses a threat to agricultural production and food security. Additionally, the imbalance between imports and exports, particularly in agricultural products, is a concern. To address these issues, it is essential to incorporate strategies in agroecology policies and programs that support relevant sectors and ensure

alignment of efforts. This will help streamline operations and prevent duplication of work.

Moderator PhD. Thatheva Saphangthong, Deputy Director General, the Department of Agricultural Land Management, summarized that there are several pressing issues to address. Of particular importance is the prioritization of tasks related to agroecology. Key concerns include the scarcity of labor, factors influencing the adoption of agroecological practices, and the identification of suitable areas for AE implementation. These topics will be further explored, brainstorming, and discussed in detail during the upcoming group discussion session.

Session Co-Chair: Mr. Francois-Xavier DUPORGE, Country Director of the French Agency for Development (AFD) and as the Co-Chair of the Sub-Sector Working Group on Agroecology (SSWG-AE), conveyed his gratitude for feedback regarding the necessity of elaborating on the translation of policy guidelines into actionable steps. He emphasized the importance of the policy guidelines to address market access and financing for farmers. Mr. DUPORGE also highlighted that the timeline's endpoint at gaining approval from the SOM-AMAF is just the beginning and stressed the importance of outlining the subsequent steps and visualizing the policy guidelines' future impact. Furthermore, he stressed the need for climate resilience in agriculture and congratulated the high-quality coordination among various departments, including DALaM, DoPC, DoA, and DoRD, in their collaborative efforts.

Session Chair: PhD. Nivong Sipaseuth, Director General, of the Department of Agricultural Land Management, closed the session by expressing gratitude for the informative panel discussion session. The recommendations made during the session are essential for our upcoming discussions. He wholeheartedly supported the idea of aligning all sectors and stakeholders to work together in a systematic manner. It is vital to prioritize the inclusion of key players, particularly farmers, who play a significant role in implementing agroecology at the grassroots level.

SESSION IV: BREAK-OUT WORKSHOP

The break-out discussion began with three topics being announced as follows:

- a. Key challenges for agroecology transition in Lao PDR

- b. Recommendations for concrete actions at national level and strategic actions at ASEAN level, to promote SA and AE
- c. Ways and means to strengthen/develop partnerships to implement and monitor progress of commitments in support of AE

The participants were divided into 3 groups to discuss on the 3 main points above with 7 leverage points (for promoting agroecology into ASEAN) to be prioritized within ninety-minute preparation, the 7 leverage points are as follows:

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

Each break-out discussion was facilitated by:

- Group 1: **Mr. Thisadee Chounlamountry**, technical staff, the Department of Agricultural Land Management (DALaM)
- Group 2: **PhD. Thavisith Bounyasouk**, Director of the Planning and Cooperation Division of the Department of Agriculture (DoA)
- Group 3: **Ms. Sisavanh Vonglorkham**, technical staff, Department of Planning and Cooperation (DoPC)

Moderator Mr. Thongdam Phongphichith, SAEDA and Mr. Andrew Bartlett, International Advisor of Sub-Sector Working Group on Agroecology.

Break-out Session Chair by PhD. Thatheva Saphangthong, Deputy Director General, the Department of Agricultural Land Management (DALaM).

Overview of the questions for discussion

Moderator Mr. Thongdam Phongphichith, SAEDA and Mr. Adrew Bartlett, International Advisor of Sub-Sector Working Group on Agroecology (SSWG-AE), introduced that the starting point is to consider the seven leverage points (presented above). Agroecology involves a system approach and a part of a system approach is to use leverage points. These are the points or systems where you can make the most change. In the draft guidelines for agroecology, seven leverage points have been

identified and proposed for ASEAN in order to promote agroecology. Each group was tasked with selecting and presenting their top three priorities from these leverage points, ultimately presenting in the matrix table with the key three points presented earlier.

Summary results of priority level points of the discussion by groups

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

Detail of discussion by each groups

Group 1:

Select 3 Prioritized leverage points	Key challenges for agroecology transition	Recommendations for concrete actions at the national level and strategic actions at the ASEAN level, to promote SA and AE	Ways and means to strengthen/develop partnerships to implement and monitor the progress of commitments in support of AE
1) Planning for agroecology transition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not enough basic infrastructure and young labor - Remoteness of areas for implementation - The process of investment approval, - Natural disasters due to climate change, - Lack of management mechanisms and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need regulations for management - Create awareness raising for young labor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a joint pilot project (a multi-stakeholder project, which has clear roles for each partner)

	clear roles for stakeholders		
4) Multi-stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overlapping implementation of several sectors - Not enough dissemination of information about each country's programs - Lack of integration of information from the ASEAN level to the national level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create more joint activities among ASEAN member states - More meetings on lessons learned of AE implementation of each stakeholder. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a joint agenda with hosting rotation. - Establish a structured schedule for rotating hosting responsibilities among stakeholders to ensure equal participation and accountability.
7) Financing agroecology transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget allocation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set up the fund in the ASEAN level in each country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop joint pilot project (between government, private sector, and NGOs)

Group 2:

Select 3 Prioritized leverage points	Key challenges for agroecology transition	Recommendations for concrete actions at the national level and strategic actions at the ASEAN level, to promote SA and AE	Ways and means to strengthen/develop partnerships to implement and monitor progress of commitments in support of AE
1) Planning for agroecology transition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not enough information on AE - Lack of participatory planning - Lack of resources and capacity building for staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need a clear AE policy framework at the ASEAN level - Set up the learning platform between the ASEAN member states on AE - Promote dialogs or consultation meetings involving relevant stakeholders to have more alignment of work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi-stakeholder collaborations (local and regional) – linkages with existing platforms.

3) Promoting transitions across the value chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited integration of research and development with extension networks - No clear Terms of Reference of each stakeholder - 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 EA (clear detailed plans) - Engage participation from entrepreneurs by strengthening market-driven factors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Market linkage (business to business) - Awareness raising on market actor engagement - Propagation program
7) Financing agroecology transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The engagement of farmers due to the long-term nature of the benefits AE offers since farmers often prioritize immediate returns over sustainable practices - Lack of prioritization and investment in AE activities, such as zoning for AE, - Absence of financial incentives for AE farming practices sustainable and environmentally conscious agricultural sector. - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementing a specialized financial program to facilitate access to funding for AE enterprises. - Strengthening regulations and incentives to promote AE. - Establishing designated zones for investment in AE - Conducting campaigns to educate stakeholders on the benefits of eco-friendly agriculture and creating market incentives to encourage AE adoption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting a regional agreement on financial policies to support AE - Developing a clear policy framework supporting AE - Strengthening collaboration with financial institutions - Establishing a climate financing fund to support AE initiatives

Group 3:

Select 3 Prioritized leverage points	Key challenges for agroecology transition	Recommendations for concrete actions at national level and strategic actions at ASEAN level, to promote SA and AE	Ways and means to strengthen/develop partnerships to implement and monitor progress of commitments in support of AE
1) Financing agroecology transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited financing for Laos - Not much available information on AE, so not enough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - frequently update AE information - Allocate specific funding for AE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong alignment with the government needs to be focused.

	information to write proposals	- Promote more engagement of the private sector	
2) Working with farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farmers could not access AE information and markets, and most of them do not know what AE means. - Farmers expect immediate benefits, while AE gives long-term benefits - No application of a Top-down approach, even though there are several policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need more capacity building on AE for a village level - Promote and provide training on AE techniques - Create a channel to a market access. - Provide more study tours with other countries among ASEAN member states 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to have more collaboration from all stakeholders (government, NGO, private sector, CSO, and farmers) - Formulate policies and strategies supporting AE
4) Multi-stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not enough effective collaboration - No specific policies which align with the current situation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve and enable the coordination and collaboration of stakeholders Improve the alignment of the policies/action plans to the current situation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create networks for AE collaboration and coordination for both national and ASEAN levels AE should be integrated in the national policies and plans.

Moderator Mr. Andrew Bartlett, International Advisor of the Sub-Sector Working Group on Agroecology (SSWG-AE), concluded that the afternoon session was highly productive and dynamic. He highlighted three key observations. Firstly, emphasizing the interconnected nature of the leverage points and the necessity for a systemic approach to advance agroecology, including multi-stakeholder dialogue. Secondly, he stressed the importance of utilizing existing tools and platforms such as the Agroecology Coalition and ALiSEA. Thirdly, he outlined key insights shared by various contributors. These included a) the urgent need to embed agroecology within the National Socio-Economic Development Plan and the forthcoming Agriculture Development Strategy, b) the crucial connection between Agroecology and Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI), underscoring the investment approval

mechanisms c) the use of zoning as a strategic tool to bolster agroecology while curbing detrimental agricultural practices and d) while the ASEAN guidelines serve as a foundation, there is a need for practical directives tailored for governmental staff, NGOs, and farmers. It is not just the policy guidelines, but it is the practical guidelines that would be applied all the way down to the field. Building on this last point, the idea of a 'GRAND Plan' was proposed during the discussion. This stands for Green and Resilient Agricultural National Development Plan, which would provide a practical roadmap for the promotion of agroecology in Laos, building on the existing Green and Sustainable Agriculture Framework, and becoming a key part of the new ADS.

Session Chair PhD. Thatheva Saphangthong, Deputy Director General, of the Department of Agricultural Land Management (DALaM), emphasized the importance of transitioning from policy to action. It was highlighted that policies must be implemented through a systematic approach, with a focus on generating evidence, particularly in relation to AE zoning. Collaboration among multiple stakeholders is crucial for successful AE implementation, with an emphasis on eco-friendly technologies, a systematic approach, and a value chain. Financing opportunities need to be explored, with a specific focus on inclusiveness and investment in AE. Grassroots perspectives and constraints must be considered, with guidelines to be developed through a joint collaboration. Engagement with other sectors, such as mines and energy, is also necessary for future sustainability.

He also highlighted the successful accomplishment of the set objectives of the meeting. This significant event, organized under the umbrella of the Sub-Sector Working Group on Agroecology, was a collaborative effort involving National Focal Points for SOMRDPE and ASWGC, with support from LaoDHRAA and the ASSET project. It marked a pioneering initiative where various stakeholders came together to formulate strategies supporting food systems transformation through sustainable agriculture and agroecology. Valuable contributions were made by national stakeholders towards the development of ASEAN Policy Guidelines on Agroecology Transition, showcasing numerous best practices and examples. The consultation provided an inclusive platform for farmer organizations and civil society organizations to actively engage, sharing their insights to shape policy agendas and programs at local and national levels. Emphasizing the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships, the deliberations underscored the necessity of sustained collaborative efforts in crafting plans and actions for Sustainable Agriculture and Agroecology.

SESSION V: CLOSING REMARKS

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINT OF SOMNRPE

Mr. Anosack Phengphimmavong, Deputy Director General of the Department of Rural Development of MAF and as the National Focal Point of the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE), expressed gratitude towards all contributors for their active participation in the consultation meeting. He noted that the meeting successfully identified key issues, and emphasized the importance of collaboration across sectors and levels to find effective solutions. By working together as a team, Mr. Phengphimmavong believes that the goals set forth can be achieved. He officially closed the meeting, highlighting the need for continued cooperation and support amongst all stakeholders.

LISTS OF ANNEXES

Annex 1:

Overview of the ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication, highlighting provisions in support of agroecology

Annex 2:

Overview of the Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture, highlighting areas where agroecology could be integrated

Annex 3:

Lao Govt policy priorities for Agriculture and Rural Development, with specific reference to agroecology by Department of Planning and Cooperation-MAF

Annex 4:

Sharing of various AE Initiatives in the country by CSOs and FFOs (mapping done)

Annex 5:

Presentation of the Proposed Policy Guidelines on Agroecology Transition

Annex 1:

**Overview of the ASEAN Master Plan on Rural
Development and Poverty Eradication, highlighting
provisions in support of agroecology**



ASEAN Rural Development Master Plan (2022-2026)



Main points

- Back ground.
- Rural Development.
- Interlinkage with master plan
- Plan structure.
- Vision and goal.
- Strategy action in Lao PDR.



Back ground

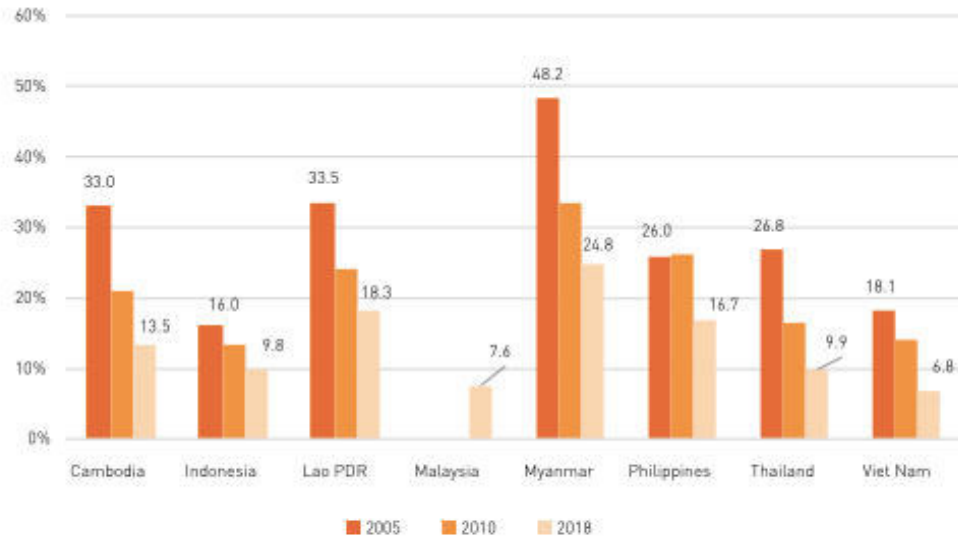
- During the 16th SOMRDPE Meeting held in November 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, the concept note on the master plan was adopted by the meeting. Subsequently, the concept note was endorsed by SOMRDPE, and was noted by the 11th AMRDPE as it was included in the SOMRDPE Chair's Report
- ASEC has been working closely with AsiaDHRRA to develop the strategy to coordinate the development of the master plan as well as to mobilise resources. Such efforts however were overtaken by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020
- The SOMRDPE work plan has been framed as an anchor of the master plan as well as SOMRDPE's contribution to the master plan's eventual implementation
- Resources are available to convene national consultations to bring together SOMRDPE Focal Points, CSO partners, and stakeholders. These consultations aim to gather inputs and insights to inform the development of the draft master plan



The Regional Scenario: Rural Development - A Challenge in SEA

- A widely diverse region, with extremes (high and low) in terms of population, GDP, wealth disparities, culture and religion
- The ASEAN region has a fast-growing middle class, estimated to quadruple to 161 million by 2030, resulting in increasing disposable income, fueling the region's business expansions & trade
- Though the ASEAN region had made substantial gains in reducing hunger, meeting the food security needs of the 64.5 million undernourished people remains: the average stunting across AMS is at 27.0% while wasting is at 8.6% for children under 5 years of age in 2016 (ASEAN indicators, 2020).
- The Covid 19 pandemic added a layer of complexity in promoting rural development in the region





Notes: *i. The latest available data for Cambodia is 2014, Malaysia is 2016, Myanmar is 2017; ii. The data for Malaysia prior to 2016 is not available; iii. Data for Viet Nam refer to Multidimensional Poverty Rate; iv. This indicator is not applicable for Brunei Darussalam and Singapore

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

24.8 percent) of the total population

Elusive rural development and persistent poverty remain a stumbling block in the ASEAN region's development

Singapore, Cambodia & Vietnam with good wealth distribution

Wealth GINI

The differences in the distribution of wealth in a country

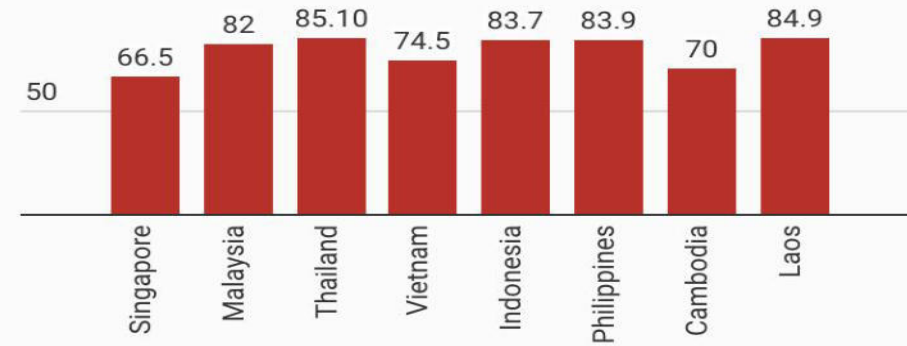
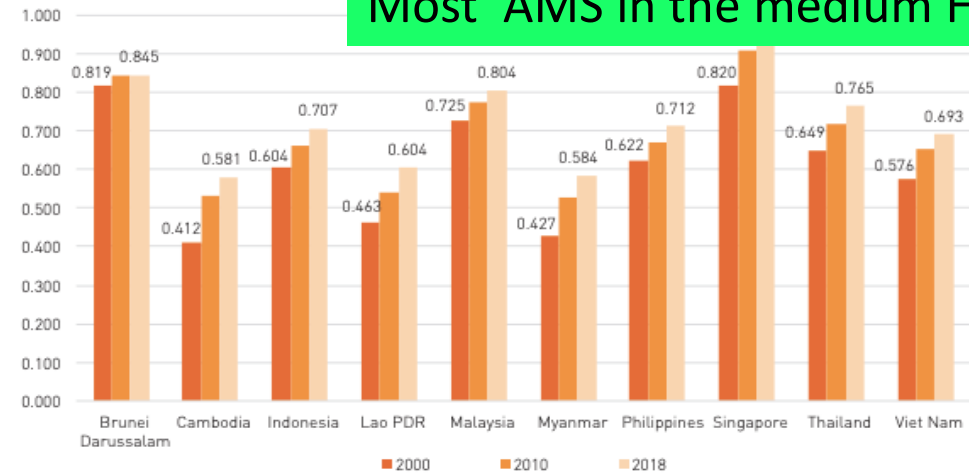


Chart: Thomas Brent • Source: World Economic Forum, The Inclusive Development Index 2018 • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

Most AMS in the medium HDI category



Source: UNDP, Human Development Report Series



Rural Development

A strategy aiming at the improvement of economic and social living conditions, focusing on a specific group of poor people in rural areas.

It assists the poorest group among the people living in rural areas to benefit from development.



Interlinkage with the master plan on rural development and poverty eradication

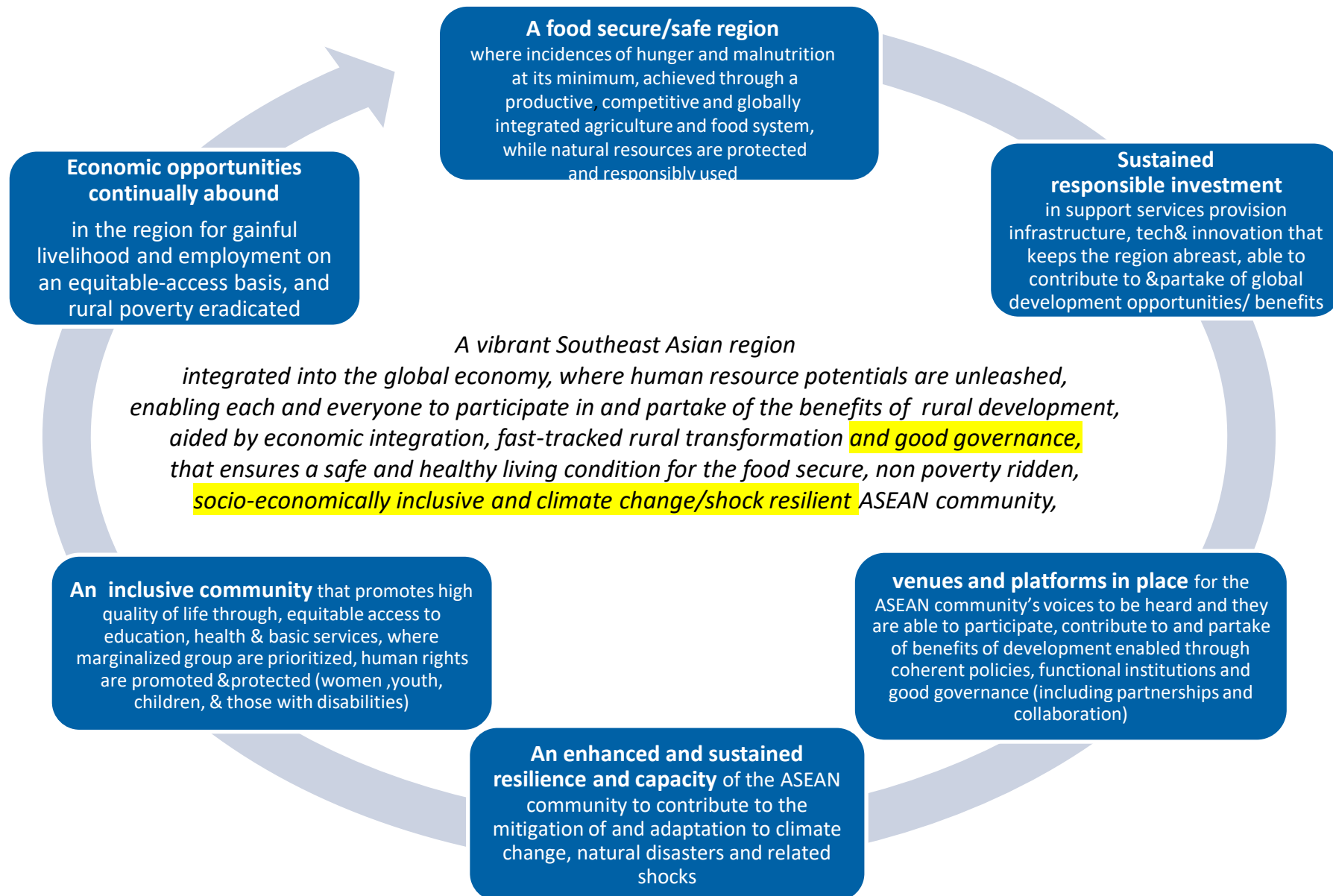
- Implementation of the work plan as SOMRDPE's contribution to the development and implementation of the masterplan
- SOMRDPE as the thought-leader in defining and shaping the metes and bounds of the masterplan
- SOMRDPE as the convener of platforms to facilitate the development of the masterplan
 - With other ASEAN sectoral bodies
 - With ASEAN's partners
 - With civil society organisations, private sector, and other stakeholders



The ASEAN Rural Development Master Plan (2022-2026)

- Introduction
- What Shapes Rural Development in ASEAN
 - Changing Contexts of Rural Development
 - Changing Modes of Development Cooperation
- Changing development partners, patterns and extent of involvement
 - Changing partners
 - Territorial development, pattern of rural development pathways in ASEAN
- Changing extent of involvement
 - Women's participation in Rural Development
 - Youth Involvement in Rural Development
 - Other vulnerable and marginalised groups participation
- Emerging and Persistent Needs and Challenges
 - Resiliency Amidst the COVID 19 pandemic
 - Maximising Digital Technology and Innovation in aid of Rural Development
 - Responsiveness to Climate Change and Environmental Challenges
 - Continuing Regional Divide and Disparities
- Unraveling the Food and Nutrition Security, Poverty, Agriculture, Agroecology and Rural Development Nexus.
 - Food Security, Malnutrition, Hunger and Agriculture Development
 - Agriculture Development and Rural Development
 - **Agroecology and Rural Development**
- Approaches and Strategies
 - Territorial Development as the core of ASEAN Rural Development Strategies
- Mainstreaming Gender and Youth
 - Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
 - Involving the Youth

ASEAN Rural Development Vision & Goals



Unraveling the food and nutrition security, poverty, agriculture, agroecology and rural development nexus.

- Food Security, Malnutrition, Hunger and Agriculture Development.
- Agriculture Development and Rural Development.
- Agroecology and Rural Development.



Agroecology and Rural Development

- Simultaneously applying ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of AFS makes agroecology a unique approach in meeting significant increases in our food needs to the future, while ensuring that no one is left behind.
- Agroecology as an approach, seeks to optimise the interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment while taking into consideration the social aspects that need to be addressed for a sustainable and fair food system. And these are the very premise that rural development works within.



- **Strategic Actions Lao PDR:**

a).Socio-Economic Development plan 9 of Lao PDR 2021-2025,

b).Agricultural Development strategy to 2025 and vision to 2030,

c).Ninth five-year Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development Plan (2021-2025),

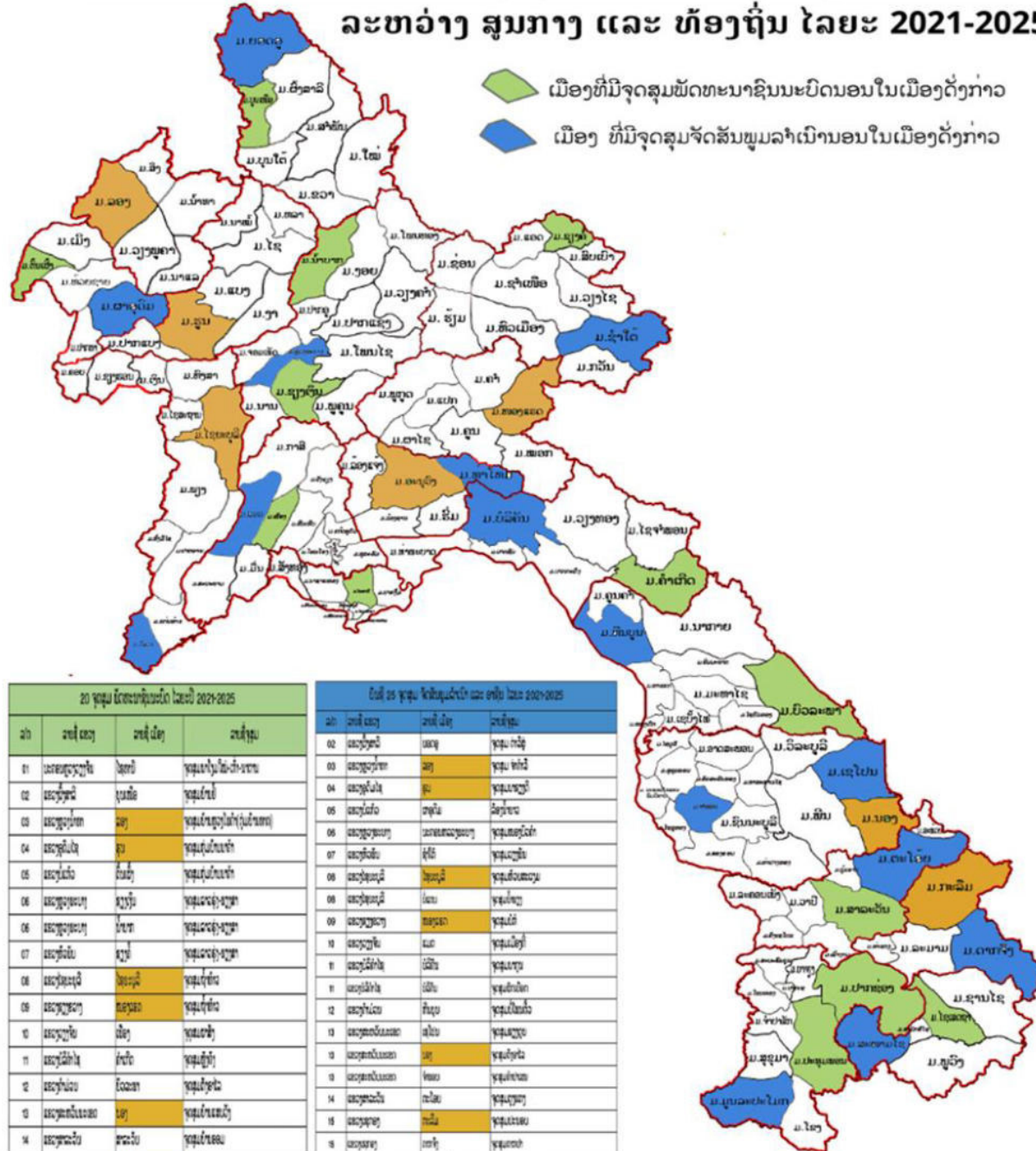
d).National Green Growth Strategy 2030,

e).Degree 348 Poverty Graduation and Development Standards and related regulations.



45 ຈຸດສຸມພັດທະນາ ທີ່ເປັນບຸລິມະສິດ ລະຫວ່າງ ສູນກາງ ແລະ ທ້ອງຖິ່ນ ໄລຍະ 2021-2025

◆ ເມືອງທີ່ມີຈຸດສຸມພັດທະນາຊື່ນນະບົດນອນໃນເມືອງດັ່ງກ່າວ
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20 ຈຸດສຸມ ໂດຍລຳດັບໃນໄລຍະ 2021-2025			
ລ/ດ	ລາຍຊື່ເຂດ	ລາຍຊື່ເມືອງ	ລາຍຊື່ຈຸດສຸມ
01	ເຂດອຸດຽນຊຽງໃນ	ໄທສາຍີ່	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
02	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ບຸນລີອີ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
03	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ລອງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
04	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ຊຽງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
05	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ສີມັງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
06	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ຊຽງໃນ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
06	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ໄທສາຍີ່	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
07	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ຊຽງໃນ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
08	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ໄທສາຍີ່	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
08	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ສີມັງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
09	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ສີມັງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
10	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ສີມັງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
11	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ສີມັງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
12	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ສີມັງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
13	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ສີມັງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
14	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ສີມັງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
15	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ສີມັງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
16	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ສີມັງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ

ໄລຍະ 20 ຈຸດສຸມ ໂດຍລຳດັບໃນໄລຍະ 2021-2025			
ລ/ດ	ລາຍຊື່ເຂດ	ລາຍຊື່ເມືອງ	ລາຍຊື່ຈຸດສຸມ
01	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ລອງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
02	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ລອງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
03	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ລອງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
04	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ລອງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
05	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ລອງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
06	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ລອງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
07	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ລອງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
08	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ລອງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
09	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ລອງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
10	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ລອງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
11	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ລອງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
12	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ລອງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
13	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ລອງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
14	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ລອງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
15	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ລອງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ
16	ເຂດຊຽງສີມີ	ລອງ	ຈຸດສຸມກຳມະໂນລະຍາ





Thank you for your attention



Annex 2:

**Overview of the Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture,
highlighting areas where agroecology could be
integrated**

Overview of the ASEAN Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture

National Consultation to Promote Agroecology in the context of ASEAN

Vientiane, 15 March 2024

Presented by: Thavisith Bounyasouk, Director, Planning and Cooperation Division, DOA

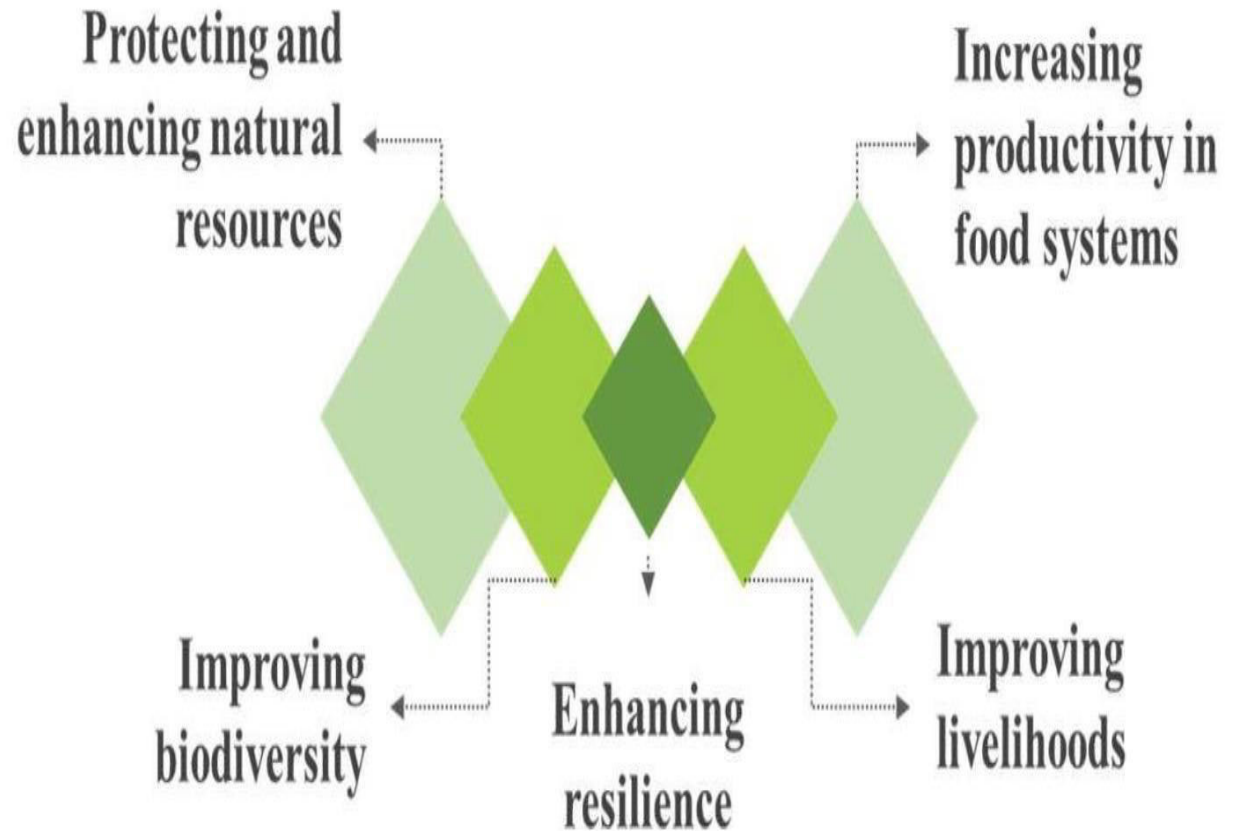
National focal point, ASWGC, Lao PDR

Email: thavisithb@yahoo.co.uk

Tel/WhatsApp: 856-20-22049919

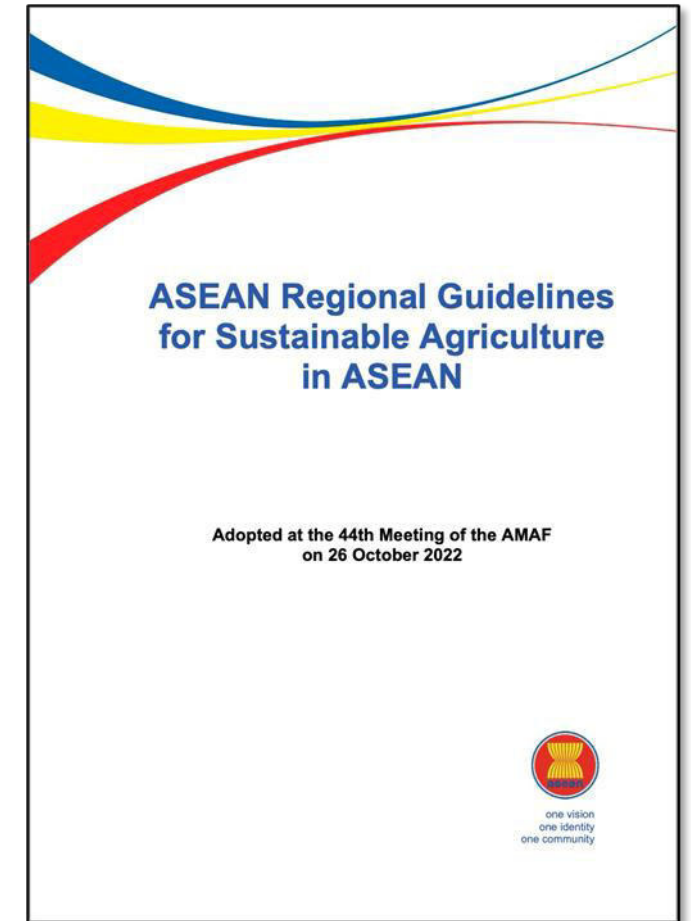
Introduction

- The ASEAN Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture (SA) were adopted at the 44th Meeting of the AMAF on 26 October 2022
- The Guidelines are based on **5 key principles** and **28 strategies**



Reference basis for SA Guidelines

- The guideline development reflecting from:
 - the existing frameworks,
 - among other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
 - ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF)
 - [ASEAN Integrated Food Security \(AIFS\) Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security \(SPA-FS\) 2021-2025 – ASEAN](#)

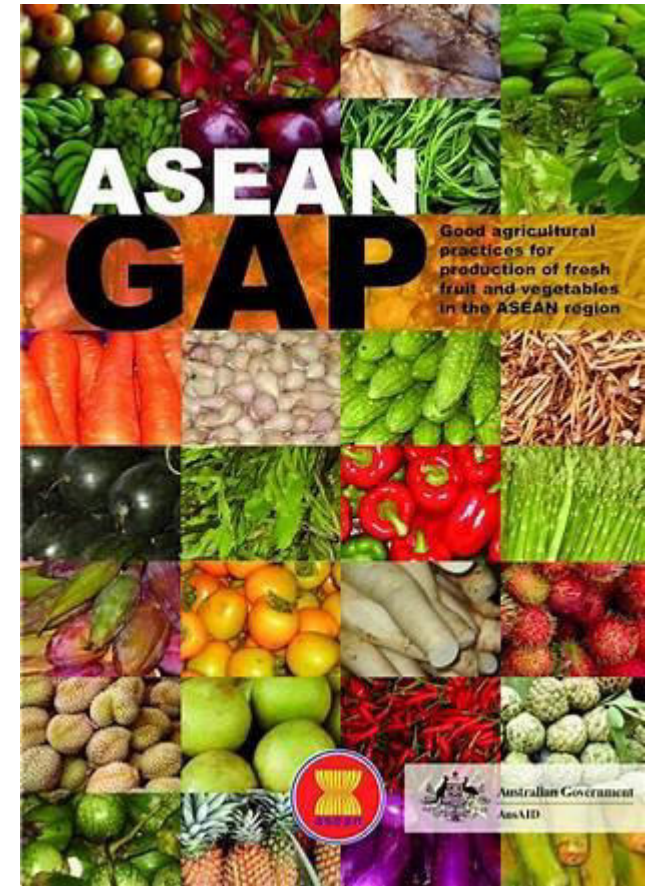


The focus of SA Guidelines

- The need for sustainable production of these Agricultural inputs from available sources within ASEAN
 - Agricultural biomass and food waste
 - Promoting circularity in agriculture
 - Cheaper farming inputs
 - soil health,
 - GAP and organic certification as market tool to build up trust and confidence in supply chain
- Leading to the **greater competitiveness** of ASEAN agricultural Produce

Note:

Other approaches to sustainability such as **IPM and conservation agriculture** are mentioned only briefly, while there is **no mention of SRI, GI, water harvesting, seed-saving, landscape management, farmer networking** etc.



The need for further Guidance development

- The SA Guidelines include a short section on the Transition Process, but there is a need for more detailed analysis and recommendations.

4.3.1 Halal and Tayyib Halal Tayyiban Systems	38
5. The Transition Process to Sustainability and Circularity	39
5.1 Transition Management to Sustainable and Circular Agriculture	39
6. The Route to Sustainability: Transition Processes and Management	40
7. Harmonising AMS Strategies: The Need for a Common Platform	41

- The SA Guidelines also note FAO’s advice that agroecology as a *“viable transformative approach based on ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of sustainable and fair food system.”*

Note: the 30th ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops endorsed the LICA proposal to develop additional guidelines on the Agroecology Transition to be adopted by AMAF during 2024.

Thank You



FIRST CIRCULAR

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON
“SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION FOR FOOD,
NUTRITIONAL AND LIVELIHOOD SECURITY: A
CHALLENGE FOR ASIAN FARMERS”**

October 16-18, 2019 ; Venue: Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR)



Annex 3:

**Lao Govt policy priorities for Agriculture and Rural
Development, with specific reference to agroecology
by Department of Planning and Cooperation-MAF**



Lao Govt policy priorities for Ag and RD, with specific reference to agroecology



Daosouksan Keovongsa
Department of Planning and Cooperation
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Content

I. Introduction

II. The main policy support for Agroecology in Laos

III. Some existing policy initiatives implemented locally in Lao PDR

IV. Results of Agroecology Policy Stocktaking in Lao PDR

V. The way forward for developing agroecology in Laos

I. Introduction

- Lao PDR development focuses on the sustainable pathway.
- Initiative on Agroecology (PRONAE) started from 2003-2009.
- Laos Is implementing its National Green Growth Strategy up to 2030.
- Involved with Agroecology and Safe food system Transition (ASSET) Project started from 2022-2025.

II. The main policy support for AE in Laos

Main Policies supporting AE & RD in Lao PDR

- Agricultural Development strategy to 2025 and vision to 2030.
- Ninth five-year Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development Plan (2021-2025).
- National Green Growth Strategy 2030 .
- Green and Sustainable Agriculture framework for Lao PDR to 2030.
- Organic Agriculture (OA).
- Good Agriculture Practice (GAP).
- Degree 348 Poverty Graduation and Development Standards.
- The Manual of Direct seeding on crop residue.

The main Lao partners implementing AE at National and Regional levels

- SWG-ARD.
- Members of Lao CSOs Sector Working Group on Forestry Agriculture and Rural Development (CSWG-FARD).
- ALiSEA Network (Members).
- Lao Farmer Network (LFN).
- Focal Group on Responsible Agriculture Investment (FG-RA).
- Land Information Working Group (LIWG)
- SUN-CSA.
- FAO platforms -Agroecology and Family Farming.

III. Some existing policy initiatives implemented locally in Lao PDR

Initiative	Location in the country
Pesticide management at district level	Thathom district, Xaisomboun Province; Kham district, Xiengkhouang Province
Five ways to boost innovation in organic vegetable production system	Thonngmang Village and Nontea Village in Vientiane Capital
The Conservation Agriculture Fund	Xayabury province
Support to Bamboo and Rattan Value chain	Huaphan province
The Participatory Guarantee System experiment	Xieng khouang province
The Green Extension approach	Northern provinces
The sustainability of commercial banana production in the Lao PDR	Luang Namtha, Oudomxay, Phongsali, Salavane and Bolikhamxay provinces
Public-Private partnership to develop quality processing	Vientiane capital, Vientiane, Xiengkhouang, Sayabouri, Luangprabang, and Oudomxay provinces

Agriculture practices in Laos related to agroecology over past 30 years

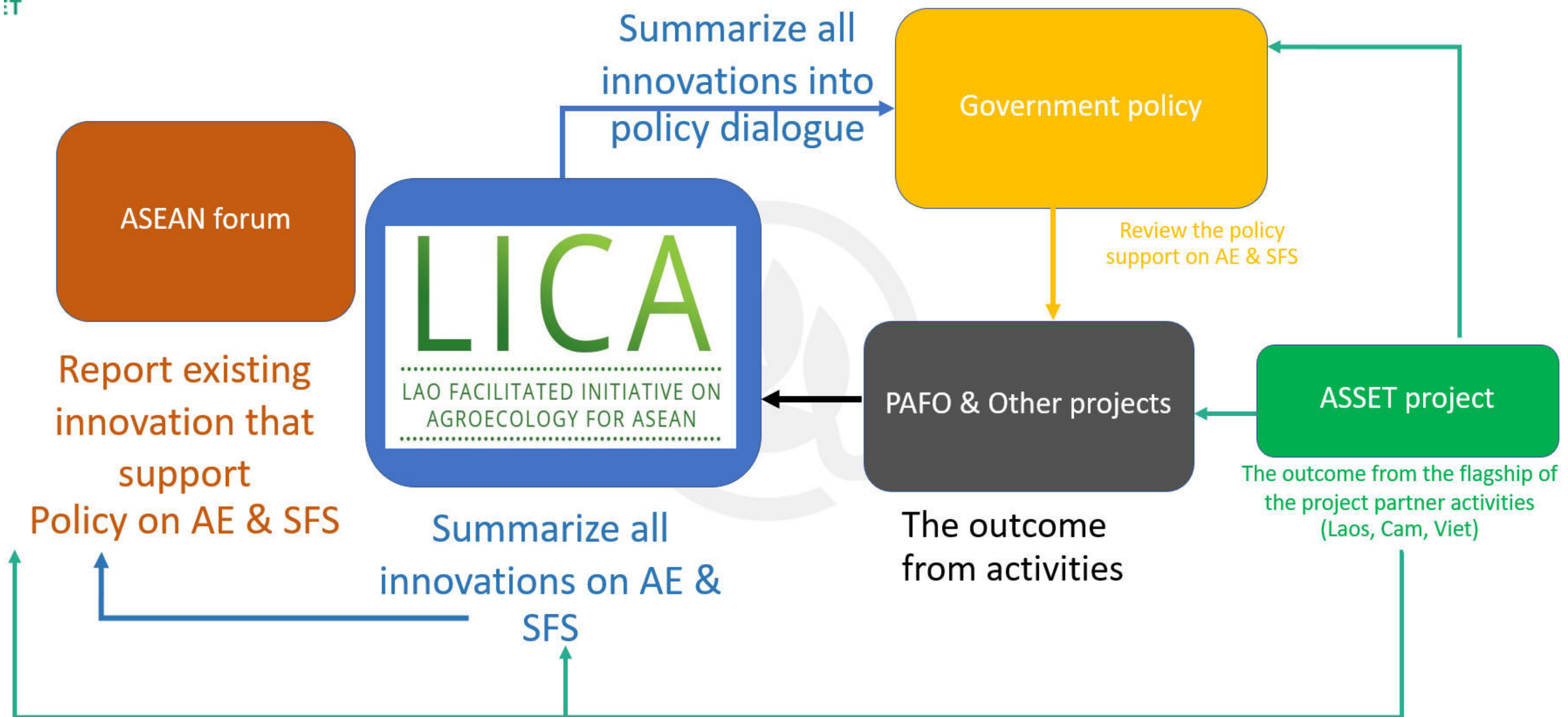
- Agro-Forestry
- Sustainable agriculture
- Alternative agriculture
- Natural farming
- Integrated farming
- Integrated Pest Management
- Inter-crop agriculture
- Regenerative agriculture
- Diversified agriculture
- Conservation agriculture
- Climate Smart Agriculture
- Organic Agriculture (OA standard)
- Good Agriculture Practices (GAP Standard)

ການກະສິກຳແບບຍືນຍົງ ຢູ່ ສປປ ລາວ

ປື້ມຄູ່ມືແນະນຳທາງດ້ານນິເວດວິທະຍາ ເພື່ອ
ການດຳລົງຊີວິດໃນອະນາຄົດ

ຮຽບຮຽງໂດຍ Kevin Kamp
ທັນວາ 2008

Policy dialogue through ASSET project in Laos



IV. Results of Agroecology Stocktaking in Laos

Through selection and review of **85 policy** documents and compare to 10 elements of AE (FAO).

- **Various policies are in place** to support agroecology and safe food systems **but not specific enough and don't have document fully support all the 10 elements** of AE and the main goals of SFS.
- **Lack of partners responsible** to assess and evaluate the implementation of policies that AE and SFS .
- The **dissemination of public policies** that are environmentally friendly **doesn't reach local/provincial level** and are mostly theoretical, therefore **lacking impact in rural areas**.
- **In the future policies** should be more specific policy supporting AE and SFS should be followed up with more effective implementation.
- The promotion and support to AE and SFS should be included **in the revised strategies, masterplan and legislation** (e.g. NSEDP and ADS).
- Policies supporting AE and SFS in Lao PDR should be **more widely disseminated from the central level to the local level**, to increase stakeholder's access to information on public policies.

V. The way forward for developing agroecology in Laos

- Prepare **policy briefs** for Agroecology.
- Strengthening AE at national level **through SWG-ARD and SSWG-AE.**
- At ASEAN level: support the process of preparing and disseminating **Guidelines for AE transition.**
- Prepare a **Road Map** for AE transition and SFS transformation in Lao PDR.
- **Establish a Task Force** to lead The Road Map.
- Follow-up on the **ASSET project activities.**



Thank you so much



Annex 4:

Presentation of the Proposed Policy Guidelines on Agroecology Transition

Proposed Policy Guidelines on Agroecology Transition

Thatheva Saphangthong, PhD.

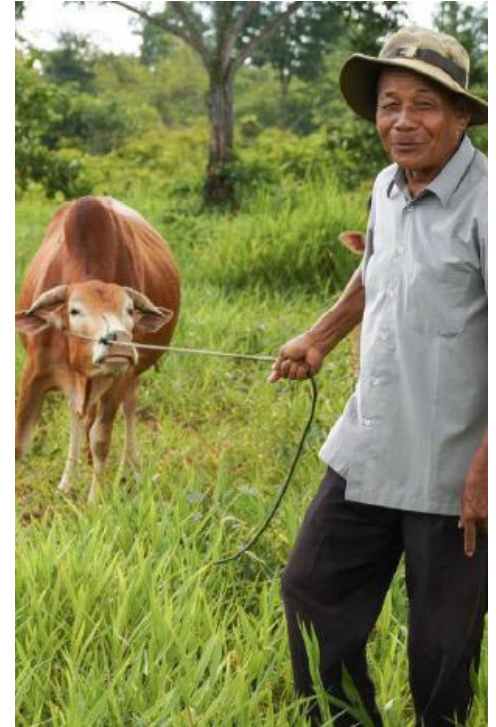
DDG, Dept. of Agricultural Land Management (DALaM) & LICA Focal Point, Lao PDR

National Consultation to Promote Agroecology in the context of ASEAN
Vientiane, 15 March 2024



The need for an agroecology transition guideline for ASEAN

- ③ The ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture provide comprehensive guidance regarding the characteristics and requirements for sustainable agricultural practices in ASEAN countries.
- ③ These Regional Guidelines note FAO's framing of agroecology as a “viable transformative approach based on ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of sustainable and fair food system” (FAO, 2018, p.8, Nelles & Ferrand, eds. 2020) in the context of a paradigm shift for sustainable agriculture.
- ③ Agroecology transition encompasses the systemic changes and innovations that widen and deepen the application of agroecology practices, in support of sustainable food system transformation with benefits for the economy, the environment and people, and as an SDG accelerator.



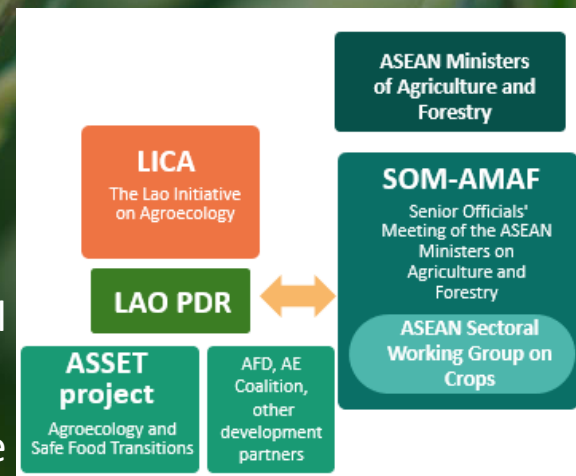


The Role of LICA

- **The Lao Facilitated Initiative on Agroecology for ASEAN was proposed and endorsed in 2012**
- **LICA aims to bring ASEAN countries together to accelerate transitions to agroecology in line with national targets and strategic orientation to agroecology production**
 - **Sharing success-stories and learning experiences of ASEAN countries on policies and institutional mechanisms that efficiently support agroecological transition.**
 - **Facilitating inter-country analysis of these experiences, through ASEAN SWGs**
- **LICA's role is increasing in importance as the interest in agroecology increases**
- **Adoption of the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture (2022) provided important direction to the work of LICA**
- **Currently, LICA is playing a key role in the development of Policy Guidelines for Agroecology Transition in support of the implementation of the Sustainable Agriculture Guidelines**

Design Process

- As LICA Coordinator, DALAM has the lead role in ensuring drafts of the Policy Guidelines for Agroecology Transition are prepared and submitted to ASEAN in accordance with the agreed procedures and timeline
- A Human Centred Design (HCD) process has been applied to ensure that the needs of target users are met.
- The HCD process has involved workshops and interviews with target users among ASEAN Member States, including LICA Focal Points where these have been appointed.
- Support has been provided by the Agroecology and Safe Food Systems Transition (ASSET) project funded by Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the European Union (EU).
- The key ASSET partners involved in the design process are ESCAP, FAO, CIRAD together with DALAM, IPSARD, GDA and DOPC.
- Members of the ALiSEA network have been involved in different consultations as well as other key stakeholders at regional level such as AFA and global level such as the Agroecology Coalition.



Objectives

- Practical guidance on transition (not practice)
- Guidance that supports key policy actors at the national level
- Guidance which helps advance agroecology transition objectives in the work of key ASEAN bodies
- Guidance that is accessible and made available through appropriate channels for target users

Target users of the agroecology transition guidance



Champions

those who advocate from within – leading the advancement of agroecology from within Government



Technical experts

who work with “Champions” and “Coordinators”, either within government, or through development partners’ interventions



Coordinators

who work with others to bring different stakeholders and processes together



Advocates

who are on the outside of government advocating for change

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION

1. Background and purpose
2. Guide to the user

B. AGROECOLOGY OVERVIEW

1. What is agroecology?
2. Evidence and examples
3. Principles and elements of agroecology
4. Agroecology policy integration

C. AE TRANSITIONS: VISION, FRAMEWORK AND ASEAN'S ROLE

1. A vision for agroecology transition in ASEAN
2. Theory of change / Transition Framework
3. ASEAN'S role

D. TRANSITION LEVERAGE POINTS*/TRANSITION ENABLERS

1. Planning for agroecology transition
2. Working with farmers

3. Promoting transitions across the agricultural value chains
4. Multi-stakeholder engagement
5. Building capacity
6. A research agenda for agroecology transition
7. Financing agroecology transition


E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION


1. Objectives, progress of transition and impacts on ASEAN/national goals
2. M & E frameworks, metrics/criteria and indicators
3. Localizing M & E processes and engaging stakeholders

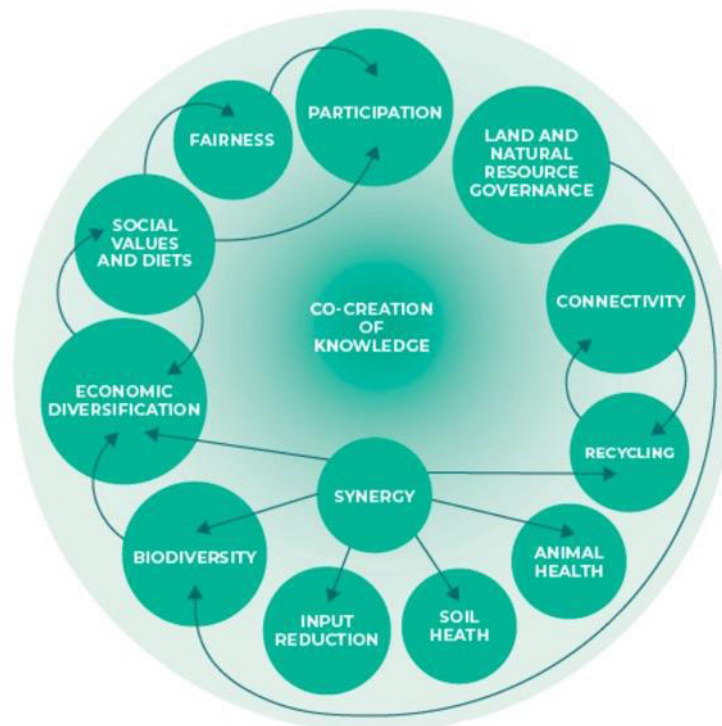
F. IMPLEMENTATION

1. General considerations, capacity building and advocacy
2. Implementation framework
3. Joint actions (e.g. standards, quality assurance/control, testing, IT and digitalisation, research, other)

Section B: Agroecology Overview

 *This section is aimed at those who require an introduction to agroecology or who need to advocate agroecology to other stakeholders involved in (agricultural) policy processes*

 *The section will provide a description of agroecology as a holistic approach to farming and food systems aimed at achieving ecological, economic, and social sustainability*



13 principles of agroecology
Source: HLPE, 2019

Sample from draft section B

B2. Examples and Evidence from ASEAN Member States

ASEAN countries have wide-ranging experience in the application of agroecological principles at all levels of the food system, providing a strong foundation for a broader transformation of food systems.

10 examples are given in this section, one from each ASM, illustrating the diversity of approaches and benefits associated with agroecology. Below is the example from Lao PDR.

Agroecology is a win-win for the environment and the economy

Agroecology is associated with a number of financial and economic benefits along agricultural value chains, including: efficiency gains and savings on inputs such as agrochemicals and water; reduced losses caused by pests, diseases and adverse weather; access to certification schemes and export markets that provide premium prices.

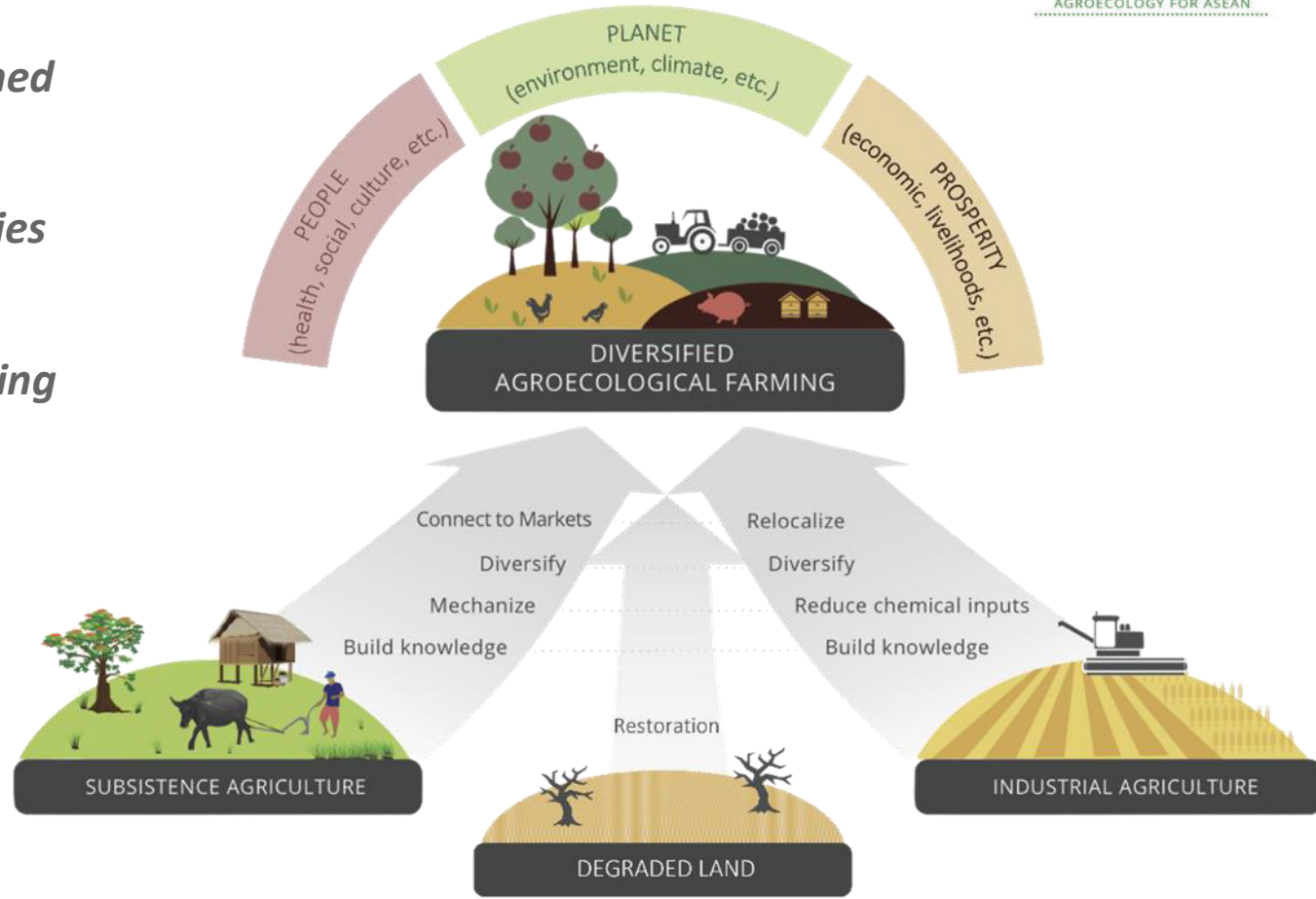
Example from Laos:

For centuries, the people of Laos have supplemented their diet with a wide range of products gathered from forests. In recent decades, there have been several success stories in the commercialization of naturally occurring forest products such as bamboo and wild tea. Coffee is not indigenous to Laos, but when planted in natural forest it has produced high quality ('specialty') beans that are now winning prizes and being exported to Europe, the USA, Japan and China. The potential for agroforestry coffee was highlighted in State and Outlook of Agroforestry in ASEAN (2021).

Section C: Agroecology Transitions

Agroecology to address different objectives simultaneously

 *This section is aimed at those who will work directly on designing strategies for agroecology transition in their countries or working within ASEAN structures at the regional level*



Sample from draft section C


C2. ASEAN goals for the agroecology transition

The aim of the agroecology transition in ASEAN is to accelerate and deepen the realisation of the agreed vision for the Food, Agriculture, and Forestry sector: *to make farming and food systems in Southeast Asia more competitive, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable.*

The specific contribution of agroecology to the achievement of each of the seven goals of the ASEAN strategic plan for the sector has been spelled out in Part B of these guidelines. The table below highlights some of the expected outcomes of a transition that involves greater application of the elements and principles of agroecology.

ASEAN Strategic Goals	Expected Outcomes of Agroecology Transition
• Ensuring equitable, sustainable and inclusive growth	Greater equity and improved sustainability in the sector; more opportunities for green growth.
• Alleviating poverty and eradicating hunger	Fairer returns for small producers; reduced vulnerability of food production to economic shocks
• Ensuring food security, food safety and better nutrition	Improved access to safe food; healthier diets for rural and urban consumers
• Deepening regional integration	Stronger collaboration between food system actors across the region, including policy, research and commerce
• Enhancing access to global markets	Wider application of certification schemes; improved access to markets with premium prices
• Increasing resilience, mitigation and adaptation to climate change	Better protection of natural resources; improved adaptive capacity; increased access to carbon finance,
• Achieving Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)	Enhanced synergies between forest management and other sub-sectors, incl. crops, livestock, soils and water

Section D: Transition Leverage Points

 *The section will give policy actors quick access to guidance on the means for creating enabling environments for agroecology.*

 *It will provide details on suitable policies to support transition in selected essential transition elements / leverage points*

- Planning for agroecology transition
- Working with farmers
- Promoting transitions across the value chains
- Multi-stakeholder engagement
- Building capacity
- A research agenda for agroecology transition
- Financing agroecology transition



Sample from draft section D

D2. Working with Farmers

Farmers' participation is at the heart agroecology transition. The outcomes of agroecology transition are direct results of collective action and engagement with farmers.

Working with farmers depends to a large extent on the formation and capacity building of farmers' groups done through a progressive and authentic learning process. The emphasis is on the central role of farmers and their communities as stewards and managers of agroecosystems and the importance of context-specific, gendered and inclusive transition pathways.

Key Recommendations

1. Create a safe environment that mitigates the transition risks for farmers
2. Create an enabling environment foresting horizontal sharing of farmers' knowledge and co-creation of knowledge
3. Create a model of governance where farmers' social organisations can contribute to the management of agroecological food systems
4. Adopt a rights-based approach to establish a safe legal and institutional environment that supports farmers who engage in agroecology transition
5. Promote innovative approaches, including digital technologies, to foster engagement of youth, women and indigenous peoples and local communities in agroecology transition

Section E: Monitoring & Evaluation

- 🌿 *This section aims to support national policy institutions and development partners in monitoring progress towards agroecology transition, and the contributions to food security and nutrition.*
- 🌿 *It will provide an indication of frameworks suitable for monitoring progress and evaluating outcomes of agroecology transition, as well as the implementation of related policies.*



Sample from draft section E

- Different needs and uses: adaptive learning, verification
 - M&E frameworks: Measurement in line with the 10 FAO elements or the 13 HLPE principles
- Capacity to inform various SDGs
- Inclusiveness principles, participatory design and analysis tools

Tool for AE Performance Evaluation (TAPE, FAO)

HH-Farm based evaluation + community -Territory

- Stepwise approach incl. participatory analysis
- Dimensions assessed against 10 FAO elements:
 - land tenure, productivity, income, value added, pesticide exposure, dietary diversity, women's empowerment, youth employment, biodiversity and soil health

The AE Assessment Framework (AE coalition)

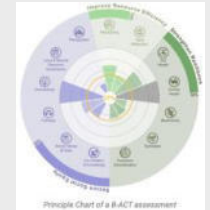
Project based evaluation

- Degree of Alignment with the 13 HLPE principles:
 - strong/ lack/ irrelevant
 - e.g Indic. for Recycling principle: reusable packaging,
 - for Synergies: fodder trees and crops,
 - for co-creation of knowledge: CoP on AE
- "Red cards" for practices that run counter to AE values (e.g. GMO, large scale mono-cropping, destruction farmer- managed seeds systems)

Business agroecology criteria tool (B-ACT, Biovision)

Business based evaluation

- Agroecology Score: measuring the alignment with the 13 HLPE principles
- Screening questions: conflicting practices



Section F: Implementation

- ③ *This section will suggest an implementation plan and joint actions.*
- ③ *It will allocate responsibility for follow-up to specific ASEAN working group structures and will inform the preparation of the Implementation Plan of the ASEAN Guidelines for Sustainable Agriculture”*

LICA

LAO FACILITATED INITIATIVE ON
AGROECOLOGY FOR ASEAN



**ASEAN
GAP**



Thank You

LICA

LAO FACILITATED INITIATIVE ON
AGROECOLOGY FOR ASEAN



Annex 5:

**Sharing of various AE Initiatives in the country by CSOs
and FFOs (mapping done)**



ALiSEA
Agro-ecology Learning alliance in South East Asia

Sharing of various AE Initiatives of ALiSEA Network

Manivanh Aliyavong, Regional Small Grant Manager, ALiSEA

Session 2: Building Blocks for the Agroecology Transition

**National Consultation to Promote Agroecology in the context of ASEAN
on 15th March 2024, Vientiane, Lao PDR**



Agroecology Learning Alliances:

- **Many and diverse** ongoing initiatives and experiences contributing to Agroecology with a shared interest for bridging and synergizing these initiatives
- **ALiSEA** : Open coalition of multi stakeholders promoting a broad understanding of Agroecology (agreement on common principles).
- **Goal:**
 - > Answer need for **knowledge exchange and experiences sharing**
 - > Forster **interaction** and create **safe space for stakeholders**
 - > **Increase visibility of agroecology of local initiatives**

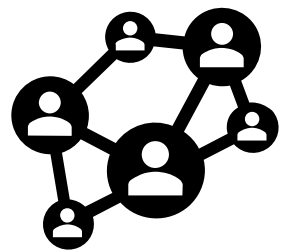




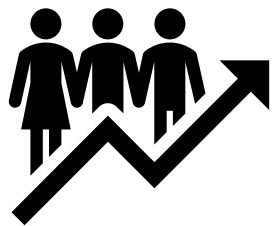
Five Modalities of action:



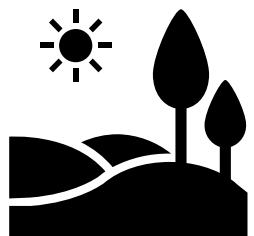
1. Communication and Networking



2. Knowledge Management and Sharing: gather, document, produce, disseminate



3. Strengthen members capacity building: soft and technical skills



4. Small Grant Facility to support and boost AE innovations



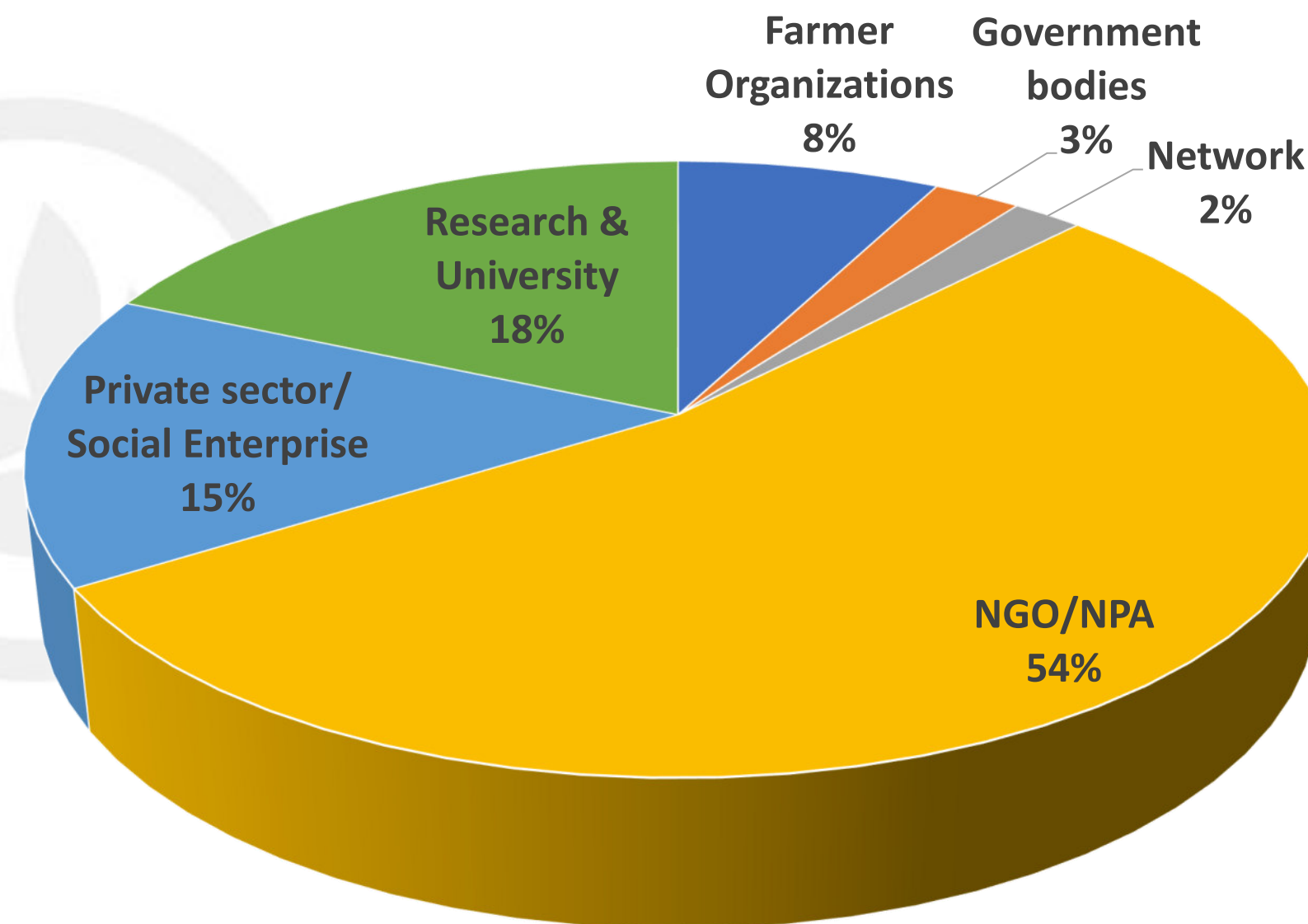
5. Citizens awareness raising and contribute to public policies

ALiSEA Members at regional

Total Members as of January 2024: 203 organizations



PER ORGANISATION CATEGORY



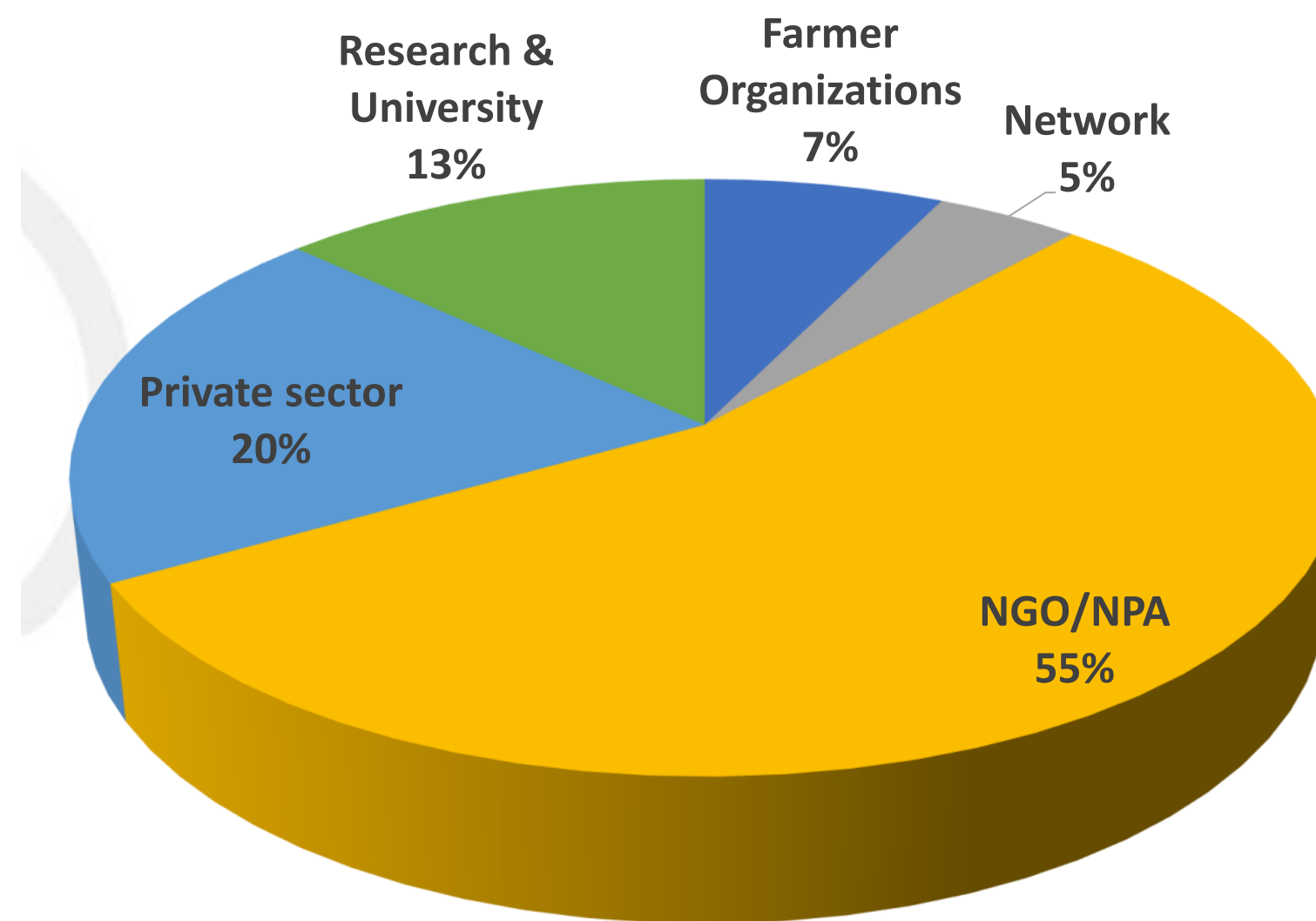
- Farmer Organizations
- Government bodies
- Network
- NGO/NPA
- Private sector/ Social Enterprise
- Research & University

ALiSEA Members in Laos

Total Members as of January 2024: 70 organizations



PER ORGANIZATION CATEGORY



- Farmer Organizations
- NGO/NPA
- Research & University
- Network
- Private sector



ALiSEA Members Lao PDR





ALiSEA Network Action Plan:

- **National Foresight & Theory of Change process co-organized by DALAM, NUoL, NAFRI, DoPC, CIRAD, IRD, ALiSEA** to build common and desired vision on Agroecology and to guide interventions (59 participants including 25 women)
- **Co-developed action plans with ALiSEA members** by identification of areas where ALiSEA is the **most suitable and where it should focus its efforts**

Lao PDR

Pathway N1

Support **Young Farmers**. Increase Knowledge from national & international **exchanges**.
To support and empower young farmers in agroecology transition for better livelihoods.

Pathway N2

Limited **technical capacity** of FOs, technicians on AE, SF and **increasing trend** of AE/SF products due to **health and safety concerns**.
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

Pathway N3

Limited management of agricultural **chemical use**
To support reduction of chemical pesticides uses in the agriculture through diversification and efficiency



A future vision for Agroecology in Lao PDR

- 1 section on Agroecology included in Agriculture Master Plan
- Improved governance of land, natural resources and biodiversity allow increase sustainable investments
- Agroecology strategies and policies are enforced.

POLICY FOR AGROECOLOGY

- 2 training centers per province, 80% of trainees with improved knowledge on agroecology;
- 1 Independent organization habilitated to monitor chemicals
- 30% of farms are agroecological, half are managed by young people.
- More than 50% of commercial agricultural products meet safe food standards.

CHANGE IN PRODUCTION PRACTICES

- 50% of consumers can access safe food (both in rural & urban areas)

CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

- 50% of farmers and agri-businesses are using mobile app for market linkage.
- 20% of smallholder farmers get additional income from tourism.
- Agroecological practices and products are competitive with conventional agriculture in terms of price and access.

MARKET ACCESS FOR AGROECOLOGY PRODUCTS





Key messages and Experiences

- ❑ **Diversify of innovative systems practices and knowledges:**
 - Integrated farming systems, producing organic vegetables, seed, organizing training session and exchanges between farmers
 - Diversification of production
 - Document and learn from farmers agroecological practices in Laos
 - Foster co-creation of knowledge and dissemination
 - Peer to peer exchanges between farmers, using digital tools to exchange and learn
 - ALiSEA providing small grants to boost innovations in the field





Key messages and Experiences

- ❑ **Integration of smallholders into national markets leads to increased livelihood conditions:**
 - Supporting farmers organizations to supply national markets with diverse, quality and regular products
 - Promoting renewable energy (solar dryer) for agriculture post harvesting for smallholders.
 - Build trust relationship between producers and consumers and raise awareness
 - Certification system to ensure quality and good price





AE Challenges and Recommendations in Laos

Challenges:

- **Limited technical capacity of smallholders** on AE, Safe Food, certified, post harvest, processing and marketing
- **Declining interest of the younger generation in farming, limited involvement of youth is agroecology (issue of labor force)**
- Lack of sufficient awareness and evidence of AE
- Increasing environmental degradation and pollution : water, air
- **Lack of quality and access to local seed**
- Lack of policy enforcement and specific support to agroecology
- Limited involvement and support of private sector to agroecology



AE Challenges and Recommendations in Laos

Recommendations:

- Promote sustainable land management practices
- Support research and development on agroecology
- **Provide training and extension services to farmers**
- **Improve national market access for agroecological products**
- Develop policies and incentives for agroecology
- Need to develop communication materials/campaign in Lao language, media
- **Increase multi-stakeholders partnership – collaboration**



Thank you for your attention

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