Seed Systems in Agricultural Development
Agrobiodiversity Loss

- 391,000 globally identified plant species
- 5,538 crops used for food by humans throughout history
- 3 crops (rice, maize, and wheat) currently provide >50% of the world's calories from plants
- 12 crops that together with 5 animal species provide 75% of the world's food today
Seed System Synergy
Formal System

Advantages:
- Improved varieties
- Quality control
- Uniform yield

Disadvantages:
- Limited access for rural farmers
- Reliance on seed providers
- Expensive

Informal System

Advantages:
- Can save seeds year after year
- Affordable
- Better access for rural farmers

Disadvantages:
- Limited quality control
- Genetic variability

Community Seed Bank (CSB)
ECHO’s Approach

- Regional Seed Banks
- Community Seed Banks
- Farmer-level Seed Saving
- Open-Pollinated Varieties
- Neglected & Underutilized Species
Seed Exchanges
ECHO Asia Seed Bank
Chiang Mai, Thailand
A Growing Network of Community Seed Banks
The Lisu Baptist Seminary Seed Bank
Pyin Oo Lwin, Myanmar
The Kaheelu Center Seed Bank
Irrawaddy Delta, Myanmar
The Ntuk Nti Community Seed Bank
Modulkiri, Cambodia
The Need for a Network

- Transborder movement of genetic materials
- Comparative Advantage
- Local distribution/availability
- Civil unrest/political instability
- Strengthening of network partners
## ECHO Asia Farm Training Calendar 2024

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>1-week Faith &amp; Farming Workshop</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19-24</td>
<td>1-week Tropical Ag &amp; Development (TAD) Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-day Intro to Biochar Production Workshop</td>
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<td>21-22</td>
<td>2-day Seed Saving Fundamentals Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1-day Biosand Water Filtration System Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>16-17</td>
<td>2-day Integrated Pest Management Workshop</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1-day Neglected &amp; Underutilized Species Workshop</td>
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<td></td>
<td>24-29</td>
<td>1-week Tropical Ag &amp; Development (TAD) Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>18-19</td>
<td>2-day Kitchen Gardening Workshop</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>System of Rice Intensification Community Event (Planting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1-day On-Farm Feed &amp; Black Soldier Fly (BSF) Workshop</td>
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<td>19-24</td>
<td>1-week THAI Tropical Ag &amp; Development (TAD) Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>2-day Intro to Soil Health Workshop</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1-Day Value-Added Products Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>18-23</td>
<td>1-week Tropical Ag &amp; Development (TAD) Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>System of Rice Intensification Community Event (Harvesting)</td>
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</tbody>
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**1-week Tropical Agriculture & Development Course**

This course is designed for development workers, missionaries, and volunteers looking to engage their communities with agricultural ideas and techniques. Participants will be introduced to a wide variety of agricultural practices and technologies through classroom time and hands-on activities on the farm.

**ECHOS Asia Small Farm Resource Center**
San Sai, Chiang Mai, Thailand

**Course Package**
- Lunch included

**On-Site Accommodations Available**
- Additional costs vary. Please contact us at echoasia@echonet.org for further information.

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For more information or to register:
echoasia@echonet.org