Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions

ANNUAL MEMBERS FORUM MEETING 2025

Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions

LICA
LAO FACILITATED INITIATIVE ON AGROECOLOGY FOR ASEAN

SUPPORT AGROECOLOGY DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH EAST ASIA: BROADENING AND STRENGTHENING THE MULTISTAKEHOLDER POLICY DIALOGUE PROCESS

Regional ASSET Multi-stakeholder Policy Workshop

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and Andrew Bartlett (ASSET-DALaM)

4th April 2025

DALaM

cirad

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

A project funded by

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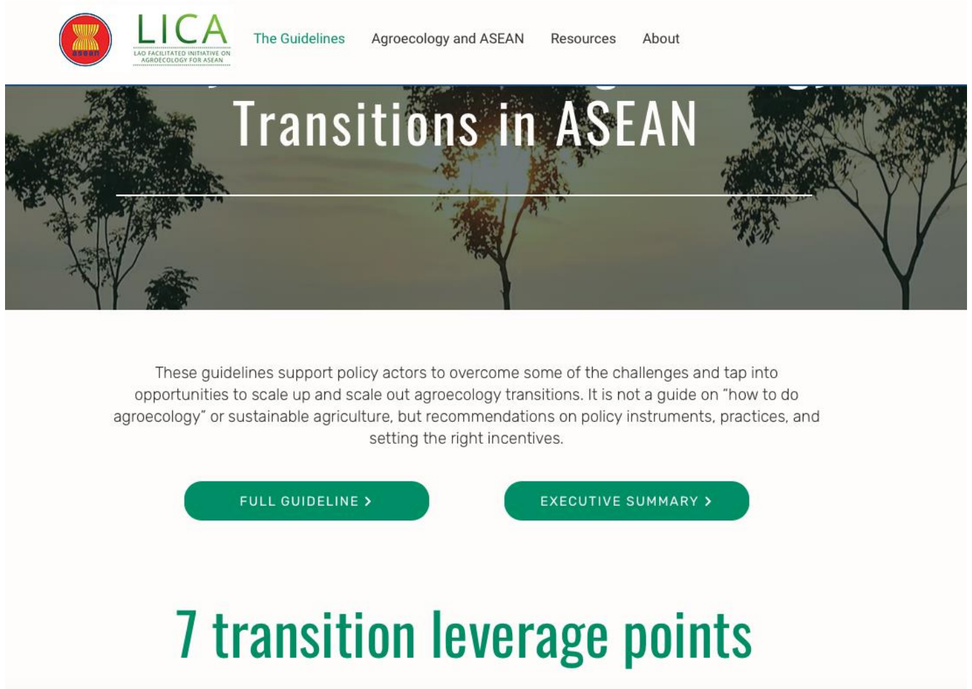
The Policy guidelines on agroecology transitions in ASEAN
= not a technical handbook on agroecology practices and models

What is this about?

➢ Guide policy actors at **national & local levels** to support agroecological transitions (AET) and scaling up



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

https://www.aseanaetguidelines.org

Guidelines Development Objectives

- Practical guidance on transitions
- Guidance that supports key policy actors at national and local levels
- Guidance which helps advance AE transitions objectives in the work of key ASEAN bodies

Target users of the guidelines

Champions
those who advocate from within Government

Coordinators
who work with others to bring different stakeholders and processes together

Technical experts
who work with “Champions” and “Coordinators”, either within government, or through development partners’ interventions

Advocates
who are on the outside of government advocating for change

ASSET

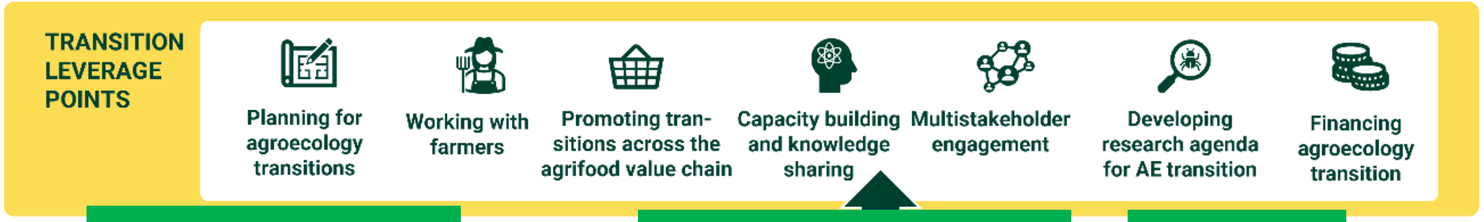
Theory of change

Agroecology transitions in ASEAN

Co-designed together with **LICA, CIRAD, FAO, ESCAP, ALiSEA, CASIC, Asia-DHRRA**

during **regional and national multi-stakeholder dialogues**

combining **Participatory ToC and Human Centered Design Thinking** approaches



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:

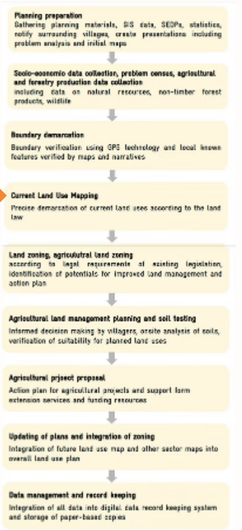
- Landscapes Futures – What are landscape approaches
- FAO. 2017. Landscapes for Life: approaches to landscape management for sustainable food and agriculture
- ADB. 2017. Sustainable Land Management in Asia: Introducing the Landscape Approach
- GIZ. 2023. Agroecology: Making Ecosystem-based Adaptation 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:

A toolkit including 7 areas of action (levers) to support policy changes & integration

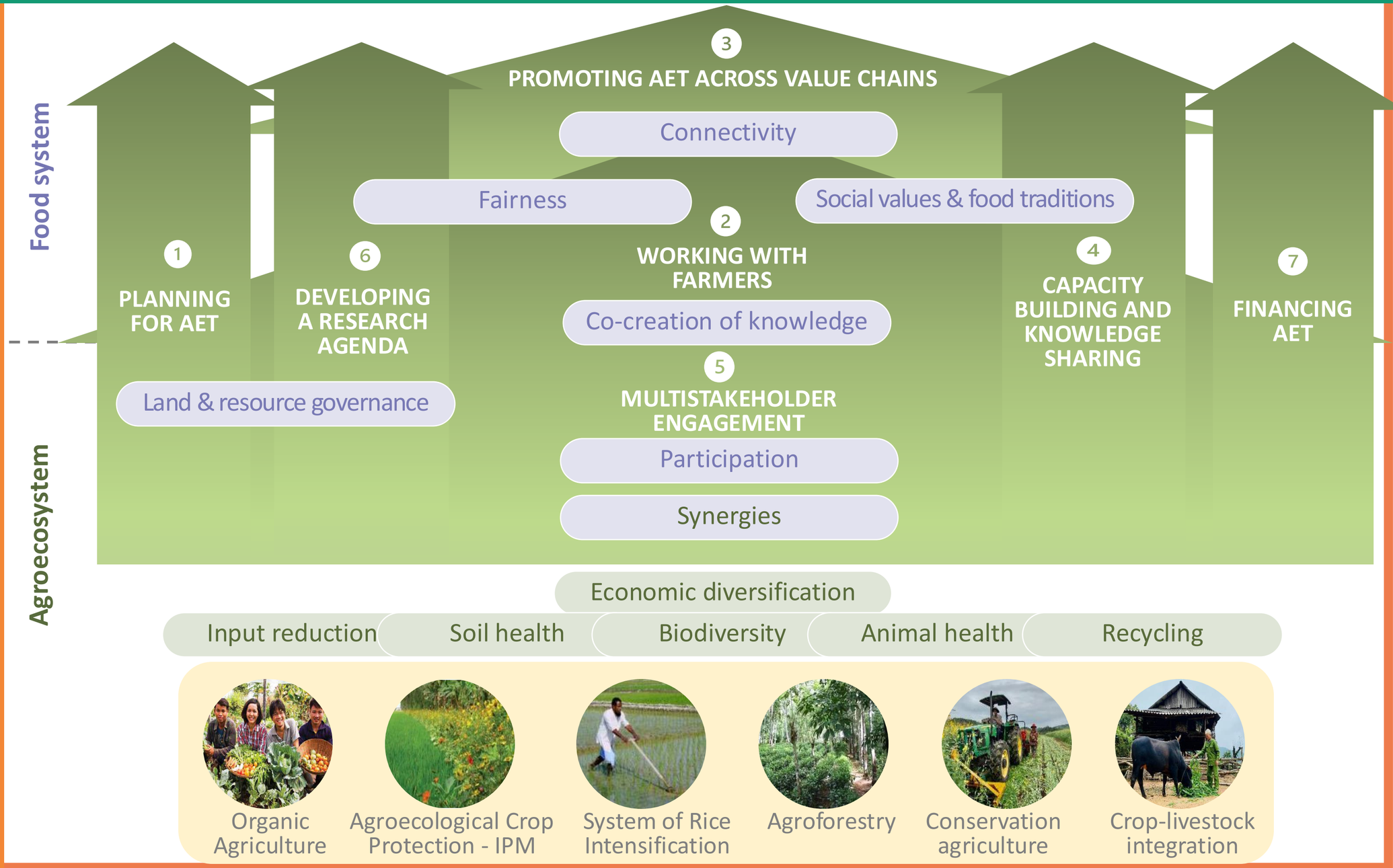
Working through various levers

to act on the AE 13 principles

& support agroecology transitions (AET)

for sustainable food systems transformations

Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions



Evidence from the ground of ongoing AET and performances: Crop-livestock integration - AE circular models

ASSET project in Northern Vietnam (Dien Bien & Son La)

Input reduction | Soil health | Animal health | Recycling | Synergies – resource use efficiency | Land & resource governance | Connectivity

1. Increased & diversified **Forage** production (incl. **intercropping**)

2. Processing into **silage** to conserve forage quality

3. Animal raising in **stall**

4. **Manure** collection

5. Processing in quality **compost**

6. Compost use for **crop fertilisation**

Circular economy

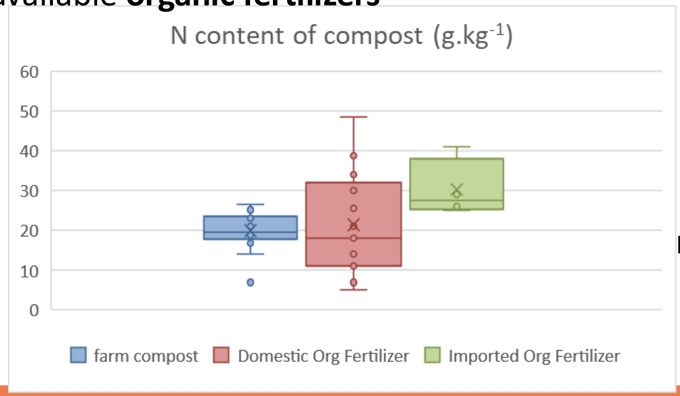
- Improved land use efficiency and local feed availability
- Reduced soil erosion & landslides (intercropping in sloping areas)

Contribution to national targets (NDCs, NAP-FST) and SDGs

- Reduced **Methane (CH4)** emissions: **silage in animal feed** ↘ emissions from enteric fermentation

- Increased use of **organic fertilizer and local input supply**
- Decrease in **environmental pollutions** (effluent management)

Quality of farm compost comparable to other available **organic fertilizers**



And much **cheaper** than commercial organic fertilizer

Farm compost investment & input costs: 350,000 VND/ton

Price organic fertilizer e.g. DAVICO HC-03: 5,500,000 VND/ton

Pathway approach to scale up Crop Livestock farming systems - From participatory research to integrated policy support

Northern Vietnam - Dien Bien & Son La

Planning for AET
Research agenda
Working with farmers
Capacity building and knowledge sharing
Multistakeholder engagement
Promoting AET in VCs
Financing AET

Input reduction | Soil health | Animal health | Recycling | Synergies | Connectivity | Land & resource governance

Participatory action research

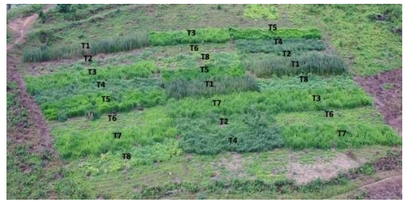
(NIAS/ Nomafsi/ DARDs/ CIRAD) with local stakeholders

Pilot CLI models

Testing forage species, silage and compost production with farmers & extensionists

Demo plots (soil health & plant monitoring)

- Intercropping of forages in coffee & maca plantation



Experiment Maca + forage grasses (Tuan Giao)

Field visits, training & communication

Capacity building and knowledge sharing

Technical leaflets

Field visits and trainings, awareness & communication

Access to equipment and inputs

- Incentive pack (EM, choppers & bags)
- Seeds, cutting for forages

Capacity buildings included in provincial programs (New Rural Dev Plan, poverty eradication, ethnic minorities)

Gradually: include support to small equipment (initial investment/ incentive pack) in provincial programs

And forage/ silage/ compost models in **curricula and training & extension programs**

Exploring territorial branding potential (incl. high quality beef, maca, coffee)

Incentive pack	Unit price (VND)	Qty	Cost/HH (VND)
Forage and cassava stem chopper	5 000 000	1 for 5 HHs	1 000 000
Double layer bag for silage (800-1000 kg)	160 000	2	320 000
Efficient Microorganisms (EM) Guard II	180 000	1	180 000
Roof for compost pit	500 000	1	500 000
Canva	70 000	1	70 000
Efficient Microorganisms (EM) Trichoderma plus humic	100 000	1	100 000
TOTAL (VND)			**2 170 000**
TOTAL (USD)			**87**

Evidence from the ground of ongoing AET and performances – Central highlands Vietnam

Diversification = Intensification

And improved resilience

V-SCOPE Vietnam toward Sustainability for COffee and PEpper

Funded by: Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research | Australian Aid

Resilience | Synergies – resource use efficiency | Biodiversit | Economic diversification | Input reduction | Soil health

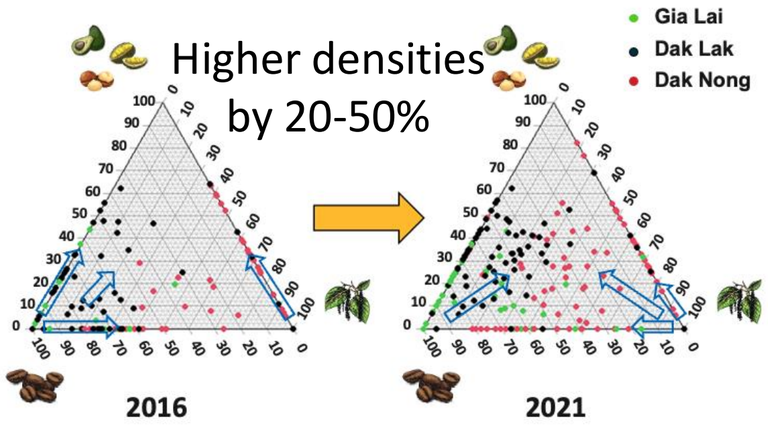
	Crop mix	Coffee yield (kg.tree^{-1})	Pepper yield (kg.tree^{-1})	Fruit tree yield (kg.tree^{-1})	Land equivalent ratio (LER) (ha)
Coffee monoculture	A	3,5	1,0	0,6	1,01
Coffee diversified	B	3,3	2,3	9,3	1,11
Mixed diversified	C	3,3	3,0	9,4	1,25
Pepper diversified	D	1,2	3,0	7,2	1,16
Pepper monoculture	E	0,3	3,0	0,1	1,03

=

Overall productivity of diversified systems ↗ compared to monoculture

Reduced labor peaks and better return to labor

Also, the **most resilient** to prices fluctuations



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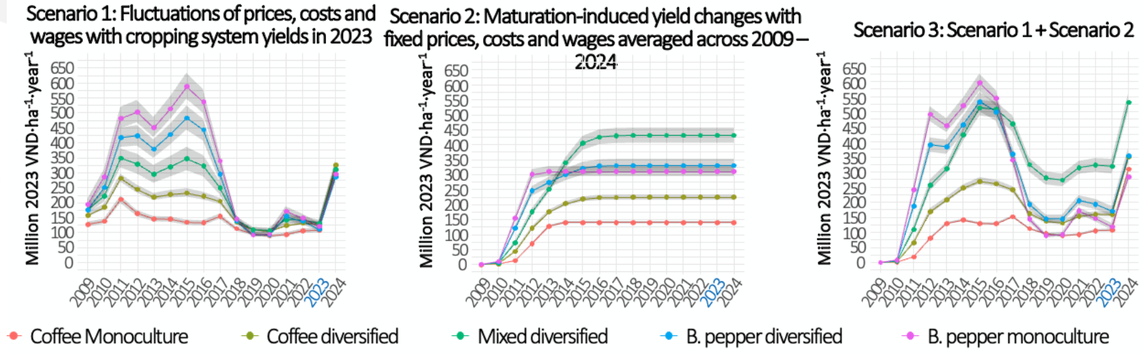


And to draughts and frosts

Agroforestry systems – Assessing coffee & pepper diversification

Strong potential for improved resource use efficiency across coffee & pepper-based systems

V-SCOPE
Vietnam toward Sustainability for COffee and PEpper

Funded by: Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research | Australian Aid

Better performances of diversified systems

Resilience | Synergies – resource use efficiency

Biodiversity | Economic diversification | Input reduction | Soil health

Water: Lower irrigation needs than current practices, notably in diversified systems:

- Irrigation reduced by 40% with no yield loss (monoculture, normal dry season)

Fertilizer: Nitrogen and Phosphorus use above recommendations

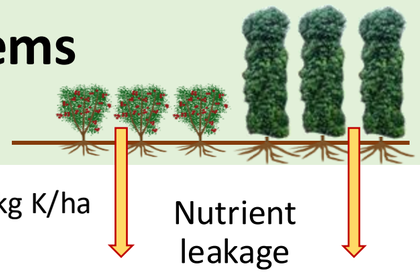
Low efficiency: (N input ~ 15-50% efficient) and high leakage

+ Fertilizers as **main cost (57-71%)**

➔ High economic losses, soil acidification + environmental degradations

→ **Strong potential for reduction in all systems**

+ better efficiency in diversified systems



Overall: ~60-170 kg N/ha and ~70-160 kg K/ha leaking every year below 200cm

Contribution to national targets

(NDCs, NAP-FST) **and sustainability**

Reduced & more efficient fertilizer use

Fertilizers inputs as first contributor to GHG emissions for coffee & pepper farmers (~80% total GHG in farm)

Improved water use efficiency

Higher economic performances of diversified systems + climate adaptation

Pathway approach to scale up diversified coffee and pepper-based systems:
From knowledge co-creation on the ground with multiple stakeholders to landscape and national levels actions

V-SCOPE
Vietnam toward Sustainability for COffee and PEpper

Funded by: Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research | Australian Aid

Planning for AET

Financing AET

Research agenda

Multistakeholder engagement

Working with farmers

Promoting AET in VCs

Capacity building and knowledge sharing

Private sector co-funding and co-design of public led R&D (PPP)

Coffee & pepper task forces
(Tchibo, JDE, MGIL,
Simexco, Pearl, Ecom, LDC)

With national and international research institutes
(WASI / PPRI/ IPSARD
CIRAD/ CIFOR-ICRAF/ U. Deakin)
Coordinating with local authorities

Co-piloting of research & knowledge production

Experimentation on farms and in station:
- High tech instrumented trials (irrigation, nutrient leakage)
- Soil remediation trials (lime, biochar)

Sensor setting in nutrient leakage trials

Learning with farmers
- Focus group discussions
- Annual agronomic & socioeconomic monitoring

→ Sharing results & adapting design in different arenas
→ Feeding into suitability mapping

National curricula revision

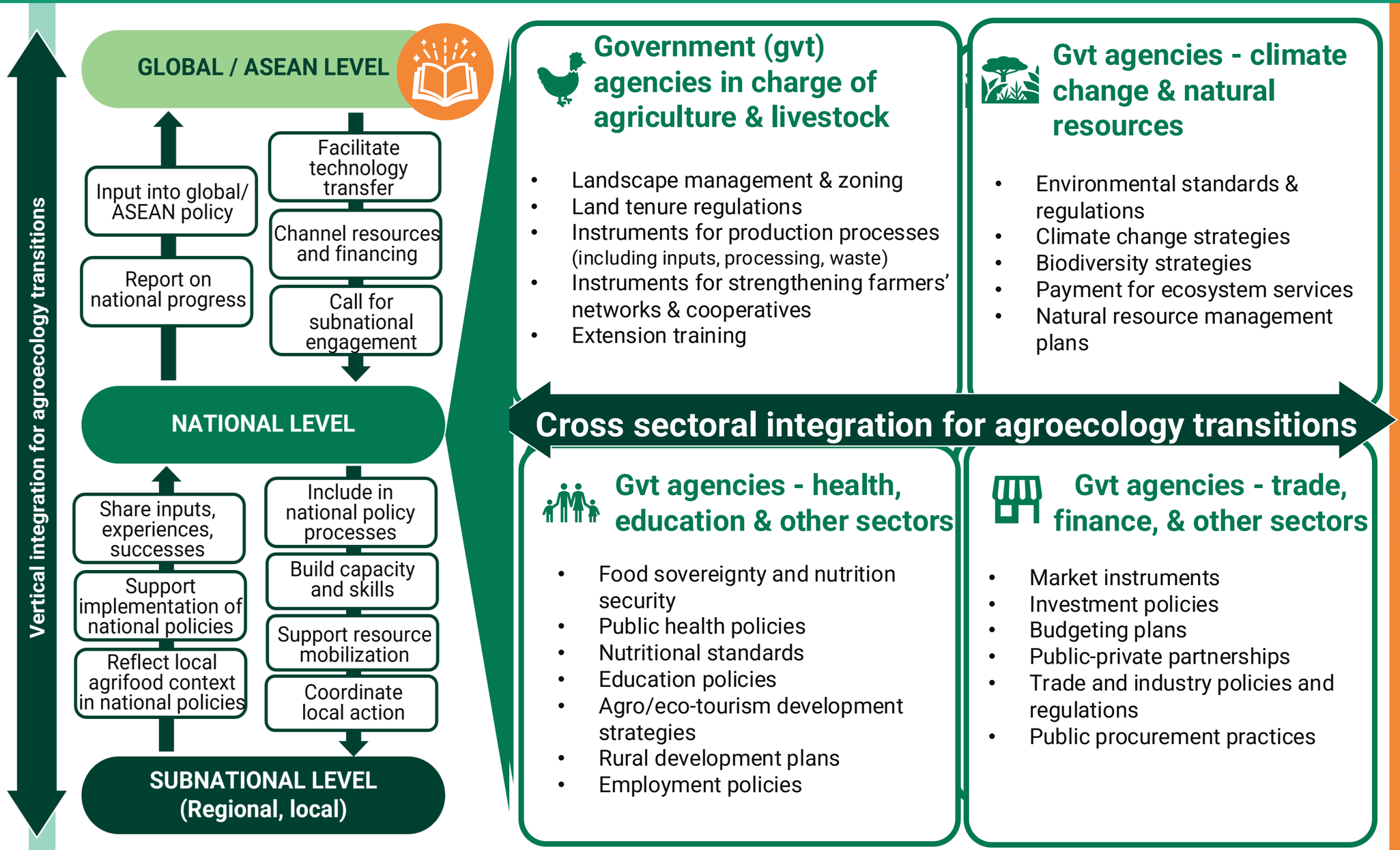
- Technical guidelines on irrigation (250 L/tree/round = ↘ 40% water use), soil remediation, fertilizer use

Multistakeholder partnerships

- Collaborations between gvt programs, corporate sustainability programs & local stakeholders
- Working through landscape approaches
- Engaging with platforms (VCCB, GCP, PSAV)

Agroforestry systems – Assessing coffee & pepper diversification and supporting resilience and livelihoods

How are the guidelines relevant at different levels?



Informed by initiatives and inputs from the ground,

the guidelines provide **a framework of action**

to guide & support decision making

by national and provincial actors across sectors

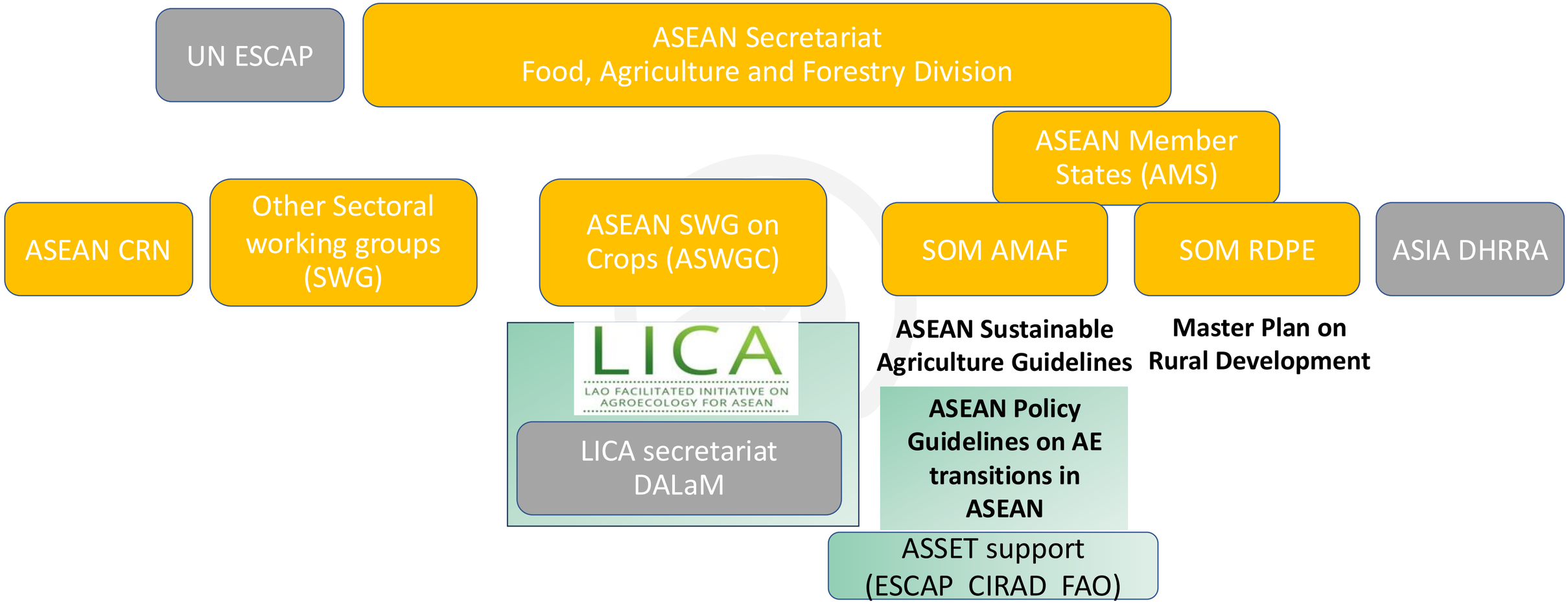
What’s next?

Orientations Implementation of ASEAN Policy Guidelines on AET

Towards policy coherence and strengthening institutional support for AE transitions in Asean countries

Regional level:	Socialize the guidelines and other relevant guidance on sustainable agriculture as a “package”.
	Mobilize resources for LICA’s enhanced dialogue and action with development partners’ support.
	Work with ASEAN countries on a voluntary basis to develop adapted monitoring systems.
	Develop recommendations for follow-up actions by relevant ASEAN Sectoral bodies.
	Develop appropriate/ disseminate advocacy materials and technical resources.

LICA and the ASEAN guidelines in the ASEAN framework



Towards LICA as a reference group for ASEAN in support of :

- Cross SWG actions on AE
- Link with regional and national stakeholders and platforms

LICA as the AE Reference Group for the ASEAN

From

Sharing *success and learning experiences* of ASEAN countries on policies and institutional mechanisms that efficiently support agroecological transition.

Facilitating an inter-countries analysis of these experiences, *through partnerships with ASEAN Sub-Working Group on Crops (ASWGC) SPA 2021-2025*.

Facilitating the design of ASEAN guidelines for *policies supporting agroecological transition*.

To

Link the discussions in ASEAN on agroecology with global discussions, in particular with the Agroecology Coalition.

Increase the coherence of policy and activity on sustainable agriculture, beyond the ASWGC.

Increase communication and sharing on agroecology advances in ASEAN member states.

What comes next?

Communication/ socialization: Dissemination to all ASEAN Member States and relevant organisations – mass media communication – translation in local languages

Enrichment of the dedicated website

- Library of emblematic case studies and experiences (to be sustained)
- Link to relevant resources from other platforms incl. ALiSEA, FAO, AE TPP, AE coalition

Localization/ adaptation of the guidelines to national & local contexts:

- Tailoring of the guidelines to national contexts and strategies (e.g. Vietnam already engaging in this)

Series of regional workshops in 2025

- Broaden and strengthen the alliances and coalitions

- Further embeddedness into food system transformations action framework and other global action framework (climate, biodiversity, etc.)

- Agreement on further plans to roll-out the guidelines & advance AET policy framework: learning and cross fertilization between countries' experiences and visions for actions

  → National Action Planning and implementation on voluntary basis

  Incl. exploring framework to monitor progress on AET to more sustainable food systems

  → ASEAN level action planning

Broadening & strengthening the regional multistakeholder dynamics

17-18th March, Vientiane

1

Launching ASEAN guidelines forum

ɛmenting the ASEAN policy guidelines on agroecology transitions

& advancing green financing for the agriculture sector in ASEAN (Fin4Green Forum)

4th April, Hanoi

2

Regional ASSET Multistakeholder Policy Workshop

ANNUAL MEMBERS FORUM MEETING 2025

Agroecology TPP

Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions

July, Jakarta

3

Regional ASSET, ASEAN, LICA workshop

Promoting agroecology transitions in ASEAN

From plans to implementation

04 April 2025
Hanoi

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

LICA

Ipsard

Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions

24th Nov, Vientiane

4

Multistakeholder policy consultations and sharing during TARASA25 conference

2026

5

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

2030

6

Full implementation of Policy Guidelines on AE Transitions in ASEAN member countries

LICA

LAO FACILITATED INITIATIVE ON AGROECOLOGY FOR ASEAN

Today

Insights from a broad range of stakeholders

- Broadening the multistakeholder process – strengthening and learning from agroecology from the ground
- Operating cross-scale and cross-sector
- Perspectives from and partnership with private sector

Everybody to reflect on the most critical topics for the group discussions

Group discussions

- 2 rounds of about 40’

Download the guidelines and access the supporting materials

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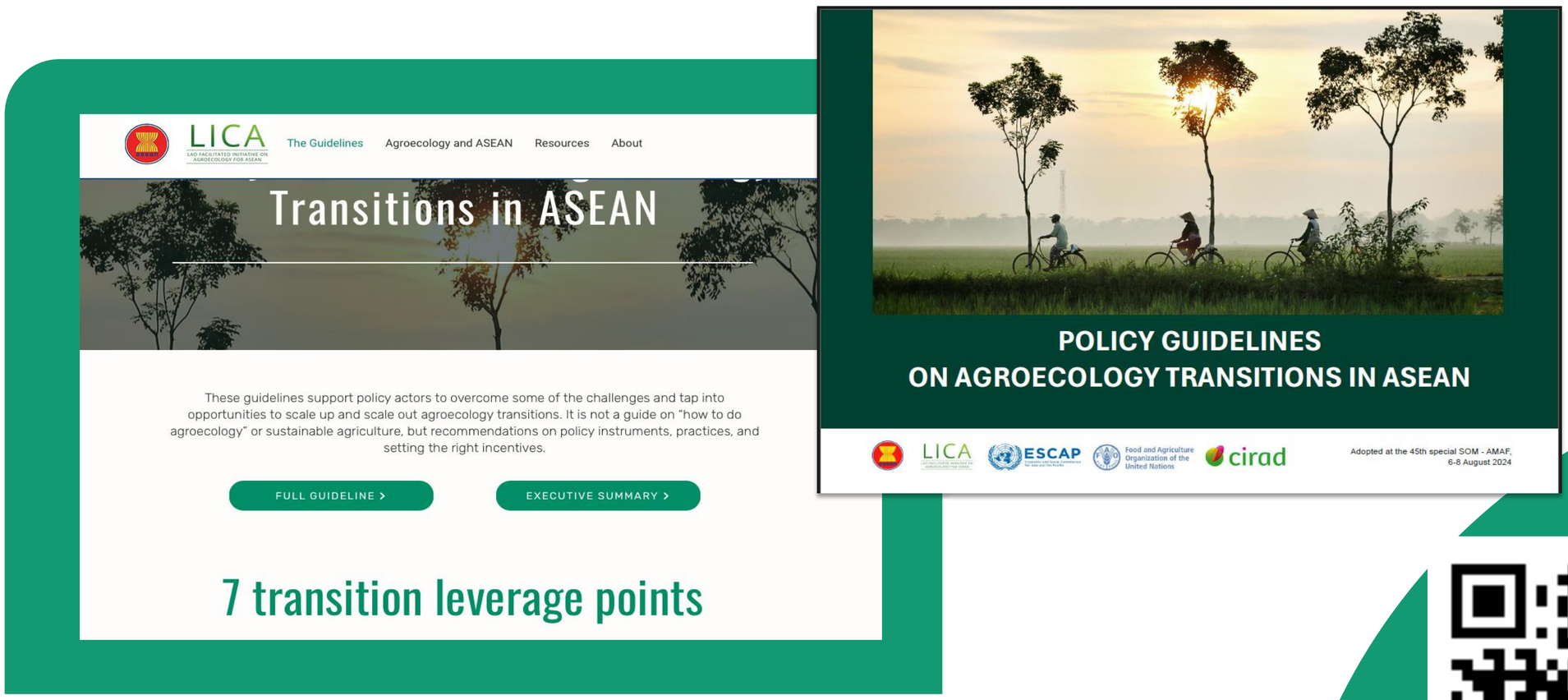

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