10th APFSD Associated Event

Workshop on Policy for Agroecology Transition in South-East Asia

30-31 March 2023
Larn Luang Room, Royal Princess Hotel, Bangkok
By invitation only
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Mr. Pierre Ferrand, Agricultural Officer (Agroecology), FAO,
Ms. Hitomi Rankine, Environmental Affairs Officer, ESCAP
Agroecology as a transformative pathway towards sustainable food systems
In the next 35 years we expect **complex & interconnected challenges** that will put an unprecedented pressure on agriculture.

- **Current agricultural production** system based on intensive inputs and productivity can no longer be a sustainable option.

**Climate change** has already **reduced food security & affected water security** for **millions of people** in many locations and/or communities & globally for Indigenous Peoples, **small-scale food producers** and low-income households.

- The use of **agroecological principles & practices** & other approaches (agroforestry, community-based adaptation, farm & landscape level diversification in agriculture, sustainable land management approaches) that work with natural processes as **effective adaptation options** to be broadly **promoted & scaled up**.
AE in FAO: A Multi Stakeholders Consultation Process Leading to the Recognition of Agroecology, the 10 Elements & TAPE

**FIRST**
Int. Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition

- 7 Regional Seminars

**SECOND**
Int. Symposium on Agroecology

Scaling up Agroecology to Achieve the SDGs.

- 2014
  - Launch of a global 4 years multistakeholders consultation process

- 2015-2017
  - Launch of Agroecology Knowledge hub

- 2018
  - Launch Scaling up Agroecology Initiative and presentation of the 10 Elements of Agroecology
  - Rec: FAO to measure sustainability performance of agrifood systems beyond yield
  - Development of TAPE started
  - 26th COAG mandate for TAPE 10/2018, endorsed June 2019

- 2019
  - Conference Res. 7/2019
  - 10 Elements of Agroecology
  - Endorsed Council 12/2019
  - TAPE pilot Framework published

- 2021
  - CFS recommendations “Agroecology and other innovative approaches”
  - Agroecology Coalition
  - Transformative Partnership Platform on AE (TPP)
  - Strategic Framework 2022-31 cross-cutting accelerator “innovative approach”
**WHAT IS AGROECOLOGY?**

A *polysemic concept* with over *30 definitions* adopted by government, Academia and CSOs (FAO website, AgroecologyLex)

Applies *ecological concepts & principles* to optimize *interactions* between plants, animals, humans and the environment while taking into consideration *social aspects* needed for a *sustainable and fair food system*

Based on *bottom-up* and *territorial* processes, helping to deliver *contextualized solutions* to local problems.
• AE innovations are based on the **co-creation of knowledge**, combining science with the traditional, practical and local knowledge of producers

• By enhancing their autonomy and adaptive capacity, AE empowers **producers** and **communities** as key **agents of change**

• Emphasizes **social equity** (job creation & gender aspects)

• Promotes **local markets** and **direct consumer-producer exchanges** (value addition & diverse diets)
Theoretical Framework

Concept of AE as an overarching umbrella under which many different approaches can exist as long as they are moving towards sustainable food systems.
SELECTED EXAMPLES OF AE PRACTICES IN ASEAN
1) Five ecological principles
(Dumont et al., 2013; inspired from Altieri, 2002)

1. Connect, diversify & integrate!
2. Reducing inputs by relying on natural processes
3. Decreasing pollution by optimizing “metabolic” functioning of farming systems
4. Enhancing diversity for increasing system resilience
5. Preserving biodiversity by adapting management practices

Protect and defend local natural and cultural richness!
Be autonomous!
Be clean!

Animal (2013), 7:6, pp 1028–1043
## Beyond Production

*collective action, trust building and innovative marketing*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)</td>
<td>To share knowledge, raise awareness and create trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)</td>
<td>To give a more active role to the consumers, raise awareness and create trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farmers’ markets / Short supply chains</td>
<td>To enable consumers and farmers to better know / understand each other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eco-tourism initiatives</td>
<td>To connect tourists to rural livelihoods / products</td>
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<td>AE movement &amp; Farmer-to-farmer exchanges</td>
<td>To share knowledge, experiences, practices, seeds, etc.</td>
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<td>Platforms &amp; Networks</td>
<td>To generate collective knowledge and to encourage forums for deliberation, public debate, and the dissemination of knowledge</td>
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ADDRESSING COVID 19 & OTHER EXTERNAL SHOCKS

- AE offers an extensive array of agricultural methods & techniques & economic approaches that help farmers reducing their dependency on external inputs, and increase resilience of farming systems.

- Replacing external inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, animal medications…) moving towards stewardship and better utilization of ecosystem services is a central component of AE transitions.

- Strengthening local input systems (i.e. bio pesticides, natural fertilizers etc.) and establishing well functioning community seed banks.

- Supporting utilization & propagation of local varieties and underutilized species → Well adapted to specific, local conditions & providing the basis for a nutrient rich, diverse and healthy diet.
In a nutshell, Agroecology can contributes to:

- **Diversifying** food production and diets (Nutrition)
- Promoting **safe, healthy & environmentally** friendly food (Food safety)
- Safeguarding natural resources, increasing **biodiversity** and **ecosystem** functions (Biodiversity)
- Creating complex, wide-ranging and **quality employment** (knowledge & labor intensive) (Youth)
Agroecology in a Food System Approach  
(Vagneron & al, 2018)

- Food sovereignty
- Autonomy
- Empowerment

- Local employment
- Community development
- Diversification of activities

- Soil fertility improvement
- Water conservation
- Higher biodiversity

- Lower dependence & vulnerability
- Improved food quality & nutrition

- Improved awareness
- Improved food quality
- Better recognition of farmer role

- Equity
  - Fair sharing of value
  - Sharing of information / interaction
Agroecology and safe food system transitions for green, inclusive and resilient recovery in the ASEAN region

Virtual Workshop on 8-9 November 2021
Organized by ESCAP, FAO, CIRAD and other ASSET partners

• Priorities for accelerating transition
• Deep-dive sessions:
  • Networking, knowledge sharing and capacity building
  • Food system innovation and scaling up at local levels
  • Climate actions, monitoring and financing
  • Policy dialogue and processes for scaling-up

Recordings and presentations at See www.asset.org
Framing policy action for agroecology transition

**ALIGN GOALS**
- National Food system transformation pathways
- Climate mitigation (net zero targets) and adaptation,
- Agricultural production
- Circularity and resource efficiency
- Human health
- Ecosystem health and services
- Foreign Direct Investment
- Rural & community development
- S&T, R & D
- Tourism, other?

**RESHAPE, REBALANCE,**
- Stakeholder relationships
- Generation (and valuation) of knowledge
- Information asymmetries and gaps
- Flows of resources and finance

**INSTITUTIONALIZE**
- Management at the right scale – landscape/territorial
- Mandates
- Effective principal-agent setup
- Accountability (vertical, and horizontal)
- Multistakeholder engagement
- Norms and standards, Monitoring
- Scientific & research engagement

**EQUIP AND EMPOWER**
- Knowledge sharing capacity
- Mechanization
- Technology Innovation
- Support for self-organization - Farmers cooperatives
- Infrastructure
- Market development and other support

**MANAGE TRANSITION RISK**
- Farmers’ adoption of new practices and inputs
- Financing landscape values
- Adaptation of “best practices” to local conditions
- Understanding who “loses” Oppositional forces?
Policy and institutional dimensions: Stakeholder relationships

- Monopolies
- Procurement
- Rights and recognition for stakeholder groups in policies (farmers, others)
- Participation and voice (in policy processes, monitoring)
- Risk sharing, mitigation and management
- Principal-Agent failures
- Transparency and right to information
- Incentivizing collaboration and partnership
- Effective/mandated cooperation and coordination
Thank you!