

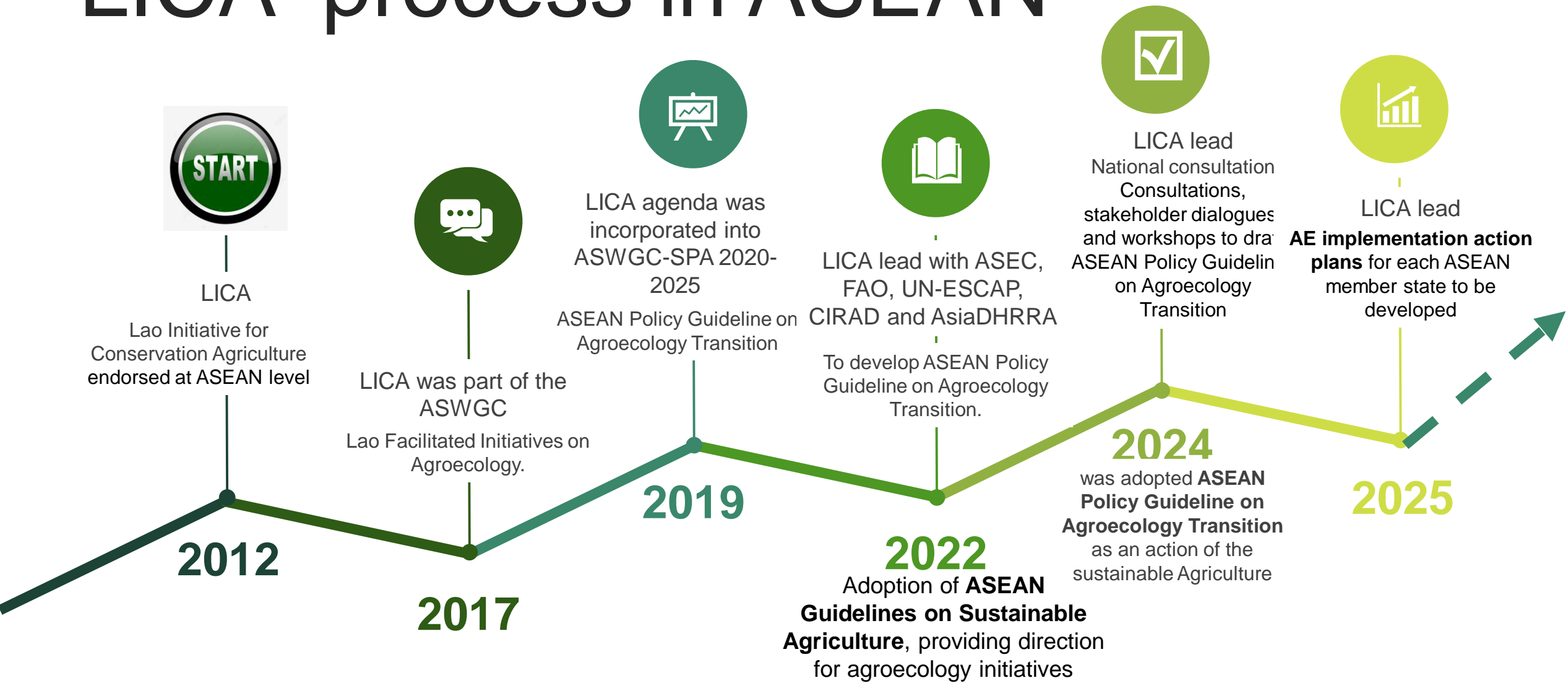
Policy Guidelines on Agroecology Transition for ASEAN

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Sub Sector Working Group on Agroecology Meeting

Vientiane, Lao PR
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Agroecology Development and LICA process in ASEAN



**Draft Policy Guidelines on
Agroecology Transition in
ASEAN countries**



**Policy Guidelines
on Agroecology
Transition in
ASEAN Countries**

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Prepared by the ASSET team under the overall direction of LICA

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REFERENCES

A. Introduction to the guidelines

References to:

- Agroecology Q&A
- Examples and evidence from ASEAN countries
- Contributions to the SDGs

Agroecology supports the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with contribution to selected SDGs shown in the below table.



SDG 1: End poverty in all forms everywhere

Family farming, herding and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture provide livelihoods for many of the world's rural poor. Agroecological approaches support food producers in reducing production costs, translating into greater income, economic stability and resilience.



SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Agroecological systems optimize the use of local and renewable resources and knowledge. This enables agricultural production systems to harness ecosystem benefits such as pest control, pollination, soil health and erosion control while ensuring productivity.



SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

By minimizing the use of potentially harmful agro-chemical inputs, agroecology reduces agriculture's negative effects on both human and environmental health. By re-localizing diets, agroecology can help to inform sustainable and healthy diets.



SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Women have a central role in agroecology. They are often custodians of healthy and traditional diets and are key players in sustainable food systems, from the home to the field, to the market and beyond. Agroecology has the potential to advance women's rights, self-determination and autonomy.



SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

Agroecology gives priority to the most marginalized and vulnerable sectors of society: rural women, youth, family farmers and indigenous peoples. Agroecology has the potential to address the

B. Agroecology definitions and scope

B1. Agroecology elements and Principles

B2. Agroecology transitions

References to:

- Theory of change
- Institutional resources

Referring to and building on the 10 elements (FAO) and the 13 Principles of Agroecology (HLPE, 2019)

Contribution of agroecology to the Vision and Strategic Plan of ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2025)

C4. Institutional resources

The table below provides details of selected international institutions supporting agroecology in Southeast Asia. This includes organizations based in the region, or with active partners in more than one ASEAN member state. National organizations, development projects are not included.

Table 5. Contribution of agroecology to the Vision and Strategic Plan of ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2025)

Name/Link	Website	Focal area
Agroecology Learning Alliance in South-East Asia	ALISEA	Knowledge-sharing among agroecology practitioners, especially NGOs and CSOs
Agroecology in South-East Asia	ASEA	Research and training partnership among 13 research and educational institutions
ASEAN Climate Resilience Network	ASEAN-CRN	Promoting climate smart agriculture among ASEAN member states
Grow Asia	Grow Asia	Promoting public-private partnerships for resilient and sustainable food systems
Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development	AFA	An alliance of national farmers organizations composed of small-scale family farmers
Agroecology Coalition	Agroecology Coalition	A global coalition for the transformation of food systems through agroecology
Agroecology Transformative Partnership Platform	Agroecology TPP	A community of practice for building resilience of livelihoods and landscapes

Pesticide Action Network, Asia-Pacific	PAN-AP	Advocating replacement of chemical-intensive agriculture with agroecology
Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas	AsiaDHRAA	Regional partnership of social development networks and organizations
Centre for Agric and BioSciences International – South East Asia	CABI-SEA	Scientific services for sustainable agriculture, including biocontrol and SPS standards
Asia & Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network	APIRAS	Networking for better extension services across the region, incl. sub-networks for SE Asia
Sustainable Rice Platform	SRP	Multi-stakeholder alliance reducing the social and environmental footprint of rice production
Higher Education for Sustainable Agriculture (HESA) in Southeast Asia	HESA	Exchanging knowledge for HESA, and exploring interdisciplinary curriculum reform
SEARCA Knowledge Center on Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture and NRM	SEARCA KC3	A one-stop-shop of information on climate change adaptation and mitigation in SE Asia
Mekong Youth Farm Network	Y-Farm	Partnering with young farmers and youth groups in five lower Mekong Countries
FAO Agroecology Knowledge Hub (AKH)	AKH	Acts as a valuable repository of well-documented evidence, policies, practices, and cutting-edge scientific advancements in the field of agroecology
Markets and Agriculture Linkages for Cities in Asia	Malica	Partnerships on research on food market analysis and urban/rural linkages in Vietnam and in Laos

C. GUIDELINES FOR AGROECOLOGY TRANSITIONS

Practical guidance for addressing key barriers and catalyzing agroecology transitions

= Transition leverage points



D1. Planning for agroecology transitions



D2. Working with farmers



D3. Promoting transitions across the agrifood value chains



D4. Capacity building and knowledge sharing



D5. Multistakeholder engagement



D6. Developing a research Agenda



D7. Financing agroecology transitions

C1. Planning for agroecology transitions

Guidelines

1. Formulate coherent policy and better targets for agricultural planning through AE
2. Engage stakeholders in planning processes
3. Apply a landscape or territorial approach
4. Engage private sector and strengthen planning rules for agribusiness (ex. Corporate sustainability programs and responsible sourcing investments)

Approaches and concrete experiences *(to be included in the website)*

- ✓ Some areas to prioritize agroecology investments
- ✓ Strengthening multilevel governance and policy coherence for agroecology transitions
- ✓ Participatory Land Use Planning and its use in Lao PDR (Eficas project)

C2. Working with farmers

Guidelines

1. Strengthen farmers', women and youth organizations and their active engagement in AE policy processes
2. Create enabling conditions to support farmers in transition: information systems, welfare and insurance schemes, crop and farm diversification
3. Promote a safe legal and institutional environment: (UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, rights to seeds, land rights, data regulations)
4. Harness the potential of digital technologies and data/ knowledge management systems

Approaches and concrete

experiences *(to be included in the website)*

- ✓ MASIPAG, Philippines
- ✓ SEARICE, Philippines
- ✓ Engaging Youths in Advocating Agroecology and Farmers' Rights
- ✓ Sustainable Agriculture Code of Arakan: Local Agroecology Policies
- ✓ International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

C3. Promoting transitions across agrifood value chains

Guidelines

1. Support domestic market development and short value chains for agroecological products
2. Create an enabling environment for domestic inclusive value chain transformations
3. Adapt public regulations on food safety, quality standards and certification to support AE product differentiation and consumer conscious choices
4. Consumer oriented policies: health, nutrition sensitive measures
5. Support local value chain development for inputs, equipment and machineries
6. Reform trade-related instruments, price support and sourcing policies

Approaches and concrete experiences *(to be included in the website)*

- ✓ Local public procurement (e.g. Cambodia – school feeding)
- ✓ Community supported agriculture (e.g. China)
- ✓ Open Food Network: community-controlled e-commerce platform
- ✓ MEDA: Facilitating Women's Access to Agricultural Value Chains – Myanmar
- ✓ Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) approach – Vietnam and Cambodia
- ✓ Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil Certification Scheme

C4. Capacity building and knowledge sharing

Guidelines

1. Build farmers and rural communities' capacity and facilitating farmers to farmers learning and exchange
2. Reshape extension and advisory services
3. Mainstream agroecology in vocational training, higher education and academic Curricula
4. Enhance public awareness on Agroecology

Approaches and concrete experiences *(to be included in the website)*

- ✓ Farmer field schools, Indonesia and Malaysia
- ✓ Bos Khnor - CARDEC, Cambodia (ASSET support)
- ✓ Green extension, Lao PDR
- ✓ ALiSEA (ASSET support)

C5. Multistakeholder engagement

Guidelines

1. Identify and co-develop clear objectives for engaging stakeholders
2. Conduct stakeholder mapping and develop understanding of their perspectives and interests
3. Institutionalize engagement
4. Move beyond consultation to support self-organization

Approaches and concrete

experiences *(to be included in the website)*

- ✓ LICA (ASSET support)
- ✓ CASIC (ASSET support)
- ✓ ESCAP empowerment and inclusion framework
- ✓ Philippine Partnerships for Sustainable Agriculture (PPSA)

C6. Developing a research agenda for agroecology transition

Guidelines

1. Reshape Research Orientations: farm to food system levels, multidimensional assessment, etc.
2. Foster innovative approaches of doing research and co-producing knowledge with a variety of actors
3. Address farm scale agroecology research agenda (Incl. diversification, multitarget breeding, CLI, ACP, service crops)
4. Address landscape level AE research agenda
5. Address food system scale AE research agenda at various levels (Incl. FS assessment, territorial branding, engagement in food system transformations (FST) action plans – science policy interface)

Approaches and concrete experiences (to be included in the website)

- ✓ True cost accounting (TEEBAgriFood, Thailand)
- ✓ Foresight processes and participatory Theory of Change, **experience from ASSET project**
- ✓ Participatory action research on crop livestock integration, **ASSET**, Vietnam
- ✓ Low cost and low-tech mechanization to decrease drudgery, CSAM

C7. Financing agroecology transition

Guidelines

1. Create an enabling environment to repurpose public funding and private investment towards the transition
2. Build a coherent national AE strategy to attract and accountable framework to direct international funding into the transition
3. Develop innovative financial models that address the needs of smallholder farmers for transitioning in various contexts, while leveraging global sustainability finance

Approaches and concrete

experiences *(to be included in the website)*

- ✓ Dei Meas: Sustainability finance instrument in Cambodia **(ASSET support)**
- ✓ Sustainability finance models with potential to support agroecological transition

D. Implementation

- Towards policy coherence and strengthening institutional support for AE transitions
- LICA as a Reference Group
- Short term plan in the doc: regional level & national level (voluntary)
- Medium and long term plan based on further consultations

The ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops (ASWGC) and the Lao-facilitated Initiative on Agroecology (LICA) as a reference group for ASEAN will take the lead to promote the uptake and implementation of the Policy Guidelines:

- National focal points for ASWGC, other sectoral bodies under AMAF, LICA and others have important roles in agroecology transition at both regional and national levels.
- The implementation actions and timeframes outlined below aim to strengthen regional policy processes and national follow-up on a voluntary basis.
- Stronger engagement across sectors and policy processes are an important approach to implementation.
- Periodic review and revision of the guidelines will be led by LICA with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat. This review and revision will help socialize the guidelines and ensure their continuing relevance and effectiveness.

Next steps Guidelines process

Socialization of the guidelines:

- **Guidelines summary** prepared (16 p) for wide dissemination
- Panel discussion during 3rd Agriculture Ministers' Meeting - Greater Mekong Subregion (week 18/11)

Development of a **guidelines' dedicated website** (under ASSET, using ASEAN RAI guidelines as model)

- Interactive access to the different guidelines' part

+ Access to more detailed resources for implementation:

- Own library of emblematic case studies and experiences (to be sustained)
- Link to ALiSEA knowledge hub relevant resources (interoperability)
& to FAO AE knowledge hub

ASEAN regional workshop co-hosted with the ASEC (ASSET, LICA, AE coalition, early 2026):

- Advance ASEAN implementation plans with LICA's and other ASEAN Sectoral bodies focal points
- Initial discussions to lay the foundations for an operational framework for regional monitoring (on progress to sustainable agriculture and food systems) & periodic review process presented to AMAF and circulated to other pillars (rural development and poverty eradication)

LICA supporting, strengthening and positioning as the AE reference group for the ASEAN

From



Sharing *success and learning experiences* of ASEAN countries on policies and institutional mechanisms that efficiently support agroecological transition.



Facilitating an *inter-countries analysis* of these experiences, *through partnerships with ASEAN Sub-Working Group on Crops (ASWGC) SPA 2021-2025.*



Facilitating the design of *ASEAN guidelines for policies supporting agroecological transition.*

To



Link the discussions in ASEAN on agroecology with *global discussions*, in particular with the Agroecology Coalition.



Increase the coherence of policy and activity on sustainable agriculture, beyond the ASWGC.



Increase communication and sharing on *agroecology advances* in ASEAN member states.

Strengthened entrenchment in AE coalition global dynamics

Next Steps and Call to Action

For LICA:

01

- Continue providing coordination and technical assistance to ASEAN Member States.
- Support AE implementation plan to each member state
- Monitor progress and facilitate regional knowledge exchange.

For Member States:

02

- Finalize national agroecology transition action plans based on the guidelines.
- Ensure stakeholder engagement in the planning and implementation process.

For Stakeholders:

03

- Collaborate through multi-stakeholder platforms and networks.
- Support farmers in adopting agroecology practices through training, financing, and market support.



Thank you!

LICA

LAO FACILITATED INITIATIVE ON
AGROECOLOGY FOR ASEAN

