The overall objective of the Agroecological and Safe food System Transitions (ASSET) programme is to make food and agricultural systems in the region more sustainable, safer and inclusive, through harnessing the potential of Agroecology to transform them. It is implemented by GRET as the general coordinator, in a strong articulation with CIRAD in charge of the scientific coordination, in partnership with a consortium of 23 International/European/National Institutions and Organizations and 2 United Nations Agencies.

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

By fostering technical, organizational and institutional innovations at territorial level in flagship programs, generating robust evidence on their performances and impacts, bringing successful approaches to scale and by building upon regional reliable initiatives and institutions, ASSET will help support opening a dialogue on linking agricultural and markets transformations in policy frameworks at local, national and regional level.

**Context**

Agricultural systems in South East Asia are at a crossroads between conventional intensive models and emerging agroecological approaches. The continuous intensification of conventional models which rely heavily on chemical inputs and capital is leading to a simplification of agricultural landscapes, land degradation and biodiversity depletion, and to increased health risks for farmers and consumers. Moreover, beyond food and nutrition security, food safety is a rising concern, especially in relation to high pesticide residues, and to the contamination of soils and aquifers. Interestingly, agroecological approaches provide an increasing range of agricultural and market innovations towards healthier, environmental and sustainable practices.

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1. Agroecology Learning Alliance in Southeast Asia, visit https://ali-sea.org/ for more information
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