

# MALICA

## Sustainable food systems in Asia



- Promote the transition to sustainable food systems in Southeast Asia.
- Observe and explain changes in agricultural production systems, food markets and consumption patterns.
- Build value chains and markets that reconcile social equity, territorial management of quality and agroecological transformations.

*A platform in partnership for research and training (dP in French) is a long-term strategic alliance that brings together partners and researchers around a shared program and portfolio of projects. Managed collectively, the Platform is open to members of the civil society, and interacts with policy-makers to generate changes and transformations.*



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Between 2010 and 2020, Asia's urban population has increased by 25%, triggering profound changes in food practices and land management within and at the fringes of cities. These transformations have rapidly extended to entire food supply chains, and to the agri-food system.

In this context, Malica aims to strengthen collaborative research on innovations and transformations in food production, distribution and consumption models. Our research questions the impacts of various drivers of change (e.g., urban markets, regional integration, value chain dynamics) on: farmers' livelihoods; the organization of supply chains; food quality and agroecological transformations. Malica partners also address more specific questions, such as for example: How to feed fast-growing cities while meeting consumer demand for diversity and quality? How to organize food production and distribution in a way that preserves environmental sustainability, social justice and food safety in urban and rural areas?

Apart from research, collaboration within Malica takes on various forms, including: the participation to development projects; the organization of trainings, workshops and seminars; and communication and advocacy work with policy-makers.

### MEMBERS

	<b>Laos</b> National University of Laos (NUoL): Faculty of Agriculture <a href="http://www.nuol.edu.la">www.nuol.edu.la</a>
	National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI) <a href="http://www.nafri.org.la">www.nafri.org.la</a>
	<b>Vietnam</b> Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS) <a href="http://vaas.vn">vaas.vn</a>
	Center for Agriarian Systems Research and Development (CASRAD) <a href="http://casrad.org.vn">casrad.org.vn</a>
	Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD) <a href="http://ipsard.org.vn">ipsard.org.vn</a>
	Fruit and Vegetable Research Institute (FAVRI) <a href="http://favri.org.vn">favri.org.vn</a>
	Alliance Bioversity & CIAT <a href="http://alliancebioversityciat.org">alliancebioversityciat.org</a>
	International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) <a href="http://www.ilri.org">www.ilri.org</a>
	<b>France</b> French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) <a href="http://www.cirad.fr">www.cirad.fr</a>
	French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) <a href="http://www.ird.fr">www.ird.fr</a>

### MALICA IN A NUTSHELL

- Set up in 2002
- 2 countries in Southeast Asia
- 10 members
- Over 30 researchers and teachers
- Over 100 researchers, students and PhD students have been trained
- Over 100 publications



### EXPERIENCE AND TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Analysis of agri-food value chains: multi-criteria analyses (economic, social), urban food supply (wholesale markets, logistics, etc.)
- Market monitoring: evolution of distribution patterns (street sales, markets, supermarkets, online sales, etc.)
- Consumer studies and analysis of food environments
- Quality: construction and impacts of quality approaches, standards and certifications, quality and origin labelling systems (geographical indications, safety standards, agroecological practices)
- Analysis of social and territorial transformations related to the production and trade of agricultural products
- Sustainability assessment of local and national food systems
- Support to national and international public policies, decision support
- Feasibility study, management and evaluation of projects

## SOME PARTNERS

**Civil society:** GRET, Redd, Rikolto.

**Private sector:** McCormick, Jacobs Douwe Egberts, Tchibo, Ecom Agroindustrial, Louis Dreyfus, Fresh Studio, Espelia, Semmaris.

**Decision-makers:** Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Vietnam), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Laos), Department of Intellectual Property (Laos), Hanoi Municipality, provincial authorities in agriculture and rural development of Vietnam (in particular the provinces of Son La, Dien Bien and Hanoi) and Laos (Xieng Khouang province).

**Donors:** Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), French Development Agency (AFD), European Union, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Asian Development Bank, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), IMMANA Program.

**International organizations:** FAO, UN-ESCAP.

**Research institutions:** Vietnam National University of Agriculture (VNUA), National Institute of Animal Science (NIAS), Northern Mountainous Agroforestry Science and Forestry Science Institute (NOMAFSI), National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) in Vietnam, the Department of Policy and Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (DOPLA) and the Department of Agricultural Land Management of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (DALaM) in Laos, the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food, and Environment (INRAe), the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and Institut Agro Dijon in France, University of Sydney, World Agroforestry (ICRAF) and International Potato Center (CIP).

## SOME PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

**ASSET - Agroecology and Food Safe System Transitions - Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam - 2021 - 2025, funded by French Development Agency (AFD), EU, French Global Environment Facility (FFEM)**

The objective of the ASSET project is to make the region's food and agricultural systems more sustainable, safe and inclusive by harnessing the potential of agroecology to transform them. With GRET as the general coordinator and CIRAD in charge of the scientific coordination, the project is jointly implemented by a consortium of 23 international/European/national institutions and organizations and two United Nations agencies.

**V-Scope - Sustainability of coffee and pepper in Central Highlands of Vietnam - 2021 - 2024, funded by ACIAR**

The V-SCOPE project aims to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in the Central Highlands, including vulnerable populations, by improving the sustainability of coffee and black pepper cultivation and value chains.

**TAFS - Transitions to Agroecological Food Systems: a case for policy support - 2021 - 2023, funded by CIRAD and the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE)**

The aim of the TAFS project is to build arguments to support food systems based on agroecological transition among public decision-makers at various levels.

**FSA - Food System Assessment - 2020-2022, funded by EU (DG INTPA)**

The project aims to catalyse sustainable and inclusive transformations of food systems through the implementation of a conceptual framework and a national and territorial assessment method.

## RECOGNITION AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL PUBLIC POLICIES

MALICA paved the way for food value chain studies in Vietnam and Laos, focusing on urban food demand, changes in production and distribution systems, and quality management institutions.

This international network has raised awareness on the challenges of rural-urban exchanges, contributing to the adaptation of local production to urban demand.

Operational result include the development of market information systems and food labels, support to internal control systems, and assessments of the sustainability of food chains and systems.

Malica's contribution to public and international policies is sought in arenas such as the UN Food System Summit, the World Bank's Food Safety Group and Agrifood Safety Project, the Vietnamese Coffee Coordinating Board, and the Sector Working Group on Agriculture and Rural Development co-chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture of Laos, the FAO and the French Embassy.



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