

Policy dialogue on supporting Agroecology transition in the ASEAN region

*Borei Angkor Resort & Spa, Siem Reap, 24 October 2023**

CONCEPT NOTE DRAFT
(11.10.23)

This pre-event of the TARASA international Workshop will generate recommendations on policy support for agroecology (AE) transition. It will contribute to developing ASEAN policy guidelines on agroecological transition to accompany the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture, and strengthen cooperation for sustainable agriculture in the region and beyond.

Background

- The Lao-facilitated Initiative on Agroecology (LICA) was established in 2012 to support agroecology (AE) transitions in the ASEAN region. Discussions at the 38th ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops and 43rd special SOM respectively noted LICA's role in developing draft **ASEAN policy guidelines for AE transition** under its workplan, and support for LICA's role as a "Reference Group" for ASEAN on agroecology.
- In 2022, the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry adopted the **ASEAN Regional Guidelines for Sustainable Agriculture** that point to the goals of: a. Environmental integrity b. Economic resilience c. Social Well Being d. Good Governance e. Food Security, and f. Poverty Alleviation. The Regional Guidelines document the hope that "these sustainable agriculture guidelines will **galvanize the development of an ASEAN sustainable food market**, in the face of an increasing number of trade barriers, tariffs and other restrictions imposed on ASEAN agricultural and food products... **and build increased trust and confidence in global supply chains on the quality and value** of the agricultural produce from ASEAN.
- **The draft ASEAN policy guidelines on agroecology transition** are proposed to support the strategic orientation of the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture and its implementation. The results from an initial analysis will be reviewed and enriched by national consultations, regional discussions and LICA consultations in the last quarter of 2023.
- An increasing number of countries from the ASEAN region are joining the the **Agroecology Coalition**¹, and Cambodia has been nominated as the representatives for the ASEAN countries. This is expected to help strengthening international cooperation on agroecological transition. The discussion at this one-day workshop will also serve to help identify possible areas for action at regional level and for grounding the AE Coalition in the regional setting

** Day1 of the International Workshop: Transitioning towards agroecology and regenerative agriculture: A contribution to food system transformation (TARASA23), 24-27 October 2023, Borei Ankor Resort and Spa, Siem Reap.*

¹ The Coalition for transforming food systems through agroecology (AE Coalition in short) was launched during the UN Food System Summit in New York in September 2021. To date in South-East Asia, Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam have joined the AE Coalition and Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka from the rest of Asia

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME (Draft 10.10.23)	
8:30-09:30	<p>Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosts, TARASA23 • FAO <p>Overview of recent developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ASEAN Regional Sustainable Agriculture Guidelines – Action Plan for Implementation (ASEAN Secretariat tbc) • Drafting the ASEAN policy guidance on AE transition and the role of the Lao-facilitated Initiative on Agroecology for ASEAN (LICA) (LICA focal point/Lao PDR) • The Agroecology Coalition strategic priorities (AEC secretariat) • ASEAN Master Plan on Poverty Reduction and Rural Development (AsiaDHRRA tbc)
09:30-10:00	<p>Policy perspectives - from the bottom up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy perspectives from the ASSET project flagships (ASSET project) • Landscape approaches as an anchor for transition (Expert view) • Agro-ecology Learning Alliance in South-East Asia (AliSEA tbc)
10:00-10:15	Coffee break
10:15-10:30	<p>Key considerations for agroecology transition policy support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findings from the human centered design research and process
10:30-11:30	<p>Understanding the barriers, challenges and opportunities for change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Futures triangle • Barriers, challenges and opportunities for change (Causal-layered analysis)
11:30-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:30	<p>A theory of change for agroecology transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements of a vision • Working definitions and scope • Framing, monitoring and implementation • Commentary
14:30-14:45	Coffee break
14:45-15:45	<p>Reviewing the proposal for guidelines for agroecology transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall structure and approach • Prioritizing issues • Recommendations for strengthening



15:45-16:15	Engaging ASEAN working groups in advancing sustainable agriculture through agroecology transition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commentary on various WGs and relevance to advancing agroecology transition • Scoping key challenges, gaps, points for strengthening cooperation across countries and bodies
16:15-16:40	Strengthening alliances on agroecology transition: AE Coalition and ASEAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring a roadmap for an ASEAN-grounded Agroecology Coalition chapter
16:40-16:55	Recommendations and next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National consultations - Asia-DHRA (tbc) • Commentary
16:55-17:00	Wrap up of Day 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lao PDR (tbc)

