



Agroecology and Safe Food System Transition in Southeast Asia

ASSET

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.

 **5 years**
2020 - 2025

 **Cambodia, Laos,
Myanmar, Vietnam**

 **15 million €**
**Funded by the French
Development Agency
(AFD) and the
European Union (EU)**

DESCRIPTION

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**¹ 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.

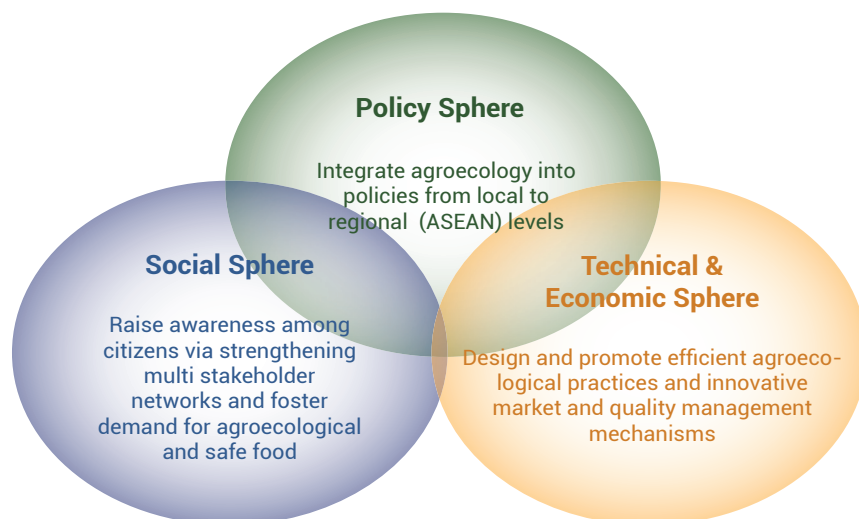


1. Agroecology Learning Alliance in Southeast Asia, visit <https://ali-sea.org/> for more information

Photo credit: Lucie Reynaud, Estelle Biénabe, Mélanie Blanchard

APPROACH

With its comprehensive approach, the project will activate a variety of levers of the agroecological and safe food system transitions within three overlapping spheres of influence.



STRUCTURE

COMPONENT 1: Impact-oriented stakeholder engagement into ASSET

SC 1.1:

Strengthening ALiSEA through networking and sharing a common vision of the ASSET

SC 1.2:

Transforming ALiSEA multimedia into a knowledge hub

SC 1.3:

Promoting ASSET through capacity development, communication and visibility actions

COMPONENT 2: Scaling up agroecological and safe food innovations from local to regional levels

SC 2.1:

Knowledge production and support to innovations

SC 2.2:

Methodological framework for assessing performances and impacts of innovations and transitions

SC 2.3:

Evidence-based policy dialogue and advocacy

METHODOLOGY

The project will build a common broad-based methodological framework to:

- 1) co-produce with large multi-stakeholder groups shared visions and plausible nested impact pathways of the ASSET, at flagship, national and regional levels using a Theory of Change (ToC) approach;
- 2) assess and monitor the performances and impacts of innovations and pathways to the ASSET, and identify enabling conditions;
- 3) plan and adapt action research activities at Flagship territorial level through learning loops.

The formulation through participatory ToC tools of a federating strategy to reach the shared vision of the ASSET from local to regional levels will help transform the ALiSEA network into an open coalition of farmer organizations, policy makers, value chain operators, and research and development actors connected by a shared vision of ASSET pathways.

Knowledge generation from flagship to regional levels will feed into and be fostered through multi-stakeholder policy dialogue implemented from a local level through the flagship sites, national to ASEAN levels.

IMPACTS & OUTCOMES

ULTIMATE IMPACT

Increased food security and food safety for smallholder farmers, and SMEs in South East Asia

INTERMEDIATE IMPACTS

A paradigm shift for the recognition and adoption of agroecology principles and activities into policies and society feeding into safe food system transitions

Multiple diversified production and marketing models with increasingly diverse connections to export and domestic value-chains and food systems are available and coexist

OUTCOMES

ALiSEA becomes a fully autonomous member-managed network

ALiSEA becomes a key knowledge hub on the transitions

Stakeholders use newly acquired knowledge and capacity to support the transitions

Stakeholders scale up tested innovations and models from local to regional levels

Policy-makers integrate knowledge to enable changes towards the transitions

Behind those impacts and outcomes, there are basically two assumptions, which ASSET's approach is grounded on:

- **Assumption 1:** Strengthening the capacity and increasing the knowledge and ownership of targeted stakeholders enables them to shift towards the agroecological and safe food system transitions
- **Assumption 2:** Providing multi-scale evidence of the performance and multidimensional impacts of agroecological practices within safe food systems enables multiple stakeholders to support and implement the shift towards the system transitions



POTENTIAL FLAGSHIP SITES

1. Battambang - Cambodia
2. Siem Reap - Cambodia
3. Preah Vihear - Cambodia
4. Kandal - Cambodia
5. Luang Prabang - Lao PDR
6. Xieng Khouang - Lao PDR
7. Houaphan - Lao PDR
8. Savannakhet - Lao PDR
9. Southern Chan State - Myanmar
10. Irrawady delta - Myanmar
11. Central dry zone - Myanmar
12. Son La - Vietnam
13. Dien Bien - Vietnam
14. Central highlands

The selection of one flagship site in each of the 4 targeted countries will be completed during the first year of project.

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