Enabling agroecology through policy:
Different pathways towards the same objective?

Thisadee Chounlamountry

Lao Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE)
Department of Land Administration and Management (DLAM)



ASEAN Policy guidelines on Agroecology Transition (AET)

AFS Network

biovision

Agroecology Coalition

ASEAN Policy Guidelines on Agroecology Transitions

Addressing regional policy frameworks and practical implementation models through LICA.

Guiding Presentation Framework

1. Definition & Goals: What are the ASEAN Policy Guidelines on Agroecology Transitions, and what do they aim to achieve?
2. Implementation & Lessons: How are they implemented/envisaged? Concrete examples, experiences, and transferable lessons?

Presentation Structure

Part 1: What are the ASEAN Guidelines & Their Goals?

Part 2: The 7 Key Transition Leverage Points

Part 3: Envisaged Regional Action Plan (2025–2030)

Part 4: Concrete Lao PDR Examples & Experiences

Part 5: Transferable Lessons & Open Discussion

What are the ASEAN Policy Guidelines & Goals?

Adopted at the 46th AMAF Meeting (October 2024), establishing the official regional reference framework via LICA.

What Do They Aim to Achieve?

- **Enhance Food Security:** Build climate-resilient agrifood systems across Southeast Asia.
- **Ecological Balance:** Restore degraded soils, biodiversity, and ecosystem services.
- **Equitable Prosperity:** Secure fair livelihoods, reduce input costs, and empower smallholders.

Institutional Pathway via LICA

Initiated by Lao PDR under AMAF in 2012 for conservation agriculture, broadened to agroecology in 2017, anchored by national focal points in 2019, designated as official ASEAN reference group in 2022, and culminating in the 2024 policy adoption.

The 7 Key Transition Leverage Points

Operational pillars detailing how the guidelines are structured for field and policy implementation.

1. Planning | 2. Farmers | 3. Value Chains | 4. Knowledge | 5. Stakeholders | 6. Research | 7. Finance

1. Policy & Agricultural Planning

Embed coherent agroecology targets into national agrifood plans. Utilize territorial landscape approaches like Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) to balance land use and protect ecosystem services.



Landscape Planning in Lao PDR

1. Planning | 2. Farmers | 3. Value Chains | 4. Knowledge | 5. Stakeholders | 6. Research | 7. Finance

2. Working with Farmers

Position smallholders as central innovators. Support farmer groups, youth, and women organizations through direct field training and agroforestry practices.



Smallholder Agroforestry Support

1. Planning | 2. Farmers | 3. Value Chains | 4. Knowledge | 5. Stakeholders | 6. Research | 7. Finance

3. Value Chain Transitions

Develop domestic markets, short supply chains, and specialty agricultural products through consumer-backed schemes and Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS).



Local Markets & Domestic Supply Support

1. Planning | 2. Farmers | 3. Value Chains | 4. Knowledge | 5. Stakeholders | 6. Research | 7. Finance

4. Capacity & Knowledge Sharing

Build agroecology literacy through peer-to-peer learning networks, Farmer Field Schools (FFS), and practical training workshops conducted directly within farming communities.



Farmer Field School Training

1. Planning | 2. Farmers | 3. Value Chains | 4. Knowledge | 5. Stakeholders | 6. Research | 7. Finance

5. Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

Shift beyond basic consultation to institutionalized engagement across government ministries, regional partners, and local stakeholders including rural communities and ethnic groups.



Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement

1. Planning | 2. Farmers | 3. Value Chains | 4. Knowledge | 5. Stakeholders | 6. Research | 7. Finance

5. Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

Shift beyond basic consultation to institutionalized engagement across government ministries, regional partners, and local stakeholders including rural communities and ethnic groups.



Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement

1. Planning | 2. Farmers | 3. Value Chains | 4. Knowledge | 5. Stakeholders | 6. Research | 7. Finance

7. Financing Transitions

Repurpose public agricultural subsidies and leverage international climate funds, green finance models, and microfinance instruments tailored for smallholder transition.

Financing Agroecology Transitions

LICA Regional Action Matrix (2026–2030)

How implementation is envisaged across ASEAN through 5 integrated strategic priorities.

Key Area	Strategic Objective	Key Milestones & Targets	Lead / Support Partners
1. Policy to Action	Translate guidelines into localized National Action Plans.	80% Member States adopt roadmaps; integrate PLUP by 2027.	LICA Focal Points / ASEC, FAO, AFD
2. LICA Mandate	Establish LICA as ASEAN coordination hub.	Secretariat operational; bi-annual SOM-AMAF reporting.	LICA Steering Committee / ASWGC
3. Knowledge Exchange	South-South exchanges & Knowledge Hub expansion.	10 cross-country exchanges; 50+ practices documented.	Knowledge Unit / CIRAD, ALiSEA
4. Resource Mobilization	Secure long-term transition finance.	Mobilize $50M; launch Regional Investment Framework.	Resource Team / IFAD, ADB, GCF
5. M&E & Governance	Participatory monitoring aligned with ASEAN targets.	Adopt M&E framework; 50% youth/women/IP participation.	M&E Unit / UN-ESCAP, CSOs

Agroecology Implementation in Lao PDR

Localizing regional leverage points to address national agricultural and climate priorities.

Agroforestry & Forests

Promoting wild tea, specialty forest coffee, and bamboo value chains to protect forest margins and build sustainable rural incomes.

PLUP & PALM Tools

Scaling Participatory Land Use Planning to delineate village boundaries, prevent forest encroachment, and secure tenure rights.

Green Extension

Strengthening village volunteer networks and Farmer Field Schools to support ethnic minorities, youth, and women in transition.

Lao PDR National Action Plan For Agroecology Transition by 2030

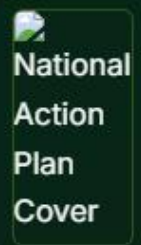
Endorsed by Ministerial Decree No. 0688/MAE (Dated February 19, 2026)

Key Provisions of the Ministerial Decree

Article 1: Approves and promulgates the Lao PDR National Action Plan for Agroecology Transition by 2030.

Article 2: Assigns the Department of Planning and Cooperation (DPC) to coordinate implementation with central and local authorities.

Articles 3 & 4: Directs ministries, provincial departments, and Vientiane Capital to execute effectively, taking effect immediately upon signature.



National Action Plan Document

Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (February 2026). Core guiding framework for nationwide agroecology transitions.

2030 Vision: Building clean, safe, climate-resilient agrifood systems that deliver high added value for Lao smallholders.

Lessons Learned & Transferable Insights

Key experiences relevant and transferable to other contexts.

- **Institutionalize Focal Points:** Active inter-ministerial working groups ensure sustained political commitment.
- **Repurpose Public Support:** Align national budgets and green climate funds with agroecological incentives.
- **Bridge Science and Policy:** Combine field-level participatory research with national legislative frameworks[cite: 1, 8].

Transforming ASEAN food systems through collaborative policy action.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

EMAIL
thisadeec@hotmail.com

WEBSITE
www.aseanaetguidelines.org