

Outcome Report

30 – 31 July 2019
Bangkok, Thailand



The ASEAN Guidelines and Action Plan on Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry

Workshop on Operationalizing the Action Plan

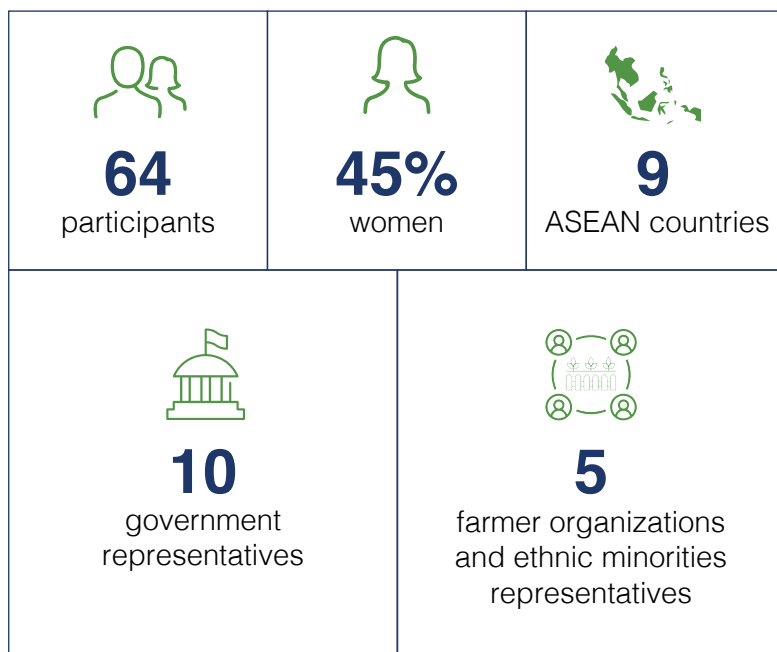


ASEAN Guidelines for Responsible
Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry
*Workshop on Operationalizing the Action
Plan*

Bangkok
30-31 July 2019



Key Statistics



The workshop and this outcome report were supported and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture (BMEL).

Executive Summary

The ASEAN Guidelines and Action Plan on Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry Workshop brought together more than 60 participants from ASEAN governments, the global and regional private sector, civil society organizations, farmer organizations and other key stakeholders. The aim was to share experiences and establish consensus on the Guidelines and Action Plan; learn from one another through discussions on challenges and opportunities; and generate new ideas for interested stakeholders to implement in support of the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (“ASEAN RAI Guidelines” or the “Guidelines”).

As the demand for food increases due to growing populations, rising incomes and urbanizing environments across ASEAN, agriculture will continue to attract foreign and domestic investment, particularly in developing regions. The Guidelines seek to attract responsible investment, balance rights and interests of all stakeholders, create a guidance framework and establish a reference for behaviors and decisions.

The workshop was structured around presentations and small group breakouts to allow participants to contribute to topics in which they shared expertise and interest and entered into practical discussions. The two-day workshop provided insights and clarity on how the ASEAN RAI Guidelines could be implemented along various themes selected by participants: Intra-ASEAN Investment in Agriculture and related value chains,

Contract Farming, Institutional Capacity Development, Climate Change Action and Rights, Jobs, Livelihood and Gender. The lively debate and proposals for implementation were incorporated from previous setting up processes and initiatives.

The workshop was co-hosted by Grow Asia, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture of Germany.

The ASEAN RAI Guidelines were adopted at the 40th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) last year. The 10 individual guidelines give an overarching view on what constitutes responsible investing and provide, in one consolidated document, detailed best agricultural practices. The intention is that the Guidelines will become the quintessential approach to larger-scale investments in the region.

This report provides an overview of the main takeaways and outcomes of the workshop, and is intended for the participants, partners, stakeholders and peers to provide context, information and ideas and thereby encourage action.

[Learn more and access the Guidelines here](#)

Session Summaries¹

Welcome and Opening Remarks

In the welcome remarks by **Pham Quang Minh**, Assistant Director, Sectoral Development Directorate and Head of Food, Agriculture and Forestry (FAF) Division, ASEAN Secretariat, he reiterated the strong support towards implementing the Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry Guidelines within the ASEAN member states. On behalf of the ASEAN Secretariat, he set an inclusive, action-focused tone for the workshop – encouraging participants to share their perspectives and contribute ideas to create a roadmap for adoption.

Michael Riggs, Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI) Team Leader and Capacity Development Officer, FAO, highlighted the need to improve investment within the agriculture and food sectors. He noted that in order to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty as per the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 2, it would require *additional investments of US\$265 billion annually between 2016 and 2030*. This investment needs to happen correctly and in the right way (in other words, be “responsible”).

Grahame Dixie, Executive Director, Grow Asia, emphasized the importance of increasing awareness of the Guidelines so that they become standard operating procedure for large-scale investment in the region. Through the workshop, he hoped to instill a sense of involvement and collaboration, to co-create and roll out

the roadmap for operationalizing the action plan. Ultimately, his goal was to gain buy-in from the various key stakeholders and convert ideas and discussions shared over the two days into action.



1. See Annex 1: Agenda and Annex 2: Participants

Backdrop to the ASEAN RAI Guidelines²

Chaired by **Madhurjya Kumar Dutta**, Director, Trade & Investment Facilitation, Mekong Institute for Development and Cooperation, this session provided a backdrop to the creation and development of the ASEAN RAI Guidelines. Presenters shared insights on the principles of the Guidelines and updates on ongoing initiatives.

Grahame Dixie set the scene by highlighting the fact that rapidly increasing prices of agricultural commodities have worried food-importing countries since the mid-2000s, but also created an environment for potentially profitable investments. This time period led to the emergence of agricultural investment funds and increased foreign direct investments (FDI) in large-scale farming operations. The evolution of global investing practices prompted a need for stronger principles for responsible agricultural investments.

Grahame also highlighted the challenges faced by smaller agricultural businesses seeking investment. Many struggle to entice banks or portfolio investors to invest in their projects. At the same time, smallholders often experience the greatest financial loss when investments go wrong, and therefore it would be irresponsible to encourage them to invest in operations with uncertain outcomes. Nevertheless, there are experienced financial resources in ASEAN that have a deep understanding of the sector and can improve operational efficiencies, positively impact communities, promote jobs and investments for local people, and

provide ongoing consultation to quickly resolve problems. The challenge is connecting these financial resources with small businesses and smallholders.



“ **The Guidelines distil global best practice, and through them we can ensure agribusiness investments are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable and inclusive.** ”

Grahame Dixie
Executive Director,
Grow Asia

Grahame emphasized the importance of forums that bring together the private and public sectors, producers, and civil society to understand priorities and challenges and help governments make better decisions on investments. In the context of the Guidelines and in partnership with IISD and FAO, Grow Asia aims to create platforms for different stakeholders with the shared goal of improving agricultural operations, outputs, and conditions in ASEAN.

2. Presentation slides from the Workshop can be accessed under Past Events at: www.aseanraiguidelines.org/upcoming-event

Michael Riggs spoke on responsible investment and the Committee on World Food Security's Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI). The CFS-RAI principles are a foundation of the ASEAN RAI Guidelines.

Responsible investment in agriculture and food systems is defined as the creation of productive assets and capital formation, oriented to support the realization of food security, better nutrition and sustainable development, including increased production and productivity. It requires respecting, protecting and promoting human rights, including the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and other relevant human rights instruments.

Michael called for increased responsible investment in agriculture and food systems, explaining how it can benefit farmers, companies and governments. It can contribute to the SDGs, create sustainable livelihoods, increase productivity and respond to business opportunities created by growing the demand for food in the region and globally.

Yet, many developing countries continue to suffer from underinvestment in the agricultural sector. Michael stressed the importance of not only more investment, but of better, higher quality investment in agriculture.

“ Investing in agriculture is one of the most effective strategies for reducing hunger and poverty and generating economic growth. ”

Michael Riggs

Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI) Team Leader and Capacity Development Officer, FAO



The ASEAN RAI: Key Elements of the Guidelines and the Action Plan (Interactive Session)³

The Guidelines are built on detailed research, targeted at governments and investors who have a key role to play in implementing them at a national level. Following their approval, the aim is now to amplify the Guidelines' reach to government, investors, smallholders, SMEs, communities, home states and civil society groups. Other plans to build momentum and sustain conversation include organizing country programs, regional events and learning and training programs. The goal is to share expertise and information among stakeholders.

Hafiz Mirza, Senior Associate, Agriculture and Investment, IISD highlighted the macroeconomic trends and development indicators that are attracting greater intraregional and foreign investments into ASEAN, including in agriculture. By providing a range of indicators since 1967 (GDP, ASEAN share of world GDP, ASEAN food production index, declining poverty rate, urbanization etc.), he highlighted that South East Asia is almost unique among developing regions because 50 years since ASEAN's inception it has the wherewithal and capacity to fulfil the goals and objectives of the ASEAN RAI Guidelines. Of course, there are regional differences which means that the implementation of the RAI Guidelines has to be targeted and country-specific.

The vast bulk of FDI in agriculture, fisheries and forestry in the region is intra-ASEAN because of significant food and agricultural value chain-based local companies. Some of these companies are global as well as regional players. Increased investments in the region, including by ASEAN and foreign investors, brings both opportunities and challenges, and it is incumbent on all stakeholders to maximize the development benefits of investment, while minimizing its risks. The opportunities were mentioned in Grahame's session, but risks and challenges also need to be underscored, including potential food insecurity, displacement of people, low quality jobs, gender inequity and environmental degradation, even as agricultural investment, output and productivity are increasing. The ASEAN RAI Guidelines are essential to mitigate these risks and challenges.



3. Presentation slides from the Workshop can be accessed under Past Events at: www.aseanraiguidelines.org/upcoming-event

At the request of the ASEAN Secretariat in 2017, and with support from Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the World Bank, IISD and Grow Asia began drafting the ASEAN RAI Guidelines in early 2018, building on both the CFS-RAI and considerable evidence-based research on best practices. The process of developing the Guidelines included several drafts, meetings and consultations, including meetings in Bali and Singapore, and feedback from 250 organizations across the region. The ASEAN RAI Guidelines were adopted by AMAF in October 2018. Since then, an Action Plan has been developed (and adopted by SOM-AMAF), disseminated and consultation events have been organized regionally (including this workshop). *Click here for further details in the session's slides*

It is crucial to put in place a system whereby the Guidelines can be refined and adapted as new knowledge and experience emerges from their practical implementation, as well as from ongoing trends and developments in a fast-changing region. Both the ASEAN RAI and the implementation program are therefore 'living documents' which will evolve over time.

Looking forward, each country program will be developed in close cooperation with the pertinent ASEAN Member States. Some countries in the region may require (i) a review of their existing regulations and policies, and (ii) guidance to national governments on how the Guidelines can be best adapted and refined to facilitate a smooth and integrated implementation. IISD and FAO are both already engaged with some aspects of such

technical assistance in the region.

Doris Capistrano, Regional Advisor, ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC) discussed the need to link and mainstream the Guidelines to existing processes and mechanisms across ASEAN's pillars and sectoral divisions. For instance, within ASEAN Member States, significant opportunities exist for applying the Guidelines in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

To leverage the Guidelines, tools, metrics and institutional arrangements have to be agreed upon to track progress. There is also a need for scholarly work on the ongoing development and learning from the implementation of the Guidelines.





Marlene Ramirez, Secretary General, Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia (AsiaDHRRA) underscored the necessity of translating global mandates into action at regional and national levels. Complementing other relevant ASEAN guidelines and initiatives such as the *Roadmap for Enhancing the Role of Agricultural Cooperatives in Agricultural Global Value Chains* will allow for easier translation into action.

Importantly, a discussion of the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders would be incomplete without identifying capacities and needs that are important for the youth, young farmers and agripreneurs in carrying out and benefiting from investments in agriculture and food systems.



Esther Penunia, Secretariat General, Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA) acknowledged the benefits and risks of agricultural investments to farmers in the region. One particular application of the Guidelines would be to enable farmer organizations and co-operatives to understand and be able to use the Guidelines to reinforce their relationship and negotiation positions with

larger-scale agribusiness investors. In the case of contract farming, for example, the Guidelines can serve as a framework for strengthening farmers' bargaining power and shared decision making on quality standards, valuing women's work, attracting youth to agriculture and utilizing biodiversity-friendly technologies.



Justine Sylvester, Technical Advisor, Village Focus International (VFI) pointed out that smaller companies and SMEs often lack the technical knowledge and resources to fully implement the Guidelines; this is where partnerships have the potential to fill the gaps. For example, despite existing global guidance with respect to tenure of land (as in the Free, Prior and Informed Consent FPIC right in the UNDRIP), land tenure risk remains an area of concern for most of the private sector. Companies that VFI has partnered with have consistently requested capacity building on key aspects of Guideline #4: (1) land rights, local tenure systems, land laws and regulations, and (2) how to implement community engagement following FPIC principles.

Partnerships have huge potential to play a role in operationalizing the Guidelines – but they must be based on mutual trust, tailored to companies' needs, and ideally have third-party funding to prevent communities' dependence on external funding.

Interventions on the Guidelines and Action Plan (Summaries)

Participants from government ministries, the private sector and civil society shared their individual perspectives on how the Guidelines can be adopted.



Dr Margaret C. Yoovatana

Senior Policy and Plan Specialist, Planning and Technical Division, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC), Thailand

“ We should create synergies between existing programs. Responsible investment is a key component for all initiatives and cannot work in isolation; it requires a multi-stakeholder approach and dialogue platforms.”



Ms Bernalin Cadayong

Project Development Officer III, Bureau of Agricultural Research, Department of Agriculture, Philippines

“ Higher budget allocation and investment in research and development will contribute to the improvement of our agriculture and fisheries sector. The information and technologies that will be developed and optimized thru R&D can guide our national and local agencies in the strategic implementation of the Guidelines.”



Mr Souvanthong Namvon

Deputy Division Head, Department of Technical Extension and Agro-Processing, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR

“ It is important to involve the private sector in adopting the Guidelines to benefit smallholder farmers. We should look at ways to motivate and incentivize companies and investors by showing them the financial results of responsible investment.”



Dr Kamariah Binti Long

Deputy Director General of Research, Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI)

“ Malaysia’s agriculture sector has a sustainable transformation program that is aligned with the Guidelines. Policies are in place to tackle issues and address investment challenges, and we have seen positive results with the overall growth and economic development of smallholder agriculture.”



Dr Su Su Win

Director, Department of Agriculture Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar

“ Myanmar has a master agricultural research plan encompassing both the country’s agriculture strategies and SDGs. This is closely aligned with the Guidelines. We need to involve key stakeholders to better understand their needs and drive a strong agricultural ecosystem.”



Dr Mak Soeun

Deputy Director General, General Directorate of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Cambodia

“ To effectively implement the Guidelines, there are three phases – firstly, recognize them at a national level and conduct awareness programs for all stakeholders. Secondly, integrate them into ongoing strategic plans, policies and regulations. Finally, set clear goals, scope and performance indicators.”



Dr Nguyen Anh Phong

Director, Information Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD), Vietnam

“ Vietnam has been trying to increase investment in smallholder farming to develop the agriculture sector. We have seen increasing demand for high quality and better crop output, and the Guidelines will play a key role in scaling the country’s agriculture sector.”



Mr Duke Hipp

Director of Public Affairs, CropLife

“ To enable effective decision-making on responsible investment in the private sector, we need to understand the gaps and what can be done to ensure the Guidelines are used effectively. There are already several ongoing initiatives, and it will be important to join up the dots and integrate programs where possible.”



Ms Hataikan Kamolsirisakul
Group Strategy Director and Chief of Staff,
Thai Wah PCL

“ We connect with farmers one-on-one to better understand their pain points and improve their productivity and livelihoods. We believe this cannot be done in silos, so we work with government, universities and other companies.”



Ms Nguyen Thi Anh Hong
Vice Chairwoman, Vietnam Tea Association

“ We need to make the Guidelines easy for stakeholders to understand and see the relevance of why they have to do it. Identifying pioneers who can talk about them is a good place to start, and we can build farmer capacity by conducting workshops and helping them teach other producers as well. Ultimately, it lies in the hands of the government to implement the Guidelines, build them into regulations and share the results.”



Mr Shubert Ciencia
ASEAN Engagement Coordinator, Oxfam

“ Oxfam is open to collaborating with like-minded stakeholders to nurture policy environments for responsible investment. In ASEAN, Oxfam aims to advance women’s economic empowerment and it looks to the Guidelines to contribute to the realization of the “Action Agenda on Mainstreaming Women’s Economic Empowerment in the ASEAN” that was adopted at the Manila ASEAN Summit in 2017.”



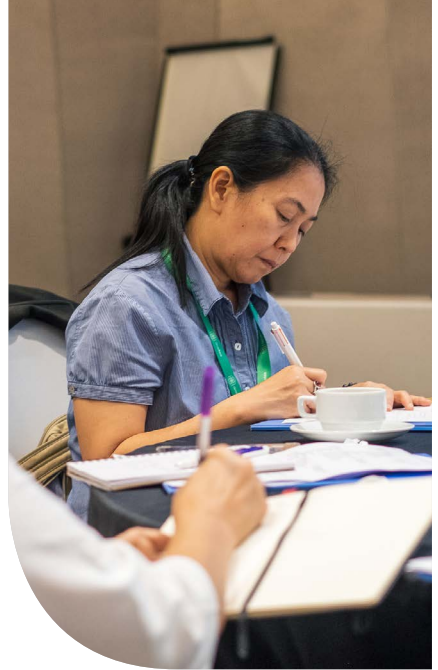
Mr Sok Sotha
Lead Founder & Managing Director, Cambodian
Farmer Association of Agricultural Producers

“ Engagement at the local and sub-national levels is key as we need to build the capacity of farmers, farmers’ organizations and the communities to help them negotiate with others, including policymakers. Stakeholders should consider amending existing policies in response to information gathered from farmers.”



Mr Rizal Algamar
Indonesia Country Director,
The Nature Conservancy

“ The Guidelines are a timely addition to ASEAN’s agriculture sector. We must clearly state each goal and intended outcome of the Guidelines to provide clarity and ensure lasting, effective partnerships.”



Other Interventions: Selected Participant Suggestions for Implementing the Guidelines

Below is a summary of participants’ thoughts on how to implement the Guidelines at the country and regional levels:

- Design programs to incentivize the private sector.
- While the Guidelines are meant for everyone, there is a no one-size-fits-all approach. Countries should review the Guidelines and identify the different mechanisms that work best for them.
- Continue building capacity of farmers to appeal to investors – the Guidelines will be the supporting pillar to ensure the farmer-investor relationship remains strong.
- Consider using a carrot and stick approach. This is to ensure that rules are followed to protect vulnerable groups.
- Simplify the Guidelines to make them easy to remember and, therefore, implement. Translate the Guidelines to existing projects to better support efforts already underway.
- The Guidelines are general, and it is important to develop a strategy for adoption and implementation at a country level to ensure that they are fit for purpose in every market.
- Key indicators of the Guidelines should be elevated and incorporated into existing laws and regulations to speed up adoption.
- Identify ways to raise consumer awareness on the importance of the Guidelines.

Summary and Outcomes of Breakout Sessions

In smaller groups, participants discussed how to operationalize the ASEAN RAI Guidelines, by tackling key challenges and brainstorming opportunities, approaches and solutions.

1. Engaging Intra-ASEAN Investment and Consumers in Regional Value Chains

Facilitators:

Hafiz Mirza
IISD

Christine Violaga
Grameen Foundation

Allert van den Ham
SNV Laos & Myanmar

Challenge 1:

Getting the private sector, especially ASEAN foreign investors, on board to acknowledge and use the Guidelines and understand the gaps that the Guidelines are trying to address.

Challenge (and Opportunity) 2:

The level of consumer awareness is not at the same level as industry experts. Greater consumer awareness – and ASEAN consumer-driven change given regional value chains – is an opportunity for ensuring a higher uptake of the Guidelines by regional investors.



Solutions:

- Define the mutual benefits for each investor. Create a shared model to build relationships and trust with farmers. Countries should adapt the Guidelines to ensure they are relevant for their respective markets.
- Conduct a market gap analysis to identify the issues and challenges that will inform research and development priorities.
- Get consumer organizations on board as to a) inform the producers/retailers that are interested in taking RAI into account on what triggers consumers when it comes to making decisions and b) educate consumers about the benefits of RAI-based products and production processes. Prioritization of the (ASEAN) consumer value chain, including certifications, standards and food safety, will drive change.

Principal players:

- ASEAN Business Council Advisory, ABAC-Inclusive Business, AWEN – ASEAN Women Entrepreneurship Network, Banks, Consumer organizations, Farmers' organizations

What is needed to boost likelihood of success:

- Increase awareness of the Guidelines through media and government campaigns. Make the campaign more attractive and easy to remember.
- Create video to show how processing/sourcing and packaging can = compliance to RAI standards.
- Promote farmers as active players in the value chain. Raise funds to educate farmers on the RAI standards, as well as boost their business and financial literacy.
- Find ambassadors in industry/the private sector who will be able to push and continue to promote the RAI Guidelines.
- Consider an annual gathering to touch base, share learning and showcase successful applications of the Guidelines.

2. Promoting Responsible Investment in Contract Farming

Facilitators:

John Meadows

Mekong Region Land Governance

Souvanthong Namvong

Department of Technical Extension and Agro-Processing (DTEAP), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)

Prak Sereyvath

Cambodian Institute for Research and Rural Development (CIRD)

Challenge 1:

Promoting responsible investment in the context of contract farming, recognizing that there are different models of contract farming.

Solution: Narrow the key Guidelines and build in safeguards that are relevant to contract farming.

Challenge 2:

There is a lack of trust between farmers and businesses.

Solution: Develop a policy and legal framework which clearly states the terms between both parties to abide by and to raise capacity of farmers.

Challenge 3:

There is a power imbalance between farmers and businesses.

Solution: Involve third parties such as the government and CSOs to mediate and provide a balanced perspective and opinion.

Principal players:

- Public sector, NGOs, Private sector, Investors and Lenders

What is needed to boost likelihood of success:

- Create awareness of the Guidelines among key stakeholders.
- Promote the benefits of contract farming and how it produces positive outcomes.
- Support farmers when it comes to financing.
- Provide technical assistance for farmers and investors where needed.

“Worked example”

Cambodia established a Coordination Committee for Agricultural Production Contract (CCAPC) to develop policies and strategic plans that support and promote contract farming; facilitate and strengthen harmonization between contracting parties; and intervene in, or reconcile arguments or conflicts relating to agricultural production contracts.



3. Building Climate Change Action into the Implementation of the ASEAN RAI Guidelines

Facilitators:

Doris Capistrano

ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC)

Huynh Tien Dung

IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative

Kanokwan Chodchoey

Asia and Pacific Seed Association (APSA)

Challenge:

Climate change has affected every sector, not just agriculture. Prevalent key issues include depletion of water resources; persistent drought; ongoing temperature rise that has led to the existence of new pests and disease outbreaks; soil degradation; saline-affected areas caused by higher sea levels; carbon dioxide emissions from land development; and environmental destruction caused by biodiversity reduction and crop burning.

Solution:

Create a platform that can address effects of climate change in a holistic, ecosystem-focused approach and integrate all solutions in one package. This platform should contain information on:

- Breeding technologies – new disease and pest-resistant varieties and focus on the use of resilient crops.
- Production technologies – seedling nurseries and irrigation systems.
- Sustainable, integrated, resilient practices and systems in production, processing, marketing of crops and products from farms, fisheries and forests.
- How to build capacity of farmers through crop protection, integrated pest management and soil management.
- How to engage multiple stakeholders and divide expertise into knowledge, investment and capacity-building groups to tackle climate-related challenges.



Principal players:

- ASEAN Multisectoral Framework for Climate Change, ASEAN climate-related Working Groups (e.g. Social Forestry, Agri Cooperatives)

What is needed to boost likelihood of success:

- Add the Guidelines into the deliberations of all related ASEAN Working Groups.
- Build a multi-stakeholder platform to connect the different stakeholders.

“Worked examples”:**Outbreak of pests and disease**

- Gather public resources on research and innovation, emergency response systems and pest management guidelines.
- Leverage public sectors’ capabilities in crop insurance, investment on biocontrol agents, and training of farmers to reduce the risk and control the spread of pests and disease.
- Educate producers with their cooperatives and organizations to conduct research and risk assessment, diversify their crops, and support implementation of the actions to eradicate pests and disease.
- Form and strengthen groups for effective partnership between public and private sectors.



4. Creating Effective Conditions and Institutional Capacity for RAI: The Role of Regional Learning Programs

Facilitators:

Michael Riggs

FAO

Marlene Ramirez

AsiaDHRRA

Madhurjya Kumar Dutta

Mekong Institute for Development and Cooperation

Challenge 1:

Governments in the region need to learn ways to integrate RAI Guidelines into program and policy development.

Solution:

Support capacity development to offer educational and sharing sessions on the Guidelines to government representatives to help them better identify ways to adopt and implement the Guidelines.

Principal players:

Departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Departments of Planning and Investment, Departments and Ministries of Finance, Parliamentarians, Investment promotion boards, Field agents, Project development staff

What is needed to boost likelihood of success:

- Institutionalization of RAI-related learning in government.
- Access to learning/training at decentralized government level (i.e. outside of capitals).
- Provide clear linkages between ASEAN RAI Guidelines and SDGs.
- Facilitate sharing of good practices.

Challenge 2:

Private sector needs to understand what the ASEAN RAI Guidelines are, why they are important to the wider agriculture sector and the business case for applying the Guidelines.

Solution:

Educate private sector on the Guidelines through assets such as videos, multi-media, and brochures.

Principal players:

ASEAN Business Advisory Council, Private companies, media

What is needed to boost likelihood of success:

- Ensure information and assets reach the hands of key decision makers.
- Identify opportunities to attend learning visits.
- Learn from other companies on their best practices.
- Provide recognition for good practices in applying the Guidelines.



Challenge 3:

Research universities need to bring RAI into their specialization and curriculum development.

Solution:

Conduct short courses for faculty members on the Guidelines; develop action plans for specific academic contexts; identify opportunities to introduce curriculum in graduate and post-graduate courses.

Principal players:

Researchers, Technicians, Academicians, Universities

What is needed to boost likelihood of success:

- Build capacity of faculty members to bring the Guidelines into their own area of specialization (not only agriculture).
- Learning should be made easy and can be done online or face to face.



5. Integrating Gender into Rights, Jobs and Livelihoods: Sustainable Outcomes and Report

Facilitators:

Marianna Bicchieri

FAO

Ade Soekadis

Mercy Corps Indonesia

Thongdam Phongpichith

Sustainable Agriculture and Environment
Development Association (SAEDA) and
LaoDHRRA

Challenge 1:

There is a lack of gender statistics reflecting women in agricultural value chains.

Solution:

Research baseline statistics of women in agricultural value chains and develop mechanism to inform related associations on newly registered organizations of women and women entrepreneurs.

Principal players:

Ministries of Women's Affairs/
Departments of Agriculture on Women;
National Statistical Commissions;
Ministries of Planning; Ministries of
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

What is needed to boost likelihood of success:

- Ensure women's voices are heard at critical platforms and networking events.
- Build up women in leadership roles in agriculture.
- Coordinate with specific agencies and research institutions to conduct the study.
- Gather funding support.

“Worked example”

- Cambodia Rice Federation can provide government with data in relation to women in rice value chains in Cambodia.



Challenge 2:

Women have limited access to and control of resources (technology, grants, capital, land, education, etc.)

Solution:

Engage young people to participate through scholarship or programs, to amplify and disseminate information on available technologies. Support programs and initiatives that develop and commercialize appropriate resources addressing specific women's needs and financial limitations.

Principal players:

Parents, Community, Youth, Government, CSOs, Private sector, Financing institutions, and Associations for women entrepreneurs

What is needed to boost likelihood of success:

- Use information technology and mobile apps to encourage youth to participate.
- Conduct seminar series and forums.
- Provide funding support for initiatives and incentivize and give recognition to women scientists and researchers.

“Worked examples”

- Mercy Corps and Bayer “Agvocacy” initiatives.
- Cambodian Women Entrepreneur Association (CWEA) SME Smart Ladies Loan Package initiative.

Challenge 3:

Low appreciation and dignity of farming as a profession.

Solution:

Build and strengthen cooperatives through a formalized cooperative framework and conduct capacity building for farmers and key players. Increase presence of and access to support systems such as marketing, finance and technical assistance.

Principal players:

Individual farmers, Farmers organizations, Government agencies, CSOs, Regulators and Policymakers, Private companies, Researchers

What is needed to boost likelihood of success:

- Create presence of global interest, campaigns and access to alternative financing.
- Support cooperatives to leverage government funds to improve road networks and transport systems thereby facilitating movement of agricultural goods and knowledge.

“Worked examples”

- Cases of farms developed by youth in the Philippines.
- Vinesa project on Training of Young Farmers in Africa.
- Development of home and school gardens.



Closing Message: Next Steps

The organizers encouraged participants and others to continue to support the ASEAN RAI Guidelines in their respective domains. Grow Asia, IISD and FAO on their part are committed to raising support for the further rollout of the ASEAN RAI Guidelines to encourage widespread adoption across ASEAN's agriculture and food sector. The workshop provided valuable intelligence and insights which add nuance to the existing Action Plan. The revised Action Plan and a related Implementation Strategy will inform future direction in consultation with relevant stakeholders at the regional and country level. Other forthcoming developments by partners include:

- FAO is developing RAI-related learning courses targeted towards the public sector, and have plans to launch a separate course for the private sector.
- IISD and FAO are organizing a workshop to develop capacity of farmers' organizations for responsible contract farming.
- FAO is about to begin a new project with the Lao PDR government on RAI.
- Grow Asia, IISD, and SDC are working with the ASEAN Secretariat and others to explore the nature and design of a regional learning program to build momentum in the uptake of the Guidelines, particularly for key stakeholders.

The issues raised and topics identified at the workshop are not limited to ASEAN alone. There are plenty of opportunities to exchange learning and experiences from other regions through exchange of information, joint initiatives and insight-gathering events at the regional and national levels.



If you have any feedback, suggestions or ideas on the Guidelines, please contact us at **info@growasia.org**.

For more information, please visit the dedicated ASEAN RAI Guidelines website: **www.aseanraiguidelines.org**

Annex 1: Agenda

When	What	Who
Morning, Day 1		
08.15 – 09.00	Registration	
09.00 – 09.30	Welcome and opening remarks	Pham Quang Minh , Assistant Director, Sectoral Development Directorate and Head of FAF Division, ASEAN Secretariat; Michael Riggs , RAI Team Leader, FAO; and Grahame Dixie , Executive Director, Grow Asia
09.30 – 09.45	Tour de table	
09.45 – 10.30	Backdrop to the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (ASEAN RAI)	<u>Chair</u> : Madhurjya Kumar Dutta , Director, Trade & Investment Facilitation, Mekong Institute for Development & Cooperation <u>Presentation</u> : Grahame Dixie and Michael Riggs
10.30 – 11.00	Group photo taking followed by refreshments	
11.00 – 12.30	The ASEAN RAI: Key elements of the Guidelines and the Action Plan (Interactive Session)	<u>Chair</u> : Grahame Dixie <u>Presentation</u> : Hafiz Mirza , Senior Associate, Agriculture and Investment, IISD; Doris Capistrano , Regional Advisor, ASFCC; Marlene Ramirez , Secretary-General, AsiaDHRRA; Esther Penunia , Secretary-General, AFA; and Justine Sylvester , Technical Director, VFI
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
Afternoon, Day 1		
13.30 – 15.30	Interventions on the Guidelines and Action Plan	<u>Chair</u> : Grahame Dixie
15.30 – 16.00	Refreshments	
16.00 – 17.00	Summary of day and preparation for Day 2	<u>Chair</u> : Marianna Bicchieri , Land Tenure Officer, FAO

Annex 1: Agenda

When	What	Who
Morning, Day 2		
09.00 – 12.00	Intra-ASEAN Investment and Value Chains	Hafiz Mirza , Christine Violago, Allert van den Ham
Breakout Sessions	Contract Farming	John Meadows , Souvanthong Namvong, Prak Sereyvath
	Building Climate Change Action into the implementation of the ASEAN RAI	Doris Capistrano , Huynh Tien Dung, Kanokwan Chodchoey
	Creating effective conditions and institutional capacity for RAI: the role of regional learning programmes	Michael Riggs , Marlene Ramirez, Madhurjya Kumar Dutta
	Rights, jobs and livelihoods, and gender: sustainable outcomes and impact	Marianna Bicchieri , Ade Soekadis, Thongdam Phongphichith
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch and preparation of summaries and outcome by Session Chairs/Rapporteurs	
Afternoon, Day 2		
13.00 – 15.30	Summary/outcomes of breakout sessions	<u>Chair:</u> Hafiz Mirza
15.30 – 16.00	Final words and next steps	<u>Chair:</u> Marianna Bicchieri , Michael Riggs and Hafiz Mirza

Annex 2: Participants

(Listing is alphabetical by organization)

Name	Designation	Organization	Country
Rungtip Imrungruang	Program and Policy Manager	Action Aid Thailand	Thailand
Doris Capistrano	Regional Advisor	ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC)	Philippines
Kanokwan (May) Chodchoey	Executive Director	Asia and Pacific Seed Association (APSA)	Thailand
Kunaporn Phuntunil	Technical Coordination Manager	Asia and Pacific Seed Association (APSA)	Thailand
Pirawan Wongnithisathaporn	Environment Program Officer	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)	Thailand
Esther Penunia	Secretary General	Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA)	Philippines
Marlene Ramirez	Secretary General	Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia (AsiaDHRRA)	Philippines
Nguyen Xuan Hong	Chairperson	Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia (AsiaDHRRA)	Vietnam
Cezar S. Belangel	Senior Program Manager	Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia (AsiaDHRRA)	Philippines
Andrea Skinner	Program Associate	Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE)	Thailand
The Sokha	Chairwoman of Agro-Industry Working Group	Cambodia Women Entrepreneurs Association (CWEA)	Cambodia
Sok Sotha	Lead Founder and Managing Director	Cambodian Farmer Association of Agricultural Producers (CFAP)	Cambodia
Prak Sereyvath	Director	Cambodian Institute for Research and Rural Development (CIRD)	Cambodia
Nang Seng Pin	Senior Program Coordinator	Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD)	Myanmar
Duke Hipp	Director, Public Affairs	CropLife Asia	Singapore
Su Su Win	Director	Department of Agricultural Research (DAR)	Myanmar
Rhea D. Desalesa	Senior Agriculturist	Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Agricultural Research	Philippines
Bernalin P. Cadayong	Agriculturist II	Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Agricultural Research	Philippines

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Name	Designation	Organization	Country
Margaret C. Yoovatana	Senior Policy and Plan Specialist, Planning and Technical Division	Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives	Thailand
Souvanthong Namvong	Deputy Division Head	Department of Technical Extension and Agro-Processing (DTEAP), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)	Lao PDR
Penchan Manawanichkul	Senior Finance Advisor	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	Thailand
Him Noeun	CamboDHRRA Coordinator	Farmer and Nature Net (FNN)	Cambodia
Chhoun Chamnan	Director, Post-Harvest Technologies and Quality Control (DFPTQ)	Fisheries Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)	Cambodia
Marianna Bicchieri	Land Tenure Officer	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Thailand
Michael Riggs	Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI) Team Leader	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Italy
Mak Seoun	Deputy Director General	General Directorate of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)	Cambodia
Christine Jeanne Violago	Country Manager, Philippines	Grameen Foundation	Philippines
Grahame Dixie	Executive Director	Grow Asia	Singapore
Reginald Lee	Director, Partnerships	Grow Asia	Singapore
Norng Sivouthan	Country Director	HEKS/EPER	Cambodia
Hoang Thi Lua	Project Manager	Helvetas	Vietnam
Jim Tomecko	Economist	Independent Consultant	Thailand
Catherine Tiongson	Program and Development Cooperation Specialist	Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA)	Philippines
Nguyen Anh Phong	Director, Information Center for Agriculture and Rural Development	Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD)	Vietnam
Hafiz Mirza	Senior Associate, Agriculture and Investment	International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)	Switzerland
Andrew Wyatt	Deputy Head, IUCN Indo-Burma Group	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Vietnam
Orachos Napsintuwong	Assistant Professor	Kasetsart University	Thailand
Shwe Thein	Executive Director	Land Core Group	Myanmar

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Zaw Win	Land and Agricultural Administration Lead	Landesa	Myanmar
Kamariah Binti Long	Deputy Director General (Research)	Malaysia Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI)	Malaysia
Madhurjya Kumar Dutta	Director, Trade & Investment Facilitation Department	Mekong Institute for Development & Cooperation (MRLG)	Thailand
John Edward Meadows	Team Leader	Mekong Region Land Governance	Lao PDR
Ade Soekadis	Executive Director	Mercy Corps Indonesia	Indonesia
Bounthanom Mekdala	Officer	Ministry of Planning and Investment	Lao PDR
Saw Hei Moo	Director	Myanmar Development for Human Resources in Rural Areas (MyanDHRRA)	Myanmar
Chin Kok Fay	Senior Lecturer	National University of Malaysia	Malaysia
Tatrit Kunasol	Corporate Agri-Services Manager	Nestlé Thailand	Thailand
Yin Nyein	Program Manager	Network Activities Group	Myanmar
Shubert Ciencia	ASEAN Engagement Coordinator	Oxfam GB	Philippines
Caridad R. Corridor	National Coordinator	Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHRRA)	Philippines
Hataikan Kamolsirisakul	Group Strategy Director, Chief of Staff	Public Company Limited (PCL)	Thailand
Chandra Wibowo	Country Lead	Rainforest Alliance	Indonesia
Nova A. Ramos	Program Specialist - Training	SEAMEO Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Studies and Research in Agriculture (SEAMEO SEARCA)	Philippines
Allert van den Ham	Country Director	SNV Laos & Myanmar	Lao PDR
Thongdam Phongphichith	Co-Director	Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association (SAEDA) and LaoDHRRA	Lao PDR
William Wyn Ellis	SRP Coordinator	Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP)	Thailand
Huynh Tien Dung	Country Director, Vietnam	Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH)	Vietnam
Hataikan Kamolsirisakul	Group Strategy Director, Chief of Staff	Thai Wah Public Company Limited (PCL)	Thailand
Rizal Algamar	Country Director	The Nature Conservancy	Indonesia

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Rizal Algamar	Country Director	The Nature Conservancy	Indonesia
Kol Preap	Executive Director	Transparency International Cambodia	Cambodia
Tran Thi Thu Trang	Officer of Cooperative Policies and Development Dept.	Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA)	Vietnam
Nguyen Thi Anh Hong	Vice Chairwoman	Vietnam Tea Association (VITAS)	Vietnam
Justine Morven Sylvester	Technical Advisor	Village Focus International (VFI)	Lao PDR
Matas Danielevicius	Co-Founder	Whatnot Innovation Studio	Thailand
Delphine Larrousse	Regional Director	World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg)	Thailand