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Agroecology and
Safe Food System
Transitions

LICA

LAO FACILITATED INITIATIVE ON
AGROECOLOGY FOR ASEAN

ASEAN POLICY GUIDELINES ON AGROECOLOGY TRANSITIONS

Lao facilitated Initiative on Agroecology for ASEAN (LICA) - DALaM

April 3, 2025

In partnership
with
RÉPUBLIQUE
FRANÇAISE
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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific



2025 • Annual Members Forum Meeting / Hà Nội, Việt Nam

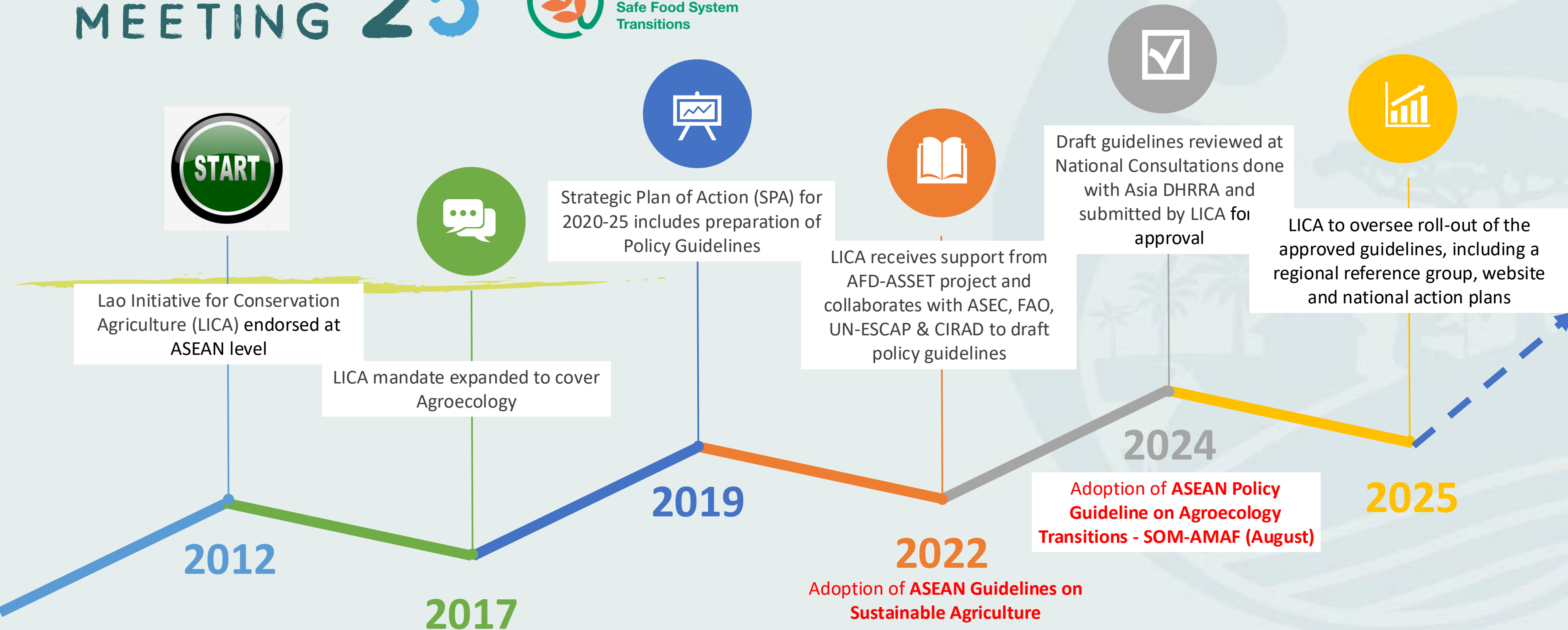
Dr Thatheva Saphangthong

LICA process of the Policy Development on Agroecology Transitions in ASEAN

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● ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture (2022)

- These Guidelines note FAO's framing of agroecology as a “viable transformative approach based on ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of sustainable and fair food system” in the context of a paradigm shift for sustainable agriculture.

→ LICA leading the ASEAN policy guidelines for AE transitions

- In support of the implementation of the Sustainable Agriculture Guidelines
- And more globally, of sustainable food systems transformations

Intro to the Policy guidelines on agroecology transitions in ASEAN

What is this about?

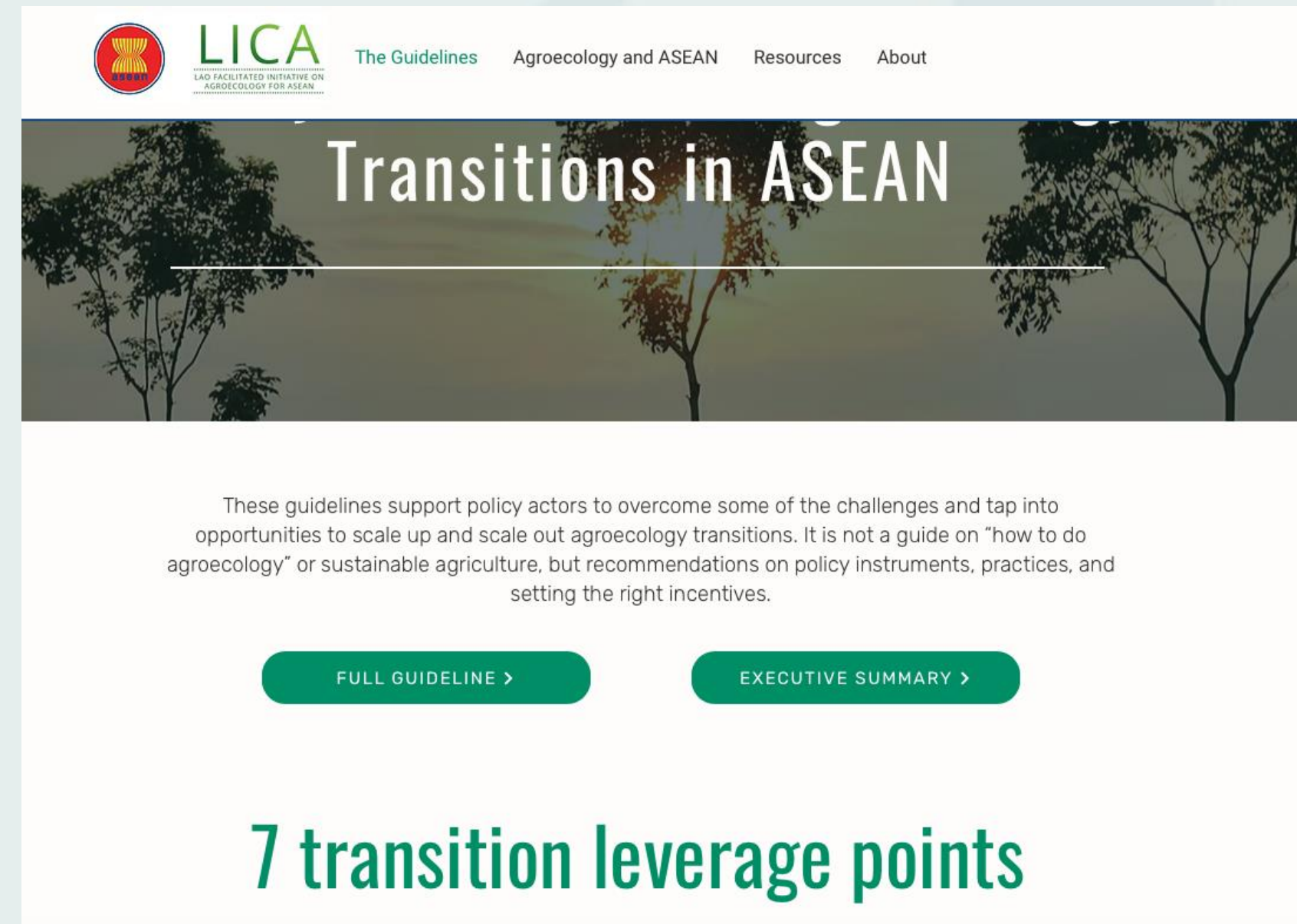
- Guide policy actors at **national & local levels** to support agroecological (AE) transitions and scaling up
- = **not a technical handbook on AE practices and models**



POLICY GUIDELINES ON AGROECOLOGY TRANSITIONS IN ASEAN



Adopted at the 45th special SOM - AMAF,
6-8 August 2024



A dedicated web platform (underway)

- Interactive access to guidelines parts
- Library of case studies, experiences & models
- Link to other resource platforms incl. ALiSEA, FAO, AE Coalition, TPP

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**A 7 pillar voluntary
guidelines :**

**integrated policy
framework for broad-
based policy support
to AET – across sectors
and scales**



Structure of the guidelines – a tool kit identifying strategic areas of actions declined into practical recommendations

Strategic orientations



Guideline 1: Planning for agroecology transitions

Guideline 1.1

Formulate coherent policy and better targets for agricultural planning through agroecology frameworks.

- Enhance collaboration across sectors and scales to govern agroecology transitions.

Guideline 1.2

Engage stakeholders in planning processes

- Build stakeholder ownership and mobilize resources by setting realistic, ambitious targets using methods like surveys, focus groups, and consultations.
- Foster long-term partnerships focused on agroecology, encouraging cross-country collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Guideline 1.3

Apply a landscape or territorial approach

- Promote coherent planning and intervention at landscape levels to achieve agroecological benefits.
- Ensure landscape diversity to maintain ecosystem services like pollination, erosion control and nutrient cycling.
- Use landscape management to balance land use demands, improve agroecosystems and support inclusive stakeholder engagement and local knowledge use (including participatory land use planning and integrated landscape assessment).
- Support participatory approaches to prioritize interventions, foster synergies and protect vulnerable areas.

Guideline 1.4

Engage private sector and strengthen planning rules for agribusiness

- Strengthen regulations on land concessions and agrifood investments to prevent environmental harm.
- Co-invest in infrastructure supporting sustainable agriculture, such as water management, renewable energy, and transport systems.
- Align corporate sustainability efforts with agroecological goals based on national and community needs.

How to?

(To achieve this, you may consider)

Guideline 1.3

Apply a landscape or territorial approach

- Foster planning processes that ensure coherent intervention at different landscape levels, recognizing that this is an instrumental scale at which to achieve agroecological benefits.
- Ensure landscape diversity, which is essential to the maintenance of naturally occurring ecosystem services – such as pollination, erosion control, and nutrient recycling – thereby contributing to both productivity and sustainability.
- Harness the potential of landscape management approaches for balancing competing demands and integrating policies for multiple land uses, thereby supporting inclusive multistakeholder engagement (see [guideline 5](#)).

To achieve this, AMS may consider:

- Mapping the variety of landscape management and territorial approaches in support of agroecology transitions, and engaging stakeholders to develop these. Examples include participatory land-use planning, jurisdictional approaches, integrated landscape approach, watershed management planning, forest restoration planning, multisectoral territorial planning, and even urban food system planning.
- Defining the boundaries of the landscape or territory based on natural features, administrative boundaries, or specific ecological or sociopolitical criteria.
- Performing, where applicable, integrated landscape assessment, understanding the key features of the area (including land uses, biodiversity, ecosystems, and human communities), and identifying the main challenges (such as habitat fragmentation, biodiversity loss, water depletion, land degradation or socioeconomic inequalities); including zoning of production types (e.g. organic, sustainable commodity sourcing, perennial, grazing), forest and biodiversity hotspots (see landscape approaches developed among others by ADB, FAO or GIZ).
- Supporting participatory approaches to identify technical and organizational levers and pathways, and to prioritize interventions, including measures that help protect or regenerate vulnerable and degraded areas.

Case study:

[Participatory Land Use Planning and Participatory Agricultural Land Management \(PLUP/PALM\) in Lao PDR](#)

To go further:

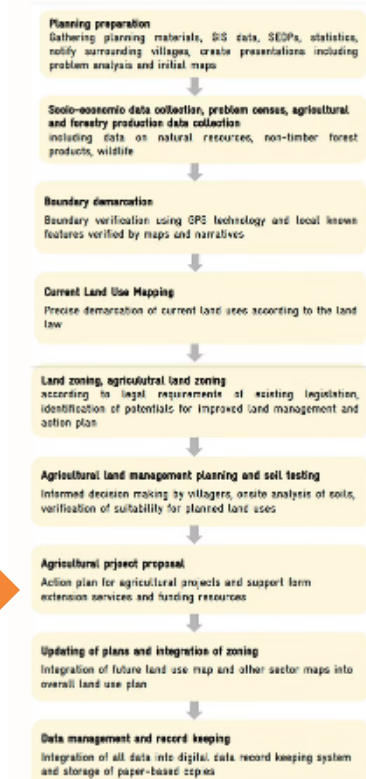
- [Landscapes Futures – What are landscape approaches](#)
- FAO. 2017. Landscapes for Life: approaches to landscape management for sustainable food and agriculture
- ADB. 2017. Sustainable Land Management in Asia: Introducing the Landscape Approach
- GIZ. 2023. Agroecology: Making Ecosystem-based Adaptation Work in Agricultural Landscapes
- FAO, Agroecology Coalition. 2023. The interface between agroecology and territorial approaches for food systems transformation (Agroecology Dialogue Series, Brief No.1)

Learnings from experiences & models / approaches

Participatory Land Use Planning and Participatory Agricultural Land Management in Lao PDR

Participatory Land Use Planning and Participatory Agricultural Land Management (PLUP/PALM) in Lao PDR

The process of steps of PLUP/PALM



The PLUP aims for detailed land classification and zoning at the village level, while the PALM provides specific plans for agricultural land, adding detail to the PLUP. In 2020, district authorities conducted PLUP/PALM for the first time in Nanom Village, Xone District in Lao PDR. Prior to this, no grazing land was designated. Through the Agriculture Future Land Use Management Zoning, 37 hectares were allocated as grassland for livestock. Forest conservation areas also increased from 113 to 327 hectares through Forest Land Use Management Zoning. By 2022, all 34 villages in Xone District had land use plans, leading to a District Land Use Plan.

Examples from Lao PDR, including this one, demonstrate several positive impacts of PLUP/PALM: reduced land conflicts, conservation of natural resources, improved land tenure security, sustainable land use, and increased rural income. Additionally, regulated land use has supported nationwide land registration and titling, boosting public revenue through taxes and fees and encouraging investment in rural development.

Success factors of PLUP/PALM for the realisation of positive impacts include:

Capacitate Government Authorities: Ensure authorities have sufficient financial resources, equipment, and training in participatory procedures and modern technology (e.g., GIS tools, UAV drones) for effective PLUP/PALM activities.

Integrate Competent Authorities: Involve various sectors in the planning process, provide spatial data for socio-economic development, and ensure provincial authorities support districts with technical assistance and continuous monitoring of land use plans.

Ensure Community Participation: Engage villagers in the planning process, inform them of their land rights, and involve them in decision-making, with special consideration for women and vulnerable groups. Strengthen local ownership for ongoing management and compliance with land use plans. For example, the Targeted Awareness Raising (TAR) methodology has been developed to foster local participation. Specifically, the Lao Women's Union is actively involved to promote the active participation of women.

Link Plans to Follow-Up Actions: Connect land use plans to subsequent measures such as land registration, forest conservation, agricultural extension, and investment allocation to ensure sustainable impacts on income generation and environmental protection at the local level.

►Source: GIZ. 2023. [Participatory Land Use Planning in Lao PDR](#). How it contributes to Sustainable Rural Development:

Next Step: Broadening the regional multistakeholder dynamics



1 **Launching ASEAN guidelines forum**
Implementing the ASEAN policy guidelines on agroecology transitions
& advancing green financing for the agriculture sector in ASEAN (Fin4Green Forum)

17-18th March, Vientiane

2 *4th April, Hanoi*

Regional ASSET Multistakeholder Policy Workshop

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4 *24th Nov, Vientiane*

Multistakeholder policy consultations and sharing during TARASA25 conference

TARASA23 INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

6 *2030*

Full implementation of Policy Guidelines on AE Transition in ASEAN member country

3 *July, Jakarta*

Regional ASSET, ASEAN, LICA workshop

Promoting agroecology transitions in ASEAN
From plans to implementation



5 *2026*

LICA country focal point to facilitate action plan of Policy Guidelines on AE Transition in ASEAN member country

04 April 2025
Hanoi

Co-organized and co-hosted by
LICA - DaLAM, Asean Secretariat, MARD/ IPSARD,
ASSET project (ESCAP, CIRAD, FAO)

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