



CONCEPT NOTE

TRANSITIONING TOWARDS AGROECOLOGY AND REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE: A CONTRIBUTION TO FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATIONS (TARASA23)

24-27 OCTOBER 2023, Siem Reap, Cambodia
Borei Angkor Resort & Spa



1. BACKGROUND

Current agricultural and food systems face major environmental, climate and health challenges while responding to food security and nutrition challenges. Food systems are increasingly impacted by climate change. At the same time, they contribute a third of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and certain agricultural practices contribute to the erosion of biodiversity, environmental pollution, land degradation and the scarcity of water resources. The precarious livelihoods and social inequities, faced by many farmers and food system workers, exacerbate the difficulties in ensuring adequate nutrition for all.

Agroecology is a powerful lever for addressing these major challenges. It started as an approach to improve the performance of agriculture through the integration of ecological principles (e.g., synergies, recycling) into farming system management and significantly evolved to constitute today much more than an approach to correct unsustainable food production practices. It embodies an alliance of science with practice and a social movement, calling for a profound rethinking of food systems to provide health and livelihood to both rural and urban communities, as well as environmental benefits.

As a rehabilitation approach to improve both the production potential of the soil and the environment, regenerative agriculture encompasses farming and grazing practices that allow, among other benefits, mitigating climate change while rebuilding soil organic matter and restoring degraded soil biodiversity – resulting in both carbon drawdown and improved water cycles. Agroecology can help in better linking regenerative agriculture practices to food systems. Both can make an important contribution towards attaining several related Sustainable Development Goal targets. Farming and food systems transformations are vital for the Asia-Pacific region, which is particularly vulnerable to land degradation and climate change. Moreover, a large proportion of farmers in the region are resource-poor smallholders who suffer from limited access to knowledge, advanced technologies, affordable inputs and adequate machinery services.

Transforming food systems through agroecology and other similar approaches like regenerative agriculture requires systems shift to happen e.g., technologies and innovations development, human skills development, supports to innovations implementation, supportive and coherent policies, transitioning financing mechanisms, and improved coordination mechanisms (Fig 1).

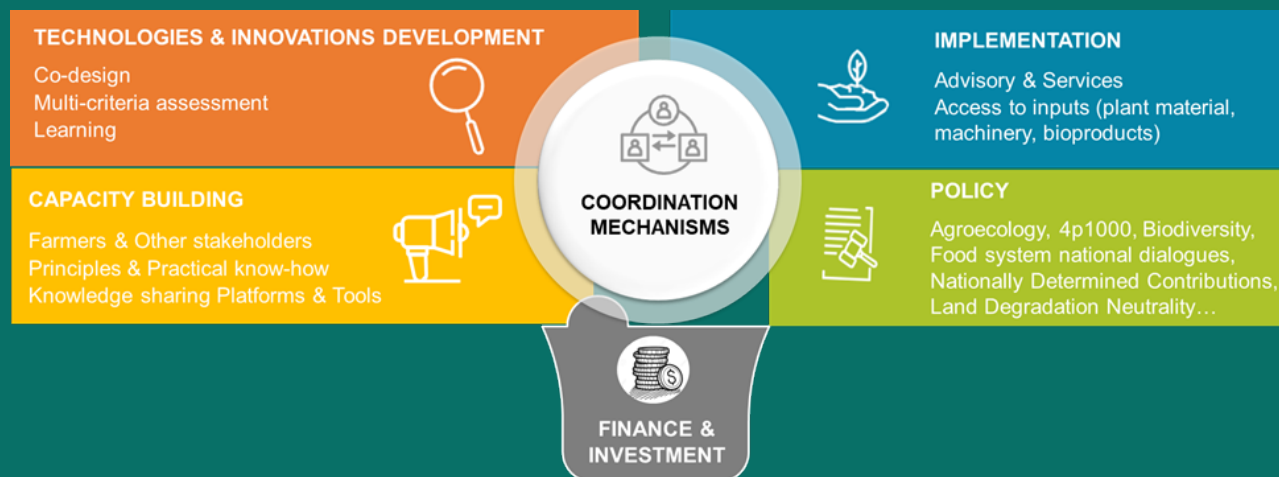


Fig 1. Coordinating multiple systems shift towards agroecology and regenerative agriculture.



2. Objectives of the Workshop



To share and learn from different experiences in Asia and the Pacific related to agroecology and regenerative agriculture to support farming and food systems transitioning.



To discuss how to scale the successes and learn from the failures; a major output of the workshop will be to identify the key research and intervention areas to be addressed in each sub-system (technologies/ education/ implementation/ policy/ finance) to support the transitioning towards regenerative agriculture through agroecology in Asia and Pacific



To draft a roadmap for an ASEAN Agroecology coalition chapter

3. Institutions Involved

Organizer



Co-Organizers:



In Collaboration with:



Sponsors:



Supported by:



4. Tentative Program

Day 1 (pre-event, by invitation only). Tuesday, 24 October 2023, 8:30 to 17:00	
8:30-17:00	<p>Policy dialogue: Supporting the Agroecology (AE) transition in the ASEAN region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ASEAN policy guidance note on accompanying the AE transition and the role of the Lao-facilitated Initiative on Agroecology for ASEAN (LICA) The AE Coalition The Sustainable Food Systems Programme in SEA <p>Group discussions: Which common futures are we striving at for AE in the ASEAN region? Embedding the AE Coalition in the ASEAN through linking with SEA initiatives (LICA, ALiSEA, ASEAN CRN, CASIC, SFS NAPs) and initiating a roadmap for an ASEAN-grounded Agroecology Coalition chapter</p>
19:00-21:00	<p>Welcome Dinner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for the participants to network with each other Will be attended by the guests of honor
Day 2. Wednesday, 25 October 2023, 8:30 to 17:00	
8:30-9:40	<p>Session 1: Official opening</p> <p>Welcome remarks (30')</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> His Excellency Om Kimsir, Secretary of State of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Cambodia Ms. Rebekah Bell, FAO Representative in Cambodia Mr. Markus Buerli, Director of Cooperation of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Cambodia His Excellency Mr. Jacques Pellet, French Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia <p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> His Excellency Dith Tina, Minister of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Cambodia (TBC) <p>Introduction to the Cambodian Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification Consortium (CASIC), recommendations from 2022 CASIC Regional Workshop, objectives of TARASA23 workshop (30')</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group photo
9:40-10:10	Coffee break & Visit of the Innovation Fair by guests of honour
10:10-11:40	<p>Session 2: Setting the scene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imperatives of transforming our food systems <p>Keynote speech by Prof. Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights/ Co-chair, International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (30')</p>



4. Tentative Program

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How Agroecology can contribute to more sustainable and inclusive food systems, and healthier agroecosystems Keynote speech by Dr. Pablo Titonell, Senior associate researcher at the French International Cooperation Centre for Agricultural Research and Development (CIRAD), CGIAR International Commission on Sustainable Agriculture Intensification (CoSAI) Commissioner (30') Moderated by: Dr. Hitomi Rankine, UNESCAP Q&A session (30')
11:40-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:45	<p>Learning from Global initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Agroecology Coalition, Dr. Oliver Oliveros (15') The 4p1000 initiative, Dr. Paul Luu (15') WOCAT, Dr. Albrecht Ehrensperger (10') ORCaSa: Towards an International Research Consortium on soil carbon / How to give value to Carbon Farming Initiatives on Carbon Markets? Mrs Dr. Ellie DAGUET (CIRAD) (10') TEEB Agri Food, Mrs. Dr. Rebeca Leonard (UNDP) (10') Moderated by: Mr. Pierre Ferrand, FAO <p>Q&A session (15')</p>
14:45-15:00	Coffee Break
15:00-15:30	<p>Key Note on New National Program of Commune Facilitators/Cambodia, HE Dr. Yang Saing Koma, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) (15')</p> <p>Q&A Session (15')</p>
15:30-17:00	<p>Learning from Regional initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASEAN Climate Resilient Network, Dr Margaret Yoovatana (15') The One Million Voices initiatives of AE & the Youth agenda for AE, Ms Irish Baguilat (Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development, AFA) & Ms ALAR-LAA JOY B. CAGATA (PAKISAMA) Youth Initiative for Sustainable Agriculture in ASEAN (15') Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), Mr. Marco Silvestri (15') Agroecology and Safe Food Systems Transition project (ASSET) and ALiSEA, Dr. Estelle Bienabe (CIRAD) and Mr. PAT Sovann (GRET) (15') Moderated by: Dr. Marlene Ramirez, Asia DHRRA <p>Q&A session (30')</p>
17:00-17:30	<p>Wrap up Day 2 – Comments/remarks on Day 2 (20')</p> <p>Overview of Day 3 agenda (10')</p>



4. Tentative Program

Day 3. Thursday, 26 October 2023, 7:00 to 17:40	
07:00-12:00	<p>Field visits (optional) Agricultural Technology Park (ATP) – CE SAIN Teuk Vil Commune, Siem Reap Province</p>
13:30-15:10	<p>Session1: Technologies and Innovations in the Field of Agroecology (AE) and Regenerative Agriculture (RA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Agroecological Crop Protection for Rice in Cambodia” - Mathilde Sester, CIRAD • “Exporation and exploitation of rice microbiome as sustainable agriculture in Cambodia” - Oeum Kakada, IRD • “Impacts of Long-Term Tillage on the Changes in Soil Organic C and N under Cassava Production Systems in the Upland of Cambodia” - Leng Vira, DARLM/GDA • “Research Progress on Straw Banana Returning Technology in Tropical Agricultural Areas of China” - Zhang Xirui, Hainan University • Moderated by: Ms. Irish Baguilat, Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development <p>Q&A session (20') Panel and Plenary discussion: key research and research methods, and/or intervention fronts to be addressed in the field of technologies and innovations in AE and RA(20')</p>
15:10-15:50	<p>Coffee Break & Evaluation of agroecological pathways : methodological advances and challenges</p>
15:50-17:30	<p>Session 2: Human skills development in the field of AE and RA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “ALiSEA Policy Dialogue” - Mr. Sok Sotha, ALiSEA • “Participatory impact assessment for climate-resilient integrated farming systems” - Pr. Soben Kim, RUA • “Promoting agriculture innovation and climate resilience in Lao PDR” - Mr. Thongdam Phongphichith, SAEDA/ALiSEA • “SSLA Lesson Learned on Farmer Capacity Development: Towards a Community of Practice in Agroecology. Battambang province, Cambodia” - Mrs. Siengly Hong, SSLA • Moderated by: Mr. Andrew Bartlett, ASSET <p>Q&A session (20') Panel and Plenary discussion: Social and institutional innovation at the grassroots and organizational level that promote the further development and uptake of AE and RA, including different intervention fronts that need to be addressed in building human and organizational capacity in AE and RA (20')</p>
17:30-17:50	<p>Wrap up Day 3 – Comments/remarks on Day 3 (20') Overview of Day 4 agenda (10')</p>



4. Tentative Program

Day 4. Friday, 27 October 2023, 8:00 to 16:40	
8:00-9:40	<p>Session 3: Support to innovation implementation in the field of AE and RA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Bringing Systems’ Approach to Innovation Support Service to promote Sustainable Agrifood Transformation” - Mrs. Delgermaa Chuluunbaatar, FAO • “Agroecology in Practice: Why a landscape approach makes sense for Lao PDR - Andrew Bartlett, ASSET • “MetKasekor Model” - Ream Soveth, Swisscontact • “Research to Support Regenerative Agriculture through Mechanization Technologies” - Mr. Eric Reynoso, SEARCA • Moderated by: Dr. Margaret Yoovatana, Director of International Agricultural Affairs Group (IAAG), Planning and Technical Division, Department of Agriculture, Thailand <p>Q&A session (20’) Panel and Plenary discussion: key research, intervention fronts, institutional arrangements, and means of implementation that need to be addressed in the field of innovation in AE and RA (20’)</p>
9:40-10:00	Coffee Break
10:00-11:40	<p>Session 4: Finance and investment in the field of AE and RA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Exploring Financial Mechanisms for Agroecological Transition: The Dei Meas Initiative in Cambodia” - Mr. Phy Chhin, DALRM/GDA and Mr. Pierre-Antoine Vernet, Swisscontact/CIRAD • “Adoption of socially inclusive, environment-friendly and economically viable practices by private land- and forest investors in Lao PDR” - Ms. Vongdeuane SOULALAY (RECOFTC/TLI) • “The future of rice fields: main lessons from an analysis of incentive mechanisms to agroecology in Cambodia” - Mrs. Alexia Dayet, CIRAD • “Developing Entrepreneurial Mindset to accelerate Climate Resilient Agriculture offer” - Mrs. Mélanie Mossard, Impact Hub Cambodia • Moderated by: Dr. Ellie Daguët, CIRAD <p>Q&A session (20’) Panel and Plenary discussion: key research, institutional set-up, policy environment and/or intervention fronts to be addressed in the field of finance and investment in AE and RA (20’)</p>
11:40-13:00	Lunch



4. Tentative Program

13:00 - 14:30	<p>Session 5: Public policies supportive of AE and RA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Design thinking process for the policy guidance on Agroecology for ASEAN” - Dr. Thateva Saphangthong, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR • “Enabling environment regulations, constraints and incentives for transformative land investments in Lao PDR” - Dr. Thip-havong Boupha (Land Equity International/TLI). • Moderated by: Dr. Estelle Biénabe (CIRAD) & Dr. Dao The Anh (VAAS) <p>Feedback from Day1/pre-event on drafting a road map to support the Agroecology transition in the ASEAN region (15')</p> <p>Panel and Plenary discussion: key policy interventions, institutional arrangements, and/or intervention fronts to be addressed in the field of public policies on AE and RA, Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) national dialogues and action plans (SFS NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) engagements, National engagements regarding biodiversity conservation: what convergences and divergences in objectives and strategies (45')</p>
14:30-14:50	Coffee Break
14:50-16:00	<p>Wrap-up - Towards an enhanced collaboration and partnership in the Asia Pacific region to promote food systems transformation through agroecology.</p> <p>This session will include a high-level summary of key points that have emerged from the 5 sessions/systems compartments (5 sessions moderators; 5 minutes each)</p> <p>This will be followed by a roundtable discussion involving the AE Coalition National Focal Points to get their views on what has been presented and how these can be considered in the transformation process.</p> <p>Some international discussants will also be solicited to react and interact with the national focal points, looking at ways and means by which the region can be further supported and encouraged towards the transformation process.</p> <p>Moderated by: Dr. Oliver Oliveros, AE Coalition (50'+20' Q&A)</p>
16:00-16:30	<p>Focus areas for the next workshop (30')</p> <p>Moderated by: Mr. Rajiv Pradhan, Swisscontact</p>
16:30-16:40	Closing remarks (10')

* The agenda is subject to change if necessary





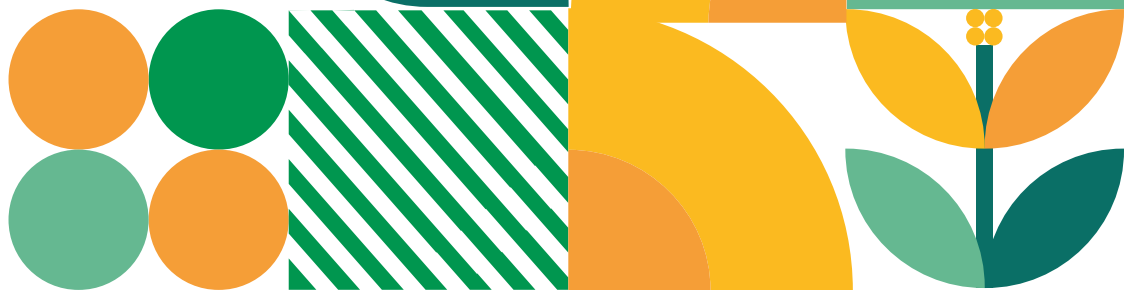
TARASA23

Innovation Fair

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REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE: A CONTRIBUTION
TO FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATIONS



24-27 OCTOBER 2023
SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA



26th October (15:10 – 15:50)

Evaluation of agroecological pathways : methodological advances and challenges

- Multidimensional Evaluation of Agroecological Performance in Battambang Initiative, Cambodia (MuLAgE), Theara Mao and Sorith Hou
- Farming system analysis and agroecological status in Kanhhot (Battambang province) and rovieng (Preah Vihear Province) Cambodia, Titouan Filloux, Sreymom Sieng
- Bringing Systems' Approach to Innovation Support Service to promote Sustainable Agrifood Transformation, Delgermaa Chuluunbaatar
- Participatory impact assessment for climate-resilient integrated farming systems, Soben Kim and Pheak Sok
- Putting agroecology on the map: participatory assessment of Agroecology status at village level, Albrecht Ehrensperger
- Theory of Change of Agroecology and Safe Food Systems Transitions for Preah Vihear province: engaging multi-stakeholders for knowledge production and support to innovations, Rada Kong
- **Moderated by:** Pierre Ferrand and Rada Kong

25th to 27th October

Technologies and practices

- Agros Global, solar-powered pump solutions and our soil testing technologies
- Organic inputs by HUSK Venture
- Land/Soil sustainable management (Department of Agricultural Land Resources Management and Cambodian Conservation Agriculture Research for Development Center)
- Rice-based agroecological cropping systems (TA-AGRI/R4D, WAT4CAM)
- Agroecological Crop Protection
- Plant diversity
- Laboratory of Excellence in Co-engineering for sustainable rice agrosystems (LMI LEAD)
- Compost City

Education and Skills

- Master program in Agroecology and Food Systems, Royal University of Agriculture
- Bachelor program in Agroecology, National University of Battambang
- Vocational training for young farmers in Agroecology by Sustainable Soil for Life Association (SSLA)



Support to innovation implementation, Value-chains, Finance and Global/Regional Initiatives

- Metkasekor an extension model based on a public-private partnership (DEAFF, MAFF)
- Dei Meas, a transitioning system for a change towards agroecological practices (DALRM, Swisscontact, SmartAgro and CIRAD)
- Impact Hub
- Land Degradation Neutrality and WOCAT (RUA and CDE)
- ORCASA
- 4 per 1000
- Ecofarm
- Green Farmers from Siem Reap
- Samson Mlup Prey and Ibis Rice
- PMUAC
- Study on organic and Eco-friendly rice value-chains, Alexia Dayet (CIRAD)
- GiZ/Farid



