

CONSULTATIVE MEETING

Food System Transformations, from Production to Consumption

Hanoi, 09 November 2023



Invitation to a MALICA Consultative Meeting on “Food System Transformations, from Production to Consumption”

Hanoi, Grand Vista Hotel, morning of 09 November 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am very pleased to invite you to a MALICA Consultative Meeting on “Food System Transformations, from Production to Consumption” that will take place in Hanoi on 09 November 2023 in Hanoi.

MALICA is a collaborative platform which objective is to strengthen the research and decision capacity on sustainable food systems in Southeast Asia. This meeting is organized in collaboration with the CGIAR-led SHiFT initiative of Sustainable Healthy Diets, in line with the National Action Plan on Food Systems Transformation approved by the Prime Minister of Vietnam in March 2023. It aims to disseminate information on various concrete actions implemented in Vietnam to transform food systems towards more sustainable practices, healthier diets and better linkages between production and consumption, and to discuss avenues for possible interventions.

As important actors and experts in the transformation of food systems in Vietnam, your presence at this meeting would be very valuable.

Please find the rationale and agenda of the meeting below.

Sincerely,

*Ass. Prof. Dao The Anh
Vice-President of VAAS, President of MALICA*

Background

In March 2023, the Prime Minister of Vietnam has approved a National Action Plan (NAP) on “Food Systems Transformation in Vietnam towards Transparency, Responsibility, and Sustainability by 2030” (n° 300/QD-TTg). Among its manifold objectives, this Plan aims to ensure food security, to improve incomes, to prevent disasters and epidemics, to protect the environment and to adapt to climate change. It targets the development of mechanisms and policies to “support and promote production, distribution, and consumption of green, safe, and traceable products.”

The transformation of food systems requires a holistic lens, focusing on the connections, tensions and flows between the components of the food system, and assessing the different outcomes generated at different scales. In the early 2000s, several research institutes based in Vietnam have established the MALICA collaborative platform to strengthen the research and decision capacity on sustainable food systems in Southeast Asia. MALICA’s goal is to analyze, assess and support innovations and transformations in agricultural, distribution and consumption models. The platform aims at catalyzing transdisciplinary approaches, participatory research and the co-construction of innovations with different actors of the food system.

Since 2022, MALICA is involved in the CGIAR-led initiative on Sustainable Healthy Diets through Food System Transformations (SHiFT). This initiative uses an innovative, consumer-focused perspective to understand how to increase demand for and access to sustainable healthy diets and aims to generate evidence-based policy options, develop robust metrics and tools, and strengthen capacity to collectively catalyze food systems transformation in ways that improve livelihoods, gender equity, and social inclusiveness. MALICA’s main role in SHiFT is to foster a multistakeholder dialogue on food systems at the national level.

Objectives of the meeting

In line with the objectives of the NAP, MALICA and SHiFT organize this Consultative Meeting to disseminate information on food system transformations, and to discuss avenues for possible interventions.

The main goals of this meeting are:

- to disseminate the first findings of the SHiFT initiative in Vietnam, stressing the opportunities and barriers to achieve more sustainable and healthy diets;
- to share knowledge on various concrete actions implemented in Vietnam to transform food systems, from production to distribution and consumption;
- to identify common interests and priority intervention areas among stakeholders to identify priority areas;
- to discuss on how interventions and innovations can be tested and evaluated;
- to raise awareness on the necessity to develop a multi-dimensional, multi-scalar and systemic approach to food, connecting different dimensions and components of the food system in both the analysis and the interventions implemented.

Details of the meeting

1. *Date and time:* Thursday 09 November, 08:30AM - 12:15PM (followed by a lunch)
2. *Place:* Grand Vista Hotel, 146 Giang Vo, Ba Dinh, Hanoi
3. *Languages:* Vietnamese and English

Tentative agenda

Time	Activity	Presenters
08:30-09:00	Welcoming participants	
09:00-09:10	MALICA: a collaborative platform for sustainable food systems in Asia	Michaël Bruckert (CIRAD)
09:10-09:20	Presentation of the “National Action Plan on Food Systems Transformation in Vietnam towards Transparency, Responsibility, and Sustainability by 2030”	Pham Thi Hanh Tho (VAAS/CASRAD)
09:20-10:10	<p><i>Session 1: First outcomes of the SHiFT initiative in Vietnam</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the CG-led initiative SHiFT • Preliminary analysis on adolescents’ diets and their drivers, interventions foreseen • Preliminary analysis on food supply, interventions foreseen • Vietnam's Food Environment policy landscape: Nurturing healthy diets? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan de Brauw (IFPRI) • Nguyen Hong Phuong (IFPRI) & Agnès Le Port (IRD) • Alan de Brauw (IFPRI) • Brice Even (ABC)
10:10-10:30	Coffee break	
10:30-11:20	<p><i>Session 2: Experience sharing on food system transformations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened policy solutions for SSB tax and nutrition labelling in the National Nutrition Strategy in Vietnam • Food safety interventions at pig slaughterhouses and traditional markets enable actors to adapt to the food system transformation • Insights from the Asset project on how agroecology can contribute to food systems transformations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lai Minh Chau (HealthBridge) • Le Trang (ILRI) • Pascal Lienhard (CIRAD)
11:20-11:50	Plenary discussion on food system transformations	All participants
11:50-12:00	Wrap up on food system transformations and interventions evaluation	Alan de Brauw (IFPRI)
12:00-12:15	Closing remarks	Truong Tuyet Mai (NIN)
12:15	Lunch	