

# TARASA25 JOINT OUTCOME STATEMENT

*Agroecology Cooperation for Food Systems Transformations*

## Transitioning Towards Agroecology and Regenerative Agriculture A Contribution to Food Systems Transformations (TARASA25)

Vientiane, Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic  
25-27 November 2025

1. We, participants of the "*Transitioning Towards Agroecology and Regenerative Agriculture: A Contribution to Food Systems Transformation*" (TARASA25) International Workshop, gathered in Vientiane, Lao PDR, from 25-27 November 2025. This workshop convened 245 participants from 23 countries and 114 organizations, including government institutions, civil society, farmers' organizations, research bodies, private sector actors, and development partners, with balanced gender representation. We reaffirm our collective commitment to advancing Agroecology (AE) and Regenerative Agriculture (RA) as essential pathways for resilient, inclusive and sustainable agrifood systems. Our collective efforts aim to accelerate progress, address critical knowledge and implementation gaps, and translate regional commitments into transformative action, building upon the momentum generated by the ASEAN Policy Guidelines for Agroecology Transitions<sup>1</sup>. We reaffirm our dedication to sustainable agriculture for regional food security, economic growth, environmental well-being, and climate action.
2. We recognize the global, regional, and national aspirations for transforming agrifood systems, and the significant opportunities these offer for collective action and deeper cooperation. We highlight the urgent need to overcome the "*pilot syndrome*" where promising initiatives still too often fail to reach scale. Critical financing challenges persist, with less than 1 % of global climate finance reaching smallholders and rural producers (smallholder farmers, fisherfolk, pastoralists, and forest-dependent communities), decreased Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), and a pressing need for new mechanisms to help smallholders access resources and benefit from ecosystem services and diversified markets. We commit to providing strategic direction to boost sustainable productivity, deploy green, appropriate and adaptive technologies, reduce pre- and post-harvest losses, facilitate trade and enhance market value for competitive and resilient agrifood systems.
3. We acknowledge the urgent need for cross-scale and cross-sector policy coherence to build resilient agrifood systems against climate change impacts, while reducing water, carbon, and waste footprints. To achieve this, we strongly support: (i) promoting robust policy integration that includes agroecology in national food, climate, health, biodiversity, and trade policies; (ii) championing the reform of "perverse policies," such as subsidies for chemical pesticides and synthetic fertilizers, which can undermine sustainable practices; (iii) emphasizing the

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aseanaetguidelines.org/>

development and use of holistic metrics to track environmental, social, productivity, and profitability outcomes; and (iv) catalyzing investments through partnerships with the private sector and development partners.

4. To meet the growing demand for safe, nutritious, healthy, and quality foods as well as for ecosystem services, we are committed to strengthening engagement across value chains and markets by: (i) establishing agroecology marketplaces and quality signaling to facilitate knowledge exchange, product and services sales, and market connections; (ii) work with private sector businesses from the early stages of initiative; (iii) conducting comprehensive mapping of private initiatives (SMEs, large companies) to foster cooperation and investment together with farming and rural communities; and (iv) broadening invitations to both domestic and international private enterprises to leverage their innovation and investment capacity in agroecology.
5. We recognize that unlocking farming community potential and nurturing innovations are crucial for enhancing rural incomes, creating employment, and meeting diverse consumer needs. To this end, we commit to: (i) supporting initiatives that attract younger generations to agriculture and empower women; (ii) reforming policy frameworks acknowledging that while agroecology principles are universal, practices and implementation must be contextual; (iii) investing significantly in rural communities and in knowledge generation and sharing to build resilient agrifood systems; and (iv) advocating for continuous efforts to sustain the "TARASA momentum" for future actions.
6. We commend the strong policy traction gained by agroecology across the region and beyond, and reaffirm that "*perfectionism is a killer of innovation*," encouraging pragmatic and adaptive approaches. We endorse the vital message that "**No farmers, No food, No future!**" and emphasize that policy coherence is essential for successful transitions. We recognize that agrifood transformation complexities require a cohesive approach, cooperative efforts, and regional partnerships. We call upon all development partners and stakeholders to join us in implementing the insights from TARASA25. Together, we can pave the way for sustainable, green, resilient, and prosperous agrifood systems that meet the needs of our people and protect natural resources for generations to come.
7. To maintain and build upon the momentum generated by TARASA25, participants have outlined key directions for future engagement and concrete actions for the next steps:
  - **Future Thematic Focus:** explore themes such as landscape/territorial integrated management approaches, agroecology pathways and landscape investment, successful practices of small-scale farming communities on agroecology reforms of agricultural research systems and extension services, locally grounded multi-functional value market linkages, long term profitability and resilience, business case studies for agroecology, youth involvement into agroecology and the role of machinery, digitalization and artificial intelligence (AI). There is a strong call for increased engagement with agribusiness and public/multilateral development banks.

- **Event Format:** adopt a blended format for TARASA27, combining short targeted workshops with tangible outcomes (including field learning and broad journalistic coverage) and larger workshops in capital cities (to engage policymakers, donors, and companies). "Real-world" events organized within farming communities are also crucial.
  - **Knowledge Products and Dissemination:** this includes widely sharing knowledge products derived from the work of the *Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions in South East Asia* (ASSET) project partners .
  - **Policy Advancement and Support:** move forward the *Lao-facilitated Initiative on Agroecology for ASEAN* (LICA) action plan implementation at ASEAN level ; actively engage in and support national platforms such as the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Agroecology under the Partnership of the National Action Plan on Food Systems Transformations in Vietnam, the Sub Sector Working Group on Agroecology in Lao PDR and the Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification Consortium (CASIC) in Cambodia ; support the publication and dissemination by the ASEAN Member States Ministries of Agriculture of the ASEAN policy guidelines on agroecological transitions in national and local languages; and seek robust policy support for agroecological farmers.
  - **Funding and Resource Mobilization:** assist in putting together Green Climate Fund (GCF)/Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding proposals for agroecology transitions at scale that leverage private sector investment capacity to unlock necessary financial resources.
  - **Monitoring and Learning:** establish and implement collectively agreed upon metrics to monitor the progress of agroecology implementation across scales and identify challenges faced by agroecology farmers and rural communities to inform future strategies.
  - **Capacity Building:** apply lessons learned into skill development in agriculture within participating organizations while contributing to the reform of agricultural extension services. This includes capitalizing on insights gained on agroecology implementation and on the key levers that enable transitions for farmers and rural communities, in order to enhance both practical and institutional capacities for transformative change.
8. We sincerely thank the Government of Lao PDR for their generous hosting of the TARASA25 International Workshop and the warm hospitality extended to all participants. The insights and commitments from TARASA25 are poised to significantly inform national and regional strategies, including the Lao-facilitated Initiative on Agroecology for ASEAN (LICA) Action Plan (2025-2030), as Lao PDR continues to lead in promoting sustainable agricultural development for the benefit of its people and the wider ASEAN community.

**Endorsed at Vientiane on 27 November 2025.**

## **Signatories**

*Organization or Network full name (acronym), headquarter location*

*Ranked by alphabetic order*

1. Action For Development Organization (AFD), Cambodia
2. Agence Francaise de Développement (AFD), France
3. Agroecology Coalition, Italy
4. Agroecology Fund (AEF), USA
5. Agroecology Learning Alliance in South East Asia (ALiSEA), Regional secretariat in Cambodia
6. Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), The Philippines
7. Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (AsiaDHRRA), The Philippines
8. Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), Thailand
9. Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), University of Bern, Switzerland
10. Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), China
11. Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification Consortium (CASIC), Cambodia
12. Department of Land Administration and Management (DLAM), Lao PDR
13. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Office in Lao PDR
14. ForestAction Nepal/Alliance of Agriculture for Food, Nepal
15. French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), France
16. French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), France
17. General Directorate of Agriculture (GDA), Department of Agricultural Land Resources Management (GDA/DALRM), Cambodia
18. GRET, international solidarity NGO, France
19. Indigenous Livestock Society India (ILSI), India
20. International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Mexico
21. Mekong Center for Research and Policy (Mekong Center), Lao PDR
22. Mekong Youth Farm Network (Y-Farm), Vietnam
23. Participatory Development Knowledge Agency (PAKA), Lao PDR
24. Social Policy Ecology Research Institute (SPERI), Vietnam
25. Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Studies and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), The Philippines
26. Swisscontact Cambodia international development NGO, Cambodia
27. Transformative Partnership Platform on Agroecology (Agroecology TPP), secretariat in Kenya
28. Vietnam Rural Development Science Association (PHANO), Vietnam