



# **Policies stocktaking to support Agroecological Transition in Lao PDR**

**Sub sector working group 24 November 2023**

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# Introduction

- ❑ Lao PDR development focuses on the sustainable pathway
- ❑ Lao initiative on Agroecology from (PCADR) started from 2003-2009
- ❑ Currently the country is implementing its National Green Growth Strategy up to 2030
- ❑ Lao PDR is one of the countries involved with Agroecology and Safe food system

Transition (ASSET) Project

# Recent the main policy support AE & SFS in Laos

## Main Policies supporting AE 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)

## Main Policies Support SFS in Lao PDR

1. National Plan of Action on Nutrition (NPAN) 2021-2025 (approved by Deputy Prime Minister on 12/10/2021)
2. National Information Platform on Nutrition (NIPN)
3. Dissemination of the CFS voluntary guidelines on Food Systems (FS) and Nutrition (Jan – June 2023)
4. National Action Plan on Sustainable Food Systems (NAP-SFS – name subject to change) – under development.

# ASSET – Bottom-up learning process

## Underway in Lao PDR,

1. Review of current policies from national to local levels
2. Selection and documentation of innovative policy approaches and instruments implemented at local levels
3. Support to existing policy change initiatives/processes

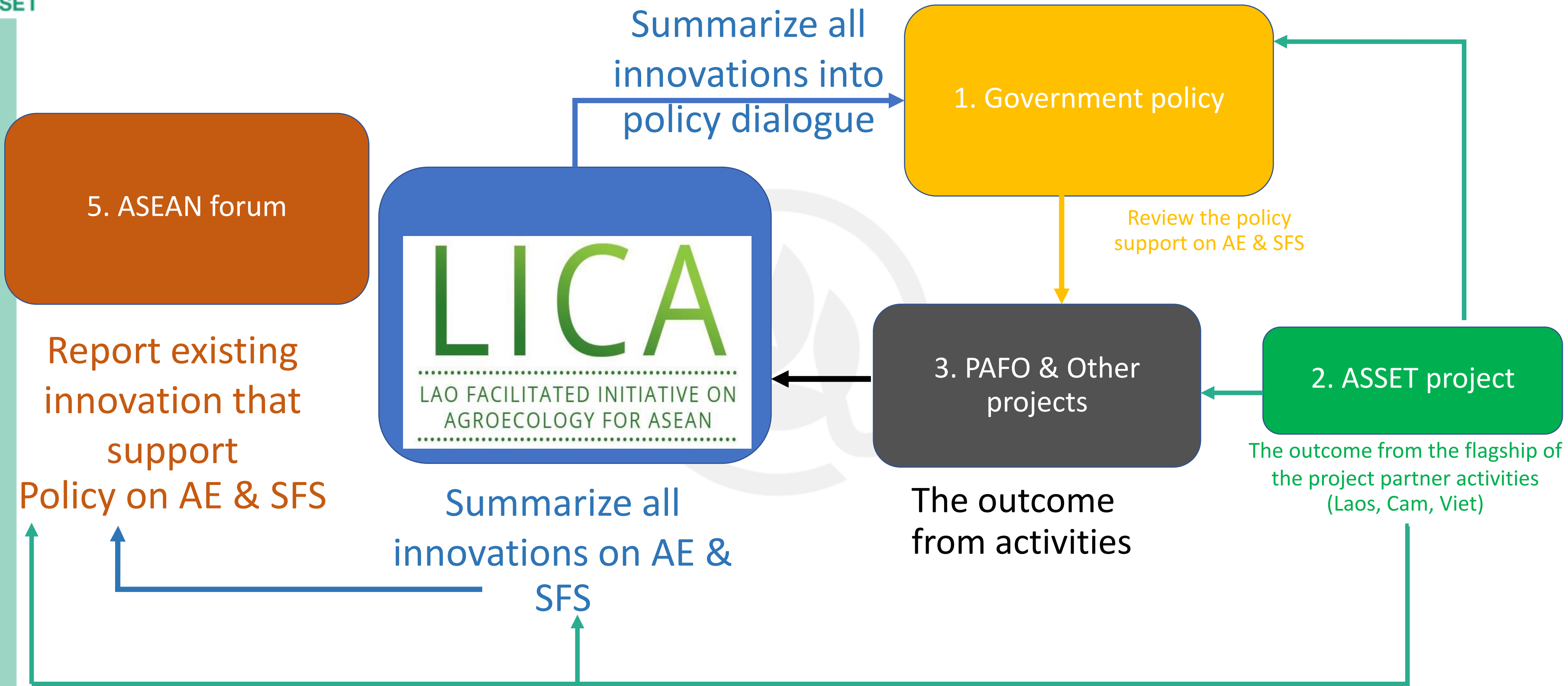
- ❖ **Main target re. advancing policy dialogue**
  - Support/encourage **innovation in implementation of policy frameworks**
- ❖ **Main approach:**
  - Embedded into existing **policy processes** (at national and ASEAN levels)
  - Build on existing **local agroecological transformations** and support **change via participatory action research**

## Policy dialogue at national and regional level

- Coordinate policy dialogue activities at national level in Lao PDR
- Create and feed the Agroecology Sub-Sectoral Working Group (AESSWG)
- Lead LICA's ASEAN initiatives and ensure coordination to facilitate policy discussions within the other ASSET countries (Cambodia and Vietnam).
- Foster policy dialogue at regional level (ASEAN) together with FAO and UN-ESCAP and bring back the lesson learned and experiences from others countries to Lao PDR.



# The policy dialogue on AE & SFS under LICA





### 3. Some of the existing policy initiatives implemented locally in Lao PDR

Initiative	Location in the country
Pesticide using 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 Participation Guarantee Systems experiment	Xieng khouang province
The green extension approach	Northern province
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



# Output from policy stocktaking to support Agroecology and safe food system transition in Lao PDR

## Diagnosis:

- Various policies support agroecology and safe food systems in order to transform the food system to be more sustainable
- No documents fully support all the 10 elements of AE and the main goals of SFS.
- The policies that support AE and SFS are not fully disseminated at the local level.
- Lack of incentives to promote, develop and strengthen agroecology and safe food systems.
- Lack of partners responsible to assess and evaluate the implementation of policies that support AE and SFS.

## Areas of improvement for AE&SFS in Lao :

- The future policies should be specific to support agroecology and safe food systems for a better dissemination and implementation;
- Policies supporting agroecology and safe food systems in Lao PDR should be disseminated from the central level to the local level, to increase stakeholder's access to information on public policies.
- The promotion and support to agroecology and safe food systems should be clear in the revised strategies and legislation.

## Output from policy stocktaking to support Agroecology and safe food system transition in Lao PDR

### Challenges of the policy supporting Agroecology in Lao PDR

- The strategies, policy, programs of various sectors are mostly the dissemination delivered from the resolution of Party Congress, policy direction and priority program, National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2021-2025; therefore, the policy that supports Agroecology and safe food systems is a comprehensive direction.
- The dissemination of public policies that are environmentally friendly are limited at local/provincial level and are mostly theoretical, especially the dissemination in rural areas.
- Some policies do not fully support the 10 elements of Agroecology
- There is still a lack of incentives to promote, develop and scale-up the agroecology transition for safe food system.
- There is a lack of partners responsible for the evaluation of public policies implementation.

# Output from policy stocktaking to support Agroecology and safe food system transition in Lao PDR

## Recommendation

- The public policies strategies, development plans, policies, legal and regulation that are planned to be formulated or amended in the future should have specific topic related the support of agroecology and safe food systems as to be references for dissemination and implementation.
- Agroecology and safe food systems in Lao PDR should be disseminated from the central level to the local area, especially through the development of advertising tools to increase access to information.
- The promotion and support of agroecology and safe food systems should be clearer when revising strategies and legislations.
- The outcomes of ASSET project should be summarized and reported to be included in the public policies supporting AE&SFS .
- The recommendation for agroecology transition and safe food systems transformation in Lao PDR should be presented at the national policy level where agriculture, forestry, rural development and another related sectors are discussed.
- The creation of a task force to be responsible for agroecology transition and safe food systems transformation could be proposed in the Sector Working Group on Rural Development (SWG-ARD) of MAF.

# The way forward for develop agroecology in the future in lao

- Policy brief for agroecology
- Strengthening agroecology at national level through SSWG-AE
- At ASEAN level: Guidelines for agroecology implementation
- Road map for agroecology transition and SFS transformation in Lao PDR



# Thank you so much

