

KEY MESSAGES

Virtual Workshop | 8-9 November 2021

AGROECOLOGY AND SAFE FOOD SYSTEM TRANSITIONS
FOR GREEN, INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT RECOVERY IN THE ASEAN REGION

Agroecology is at the centre of sustainability and circularity responses

Need for agricultural transformations and commitment to agroecological transitions are growing

- Accelerating transition from conventional agricultural system to **diversified, complex and resilient systems** based on agroecology principles
- Ambition is growing and strategic orientation is developing at all levels:
 - ASEAN secretariat statement (and upcoming guidelines on sustainable agriculture)
 - Global agroecology coalition in relation with United Nations Food System Summit ([UNFSS](#)) (to date already participation of Cambodia, Philippines, Vietnam)
 - Development partners are fully supporting this transition

Agroecology and safe food system innovations: potential and requirements

- Untapping the potential for resource use efficiency by tailoring farming practices and systems to local needs and capacities
- Favouring farmers' access to diversified crops, trees and animal material and to specific equipments, investments, services, and/or inputs



Combining agricultural transformations with market and other enabling transformations

- Lack of market access for agroecological produce: need to move beyond creating niche markets, and away from export-oriented, mass retail-driven supply chains and industrially produced food
- Market, research, policy and financial transformations to be brought together

Is 1.5°C within reach for the Asia-Pacific Region?



- Asia-Pacific region yet to be fully committed to drive low-carbon transformation
- Combining different financial instruments can help financing the transition: e.g. feebates (bonus-malus), certification, fiscal incentive, taxation, selling of carbon credits etc.

A multilateral approach is critical

- ASEAN level: harmonization of approaches and networks supported through the ASEAN technical working groups and the Climate Resilient Network ([ASEAN CRN](#)), Lao facilitated Initiative on Agroecology for ASEAN ([LICA](#))

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Ways forward: key principles and mechanisms to support the transition

Co-creation of knowledge with farmers at the core

- Transforming top-down research and extension into approaches fully considering farmers as innovators and co-creators of knowledge
- Power of local initiatives, knowledge exchange, and networking towards sustainable food systems



Transforming extension, CSO/PO based networks and other forms of knowledge production and sharing: reflexive practices and capacity building

- Fostering reflexive practices and approaches from all ranges of local stakeholders in enhancing the co-creation of knowledge and solutions and genuine multi-stakeholder processes
- Investing in human and social capital
- Better linking outputs from evidence-based initiatives with higher education curricula to capacitate young generation

Transforming extension, networking, capacity building and knowledge sharing building upon digital transformation potential

- > Design interactive and tailored tools to targeted audience, especially young generations
- Adapting and articulating digital tailored tools to a variety of peer learning, farmers to farmer exchanges, etc.
- MooCs, knowledge platforms (e.g. World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies - [WOCAT](#)), digital Apps, etc.

Coordination: still a challenge but increasingly considered, and variety of mechanisms to tackle these needs

- More effort and investment is required to strengthen cross-sectoral and horizontal cooperation
- Diversity of forms of multistakeholder arenas developing
- The [CASIC](#) approach (in Cambodia) presents a structured approach to engaging both internal and external stakeholders
- A similar approach in Vietnam: toward a National action plan for Sustainable Food systems 2021-2030 to operationalize the outcomes of the UNFSS dialogue

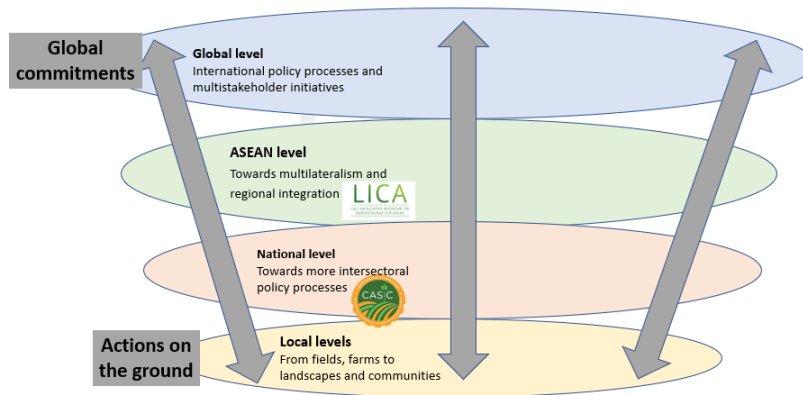


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Transforming the increasing mobilization at all scales into action: bridging the gaps across scales



Call for action on combining global approaches and on-site experiences to bridge the gaps

- Including gaps between the global debate on the climate emergency and local actions on climate smart agriculture

Co-design of innovations from plots to landscape levels

- Need to think of and integrate interventions and financial supports at landscape/territorial level
- Moving towards territorial integration and learning from it
- Sharing agroecological transition strategies to co-design a diversity of agroecological innovations from plot, to farm and landscape level
- Transforming research: adaptive research and co-design of innovations to adapt appropriate modalities to tackle challenges of agricultural systems must be undertaken in the territories, where proposed policies are adapted to local conditions
- Agroecology draws on social, biological and agricultural sciences

Joining hands towards policy transformation

- Towards more inclusive policies processes: bottom up & inclusive approach (with broad-based consultation processes) - Mantra of farmer organizations: in policy making, it must be "nothing about us, without us"
- Increasing interest and actions from the development community and the research community to find concrete ways to enter into policy dialogue and help achieve meaningful policy changes towards AE and SFS/ influence policy

Science policy practice interface – 'power of knowledge'

- Research community essential to measuring and monitoring the progress and making the case for transition

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The Agroecology and safe food system transition (ASSET) project into the right momentum

- [The ASSET project](#): acting towards increased knowledge generation and sharing towards enhanced horizontal coordination and integration across scales:
 - Large diversity of partners (and networks)
 - Nested Theory of Change and policy dialogue from local/ territories to regional levels
 - Promote the convergence of various approaches (Agroecology/Sustainable intensification /Climate Smart Agriculture/Agroforestry/ Sustainable food systems/One Health etc.) as all embedded into the Sustainable Development Goals and agroecology principles
- In this rich context of global/ regional initiatives: e.g. [LICA](#), [ASEAN CRN](#), [UN Centre for Sustainable Agriculture Mechanization](#), [WOCAT](#) platform
- And national initiatives ([CASIC](#), Dei Meas, Vietnam National action plan for Sustainable Food systems...)

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