



# ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems (ASEAN SAS): Lao PDR

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems (ASEAN SAS) aims at providing solutions for long-term food security in the region through development of regionally-coordinated policies and strategies for sustainable agriculture. This also includes promotion of cross-border value chains in concert with public decision-makers, agricultural enterprises as well as farmers' and private associations. Agrifood systems are sustainable if they are profitable along the value chain.

**Objectives:** To enable ASEAN Member States to implement the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and its Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security (SPA-FS) by focusing on the promotion of sustainable food production at the national level. Adopted by the ASEAN leaders in 2014, the AIFS Framework (2015-2020) was developed as a response to the need for an integrated approach and multi-stakeholder efforts towards long-term food and nutrition security in the ASEAN region.

**What We Do:** Building upon the results and experiences of the ASEAN Biocontrol project (2011-2013), ASEAN SAS (2014-2017) comprises three focus areas:

- Policy framework: Development of regionally-coordinated policies, strategies and dialogue concepts for a sustainable agrifood sector;
- Production technologies: Promotion of the use of sustainable inputs and crop management practices through capacity development;
- Market linkages: Promotion of sustainable cross-border value chains in collaboration with the private sector.

**Focus topics:** Biological Control Agents (BCA), Soil and Nutrient Management, and Farm Economics

**Priority crops:** Rice, vegetables, and fruits

**Approach:** The project works at a regional level and has established six offices in the ASEAN region (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam). ASEAN Member States are being supported through the provision of (inter) national expertise and the implementation of pilot projects. In addition, various Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) accompany the project.

ASEAN SAS is part of the ASEAN-German Programme on Response to Climate Change in Agriculture and Forestry (GAP-CC), being implemented by German International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH) and hosted by Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand.

**Commissioned by** German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

**Executed by** ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Member States

## Our Work in Lao PDR

- Translate the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework into a national language to support its awareness raising and the implementation of the country's national policies and strategies;
- Conduct a high level Policy Dialogue to identify issues, challenges, roles and responsible of agencies, the contribution of sustainable agrifood systems to food security, priority actions and cooperation mechanism to foster collective efforts in implementing national policies and strategies in line with the AIFS Framework;
- Conduct human capacity development training to raise awareness on issues of food and nutrition security and strengthening capacity in addressing food and nutrition security at the national level;
- Translate the 'ASEAN Guidelines on the Regulation, Use and Trade of Biological Control Agents (BCA)' into the national language to support the implementation and harmonization of regulations of BCA;
- Conduct field trials on BCA for pest management, promote availability of bio-inputs in the market, improve value chains for rice, fruits and vegetables and develop Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects in agricultural sector; and
- Establish the National Expert Group on Soil and Nutrition Management to provide inputs for the development of the 'ASEAN Guidelines on Soil and Nutrient Management (SNM)'. The SNM Guidelines will be used as recommendations based on best practices at national and regional levels for better implementation of SNM among ASEAN Member States.

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