



GRET



Organic market Vientiane, Laos

ASSET

Agroecology and Safe food System Transitions in Southeast Asia

The ASSET project in a few lines

The agricultural sector of Southeast Asian countries is at a crossroads between agricultural models based on Green Revolution and innovative agroecological systems. The particular intensification of conventional agriculture is leading to a simplification of agricultural landscapes, land degradation and biodiversity depletion, and increased health risks for farmers and consumers.

A main challenge for the research and development community is to support the transitions from a relatively standard and simple Green Revolution model of intensification, to a mosaic of diversified production models (agroforestry, crop-livestock integration, crop-diversity, conservation agriculture, etc.) with increasingly diverse and strengthened connections to safe food system, including domestic and export value-chains.

A shared vision of Agroecology and Safe food System

The ASSET project aims to develop and promote a **shared vision of Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions** in

South East Asia through a comprehensive approach that includes research, networking, policy advocacy, capacity development, awareness raising and communication.

The project will build upon:

- > Research for development processes in synergy with the regional research platforms, [ASEA](#) and [MALICA](#).
- > The Agroecology Learning Alliance in Southeast Asia ([ALiSEA](#)).
- > The ASEAN Lao facilitated Initiative for a regional Coaching of Agroecological transition in South East Asia ([LICA](#)).

It will engage with governments, civil society and the private sector (including small producers) to generate and transform knowledge into sustainable innovation processes and transformative policies, sensitive to youth and gender equality.

Coordinated by GRET in a strong articulation with CIRAD, in charge of the scientific coordination, the project will mobilize the expertise of 27 national, European and International partners, from research institutions, universities, NGOs, UN agencies, Ministries of Agriculture **of four countries**.

Project objective

- To transform food and agricultural systems in Southeast Asia into more sustainable, safer and inclusive by harnessing the potential of agroecology.
- This will be achieved through strengthening and synergizing initiatives contributing to Agroecological and Safe food Systems Transitions (ASSET) from local to regional levels.

Key project figures

- Project duration: 2020-2025.
- 27 national, European and International partners involved.
- 4 countries: Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam.
- 3 spheres of influence: policy, societal and technical & economic.

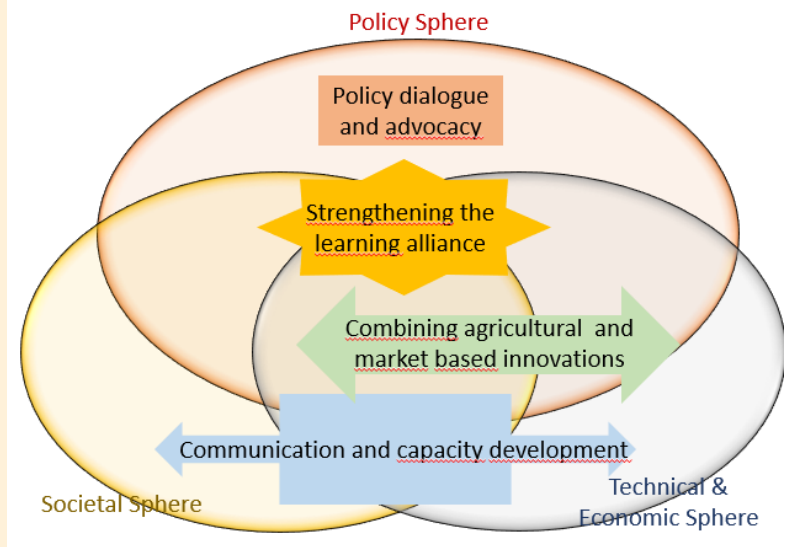
Tam Dat Organic Agricultural Cooperative, Vietnam



The subcomponents of the project

- > **Strengthening ALiSEA through networking and sharing a common vision:** ALiSEA network capacity building in terms of visibility, communication and influence (Board of Members, National Secretariats)
- > **Transforming ALiSEA multimedia tools into a knowledge hub:** Database management, Geographic Information System Mapping, partnering with other regional initiatives
- > **Promoting ASSET through capacity development, communication and visibility actions:** Webmaster, video & social media, e-learning, trainings, etc.
- > **Knowledge production and support to innovations:** Flagship sites supporting territorial, transdisciplinary approaches to innovation
- > **Methodological framework for assessing performances and impacts of innovations and transitions:** Theory of Change, impact monitoring, etc.
- > **Evidence-based policy dialogue and advocacy:** Support to policy dialogue and advocacy at multiple scales from local to regional level.

Spheres of influence and action modes:



EXPECTED RESULTS

- ALiSEA becomes a fully autonomous member-managed network and knowledge hub supporting the Agroecology and Safe food System Transitions.
- Innovation processes at territorial level are strengthened in flagship sites in the four countries.
- Robust evidences on agroecological system performances, impacts and its condition of development feed scaling up strategies and political processes at larger scales.
- Policy dialogue on agriculture, food and trade at national and regional levels (notably ASEAN level) is fostered and strengthened to better integrate sectorial issues and support ASSET.



Rice-growing area in Bogale township, Myanmar



Photos: © GRET

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Present in Lao PDR since 2004 and in the Mekong region since 1988, GRET is an international development NGO that has been working in the field and at political level to fight poverty and inequalities for more than 40 years.

Lao PDR

GRET