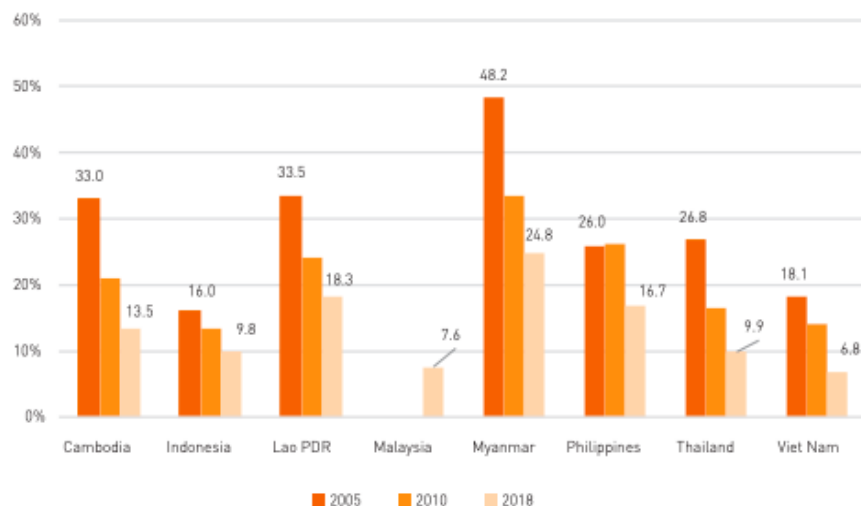


ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development 2022 to 2026

Introduction

Elusive rural development and persistent poverty remain stumbling blocks in the ASEAN region's development, with a large portion of the ASEAN Member States (AMS) total population in poverty, and suffering wealth disparity, and according to the human development index. While there was a substantial reduction in the percentage of the total population living in poverty in the 2015 to 2018 period, dropping between 15.2 percent (Lao PDR) to 23.4 percent (Myanmar), still the poverty incidence is as high as a fourth (24.8 percent) of the total population (fig 1).



Notes: *i. The latest available data for Cambodia is 2014, Malaysia is 2016, Myanmar is 2017; ii. The data for Malaysia prior to 2016 is not available; iii. Data for Viet Nam refer to Multidimensional Poverty Rate; iv. This indicator is not applicable for Brunei Darussalam and Singapore

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

Figure 1. Population living below the national poverty lines (%) by AMS, 2005-2018.

Wealth distribution in the region is far from equal, based on the 2018 World Economic Forum's Wealth GINI—a measure of differences in the distribution of wealth across a given country where the closer to zero, the more equally the wealth is distributed and the closer to 100, the less wealth is distributed. In figure 2, Singapore at 66.5 Wealth GINI score is the Southeast Asian country with the best wealth distribution, followed by Cambodia (70) and Viet Nam (74.5). Thailand, on the other hand, with an 85.10 rating, has the least equality as far as wealth distribution is concerned, with Lao PDR coming in second (84.9) while the Philippines (83.9) and Indonesia (83.7) almost tied for the third spot.

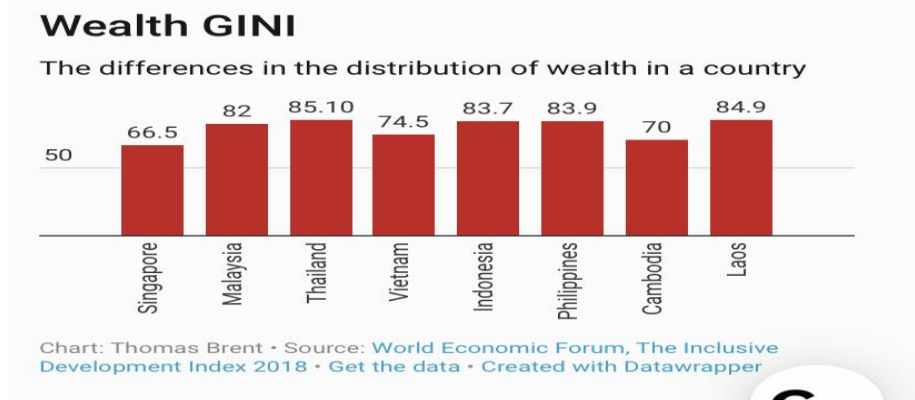
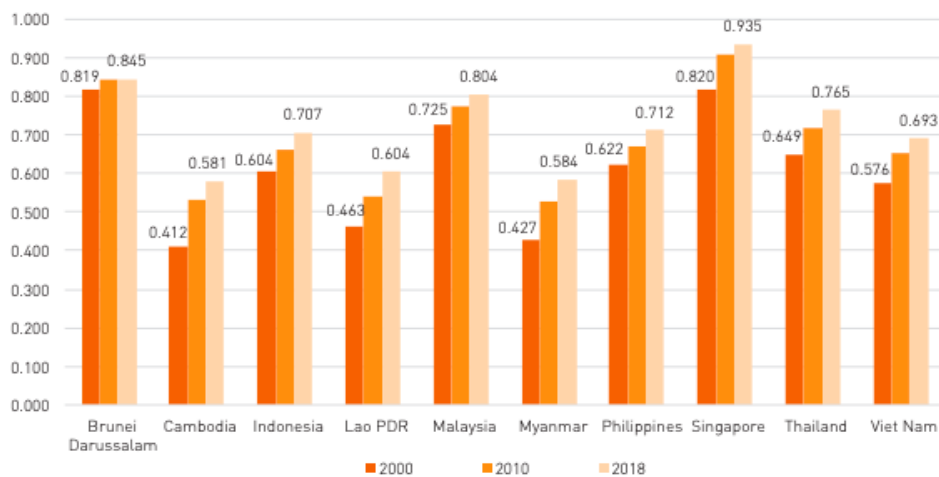


Figure 2. Wealth Distribution by Country in Southeast Asia (World Economic Forum)

According to the Human Development Index (HDI) or the United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) measure of the wellbeing of a country's population based on three basic dimensions of human development (life expectancy, years of schooling, and a decent standard of living), there is likewise a big gap among the AMS as of 2018. Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, and Malaysia belong to the very high category, Thailand together with Philippines and Indonesia in the 2nd level – high category, and the rest of the AMS in the medium HDI category (Fig 3).



Source: UNDP, Human Development Report Series

Figure 3 Human Development Index by ASEAN Member States, 2000-2018

ASEAN's intent to address poverty and rural development cannot be understated. As early as 1979, ASEAN has worked towards a stable, prosperous, and highly competitive region with equitable economic development as well as reduced poverty and socioeconomic disparities. This resolve was further strengthened when an integrated ASEAN Community Vision 2025 was established in 2015, comprising the three pillars of political-security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation. Its aim was to make ASEAN a competitive, inclusive, and resilient region. While much has been done towards this end and gains reaped as well through the years, poverty still lingers in rural areas within and across its ten Member States, alongside with food security and food safety concerns. All these endanger the sustainability of development efforts in the region. This is further complicated by the fact that the region is very much prone to shocks (economic and climate-related).

Recognising the crucial link between poverty and the state of development in rural areas, the ASEAN, through the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication or SOMRDPE, completed the implementation of the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (FAP-RDPE) 2016-2020, and adopted a new five-year work plan for the period 2021-2025. However, while the work plan serves as the starting point, the rural development concern permeates into the three ASEAN Community pillars namely the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) and the ASEAN Socio-Economic Community (ASCC). This being the case, the ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development has been formulated with the crucial interphase of the three pillars in mind.

In developing the master plan, it is important to understand the changing scenario that shaped rural development in the ASEAN region. Similarly, the connections between rural development, agriculture development, and food security need to be unraveled to better understand, plan for, and address the challenges ahead. In the same manner, revisiting the concept of agroecology might help, as it is an approach that simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts and principles and could well be a critical response to a number of instabilities currently felt within the agriculture and food system (AFS).

What Shapes Rural Development in ASEAN

Changing Contexts of Rural Development

Intra-regional development cooperation and investments are increasing in ASEAN, with AMS becoming development assistance donors themselves. Half of AMS have turned donors like Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, and Brunei Darussalam. Though still a small percentage of the total, intra-ASEAN development cooperation is growing and gaining prominence. Recent developments indicate that governments are looking for new ways to shape development cooperation on a regional basis (The Asia Foundation, 2018).

With increasing trade and investment links binding the ten AMS and the rest of the world, inter-, and intra- investment is growing in the region. These, among others, make ASEAN one of the most dynamic economies in the world. Regional cross-border supply chains are increasing, with Malaysian investors setting up huge palm oil plantations in Cambodia, while Thai investors are establishing poultry production and other bases in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam (Manalili, 2019). As of 2019, about 22.5 percent and 12 percent of trade and investment, respectively, are intra-regional in nature (ASEAN Statistical Yearbook 2021).

Changing Modes of Development Cooperation

As to Investing in Industry, intra-ASEAN investment is typically highly concentrated, coming from a few source countries. Companies from two (2) Member States (Singapore and Thailand) provided 84 percent of all intra-ASEAN investment in 2020; four (4) Member States (Indonesia, Viet Nam, Malaysia, and Singapore in that order) received 83 percent of all such investment. Thai companies are increasingly active regional investors, overtaking the historical second position of Malaysian companies. Thai investment within ASEAN in 2020 was the highest recorded. Investment in ASEAN from Singapore fell 11 percent in 2020 to \$14 billion but was cushioned by a rise in intraregional investment, mainly from four Member States (Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines). Despite the fall, Singapore remained a significant source of investment for the other Member States, as companies from that country accounted for more than 25 percent of FDI in Indonesia and 32 percent in Viet Nam. Companies from Singapore were the most

significant investor group in Member States such as Indonesia, Thailand, and Viet Nam (ASEAN Investment Report 2020–2021).

Changing development partners, patterns and extent of involvement

Changing partners

Trade partners have been changing over the past 20 years, with the traditional US and EU markets on a declining trend while the share of inbound and outbound trade in Asia increased from 50 percent to 60 percent in the same period. In particular, intra-ASEAN employment has largely risen to reach about one-fourth of total trade. In contrast, the relative share of Japan on both exports and imports has considerably declined by 8-10 percentage points over this period to about one-tenth of the total. At the same time, however, trade with the People's Republic of China (PRC)—also with India and the Republic of Korea—has increased considerably (ASEAN Investment Report 2020–2021).

Territorial development, pattern of rural development pathways in ASEAN

While recent economic accomplishments are admirable, poverty remains a major challenge in the region. Given the increasing concentration of poverty in the rural areas and the fast-changing development context, inclusive and innovative approaches are needed to address cross-sectoral processes and external influences move towards promoting sustainable and equitable development, where 'no one is left behind'. It is in this context that Territorial Rural Development (TRD) is recommended.

TRD has been defined in many ways. One of these definitions, adapted from a paper by Schetjman and Berdegué (2003) and substantiated by the SOS Faim experience (2018), states that "Territorial development is the transformation process of a given rural area to improve the living condition of its population, where rural poverty reduction is a crucial objective. TRD is set up around two main axes: on the one hand, it fosters productive transformation and, on the other hand, it propels institutional change"¹. What then is a Territory? It can be taken as a space where multi-stakeholders interact to pursue common development interests and implement interventions on a scale where they can coordinate and connect at different levels of governance mechanisms.

Territorial approaches emphasise the participation of local actors, including the most marginalised groups, in identifying challenges, priorities and interventions, as well as managing solutions. It encourages collaboration of the various stakeholders by building new platforms or strengthening existing institutions for dialogue, negotiation and joint actions at different levels (local, provincial, national, regional). They are also open to various sectors and actors including public, private and civil society organisations. The key principles underlying territorial approaches are that they are place-based, people-centered, multi-actor, multi-level and cross-sectoral.²

In implementing the master plan, functional TRD programmes are envisioned to be in place and implemented in AMS and consequently contribute to the region's vibrant development. To attain

¹ Territorial development from theory to practice in an issue of Farming Dynamics prepared by Charlotte Navarro and Marc Mees with the support of Claire Stoeckel, Dominique Morel and Laurent Biot. SOS Faim Belgium. November, 2018.

² Thomas Forster, Angela Penagos, Sara Scherr, Louise Buck, Eduardo Ramirez. Territorial Approaches for Sustainable Development: Stocktaking on Territorial Approaches – Experiences and Lessons. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Sector Project Sustainable Rural Areas, Bonn, 2021.

this, TRD planning tools need to be integrated in Human Resource and Capability Development of rural development plans. In particular, they will be introduced and applied in local development planning leading to the building of capacities to facilitate the smooth implementation of rural development programmes. Accomplishments will be monitored on an annual basis. Along this line, annual TRD summits may be convened to gauge performance, identify gaps and refine processes.

Changing extent of involvement

Women's participation in Rural Development

Many ASEAN women in rural areas engaged in agriculture are poor. According to recent UN data, 45 per cent of ASEAN women aged between 15 and 64 live in rural areas, compared with 46 per cent of ASEAN men from the same age group. And about 27 per cent of the ASEAN female rural population are in the age bracket between 15 and 24 years old.³ Further, "existing evidence shows that women and girls living in poor households and rural areas often face multiple deprivations and social, economic and environmental disadvantages. Many of these women and girls have lower incomes, less decision-making power, and limited access to basic services and infrastructure."⁴

Women's contribution to national development and wealth is being acknowledged and recognised. However, women have not fully benefited from the fruits of development. Existing data in the ASEAN region demonstrate that select groups of women, such as those living in rural areas, in poor households, ethnic minority women, women with disabilities and migrant women, are all disadvantaged when it comes to SDG progress.⁵ In short, women are left behind in the march to social progress and development because they are hampered by discrimination, deprivation and the multiple burdens of paid and unpaid work. Moreover, The FAO report on The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-2011 determined that women's yields could grow by 20–30 percent if the gender gap in accessing agricultural inputs were closed, an increase that could raise total agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5–4 percent, which could, in turn, reduce the number of food-insecure people in the world by 12–17 percent (FAO, 2011). Within this context, integrating gender considerations specifically into the development of agri-food value chains and in the context of rural development, in general, is not only necessary from a human rights perspective; it is also a prerequisite to ensuring sustainable growth in areas of intervention wherever possible.

In 2019, controlling for socioeconomic characteristics, women were 13 per cent more likely than men to experience either moderate or severe food insecurity and 27 per cent more likely than men to experience severe food insecurity (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO, 2020). The gender gap even widened as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As movement restrictions and other infection-containment measures severely curtailed food access for both men and women, women are expected to bear a disproportionately higher burden of the adverse impact. The pandemic likewise exacerbated existing gender inequality in employment, wages, and access to and control over resources and income. Consequently, the predicted rise in extreme poverty is expected to be disproportionately borne by women (UN Women, 2020)⁸.

³ OECD and ASEAN Secretariat. Strengthening Women's Entrepreneurship in Agriculture in ASEAN Countries, 2021, p. 13-15.

⁴ ASEAN and UN Women. The ASEAN Gender Outlook, 2021, p. 9.

⁵ ASEAN and UN Women. ASEAN Gender Outlook, 2021, p. 10.

Youth Involvement in Rural Development

Transformation of the rural economy determines the pace and direction of rural development, and is itself driven by wider economic transformation (IFAD, 2016). The degree to which rural wage growth can be sustained is highly dependent on whether or not the rural youth of today are able to meaningfully engage in the transformation process. Young people in rural areas are the future of agriculture and other rural industries, but often lack the guidance and support necessary to fully contribute to the development of their communities, thereby fueling the vicious cycle of rural underdevelopment and poverty. Acknowledging and addressing their needs and aspirations is vital for local and national growth.⁶ Inadequate human capital investment and high unemployment rates among youth are among the greatest challenges facing many countries today (UN DESA, 2015)⁷.

In the ASEAN region, the population in the agriculture sector is aging in some AMS but relatively young in others. However, generally, the agriculture workforce, especially among youth, in the region is decreasing due to migration, low income from agriculture, and lack of access to services, particularly youth-specific support services, among others. These trends threaten the sustainability of food production in the region and agriculture and non-agriculture rural economies.

Engaging and empowering the youth has proven to be a crucial strategy in rural transformation since getting them into agriculture can rejuvenate this aging sector and, subsequently, increase global food production (as production needs to increase by 60 percent by 2050). In most of the AMS, there are already ongoing public, private, and multi-stakeholders programmes and partnerships promoting youth participation in the agriculture sector. These include scholarship programs, capacity-building activities, organising, and financing, among others.

However, there are still major challenges to overcome, in getting young people engaged in agriculture, namely: (a) the lack of youth-led organisations or organisations that should be working with the youth to provide the essential services they need; (b) the absence of an enabling environment (i.e., institutions, laws, policies, incentives) that would encourage their engagement in agriculture; and (c) limited personal/individual capacities (i.e., skills and knowledge in agricultural production, processing, marketing, etc.) of young people⁸.

Other vulnerable and marginalised groups participation

Disability is both a cause and an effect of poverty, thus the need for strategies for people with disabilities' inclusion in rural development initiatives. Access to resources, livelihood, training and development is already a challenge to fully abled individuals more so with those with disabilities. It is not just an issue of livelihood but an issue of living with dignity, hence the need to engage them in productive activities, to participate in rural development, and be able to do decent works and live with dignity.

⁶ Hoyle, A.L.2016. Making Youths the Engine for Rural Diversification and Structural Transformation Promoting Youth Employment in fighting Rural Poverty. International Labor Organization

⁷ Briones, R, 2019. Investing in rural youth in the Asia and the Pacific region, IFAD

**AsiaDHRRA upcoming publication on Youth and Responsible Agri-Investments in ASEAN Region.

⁸ These challenges surfaced from the Responsible Agricultural Investment capacity assessment workshop conducted by AsiaDHRRA and FAO in 2018 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam with authorities from CSOs, private sectors, and government agencies in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam (AsiaDHRRA, 2020).

On the other hand, the elderly and older persons are particularly concerned with financial security, the fear of falling into poverty in old age, their capacity to pay for and accessibility of medicines and health care, affordable and suitable housing, age discrimination, loneliness and the feeling of being useless and unwanted. As older people become an ever larger share of the population, countries need to ensure that the elderly can increasingly be a resource to society and the economy ⁹ (UNFPA, 2017).

In the case of indigenous peoples, they experience a high degree of socio-economic marginalisation and are at disproportionate risk in public health emergencies, becoming even more vulnerable during global pandemics, owing to factors such as their lack of access to effective monitoring and early-warning systems, and adequate health and social services. Amidst the difficulties, indigenous peoples are seeking their own solutions to the pandemic. They are taking action, and using traditional knowledge and practices that should be harnessed to ensure resiliency and sustainability based on local resource and strength of indigenous peoples ¹⁰ (UN DESA, 2020).

Emerging and Persistent Needs and Challenges

Resiliency Amidst the COVID 19 pandemic

The ASEAN region along with the rest of the world has been affected by the onslaught of the COVID 19 pandemic. From the outset, AMS have rallied and worked together to address the pandemic in a holistic, comprehensive, inclusive and practical manner in Southeast Asia and the larger region. A Special ASEAN Summit, and the Special ASEAN-Plus Three Summit, was held in April 2020 to address the severe and multifaceted challenges caused by the pandemic. Learning from responses to previous crises in the region, ASEAN has strived to fortify its resilience and preparedness to respond to future pandemics and health emergencies (ASEAN, 2020).

The 2017 ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan was used as a framework for the response. Likewise, the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) was established. While the region responded in no small measures by mobilising health as well as socio-economic and political institutions and mechanisms collectively and individually, the AMS with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat, much still needs to be done to recover and remain resilient in the face of the pandemic.

The COVID 19 pandemic has likewise led the region to a “new normal”, as people are driven back to rural hometowns, when jobs in rural areas dwindled and opportunities to plant to feed one’s family are wanting. Pressure on food systems and supply chains are further complicated by the need for more connectivity to ensure that food supplies are able to reach where they are needed to address growing incidences of hunger and food security.

With this “new normal”, more rural development is imperative. Thus, investments in rural development remains significantly relevant. However, it is not rural development as usual, given the changing scenarios and situations in the region. In fact, a lot of perspectives and views have been put forward, as far as to how rural development approaches are shaping and the impacts

⁹ United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Statistics Korea (KOSTAT), 2017, p. 45. Perspectives on Population Ageing in the Asia Pacific Region

¹⁰ UN DESA, 2020, COVID-19 and Indigenous peoples,

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/covid-19.html>

they are creating.

Maximising Digital Technology and Innovation in aid of Rural Development

Digitalisation and technological innovation are providing both opportunities and challenges in rural areas. Opportunities such as digitalisation fuels change for the better, while challenges as the accompanying required investments in both hard and soft infrastructures including on human resources are not always available. ASEAN is cognisant of the importance of digitalisation and in fact has included ICT as a key component of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025. It likewise recognises digital innovation as one of the key pillars to ensure physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity in the region.

The challenge is to create space and an enabling environment for the ASEAN region in general and the AMS, in particular, for digitalisation. This will entail a wide range of strategies from putting up digital infrastructures, enhancing digital understanding, familiarity and consequent utilisation in aid of rural development.

Digitalisation in agriculture is another promising area as it bridges the gap between science and traditional practice in the field that enhances food and income security in agricultural communities, the same way that access to new technologies afforded by digitalisation help ensure productivity, stability and safety across value chains within the food system.

It is a fact that the need and capacity for digitalisation in each AMS is different which makes the job of digitalisation more challenging and necessitating proper assessment and planning. Communities and local stakeholders have to participate in the needs assessment and planning process for digitalisation to be truly beneficial and inclusive.

It is important that programmes and policies provide equal opportunities as well, to make room for vulnerable sectors who are finding it difficult to digitalise, so as not to be left behind.

Responsiveness to Climate Change and Environmental Challenges

Southeast Asia is one of the most at-risk regions in the world to the impacts of climate change, with forecasted rankings showing six (6) of the twenty countries most vulnerable to climate change worldwide being Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Viet Nam and the Philippines. Climate change is also impacting the frequency, intensity, timing and spatial coverage of climatological and hydro-meteorological hazard-based disasters and is resulting in an increase in the frequency of heat waves, heavy precipitation, sea level rise, and increasing intensity of floods, tropical cyclones, and droughts¹¹.

In ASEAN a joint declaration on UNFCCC COP 26 in October 2021, ASEAN recognised that climate change has potential negative impacts on basic needs, for human life such as food water, energy, clean and green environment and health including the supporting ecosystem, and that vulnerable groups, as well as women, children, older people and persons with disabilities and low-income people are disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change. As such, enhanced adaptation efforts are needed and can be addressed by implementing, among others, nature-based solutions and eco-systems-based approaches, focusing on the protection of the livelihoods and health of vulnerable groups.

¹¹ Environment-ASEAN.org

Given persistent climate change, environmental risks and threats that are projected to affect infrastructures, productive resources that likewise impacts contributions from the food and agriculture sector, it is a must to enhance the capacities of governments, institutions, communities and individuals to address and mitigate the effects of climate change and environmental challenges in advancing low GHG emissions and climate-resilient development. Furthermore, the need to strengthen support for AMS in analysing climate risks, formulate and implement adaptation measures cannot be overemphasised.

Continuing Regional Divide and Disparities

The idea for developing the master plan, and its related initiatives, is to chart a solid pathway in fueling growth and welfare enhancement, and to close the gap of regional disparities including rural-urban divide across and within AMS. With the ASEAN Economic Community in place, a most pressing challenge is on how well can the less developed members catch up with the more developed ones and how can the latter help in the process.

Much of the region lacks the basic infrastructure to ensure integration with the global economy through efficient market linkages. Such integration is vital for strengthening intra- and inter-regional trade through emerging common markets such as in the ASEAN region. These are all formidable challenges, which the region must overcome to continue to be a powerful engine for global prosperity and growth (Brett, N. IFAD, 2019).

Unraveling the Food and Nutrition Security, Poverty, Agriculture, Agroecology and Rural Development Nexus.

Food Security, Malnutrition, Hunger and Agriculture Development

Food security is a global concern, and it is said to exist "when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life" (The World Food Summit of 1996), and where access includes both physical and economic access to food that meets people's dietary needs (nutrition) as well as their food preferences.

Agriculture contributes to food security, and both should be viewed within the context of the broader structural transformation as the region becomes increasingly urban and non-agricultural. Establishing an efficient agriculture sector and determining the extent to which this meets food needs is the key, more than choosing between being self-sufficiency or self-reliance.

The food security challenge is not a concern for the agriculture sector alone. Supplying the growing population (growing cities included) with adequate and affordable food is a major challenge that requires massive investments in food distribution, storage, processing, farm to market roads, including marketing and post-harvest facilities which are very much the concern of rural development (Manalili, N.M. 2020). The COVID 19 pandemic exacerbated rural development challenges, as the loss of jobs and employment opportunities in urban and semi-urban centers, as well as the absence of land to plant and feed their families, have driven most urban dwellers back to their rural hometowns. This in turn makes investments in rural development a significant concern, especially since the situation is far from normal. Hunger and malnutrition cannot be addressed by simply enhancing agricultural productivity. A number of inter-connected factors have to be looked into (health and nutrition, ecological sustainability, food value chain, and rural-urban continuum) and would require systematic approaches (Ravanera, 2021).

Agriculture Development and Rural Development

Integrated approaches are needed not only to eradicate poverty and promote rural development but also to realise the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals. These will include, among others, action research, capacity development initiatives, and platforms for knowledge and exchanges which have already been established to facilitate dialogues among multiple stakeholders in the region.

Agriculture is a great precursor of development in general. The World Bank cited that “growth in the agriculture sector is two to four times more effective in raising incomes among the poorest, compared to other sectors, that 65 per cent of poor working adults made a living through agriculture and it is one of the most powerful tools to end extreme poverty, boost shared prosperity, and feed a projected 9.7 billion people by 2050.

Rural development aims to improve the economic and social living conditions with a particular focus on poor people in rural areas for them to benefit from development. Given that rural areas are primarily agricultural in nature, the link between rural development and agriculture cannot be overstated. Rural development is linked with agriculture, and its potentials as infrastructure and related investments are influenced and shaped by agricultural development (needs and performance delivery) and vice-versa.

Agroecology and Rural Development

While to some extent, gains in AFS development initiatives are being reaped, in terms of the large volume and variety of food in markets globally, the associated costs of resource intensive AFS where inputs are usually externally sourced, however, have led to massive resource degradation if not depletion and high levels of gas emissions. Even with the said gains in volume and value of AFS output, hunger and extreme poverty remains a global challenge with inequalities persisting in areas where poverty may have been reduced.

Simultaneously applying ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of AFS makes agroecology a unique approach in meeting significant increases in our food needs of the future, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

Agroecology as an approach, seeks to optimise the interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment while taking into consideration the social aspects that need to be addressed for a sustainable and fair food system. And these are the very premise that rural development works within.

Approaches and Strategies

Territorial Development as the core of ASEAN Rural Development Strategies

The centerpiece of 2022 to 2026 Rural development Masterplan is the territorial development approach. As an approach, it is the “transformation process of a given rural area to improve the living condition of its population... set up around two main axes: on the one hand, it fosters productive transformation, and, on the other hand, it propels institutional change (Navarro et al., 2018)

As to operationalising it, the territorial approach entails:

*“Establish or strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms
 Choose the right institutional conveners
 Provide ongoing support for territorial processes
 Conduct multi-stakeholder territorial assessments and planning
 Plan timing and phasing for capacity building
 Institute institutional and fiscal mechanisms
 Use coordination processes to generate synergies¹²” (Ravanera, 2021)*

The intent is to ensure that functional territorial rural development programs are in place and implemented in AMS and consequently contribute to the region’s vibrant development. This is complemented with territorial rural development planning tools integrated into Human Resource and Capability Development of rural development plans. In particular, these planning tools are introduced and/or applied at local government development planning levels, which will be evident in the smooth implementation of rural development programmes. Other approaches to complement the territorial approach will be considered depending upon the needs of AMS.

Mainstreaming Gender and Youth

Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Rural Development and Poverty Eradication

Gender equality in rural development is an ongoing concern in the ASEAN region in order to attain an **“inclusive community** that promotes high quality of life, equitable access to opportunities for all, and promotes and protects human rights; a sustainable community that promotes social development and environmental protection; a resilient community with enhanced capacity and capability to adapt and respond to social and economic vulnerabilities, disasters, climate change, and other new challenges, and a committed, participative, and socially responsible community for the benefit of ASEAN people and a dynamic and harmonious community that is aware and proud of its identity, culture and heritage”, as articulated in the vision of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025.

In 2018-2019, the three ASEAN Community pillars defined concrete actions to mainstream gender within and between communities in their respective Gender Mainstreaming Conferences spearheaded by the ASCC and hosted by the Philippines. An important policy development in 2018 was the adoption of the ASEAN Guidelines on Responsible Agriculture Investment (AGRAI), that specifies gender equality as a principle to be applied in agriculture and rural development. The thrust of ASEAN actions is to 1) increase women’s participation in rural development; 2) enhance women’s access to resources and social benefits and 3) create and/or consolidate the women’s voice and agency in national platforms and policy making bodies.

Studies have documented the various challenges of rural women such as their lack of knowledge and training opportunities, their unequal access to resources for their farming and economic activities, including land rights and ownership, unfamiliarity with emerging technologies to upgrade their small farm and business productivity, lack of connection to product markets as well as to suppliers and buyers in the value chain where their agri-products belong, and gender-based violence which is reported to have increased during the pandemic.

¹² Ravanera and AsiaDHRRRA Upcoming Publication on Territorial Rural Development Approaches in ASEAN

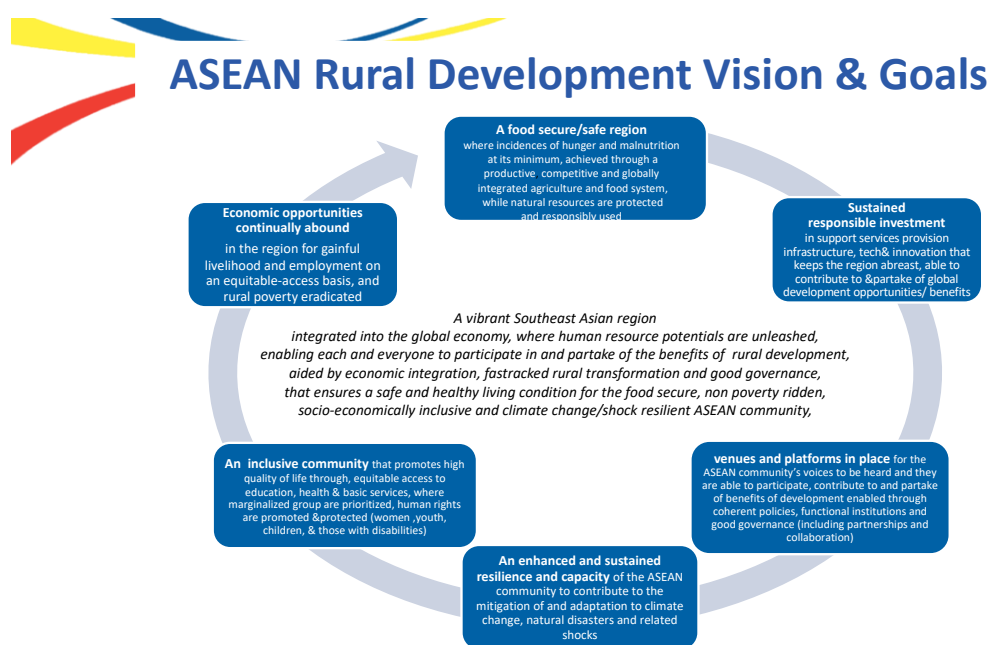
Involving the Youth

Within the agriculture and rural space, the rural youth sector is a critical sector that should be recognised for their enormous potential to innovate and adapt digital technologies and consequently yield boundless results in terms of poverty reduction, employment generation, and food and nutrition security. The prospects of greater connectivity between rural and urban areas and of modernisation could serve as incentives for young people to explore economic opportunities in the agriculture sector. Urbanisation, including the rise of secondary cities, are reducing the distance between urban and rural areas and giving rise to greater opportunities in the latter. These changes could offer innovative ways and opportunities for the rural youth to be involved in a more significant way as regards rural development and inclusive rural transformation. Corollary to the above is the importance for the youth to be adaptive which is dependent on their access to education, productive resources, inputs, extension, advisory, and financial services, markets, and inclusion in decision-making¹³.

The Vision and Strategic Goals

The Vision

The ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development envisions a vibrant ASEAN region integrated into the global economy, where human resource potentials are unleashed, enabling each and every one to participate in and partake of the benefits of rural development, aided by economic integration, fast-tracked rural transformation and good governance, that ensures a safe and healthy living condition for the food secure, non-poverty ridden, socio-economically inclusive and climate change/shock resilient ASEAN Community.



14

Figure 4. The ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development Vision and Strategic Goals

¹³ ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2021-2025

The Strategic Goals

Goal 1. A food secure and food safe region

- Where food security is assured through enhancing agricultural productivity, ensuring livelihood to 100 million smallholder farmers¹⁴ in the region, and promoting judicial and sustainable use of natural resources.
- Where development of appropriate technologies, continuous innovation, and responsible investment in agriculture are the norms, while at the same time ensuring resiliency to weather, climate and other disaster-related shocks that could endanger the sustainability of the natural resource endowments of the region.
- Where the roles fulfilled by women are recognised given their important contribution in ensuring their children and families' food and nutrition security.
- Where enhanced productivity fuels sustainable agriculture and food trade, both intra- and extra -ASEAN trade, one that links the region to global value chains, further ensuring a well-linked and agroecologically nurtured AFS.

Goal 2. Economic opportunities continually abound in the region

- A revitalised agriculture sector is continually pursued while at the same time ensuring that the transition from a highly agriculture sector rooted economy (40 percent of workforce yet contributes only 10 percent to region's GDP) with informal or unregistered workers make up an estimated 78 percent of the total working population in Southeast Asia (CSIS, 2020)¹⁵, to higher value-added (higher skill) based economies is taking place. The development of regional production networks (industries- electronics, automotive, machinery, garments, etc.) side-by-side with revitalised and multifunctional agriculture offer productive opportunities binding the region together and linking it globally as well.
- Where small-scale men and women farmers and food producers are organised and empowered to participate in inclusive value chains and emerging sectors (agritourism included).
- Where employment and livelihood opportunities for those freed from the agriculture sector are available and enough to sustain livelihood while moving AMS economies into more knowledge-intensive activities (so as not to be left out in global economic transition).

Goal 3. An inclusive community that promotes high quality of life

- A people-centered ASEAN Community where basic social services (food, health, and education) are within reach, specifically in rural areas in each AMS.

¹⁴ Stockholm Institute, 2019; WWF 2021

¹⁵ Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2020

- Where deprivation to food and living a long and healthy life, specifically among the poor and vulnerable, are nonexistent along with inequalities and discrimination (gender, age, ethnic).
- Where each individual is afforded opportunities of realising their full potentials to contribute to and partake of benefits of rural development.
- Policies and programmes are in place, out of appropriate and well-executed plans, that ensure investment in basic infrastructure and facilities that improve quality of life. Such service-facility provision promotes knowledge and skills acquisition, technology and innovation, social mobility, and socio-economically productive life as well as culture in the region and leaves no harmful effect to people and our only planet.

Goal 4. Enhanced and sustained resilience and capacity to contribute to the mitigation and adaptation to climate change, natural disasters and related shocks

- Where regional capacities (knowledge and skills) of AMS leaders and public institutions are developed and sustained to design and operate well-functioning disaster, weather, and climate resiliency programmes that save lives, promote well-being, and protect productive sectors (agriculture, manufacturing, and services) to better propel them to AFS transformation,
- Where communities are well-organised and trained as frontline partners, formally and actively engaged in responding to health, climate change, and disaster-related emergencies as well as in building up resiliency, and in the recovery and building back better.

Goal 5. Venues and platforms in place for peoples of ASEAN are heard and able to participate, contribute to, and partake of the benefits of development

- A region where cohesive, inclusive and people-oriented development policies become the norm, where venues for multi-stakeholder consultation and participatory decision making (involving women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable and marginalised groups) and governance institutions and mechanisms are in place,
- Where vulnerable and marginalised groups can access economic opportunities as well as the justice system in fair, equitable and cost-effective manner, and where rights are duly protected and are exercised as needed.

Goal 6. Sustained responsible investment in AFS, support services provision, infrastructure, technology and innovation that contributes to food security and nutrition, keeps the region abreast, and ASEAN nationals able to contribute to and partake of global development opportunities and benefits.

- Where significant investments are earmarked for the improvement of basic infrastructures and services (food production, health, and education) and agricultural infrastructure, to the adoption of new technologies and R&D initiatives, and to support smallholder farmers integration to global value chains;

- Where rural transformation is supported through financing investments to diversify within agriculture and from agriculture to other economic sectors.
- Where the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (AGRAI) will serve as a guide to ensuring that investments in agriculture meet global standards as well as truly responsive to the development needs of AFS and where the development of responsible agricultural investment is based on cooperation between communities and farmers' organisations, companies, and government, particularly local authorities.

The Desired Outcomes, Strategic Thrusts, and Actions

Goal 1. A food secure and food safe region			
Where incidences of hunger and malnutrition are at its minimum, achieved through a productive, competitive and globally integrated agriculture and food system, while natural resources are protected and responsibly used			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	Lead Country/ Institution
Agriculture sectors of AMS are developed in an inclusive manner and able to meet food security requirement of its people. Inclusive as it ensures viable and sustainable livelihood for smallholder farmers as only then can long term food security be assured	1.1. Enhance growth in agricultural productivity by revitalising agriculture and ensuring smallholder farmers including women and youth are key participants as well as beneficiaries	1.1.1 Broaden and expand the Agrinnovation Fund in ASEAN (AIF) to enhance regional support to innovations in agriculture.	
	1.2. Strengthen basic institutions /units that will serve as solid base as production/ distribution/ processing enterprise units within the food systems	1.2.1 Proactive Initiatives on Institutional Strengthening a. Develop an ASEAN Standard for Building Strong Families, Villages, and Districts as basic institutions for sustainability and development. b. Promote the UN Decade of Family Farming (UNDF) in ASEAN through the national action plans of AMS. c. Enable/support family farmers to attain diversified, innovative and dynamic agricultural systems to increase availability of nutritious, sustainably produced and culturally appropriate food, while promoting the transition towards territorial based food systems.	

Goal 1. A food secure and food safe region			
Where incidences of hunger and malnutrition are at its minimum, achieved through a productive, competitive and globally integrated agriculture and food system, while natural resources are protected and responsibly used			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	Lead Country/ Institution
		d. Develop regional Depository of Information on Institutions and roles in regional development initiatives with enhanced access for support	
		e. Identification and/or Recognition of Centers of Excellence in Service Provision to Family Farmers/Smallholders at regional/national levels	
		1.2.2 Develop capacities of civil society in creating opportunities for producer-consumer direct interactions	
	1.2.3 Support the implementation of the ASEAN Road Map for Enhancing the Role of Agri Cooperatives in the Global Value Chains through policy development, financing, organisational and capacity development, knowledge management		
	1.3. Openness to revisit policies: prioritising interests of smallholder agriculture and family farmers, and also made viable and sustainable	1.3.1 Annual ASEAN Family Farmers Policy Forum for Development as a venue to share experiences on policies that impact on the lives of smallholder/family farmers in the region to encourage investment in sustainable production, and enhance profitability of smallholder agriculture	

Goal 1. A food secure and food safe region			
Where incidences of hunger and malnutrition are at its minimum, achieved through a productive, competitive and globally integrated agriculture and food system, while natural resources are protected and responsibly used			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	Lead Country/ Institution
		<p>1.3.2 Regional Stocktaking of Policies and Programmes on Land use planning in ASEAN; capacity development for AMS on land use planning linked to agriculture and food systems transformation, to include protection of land resources, soils, water, animals and plants, for the production of food and products to meet changing human needs, while ensuring simultaneously long-term productive potential of these resources and maintenance of their environmental services to communities thru policies and mobilisation of local organisation in co-management, stewardship conservation arrangements with national or local governments</p>	
	<p>1.4. Partnerships between and among agriculture and food value chain stakeholders are forged leading to inclusive and sustainable food systems and supplies</p>	<p>1.4.1 Develop Inclusive Sub-regional Partnerships to Support Convergence of Value Chain Actors to ensure smallholders participation, including women entrepreneurs)</p> <p>1.4.2 Promote Models to Integrate value chains cross-border facilities, with smallholder engagement</p>	
	<p>1.5. Ensuring that food is produced along ecological principles and importance of food quality in the nutrition goals are pursued side by side with food security (FS)</p>	<p>1.5.1 Integrate in ASEAN's Food Security and Nutrition Framework and Goals the importance of agroecological principles</p>	
	<p>1.6 Develop sustained response capacities to emergencies, short-</p>	<p>1.6.1 Knowledge Sharing on good governance and best practices on emergency response and DRRM</p>	

Goal 1. A food secure and food safe region			
Where incidences of hunger and malnutrition are at its minimum, achieved through a productive, competitive and globally integrated agriculture and food system, while natural resources are protected and responsibly used			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	Lead Country/ Institution
	term food shortage, economic slowdowns/ downturns (pandemics, calamities price escalations, etc., ensure that women and youth are included in capacity building efforts	1.6.2 Promote the Development and Enactment of gender-responsive local agriculture development plans or DRRM contingency plans where provisions for supporting and managing local food security are incorporated	
	1.7. Expand reach and connectivity of RDPE with global initiatives to keep abreast of trends and approaches and provide venues for active partnerships in regional RDPE initiatives	1.7.1 Sustained membership of ASEAN in global RDPE initiatives to contribute, based on regional experiences, and to learn from global discourses 1.7.2 Strengthen the Annual ASEAN PPPP Forum that promotes multi-stakeholder cooperation in the region.	

Goal 2. Economic opportunities continually abound in the region			
For gainful livelihood and employment on an equitable-access basis, and rural poverty eradicated			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	Lead Country/ Institutions
A balanced blending of agriculture, off farm sector industry development where employment opportunities are continually	2.1. Fastrack rural transformation a. that creates economic opportunities which allows a broader and wider participation of individuals or groups including disadvantaged groups, women and youth and	2.1.1 Promotion of and Support to Rural Enterprises and Livelihoods , in off-farm, on-farm and non-agricultural sectors in a territory, encouraging collective endeavors through cooperatives and self-help groups that harness cooperation and generate greater employment opportunities.	

Goal 2. Economic opportunities continually abound in the region			
For gainful livelihood and employment on an equitable-access basis, and rural poverty eradicated			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	Lead Country /Institutions
generated with the promotion of gender-responsive agri-based enterprises alongside manufacturing and service industry sectors	develop the services and business sectors to support widespread economic activities.		
	b. that ensures basic infrastructures and facilities that respond to the production and product distribution requirements to end users and consumers	2.1.2 Investments in Appropriate Rural Infrastructures that would help boost agriculture and local businesses and contribute to local and domestic food security and nutrition.	
	2.2. Ensure equitable, sustainable and inclusive territorial growth through multisectoral-led and territorial development strategies and plans that put people and protection of natural resources at the center.	<p>2.2.1 Piloting of Territorial Rural Development Programmes, that are locally driven based on locally agreed priorities and strategies along poverty reduction, productivity, development of local businesses and services that support agriculture within the territory, while protecting and conserving natural endowments and offer opportunities for rural-urban linkages.</p> <p>2.2.2 Networking of TRD promoters, documentation of applied TRD learning experiences</p> <p>2.2.3 Developing Leadership and Competence in leading, managing and implementing rural development using territorial approaches.</p>	
	2.3. Tighten and sustain the regional block to afford economies of scale to produce and trade, while boosting	2.3.1 Transformation and Execution of ASEAN policies and Strengthening of Institutional Coordination and Cooperation with national and sub-national/local authorities	

Goal 2. Economic opportunities continually abound in the region			
For gainful livelihood and employment on an equitable-access basis, and rural poverty eradicated			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	Lead Country /Institutions
	competitiveness and development of integrated and stronger market		
	2.4 Ensuring a) flow of information across seamless networks to effect trade and collaborations; and b) investment information are available in terms of opportunities to tap and investment guidelines to follow as well as investment pitfalls to avoid	<p>2.4.1 Sustain informed investments in ASEAN hub; continuous updating for opportunities</p> <p>2.4.2 Call for country investments for posting at ASEAN hub</p> <p>2.4.3 Reiterate Commitment to keep markets open and ensure flows of trade especially food and essential goods</p> <p>2.4.4 Support the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines on PPP and on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (AGRAI)</p> <p>2.4.5 Document Rural-Urban Connectivity Good Practices</p> <p>2.4.6 Support the Assessment of investments: Disseminate and popularise functional programs of investment assessments with warning signals to alert on investment pitfalls in the region</p>	
	2.5. Partnerships forged across AMS on collaborative activities among women and women's group on enterprise development	<p>2.5.1 Develop a Technical and Financial Support Programme for community investment plans (CIPs) of women and youth in small- and medium-enterprise integration</p> <p>2.5.2 Support the Consolidation of Rural Youth and Women Organisations as Proactive Stakeholders of Agri Value Chains</p>	

Goal 3. An inclusive community that promotes high quality of life through, equitable access to education, health and basic services, where needs of marginalised group are prioritised, human rights are promoted and protected (women, children, youth and people with disabilities, aborigines/indigenous people, among others)			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	Lead Country / Institutions
An ASEAN community where Basic services provision systems are in place, where there is an equal opportunity to realise ones potentials and one that is free of discrimination and deprivation to food, health services and educational opportunities.	3.1. Ensure equitable access to quality education, skills development, social services and healthcare	3.1.1 Stocktaking of Programmes to Improve Equitable Access to Formal and Non-formal education , and technical vocational education and training (TVET), and human resource and capacity development, especially for the youth, women, elderly and vulnerable sectors, including aborigines and indigenous people, as well as in early childhood care	
		3.1.2 Regional Initiatives to Scale up Growth and Development of MSMEs in the ASEAN Region , including digitalisation and promotion of e-commerce	
	3.2. towards enhanced welfare and healthy lifestyle in rural communities Investments on health service facility infrastructure and service development prioritised and upgraded based on lessons from Covid19 pandemic. Community empowerment and sharing knowledge related to prevention of infectious diseases, processing local food ingredients for nutrition fulfillment and simple clean water treatment	3.2.1 Regional Forum on Strengthening of Health Information System and Workforce Development	
		3.2.2 Promote Investments in Green and Climate Resilient Rural Health Service Facility Infrastructure and Service Development based on lessons from Covid19 pandemic. Increase knowledge/role of families, cadres/religious /community leaders, posyandu (Family Planning Service Posts) and other community social organisations to actively participate in infectious disease prevention	
	3.3. Institutionalised multi-stakeholder rural development mechanisms especially for rural	3.3.1 Establish and Strengthen National and Regional Convergence Mechanisms for Rural Development with	

Goal 3. An inclusive community that promotes high quality of life through, equitable access to education, health and basic services, where needs of marginalised group are prioritised, human rights are promoted and protected (women, children, youth and people with disabilities, aborigines/indigenous people, among others)			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	Lead Country / Institutions
	women and youth participation, and other vulnerable sectors	representation and participation of women, youth and vulnerable sectors	
		3.3.2 Regional Programme on Developing Gender in Agri and Rural Development Experts among AMS, CSOs, and private sector.	

Goal 4. Enhanced and sustained resilience and capacity to contribute to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, natural disasters and related shocks			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	Lead Country / Institutions
Developed and sustained regional capacities (knowledge and skills) of AMS leaders, CSOs, and public institutions to design and manage a well-functioning disaster and weather/ climate	4.1. Improved knowledge management system for natural resource management and climate change adaptation and mitigation in support of rural development and poverty eradication	<p>4.1.1 Scoping of Existing Platforms on Natural Resource Management and Climate Change to Identify Entry Points for Integrating Grassroots/Community based Knowledge and Experiences towards developing and linking community-based registry with government and private sector initiatives</p> <p>4.1.2 Regional Forum on Consumer Education to enhance appreciation of green products and responsible green consumption to understand consumer behavior and role in relation to inclusive value chain</p>	

Goal 4. Enhanced and sustained resilience and capacity to contribute to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, natural disasters and related shocks			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	Lead Country/ Institutions
resiliency programs that save lives, promote well-being and protect productive sectors (agriculture, manufacturing and services), where communities are equipped, able to respond to health, climate change and disaster related emergencies as well as in building up resiliency.	4.2. Capacity development for research and innovation with farmers, extension workers, and the scientific community.	<p>4.2.1 Develop Regional Partnerships to Strengthen Capacity to Deliver Advisory Services, Research, and Innovation among academic, scientific and CSOs and farmers' organisations (FOs) on natural resource management, agro-ecology, disaster risk reduction and climate change; accessible to smallholders, local governments and micro enterprises</p> <p>4.2.2 Information and Education Campaign and Advocacy on Agroecology towards food and agricultural systems transformation.</p>	
	4.3. Sustainable financing for local social protection mechanisms or systems, building more resilient communities	<p>4.3.1 Building Knowledge towards Upscaling of Sustainable Financing of Local Social Protection Mechanisms such as facilities for savings and credit, collective mutual help systems, with public funds or private investments</p> <p>4.3.2 Promote the ASEAN Guidelines on Disaster Responsive Social Protection to Increase Resilience</p> <p>4.3.3 ASEAN Sharing of knowledge, Technology and Experience on Climate Change resilience, adaptation and mitigation for local community, particularly vulnerable groups by means of rural development.</p>	
	4.4. Institutionalise gender-responsive disaster preparedness prog to environment and climate change risks towards resilient communities/households	<p>4.4.1 Documentation of Gender Responsive Strategies to Mainstream DRRM CCA plans/programs at national level.</p> <p>4.4.2 Study Creating Fund for Gender-based DRRM Action</p>	

Goal 5. Venues and platforms in place for the ASEAN community's voices to be heard and they are able to participate, contribute to and partake of benefits of development enabled by coherent policies, functional institutions and good governance (partnerships and collaborations)			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	Lead Country / Institutions
A well governed people-centered ASEAN region where consultation and participatory decision making is a political way of life and where individual rights are protected and exercised and just and humane society prevails.	5.1. Good governance, institutionalised mechanisms and processes to strengthen convergence of rural development and poverty eradication initiatives	<p>5.1.1 Popularisation of ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development, linking with national sectoral development plans, to raise awareness and develop capacity to implement the master plan at regional/national levels</p> <p>5.1.2 Annual Regional Forum on ASEAN Rural Development: linking with global, regional and national networks on RD experiences</p>	
	5.2. Empower rural poor communities to overcome their challenges, where best practices (i.e., Territorial) are promoted such as key principles of being area-based, people-centered, multi-actor, multi-level and cross-sectoral presents and good opportunity in addressing local concerns towards inclusive rural development.	<p>5.2.1 Establish Territorial Rural Development Networks with representation from various rural development sectors, including local authorities, rural people's organisations, cooperatives, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, elderly/older persons</p> <p>5.2.2 Organise Learning Exchanges (regional/global) on TRD for Leaders from government, rural development/peoples' organisations, and private sector/local enterprises</p>	
	5.3. Promoting Economic Empowerment of Women through the ASEAN Committee on Women and ASEAN Coordinating Committee on MSMEs (ACCMSME) and the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs	5.3.1 Forge partnerships at ASEAN and across AMS on collaborative activities among Women and Women's groups For women-led rural enterprises.	

Goal 5. Venues and platforms in place for the ASEAN community's voices to be heard and they are able to participate, contribute to and partake of benefits of development enabled by coherent policies, functional institutions and good governance (partnerships and collaborations)			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	Lead Country / Institutions
	Network (AWEN) with potential support from UN Women and relevant partners		

Goal 6. Sustained responsible investment in agriculture and food systems, support services provision, infrastructure, technology and innovation that keeps the region abreast, able to contribute to and partake of global development opportunities and benefits			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	Lead Country/ Institution
Sustained investment on 1) agriculture and food systems infrastructure; 2) agriculture financing, 3. Research and Innovation, technology adoption, and 4. farmers' integration into	6.1. Promoting increase of agriculture investment from public/private sectors, following AGRAI principles with strong governance accountability measures	6.1.1 Develop Regional Programmes Promoting AGRAI at national/local levels, especially focusing on youth and women in agriculture	
	6.2. Promote an ASEAN Financing Framework for agriculture and rural development that facilitate access to financing by small producers and entrepreneurs	6.2.1 Invest in Strengthening Organisational and Business Capacities of Smallholder food producers and MSMEs (including agro-enterprises) 6.2.2 Develop Financial Facilities for Smallholder Producers and Entrepreneurs e.g. loan packages, guarantee system, grants and subsidies, among others	

Goal 6. Sustained responsible investment in agriculture and food systems, support services provision, infrastructure, technology and innovation that keeps the region abreast, able to contribute to and partake of global development opportunities and benefits			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	Lead Country/ Institution
sustainable value chains	6.3. Strengthen statistics, data collection within ASEAN, monitoring and review framework to assess progress and impact of SDGs and poverty eradication-related initiatives in ASEAN, and exploring development of an ASEAN declaration on social work, in consultation with relevant sectoral bodies	<p>6.3.1 Institutionalise monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) mechanisms for tracking, consolidating, and promoting progresses at all levels</p> <p>6.3.2 Develop Capacity for MEAL System Application in relation to ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development implementation, in particular to support Knowledge Management and Learning across the region.</p>	

INDICATIVE REGIONAL PRIORITIES

A series of national consultations were convened by the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) Focal Points in partnership with AsiaDHRRA and the ASEAN Secretariat to subject the master plan to enhancements and to find venues to brainstorm on country priorities and initiatives. The inputs from these consultations were processed and indicative priorities per goal were arrived at, as follows:

Goal 1: Food secure and safe region

Enhancing growth in agricultural productivity

- Regional support to innovation
- Broaden and expand support to agri-innovation fund
- Support implementation of ASEAN roadmaps thru policy development

Strengthening of basic institutions

- Develop ASEAN Model on building strong families, villages, local governments/ local authorities
- Promote UN Decade of Family Farming
- Develop capacities of CSOs in creating opportunities for producer-consumer interaction

Ensuring food is produced along agroecological principle and nutrition goals are pursued

- Recognise models of mainstreaming nutrition programs with food security

Revisiting policies to put priority on interest of smallholders and family farming.

- Undertaking of ASEAN Family Farmers' Policy Forum annually
- Stocktaking on functional models of and use country plans
- Capacity building on land use planning

Goal 2: Economic opportunities continually abound in the region

Fast-track rural transformation

- Promotion of and support to rural enterprises
- Investments in appropriate rural infrastructures
- Scale up growth and development of MSMEs

Ensure equitable and inclusive growth

- Piloting territorial rural development
- Feature territorial rural development models
- Networking of territorial rural development promoters and documentation of TRD

Tighten and sustain the ASEAN block to afford economies of scale

- Strengthen institutional cooperation
- Ensure flow of communication across seamless networks
- Investment in ASEAN Hub-information available

Forge partnerships across AMS involving women and youth

- Develop technical and financial support for community investment plans in SME integration

- Support involvement of women and youth organizations in agri-value chains

Goal 3: Inclusive community that promotes high quality of life

Ensure equitable access to quality basic services

- Stocktaking of programs on equitable access to education and services
- Capacity building for social welfare workers

Invest in health service delivery, facility and infrastructure

- Regional forum on strengthening information system and workforce development
- Promote investments on green and climate resilient rural health service facility and programs

Institutionalise stakeholder rural development mechanisms specially for rural women and youth

- Strengthen national and regional convergence mechanisms for rural development
- Regional program on developing gender in agriculture and rural development

Goal 4: Enhanced and sustained resilience and capacity to contribute to mitigation and adaptation to climate change

Improved knowledge management system

- Scoping of existing platforms on natural resource management and climate change
- Conduct of regional fora on consumer education to enhance appreciation of green products and responsible green consumption

Capacity development for research and innovation

- Regional partnership to strengthen capacity to deliver advisory services
- Research and innovation on natural resource management, agroecology, disaster risk management, among others

Institutionalisation of gender-responsive disaster preparedness

- Documentation of gender-responsive strategies to mainstream DRRM and CCA plans at national level
- Study creating a fund for gender-based DRRM action

Sustainable financing towards natural resource management and climate change mitigation

- Building knowledge on out scaling/upscaling sustainable financing of local social protection mechanisms/facilities

Goal 5: Venues and platforms in place for the ASEAN Community's voices to be heard

Promote good governance

- Popularise the ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development
- Regional forum on rural development
- Linking up with global rural development networks

Empower rural communities themselves to overcome challenges

- Territorial rural development network development
- Meeting exchanges- global, regional, national

Promote economic empowerment, specifically of women

- Forge partnerships at regional level and across AMS on collaborative activities

Goal 6 Sustained responsible investment in agriculture food systems

Promote increase in agriculture investment from public and private sectors

- Develop regional programs that support and strengthen AGRAI

Promote an ASEAN financing framework on rural development

- Invest in institutional capacity strengthening of smallholders and agri MSMEs

Strengthen intra-ASEAN statistics and data collection on rural development

- Monitoring and review framework to assess progress impact of SDGs and rural development initiatives in aid of better planning and assessment
- Institutionalise MEAL mechanism
- Develop capacities for MEAL system application

Cross-cutting regional initiatives in support of the ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development

To facilitate the attainment of the indicative regional priorities, the following cross-cutting initiatives have been identified:

1. Creation of an ASEAN Rural Development website that is linked to the ASEAN website. This platform will serve as a resource containing information, knowledge, tools and guidelines pertinent to the master plan on rural development from the three ASEAN Community pillars.
2. Socialisation of the master plan for enhance awareness and appreciation at every regional/country opportunity.
3. Renew commitment to work with other pillars of the ASEAN towards a coordinated push for the master plan.
4. Incorporate of monitoring and evaluation of progress and challenges on implementing the master plan.
5. Organise colloquiums on priority thematic areas covered in the master plan such as strengthening of MSMEs in rural areas, and digital agriculture and AGRAI, among others.

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development (AMRDPE), with the support of the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE), will oversee and coordinate the implementation of the master plan. It will also be the convener of platforms to facilitate the development of the master plan involving other ASEAN sectoral bodies, partners, and other stakeholders (civil society organisations, private sectors, and other groups).

A working group may be established chaired or co-chaired by SOMRDPE with other ASEAN sectoral bodies as members to coordinate the implementation of the master plan across the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), and the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC).

A support mechanism from the ASEAN Secretariat may also be established to support the working group across the three ASEAN Community pillars.

The SOMRDPE reports the progress of implementation master plan to the AMRDPE. Likewise, the progress report may be submitted to the Joint Consultative Meeting (JCM) for further transmittal to the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) which oversees cross-sectoral and inter-pillar collaboration.

Priority regional initiatives or actions under each outcome areas may be identified, specifically from existing regional initiative/s in ASEAN sectoral work plans, as identified by the concerned body/ies. Designing new regional initiatives may also be undertaken to be led or jointly led by ASEAN sectoral bodies.

Support an annual regional meeting on rural development to facilitate exchanges of experiences and challenges. This platform can showcase exemplary rural development initiatives such as: i) establishing a link between digital technology adoption in rural development; ii) gender and youth mainstreaming in rural development and consequent gains; iii) fostering climate and shock resiliency in rural development; iv) enhanced enterprise development initiatives towards rural development; and v) involvement of enabled communities or inclusive governance models in rural development.

Platforms for engagements may also be established to provide opportunities for various stakeholders to connect and contribute to resolving complex issues. Such platforms can cover: i) connecting the food producers and urban poor consumers supported by local government units (LGU) to address temporary shortages during pandemics/shocks and imbalance supply/distribution on normal times, sustaining the farmers' livelihoods while ensuring food security in the urban areas; ii) development of food systems to mitigate the risks associated with increased market concentration and minimise the adverse impacts on smallholders and the rural poor (FAO, SOFA 2017); and iii) involving communities in assessment, planning, implementation and monitoring of rural development initiatives in their communities/municipalities.

Resource mobilisation may be undertaken by identifying relevant initiatives in ASEAN sectoral work plans that contribute to the master plan. Technical and funding support from ASEAN development partners as well as joint cooperation with civil society partners and private sector may be pursued.

Attachment 1. Country Initiatives

The Rural Development Master Plan

Desired Outcome, Strategic Thrusts and Actions

Goal 1. A food secure/safe region			
Where incidences of hunger and malnutrition are at its minimum, achieved through a productive, competitive and globally integrated agriculture and food system, while natural resources are protected and responsibly used			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
Agriculture sectors of AMS are developed in an inclusive manner and able to meet food security requirement of its people. Inclusive as it ensures viable and sustainable livelihood for smallholder farmers as only then can long term food security be assured	1.1. Enhance growth in agricultural productivity by revitalising agriculture and ensuring smallholder farmers including women and youth are key participants as well as beneficiaries	1.1.1 Broaden and expand the Agrinnovation Fund in ASEAN (AIF) to enhance regional support to innovations in agriculture.	Philippines: Make Agriculture a priority: a. Invest in innovations thru proper budget allocation in farming and agriculture and farmers to adapt to new technologies and be more resilient to pandemic/others shocks b. Implementation of Massive use of organic fertiliser (sub synthetic fertilizer), c) Include thrusts and actions related to RA 11291-the Magna Carta of the Poor
			Viet Nam: increase proportion of budget in agriculture investment, to a) support farmer-training, research and transfer b. Investing in Science and Technology; developing infrastructure and information Systems for RD c) Enhancing the development of efficient production models for farmers and effective participation in market economy- farmers' products into production and consumption systems (supermarkets, export, etc.) agricultural products need to be quality products, produced according to smart agriculture with extracted origin and products
			Malaysia: a. Streamline and boost the role of rural areas as food security hub b. Support the policy of

Goal 1. A food secure/safe region			
Where incidences of hunger and malnutrition are at its minimum, achieved through a productive, competitive and globally integrated agriculture and food system, while natural resources are protected and responsibly used			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
			food security through the setting up and strengthening of food industries
	1.2. Strengthen basic institutions /units that will serve as solid base as production/ distribution/ processing enterprise units within the food systems	<p>1.2.1 Proactive Initiatives on Institutional Strengthening</p> <p>a. Develop an ASEAN Standard for Building Strong Families, Villages, and Districts as basic institutions for sustainability and development.</p> <p>b. Promote the UN Decade of Family Farming (UNDF) in ASEAN through the national action plans of AMS.</p> <p>c. Enable and support family farmers to attain diversified, innovative and dynamic agricultural systems to increase availability of nutritious, sustainably produced and culturally appropriate food; while promoting the transition towards territorial based food systems.</p> <p>d. Develop Regional Depository of Information of Institutions: roles in regional development initiatives (access for support)</p> <p>e. Identification and Recognition of Centers of Excellence in Provision of Services to Family Farmers/Smallholders, at regional and national levels</p>	<p>Lao PDR:</p> <p>Government Development Plan and Poverty Alleviation Standards, Decree 348, builds strong families, strong villages, strong districts (this standard possibly be included in the ASEAN development plan.</p>

Goal 1. A food secure/safe region			
Where incidences of hunger and malnutrition are at its minimum, achieved through a productive, competitive and globally integrated agriculture and food system, while natural resources are protected and responsibly used			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
		1.2.2 Develop capacities of civil society in creating opportunities for producers and consumers direct interactions (e.g., farmers' markets in Lao PDR and Thailand, traditional public markets in Viet Nam and Philippines, and community pantry and community markets in Philippines at height of Covid-19 pandemic)	Lao PDR: Establish production groups cooperative, provide occupations for farmers b) Build understanding for farmers to participate in agriculture production with high quality and efficiency; create greater access to markets, in line with the policy.
			Cambodia: a. Support development of small-scale farmer organisation (NGO), promote youth engagement in RD as a policy; encourage private sector participation in RD
		1.2.3. Support the implementation of the ASEAN Road Map for Enhancing the Role of Agri Cooperatives in the Global Value Chains (thru policy development, financing, organisational and capacity development, knowledge mgt)	Cambodia: Promote National Agricultural Cooperative Business Platform (Private sector)
1.3. Openness to revisit policies: prioritising interests of smallholder agriculture and family farmers; also made viable and sustainable		1.3.1. Annual ASEAN Family Farmers Policy Forum for Development (a venue to share experiences on policies that impact on the lives of smallholder/family farmers in the region) e.g., promulgation of policies that balances price regulation of inputs and assurance of better prices of resultant products as incentive to encourage production e.g., enhancing security of tenure to a. encourage investment in sustainable production, and b. enhance profitability of smallholder agriculture	Philippines: Crafting a policy protecting the rights of farmers a) From inequitable opportunities b) Increase their chances to be economically independent through training provision and enable them to be more adaptable to modernization
			Indonesia 1. Fractional pricing policy at producer and consumer levels: a. In order to control inflation, protect farmers' income and people's purchasing power

Goal 1. A food secure/safe region			
Where incidences of hunger and malnutrition are at its minimum, achieved through a productive, competitive and globally integrated agriculture and food system, while natural resources are protected and responsibly used			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
			<p>b. Food distribution policy in the context of equal distribution of production</p>
			<p>Viet Nam: a) have mechanisms, policies for land management b) transfer of land use rights, c) have reasonable forms of production organisation.</p>
			<p>Lao PDR: clear boundaries of villages, districts and provinces without conflicts. b. Areas of land categories are precise (show the numbers or hectares or as percentage of each type of land area). Agricultural production tools and land allocated to each family to have enough land for agricultural production (a decisive factor in rural development work)</p>
		<p>1.3.2. Regional Stock taking on Policies and Programs on Land use planning in ASEAN; capacity development for AMS on land use planning linked to agriculture and food systems transformation</p> <p>(to include protection of land resources, including soils, water, animals and plants, for the production of food and products to meet changing human needs, while simultaneously ensuring the long-term productive potential of these resources and the maintenance of their environmental services to communities through policies and the mobilisation of local</p>	<p>Lao PDR: start with land use planning and land allocation with clear boundaries. a. Announce a national land use plan soon. Land use maps at village level for agricultural development, appropriate regulations and good village level plan for better management of land and natural resources in support of comprehensive development plan b. Comprehensive land use planning is very important for conducive agricultural production</p>
			<p>Philippines: a) Look into existing policies and conflicting policies b) Promote Land Use Act</p>

Goal 1. A food secure/safe region			
Where incidences of hunger and malnutrition are at its minimum, achieved through a productive, competitive and globally integrated agriculture and food system, while natural resources are protected and responsibly used			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
		organisations (farmers, fishers, etc.) in co-management, stewardship conservation arrangements with national or local governments)	c) Implementation of Mining Act
			Thailand: a) Focusing on Human Settlements to identify rural characters, rural populations and rural communities including rural land scape management. b) Promoting the initiative of National Spatial Plan in related planning processes e.g. Land Use Planning and Food Production
	1.4. Partnerships between and among agriculture and food value chain stakeholders are forged leading to inclusive and sustainable food systems and supplies	1.4.1 Develop Inclusive Sub-Regional Partnerships to Support Convergence of Value Chain Actors (ensuring smallholders participation, including women entrepreneurs) 1.4.2 Document to Promote Models to Integrate value chains cross-border facilities, with smallholder engagement	Cambodia: a) Promoting Public Private Producer Partnership in food processing and value chains development (NGO)
			Lao PDR: Build capacity for village police and military organisations at village level: to protect people's rights and interests. If village level is strong, the district level should have the same criteria.
	1.5. Ensuring that food is produced along ecological principles and the importance of food quality in the nutrition goals are pursued side by side with food security (FS)	1.5.1 Integrate in ASEAN's Food Security and Nutrition Framework and Goals the importance of agroecological principles.	Philippines: For National Agriculture and Fishery Modernisation Plan to include nutrition action agenda (provision of nutritious food, etc.)
	1.6 Develop sustained capacities to respond to emergencies, short- term food shortage as well as economic slowdowns/downturns	1.6.1 Knowledge Sharing on good governance and best practices on emergency response and DRRM.	Lao PDR: Improving political system, raise local people's awareness on national policies/ guidelines for them to better understand related policies and contribute to development.

Goal 1. A food secure/safe region			
Where incidences of hunger and malnutrition are at its minimum, achieved through a productive, competitive and globally integrated agriculture and food system, while natural resources are protected and responsibly used			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
	(pandemics, calamities price escalations, etc.) ensure that women and youth are included in capacity building efforts		Cambodia: Coordinate emergency response as needed (NGO)
		1.6.2. Promote the Development and Enactment of gender-responsive local agriculture development plans or DRRM contingency plans where provisions for supporting and managing local food security are incorporated	
	1.7. Expand reach and connectivity of RDPE with global initiatives to keep abreast of trends and approaches and provide venues for active partnerships in regional RDPE initiatives	1.7.1. Sustained membership of ASEAN (secretariat, sectoral bodies) in global initiatives on RDPE (e.g., global rural development forum) to contribute, based on regional experiences, and to learn from global discourses 1.7.2. Strengthen the Annual ASEAN PPPP Forum that promotes multi-stakeholder cooperation in the region.	

Goal 2. Economic opportunities continually abound in the region			
For gainful livelihood and employment on an equitable-access basis, and rural poverty eradicated			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
A balanced blending of agriculture, off farm sector	2.1. Fastrack rural transformation a. that creates economic opportunities which allows a	2.1.1 Promotion of and Support to Rural Enterprises and Livelihoods , in off-farm, on-farm and non-agricultural sectors in a territory, encouraging collective endeavors	Cambodia: a. Promoting diversified economic activities in rural areas (MRD) job creation, entrepreneurship and economic activity are important parts of improving

Goal 2. Economic opportunities continually abound in the region			
For gainful livelihood and employment on an equitable-access basis, and rural poverty eradicated			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
industry development where employment opportunities are continually generated with the promotion of gender-responsive agri-based enterprises alongside manufacturing and service industry sectors	broader and wider participation of individuals or groups including disadvantaged groups, women and youth and develop the services and business sectors to support widespread economic activities.	through cooperatives and self-help groups that harness cooperation and generate greater employment opportunities.	health, education and living conditions of rural people population. (MRD) b. Upscaling community saving groups to receive rural loans and engage farmer enterprise to access investment loan from public /private bank and MFI(NGO)
			Philippines: Emphasise microfinance for agricultural productivity in the national action plan
			Indonesia 1.development of social entrepreneurship for the poor and vulnerable, 2.business assistance for PKH Beneficiary Families (KPM)
			Malaysia Generating new job opportunities and evolving socioeconomic growth in rural areas.
	b. that ensures basic infrastructures and facilities that respond to the production and product distribution requirements to end users and consumers	2.1.2 Investments in Appropriate Rural Infrastructures (e.g. roads networks, facilities, storage, small-scale irrigation, electricity, internet access, etc.) that would help boost agriculture and local businesses and contribute to local and domestic food security and nutrition.	Cambodia: Development of Physical and communication infrastructure (Transportation of agricultural products and goods to people in rural areas) (MRD)
Lao PDR: Infrastructure development at the village level is very important for rural development such as road and irrigation in order to facilitate the transportation of agricultural products and water resources for agricultural activities.			
Philippines: Include infrastructure development in the national action plan (farm to market roads, post-harvest infrastructures, etc.			
Thailand:			

Goal 2. Economic opportunities continually abound in the region			
For gainful livelihood and employment on an equitable-access basis, and rural poverty eradicated			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
			Integrating water management and rural development
			Cambodia: Promoting contract farming (NGO)
	2.2. Ensure equitable, sustainable and inclusive territorial growth through multisectoral-led and territorial development strategies and plans that put people and protection of natural resources at the center.	2.2.1 Piloting of Territorial Rural Development Programs , that are locally driven based on locally agreed priorities and strategies along poverty reduction, productivity, development of local businesses and services that support agriculture within the territory, while protecting and conserving natural endowments and offer opportunities for rural-urban linkages. 2.2.2 Networking of TRD promoters , documentation of applied TRD learning experiences 2.2.3 Developing Leadership and Competence in leading, managing and implementing rural development using territorial approaches.	Cambodia: Harmony in rural family society with the population of all stakeholders. Developing indigenous areas for economic social, and cultural development. (MRD)
			Thailand: Promoting the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and propose a development plan of action for rural communities
			Lao PDR: a) Develop agricultural production plans for export to regional and international markets Focus on two types of agriculture: Lowland farming and Upland Agriculture b) Develop/ promote agricultural production 4.0 (Innovation) integrated farming.
			Philippines: a) Promote Urban-Rural integration-value chain b) Promote Territorial rural development program
			Viet Nam: a) have specific policies, solutions and goals that are reasonable between regions b) Propose development plans for each region supported by policies, solutions and goals (e.g. a) the plain areas: Red River, Mekong River b) hilly areas: Northwest, Central Highlands to achieve sustainable agricultural development for each region.

Goal 2. Economic opportunities continually abound in the region			
For gainful livelihood and employment on an equitable-access basis, and rural poverty eradicated			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
	2.3. Tighten and sustain the regional block to afford economies of scale to produce and trade, while boosting competitiveness and development of integrated and stronger market	2.3.1 Transformation and Execution of ASEAN policies and Strengthening of Institutional Coordination and Cooperation with national and sub-national/local authorities	<p>Cambodia: Organise training and support the Village Development Committee based on need (MRD)</p> <p>Thailand: Promoting technology transformation for One Tambon One Product (OTOP) especially for the elderly ,the youth (new smart farmers), and persons with disabilities</p> <p>Promote the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy Model to complement regional efforts to advance Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the region.</p> <p>Malaysia a) Enhance the marketing of rural products and services for global market penetration b) Ensure the produce produced meet international standards, so farmers and rural enterprises are trained at local levels</p>

Goal 2. Economic opportunities continually abound in the region			
For gainful livelihood and employment on an equitable-access basis, and rural poverty eradicated			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
	<p>2.4 Ensuring a. flow of information across seamless networks to effect trade and collaborations</p> <p>b. investment information is available in terms of opportunities to tap and investment guidelines to follow as well as investment pitfalls to avoid</p>	<p>2.4.1 Sustain informed investments in ASEAN hub; continuous updating for opportunities</p> <p>2.4.2 call for country investments for posting at ASEAN hub</p> <p>2.4.3. Reiterate Commitment to keep markets open and ensure flows of trade especially food and essential goods</p> <p>2.4.4 Support the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines on PPP and on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (AGRAI)</p> <p>2.4.5 Document Rural-Urban Connectivity Good Practices</p> <p>2.4.6. Support the Assessment of investments: Disseminate and popularise functional programs of investment assessments with warning signals to alert on investment pitfalls in the region</p>	<p>Cambodia: Dissemination of ASEAN Guideline on promoting responsible investment in food, agriculture and forestry. (NGO)</p>

Goal 2. Economic opportunities continually abound in the region			
For gainful livelihood and employment on an equitable-access basis, and rural poverty eradicated			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
	2.4. Partnerships forged across AMS on collaborative activities among women and women's group on enterprise development	<p>2.4.1 Develop a Technical and Financial Support Program for community investment plans (CIPs) of women and youth in small- and medium-enterprise integration</p> <p>2.4.2 Support the Consolidation of Rural Youth and Women Organisations as Proactive Stakeholders of Agri Value Chains</p>	<p>Cambodia:</p> <p>a) Responsive Credit Services and Skills Development to Support Handicraft Making, and SMEs (NGO)</p> <p>b) Provide training on entrepreneurship and support business plan development to women and youth. (NGO)</p> <p>Malaysia</p> <p>Providing adequate access to financing for SMEs in particular</p> <p>Lao PDR:</p> <p>a) Put in place specific policies in support of women and youth for greater roles in agricultural enterprises.</p> <p>b) Develop a mechanism for sustainable use of capital in agriculture.</p> <p>c) Establishment of access mechanism to Agricultural Capital /Agricultural Risk Fund</p> <p>Indonesia</p> <p>a) Development of social entrepreneurship for the poor and vulnerable</p> <p>b) Business assistance for PKH Beneficiary Families (KPM)</p>

Goal 3. An inclusive community that promotes high quality of life through, equitable access to education, health and basic services, where needs of marginalised group are prioritised, human rights are promoted and protected (women, children, youth and people with disabilities, aborigines/indigenous people, among others)			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
An ASEAN community where Basic services provision systems are in place, where there is an equal opportunity to realise one's potentials and one that is free of discrimination and deprivation to food, health services and educational opportunities.	3.1. Ensure equitable access to quality education, skills development, social services and healthcare	3.1.1 Stocktaking of Programmes to Improve Equitable Access to Formal and Non-formal education , and technical vocational education and training (TVET), and human resource and capacity development, especially for the youth, women, elderly and vulnerable sectors, including aborigines and indigenous people, as well as in early childhood care	
			Indonesia 1.undertake capacity building for: a. Community and district Social welfare Workers, b. program assistants for children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and drug abuse victims, c. communities in disaster-prone locations facilitated by Disaster Preparedness Villages and social conflict prevention training, d. social extension workers in the village 2. development of social entrepreneurship for the poor and vulnerable, 3. business assistance for PKH Beneficiary Families (KPM)
			Lao PDR: a) Expansion of RAI work to the grassroots. b) Establishing a comprehensive system for strengthening farmers (Program mentoring)
			Myanmar: a) Marginalised group-targeted priority measures should involve the elderly. b) Initiate programs that will involve and benefit the elderly
			Philippines: Ensure equitable access to: a) Quality and affordable education and b) Early childhood care

Goal 3. An inclusive community that promotes high quality of life through, equitable access to education, health and basic services, where needs of marginalised group are prioritised, human rights are promoted and protected (women, children, youth and people with disabilities, aborigines/indigenous people, among others)			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
			<p>Thailand:</p> <p>a) Promote and support community-based social protection and social safety net programs that are initiative and managed by local communities in order to enhance the quality of life in all 5 dimensions: health; education; income; social security and livelihood</p> <p>b) Implement Social Protection and Social Safety Nets through Community Based management to develop quality of life in all 5 dimensions (Health/Education/Income/ Social Security/Livelihood)</p>
			<p>Malaysia</p> <p>Ensure that aborigines and indigenous people are well taken care of by the government</p>
		<p>3.1.2 Regional Initiatives to Scale up Growth and Development of MSMEs in the ASEAN Region, including digitalisation and promotion of e-commerce</p>	<p>Cambodia:</p> <p>a. set up community saving groups to receive rural loans and job training for people such a weaving, handicraft, and soap making.</p> <p>b. Organise dissemination workshop on small business initiatives. (MRD)</p>
			<p>Philippines:</p> <p>a) Strengthen information systems and workforce development program</p> <p>b) strengthen participation of MSMEs in consultation</p>

Goal 3. An inclusive community that promotes high quality of life through, equitable access to education, health and basic services, where needs of marginalised group are prioritised, human rights are promoted and protected (women, children, youth and people with disabilities, aborigines/indigenous people, among others)			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
			Malaysia a) Boosting the capabilities of a rural entrepreneur via inclusive training and supporting tools b) Creating a conducive and holistic ecosystem for rural SME entrepreneurs; Strengthening financial and non-financial support system
	3.2. towards enhanced welfare and healthy lifestyle in rural communities Investments on health service facility infrastructure and service development prioritised and upgraded based on lessons from Covid19 pandemic. Community empowerment and sharing knowledge related to prevention of infectious diseases, processing local food ingredients for nutrition fulfillment and simple clean water treatment	3.2.1 Regional Forum on Strengthening of Health Information System and Workforce Development 3.2.2 Promote Investments in Green and Climate Resilient Rural Health Service Facility Infrastructure and Service Development based on lessons from Covid19 pandemic. a. Increase knowledge/role of families, cadres/religious /community leaders, posyandu (Family Planning Service Posts) and other community social organisations to actively participate in infectious disease prevention (case tracking and medication supervision, processing local food ingredients for nutrition and simple clean water treatment thru socialisation activities, triggering local cultural approaches	Cambodia: Promoting and support rural water supply, clean living, and sanitation. (MRD)
			Myanmar: a) Invest in rural health service infrastructure facility and service development prioritised and upgraded based on lesson from Covid-19 pandemic, b) enhance basic health care services for all rural populations particularly vulnerable groups, c)improve systems and capacities to mitigate potential health impacts, public health risks from climate change and d. strengthen systems to establish green and climate resilient health care facilities in health care services.
			Thailand: Allocate long-term budgets to initiate good nutrition and health care: i.e. long-term initiatives on good nutrition, health care and development of infrastructure (Water supply, Electricity, Road, Train/ Network or Internet connection etc.) for rural communities especially vulnerable group
			Indonesia

Goal 3. An inclusive community that promotes high quality of life through, equitable access to education, health and basic services, where needs of marginalised group are prioritised, human rights are promoted and protected (women, children, youth and people with disabilities, aborigines/indigenous people, among others)			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
			HIV AIDS and PIMS Action Plan, Hepatitis Action Plan, PISP Action Plan (Ministry of Health RI)
	3.3. Institutionalised multi-stakeholder rural development mechanisms especially for rural women and youth participation, and other vulnerable sectors	3.3.1 Establish and Strengthen National and Regional Convergence Mechanisms for Rural Development with representation and participation of women, youth and vulnerable sectors	Indonesia 1.development of an integrated service and referral system 2.social welfare center development
		3.3.2 Regional Program on Developing Gender in Agri and Rural Development Experts among AMS, CSOs, and Private sector.	Cambodia: Promote the rural economy in the rural communities in the form of multi-sectoral development such as handicrafts, small and medium enterprises, agriculture, health, environment, training, credit, and other sectors in order to promote sustainable and sustainable rural development. (MRD)
			Viet Nam: Stakeholders need to improve people's knowledge capacity on the application of high and digital technologies by providing training in teaching, training, through various social media.

Goal 4. Enhanced and sustained resilience and capacity to contribute to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, natural disasters and related shocks			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
Developed and sustained regional	4.1. Improved knowledge management system for natural resource management and	4.1.1. Scoping of Existing Platforms on Natural Resource Management and Climate Change to Identify Entry Points for	Viet Nam: a) invest heavily in green growth, applying high technologies to reduce emissions:

Goal 4. Enhanced and sustained resilience and capacity to contribute to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, natural disasters and related shocks			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
capacities (knowledge and skills) of AMS leaders, CSOs, and public institutions to design and manage a well-functioning disaster and weather/ climate resiliency programs that save lives, promote well-being and protect productive sectors (agri, manufacturing and services), where communities are equipped, able to respond to health, climate change and disaster related emergencies as well as in building up resiliency.	climate change adaptation and mitigation in support of rural development and poverty eradication	Integrating Grassroots/Community based Knowledge and Experiences (developing and linking community-based registry with government and private sector initiatives)	1. rice production plays an important role but has a huge amount of emissions -- apply clean, organic, circular and smart agriculture 2. use digital transformation with high-tech machinery/ equipment to reduce gas emissions, gradually shift to green production and green growth as well as sustainable rice production
			Myanmar: Undertake feasible rural development (ASOEN) measures for implementation in cooperation with national actions under Myanmar Climate Change Strategy/Master Plan (2018- 2030).
			Malaysia Supporting mitigation and prevention measures in disasters management
	4.2. Capacity development for research and innovation with	4.1.2. Regional Forum on Consumer Education to enhance appreciation of green products and responsible green consumption; to understand consumer behavior and role in relation to inclusive value chain	Viet Nam: a) Enhance awareness /perception of consumers and society on green consumption (i.e. consumables, food products with more environmental responsibility b. improve position of domestic agriculture so products can increase in price and promote consumption of high-quality agricultural products for domestic and international market (thru green agriculture branding, etc.)
		4.2.1. Develop Regional Partnerships to Strengthen Capacity to Deliver Advisory Services, Research, and Innovation among	Cambodia: Promote agro-ecology to rural community (NGO)

Goal 4. Enhanced and sustained resilience and capacity to contribute to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, natural disasters and related shocks			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
	farmers, extension workers, and the scientific community.	academic, scientific and CSOs and FOs on natural resource management, agro-ecology, disaster risk reduction and climate change; accessible to smallholders, local governments and micro enterprises 4.2.2 Information and Education Campaign and Advocacy on Agroecology towards food and agricultural systems transformation.	Myanmar: a) Developed and sustained regional capacities (knowledge and skills) of AMS Communities' leaders and public institutions to design and manage a well-functioning disaster and climate resiliency programs that save lives, promote well-being and protect productive sectors (agriculture, forestry, industry, manufacturing and services), b) protect productive sectors (agriculture, manufacturing and services), where communities are equipped and able to respond to health, climate change and disaster related emergencies as well as in building up resiliency. communities are equipped with health care and able to respond to health, climate change and disaster related emergencies as well as in building up resiliency
	4.3. Sustainable financing for local social protection mechanisms or systems, building more resilient communities	4.3.1. Building Knowledge towards Upscaling of Sustainable Financing of Local Social Protection Mechanisms/facilities (savings and credit and collective mutual help systems, with public funds or private investments)	<p>Myanmar: Established sustainable financing mechanisms or systems for protecting the local social welfare by building more resilient communities and providing health care to communities.</p> <p>Thailand: Allocate budgets to protect against haze or forest fires (cause of P.M.2.5) including implementing a database of forest areas in communities</p> <p>Indonesia 1.capacity building of communities in disaster-prone locations facilitated by the Disaster Preparedness Village and training on social conflict prevention,</p>

Goal 4. Enhanced and sustained resilience and capacity to contribute to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, natural disasters and related shocks			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
			2.emergency response logistics assistance, social recovery assistance, and psychosocial support services for disaster survivors
			Malaysia Offering financial support for social safety nets
		4.3.2 Promote the ASEAN Guidelines on Disaster Responsive Social Protection to Increase Resilience	Philippines a) Integration of DRRM Action Plan as initiated by the NDRRMC with National Action plan b) Strengthen DRRM mechanisms -local level
		4.3.3. ASEAN Sharing of knowledge, Technology and Experience on Climate Change resilience, adaptation and mitigation for local community, particularly vulnerable groups by means of rural development.”	Myanmar: Sharing at national level knowledge, technology and experience on climate change resilience, adaptation and mitigation for local community, particularly vulnerable groups by means of rural development.”
	4.4. Institutionalise gender-responsive disaster preparedness prog to environment and climate change risks towards resilient communities/households	4.4.1. Documentation of Gender Responsive Strategies to Mainstream DRRM CCA plans/programs at national level.	Cambodia: Organise workshop on management and natural disaster awareness.(MRD)
		4.4.2 Study Creating Fund for Gender-based DRRM Action	Indonesia 1.Providing emergency response logistics assistance for disaster survivors; 2. storage of logistical assistance for disaster response through the Social Barn; 3.implementation of food social assistance for poor and vulnerable families (Ministry of Social Affairs, RI); 4.Maintain supply and price stability so that food is affordable for all people; 5.Equitable Availability of food commodities in all regions including areas vulnerable to food insecurity,

Goal 4. Enhanced and sustained resilience and capacity to contribute to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, natural disasters and related shocks			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
			affected by disasters and 3 T (frontier, remote and underdeveloped); 6.Strengthening government and community food reserves
			Myanmar: Sustain/scale up implementation of regional framework on climate change, disaster management, gender and public health by considering inclusion of local people and marginalised groups
			Thailand: Promoting and cooperating to implement Rural Forest Area Management in order to support preservation, proper utilisation and good management.
			Malaysia Building disaster-resilient rural communities

Goal 5. Venues and platforms in place for the ASEAN community's voices to be heard and they are able to participate, contribute to and partake of benefits of development enabled by coherent policies, functional institutions and good governance (partnerships and collaborations)			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
A well governed people-centered ASEAN region where consultation and participatory	5.1. Good governance, institutionalised mechanisms and processes to strengthen convergence of rural development and poverty eradication initiatives	5.1.1. Popularisation of the ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development , linking with national sectoral development plans, to Raise Awareness and Develop Capacity to implement the MP at regional/national levels	Cambodia: Strengthen institutional capacity and human resource development of rural community on sustainable development.
			Lao PDR:

Goal 5. Venues and platforms in place for the ASEAN community's voices to be heard and they are able to participate, contribute to and partake of benefits of development enabled by coherent policies, functional institutions and good governance (partnerships and collaborations)			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
decision making is a political way of life and where individual rights are protected and exercised and just and humane society prevails.		5.1.2 Annual Regional Forum on ASEAN Rural Development , linking with global, regional, and national networks and experiences on RD.	a) Action Plan be in line with Socio-Economic Development Plan 9 of Lao PDR 2020-2025, along with EU 2021-2025 strategy. b) Capacity building, especially for youth in urban and rural areas; Allocation of production land to specific villagers, guaranteeing land use rights in rural areas; c) Awareness of new techniques/ innovations: Using online media, open and accessible databases d) Dissemination of laws/ regulations, Investment promotion, environmental law, land law, forestry law and other relevant regulations.
			Philippines a) Ensure that IPs are given voice in current/ proposed mechanisms b) security of tenure for farmers, security of workplace for informal sectors c) formulate a program to help informal settlers /urban poor have access to permanent housing sustained livelihood/decent work
			Viet Nam: a) Strengthen communication to members and farmers to participate in restructuring Agriculture sector in economic development; b) promoting application of science and technology in agricultural production towards safety/efficiency and sustainable development; c) coordinating and guiding farmers in building trademarks of agri products, collective marks, traceability and geographical indications for agri products; d) promote the initiative, the accompanying role of farmers in implementation of National Target Program-building new rural areas.

Goal 5. Venues and platforms in place for the ASEAN community's voices to be heard and they are able to participate, contribute to and partake of benefits of development enabled by coherent policies, functional institutions and good governance (partnerships and collaborations)			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
			<p>Malaysia:</p> <p>a. Implementing high integrity and professional leadership programmes.</p> <p>b. Encouraging professionals/ youths/women to partake in rural governance</p> <p>c. Strengthen the bottom-up approach on policy implementation at the local community level</p>
	5.2. Empower rural poor communities to overcome their challenges, where best practices (i.e., Territorial) are promoted such as key principles of being area-based, people-centered, multi-actor, multi-level and cross-sectoral presents and good opportunity in addressing local concerns towards inclusive rural development.	5.2.1 Establish Territorial Rural Development Networks with representation from various rural development sectors (local authorities, rural people's organisations, cooperatives, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, elderly/older persons) 5.2.2 Organise Learning Exchanges (regional/global) on TRD for Leaders from government, rural development/peoples' organisations, and private sector/local enterprises	Cambodia: Establish TRD platform with representation from various rural development sectors (NGO)
			Indonesia 1.development of an integrated service and referral system, 2.social welfare center development
			Lao PDR: Government has DEGREE 348/PM on well-being standard, that focuses on livelihood of household. Good houses, accesses materials to generating income stable, clean water at villagers / Creating a good livelihood for the community to have a continuous sustainable income: marketing knowledge, product development

Goal 5. Venues and platforms in place for the ASEAN community's voices to be heard and they are able to participate, contribute to and partake of benefits of development enabled by coherent policies, functional institutions and good governance (partnerships and collaborations)			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
			<p>Malaysia:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening the role of existing Regional Development Agencies, 2. Incorporating a community-driven strategy to developing sustainable rural area 3. Strengthening rural communities with soft and technical skills; Expanding youth development programmes- emphasis on religion and cultural values 4. Providing dropout students with more options on skills development; 5. Nurturing a sense of belonging attitude toward rural communities' infrastructure; 6. Instilling environmentally friendly understanding in rural communities in support of sustainable biodiversity
			<p>Thailand;</p> <p>Integrate financial processes and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for MSMEs into the law and regulations</p>
			<p>Cambodia:</p> <p>Organise awareness raising on RDPE to rural people's organisation and government officials (NGO)</p>
			<p>Thailand:</p> <p>Promote and support community-based funds, e.g. village funds, community welfare funds, saving and credit institutions, women's empowerment funds, funds for empowerment of persons with disabilities, and funds for empowerment of older persons, as well as development and management of cooperatives</p>

Goal 5. Venues and platforms in place for the ASEAN community's voices to be heard and they are able to participate, contribute to and partake of benefits of development enabled by coherent policies, functional institutions and good governance (partnerships and collaborations)			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
			Implement funding from various sources for the community, e.g., village funding, women funding
			Indonesia 1.capacity building for Community Social Workers, 2.capacity building for District Social Welfare Workers, 3.capacity building for program assistants for children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and victims of drug abuse, 4.capacity building of communities in disaster-prone locations facilitated by Disaster Preparedness Villages and social conflict prevention training, 5.strengthening the capacity of social extension workers in the village
	5.3. Promoting Economic Empowerment of Women through the ASEAN Committee on Women and ASEAN Coordinating Committee on MSMEs (ACCMSME) and the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network (AWEN) with potential support from UN Women and relevant partners	5.3.1 Forge partnerships at ASEAN and across AMS on collaborative activities among Women and Women's groups for women-led rural enterprises.	Cambodia: Organise cross country learning exchange on enterprise development (NGO)

Goal 6. Sustained responsible investment in agriculture and food systems, support services provision, infrastructure, technology and innovation that keeps the region abreast, able to contribute to and partake of global development opportunities and benefits			
Desired Outcome	Strategic Thrusts	Strategic Actions	
		Regional Actions	National Actions
Sustained investment on 1) agriculture and food systems infrastructure; 2) agriculture financing, 3. Research and Innovation, technology adoption, and 4. farmers' integration into sustainable value chains	6.1. Promoting the increase of agriculture investment from public and private sectors, following the AGRAI principles with strong governance accountability measures	6.1.1 Develop Regional Programs Promoting AGRAI at national/local levels, especially focusing on youth and women in agriculture	Philippines: Consider digital acceleration and connectivity, improve connectivity in communities improve digital access and digital literacy
			Viet Nam: a. improve quality of infrastructure to further ensure needs of consumers in developing digital economy, i.e. long-term electricity programs of MARD b). establish a synchronous infrastructure system: connected to internet, bring electricity networks to mountainous areas, etc., all people can benefit and develop synchronously and evenly. Avoid concentration in urban areas.
			Cambodia: Promotion of ASEAN Guidelines on Responsible Agriculture Investment (RAI) (NGO)
			Indonesia 1.Provision of ICT Infrastructure in rural areas in universal telecommunications service areas through the following programs: 2.Provision of internet access for public facilities such as health centers, schools, tourism areas, MSMEs and village government offices. 3.Provision of BTS for 3T (Lagged, Frontier and Outermost) areas.
	6.2. Promote an ASEAN Financing Framework for agriculture and rural development that facilitate access to financing by small	6.2.1 Invest in Strengthening the Organisational and Business Capacities of Smallholder food producers and MSMEs (including agro-enterprises)	

	producers and entrepreneurs	6.2.2 Develop Financial Facilities for Smallholder Producers and Entrepreneurs e.g. loan packages, guarantee system, grants and subsidies, etc.	
	6.3. Strengthen statistics, data collection (intra ASEAN), monitoring and review framework to assess progress and impact of SDGs and poverty eradication-related initiatives in ASEAN, and exploring development of an ASEAN declaration on social work, in consultation with relevant sectoral bodies	6.3.1 Institutionalise MEAL mechanisms for tracking, consolidating, and promoting progresses at all levels	Cambodia: Develop M&E tools for monitoring and planning RD (NGO)
		6.3.2 Develop Capacity for MEAL System Application in relation to the ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development implementation , in particular to support Knowledge Management and Learning across the region.	Indonesia 1.Information dissemination and Digital Human Resources Training in field of Communication and Information for national HR thru the ff programs 2.Digital Talent Scholarship (DTS) for fresh graduates, new graduates of SMK/D1-D4, students, ASN across K/L and MSME entrepreneurs. 3.Digital Literacy for the general public.
		6.4.3. Development of an Integrated Data Base in Aid of RD Assessment and Planning	Philippines: Capacity building in data literacy and management
			Indonesia Strengthening and developing Integrated Social Welfare Data

=

Attachment 2.

A. Making Territorial Development work better

1. The road to achieving a more inclusive and sustainable development for the region will not be easy. Challenges now facing communities are more complex and highly inter-sectoral (economic, ecological and social transformation) processes. There had been a lot challenges and failures in the past and yet recent experiences of AMS can attest that this is achievable. The decision to have a master plan is a step in the right direction.
2. Territorial approaches with the key principles of being place-based, people-centered, multi-actor, multi-level and cross-sectoral presents a good opportunity in addressing local concerns towards inclusive development. This is important as territories are active spaces of complex and diverging interests. This would require broader perspectives, understanding, negotiations and agreements.
3. TRD is gaining acceptance among practitioners and policy makers as it provides a pathway in attaining development goals particularly in eradicating poverty in the rural areas, reducing hunger and malnutrition and instituting responsible governance of natural resources. The TRD approach empowers affected people to participate in program interventions, provides a framework for engagement and gives importance to the physical landscape.

A.1. Community Participation

4. The affected community are involved in the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of project interventions. Their views are aired, heard and respected. In a TRD project conducted in Viet Nam, they are given the opportunity to manage activities. This is notable as their involvement will not only improve efficiency but will ensure sustainability even after the project.
5. It is important to emphasise that many of these projects involve a number of stakeholders including local authorities and government agencies. Thus, a community's participation would require capacity building and some form of organisational formation. These investments, however, will go a long way not only in attaining the targets but in ensuring that these initiatives are sustained.

A.2. Engagement Framework

6. Given the fast-changing socio-economic milieu in rural areas and nearby urban centers, the building of platforms and engagement framework provides an opportunity for various stakeholders to connect and contribute to resolving complex issues. This is a strength of the TRD approach as it is a multi-stakeholder, multi-level and cross-sectoral. It considers the landscape as a spectrum rather than a divide between rural and urban areas.
7. Take for example, a food exporting province where its nearby urban poor areas are languishing in hunger and malnutrition. This predicament was highlighted during the pandemic where travel restrictions resulted in rotten food products in the farmers' fields while urban poor communities had nothing to eat. The establishment of a platform connecting the food producers and urban poor consumers supported by the local government authority could easily address the problem of sustaining the farmers' livelihoods while ensuring food security in the urban areas.

8. Along this objective, FAO proposes that “institutional frameworks and policies that guide development of food systems should mitigate the risks associated with increased market concentration and minimise the adverse impacts on smallholders and the rural poor.” (FAO, SOFA 2017)

A.3. Landscape Resource Governance

9. TRD, in giving due importance to place-based development, highlights the impact of the changing environment on economic and social development in the area and nearby territories. This has become markedly important with the recent reports from the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) where observable evidence such as carbon dioxide concentration, sea level rise and ocean acidification have been unmatched for thousands or even millions of years. IPCC has considered the situation a “Code Red for humanity”¹⁶.
10. Given that most of these poor rural communities are engaged in agriculture that has substantial impact on the environment, adopting TRD approaches can complement on-going initiatives along this direction. ASEAN members, through the ASEAN-CRN, have promoted climate-friendly and resilient practices in agriculture and forestry in the region¹⁷ producing a number of guidelines, frameworks, master plans among others towards climate-smart land use and management.¹⁸
11. TRD initiatives, however, would have to be framed in the broader regional and global agenda. Policy support on decentralisation policies, for example, will not only enhance people’s participation but will have a more substantial impact in deepening democratic processes.

A.4. Taking it up further/ What to Build upon

12. Involvement of affected communities is a key characteristic of territorial approaches in ensuring inclusive development. Their participation from assessment, planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation guarantees that the interventions are relevant and useful. It has been recommended, however, to strengthen their involvement towards ownership of development interventions, whenever appropriate. This would mean not only investing with their time but putting in whatever resources they can share. Ownership by the communities of the territorial development interventions will also bolster sustainability even beyond the project.
13. It is important to note, however, that these initiatives, being collaborative with other stakeholders, be aligned with existing policies to be accepted and valued by everyone. And this presents some hurdles for policy makers as they will have to balance growth, inclusiveness and sustainability across different sectors and territories. There will be dialogues, negotiations and compromises among the different stakeholders including government and non-government groups at various levels.
14. Moreover, while key principles, characteristics and good practices are available, the context and dynamics of territories differ. Establishing baseline data, monitoring and regular assessments are imperative. It is also desirable to have a data driven monitoring. Geo-spatial

¹⁶ Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change.

¹⁷ The concept of climate-smart agriculture was first introduced by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in 2009 as an approach to ‘guide the management of agriculture in an era of climate change’ (Lipper and Zilberman, 2018, p. 13).

¹⁸ Anschell, N and Salamanca, A (2020) ASEAN Guidance for Climate-Smart Land Use Practices: A Review. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Jakarta.

mapping of land boundaries, for example, have been shown to be effective in avoiding disagreements and resolving conflicts among community members.

Attachment 3.

B. GENDER Mainstreaming

1. The ASEAN Guidelines on Responsible Agriculture Investment suggest a number of actions to foster gender equality in practice. ASEAN Member States should be encouraged to mainstream gender perspectives into their national policies, action plans and other measures on sustainable development and climate change, through carrying out systematic gender analysis, collecting and utilising sex- disaggregated data, establishing gender-sensitive indicators and benchmarks and developing practical tools to support increased attention to gender perspectives. Consultation with and participation of women in climate change initiatives should be considered and the role of women's groups and networks strengthened.
2. At the regional level, many structures in each of the ASEAN pillars have been established over the past years. Within the ASCC, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW) and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMWSO) supported by the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) are the regional mechanisms for gender mainstreaming. The key challenge is to ensure convergence, synergy and synchronicity among these institutions. Relative to Rural Development and Poverty Eradication, the relevant institutions are the SOM-AMAF, SOMRDPE, etc.

B.1. Institutions

3. The SOMRDPE can convene a consultative dialogue with rural women's organisations in order to create a civil society constituency that would systematically articulate the concerns of rural women at the regional level. For example, there are networks within the umbrella of AsiaDHRRA, Grow Asia and the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA). This should pave the way for a multi-stakeholder mechanism for increasing the ASEAN Women's voice in RDPE. Such a rural women's group could be linked to the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) and the ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organisation (ACWO).
4. Consider supporting the representation of women, including rural women in the ASEAN Coordinating Council such as the ASEAN Coordinating Council for MSMEs.¹⁹

B.2. Mechanisms

5. Organise regional exchange of experiences and lessons learnt by awarding opportunities to women to take part in relevant regional and international forum on food, agriculture and forestry and participation of gender experts in the same.
6. Conduct studies and research to understand men's and women's roles and responsibilities in agricultural value chains of various crops where women have high participation levels.
7. Address the capacity building needs of women in the agriculture value chains and strengthen rural women's capacity to build better their micro-business and agri-businesses.
8. Strengthen and build the capacity of policy makers, field workers and farmers on appropriate approaches to integrating gender in agriculture and climate change.

¹⁹ The OXFAM-PhilWEN Policy Brief advocates this. 2021) <https://asean.org/our-communities/asean-socio-cultural-community/>

B.3. Policies

B.3.1. Recognise and acknowledge women's contributions and harness women in RDPE

9. Recognise the central role of the FAF sector in promoting inclusive business models to help ensure access to employment and entrepreneurship.
10. Acknowledge the enormous contribution of women to the FAF sector, as well as the critical importance of the FAF sector in ASEAN effectively harnessing the youth, and attracting more young people into an increasingly ageing sector.
11. Integrating gender issues and women's empowerment into sustainable agriculture, fishery and forestry practices, to address women's, indigenous peoples' and other groups' increased vulnerability to the socio-economic impacts of natural disasters and climate change, in alignment with the *ASEAN*.

B.3.2. Enhance ASEAN women's participation in RDPE

12. Ensuring women's, young people's, indigenous peoples' and other marginalised people's meaningful participation in decision-making, leadership roles, and partnerships by encouraging more rural women-owned enterprises to join trade or agri-industry associations. Consult and include rural women's groups, small land farmers, and marginalised group in defining socio-economic development problems and solutions.
13. Strengthen and support ASEAN women's organisations at the regional and national levels to enable them to represent rural women's and poor women's voices in RDPE policy making bodies.

B.3.3. Facilitate rural women's recovery from the pandemic in the immediate term and strengthen agribusiness, MSMEs and women's participation in agriculture value chains.

14. Assist women in gaining access to social protection schemes such as public works programs, and cash transfers to help them build back their livelihood and employment. Design equitable benefit-sharing mechanism. This can be done in collaboration with women's organisations that can be part of lobbying and advocacy for the development and implementation of gender responsive mechanisms.
15. Develop women's business continuity planning capacities in light of the pandemic and climate-related disasters.
16. Increase women's, young people's, indigenous peoples' and other marginalised people's equitable access to opportunities and resources i.e. land, natural resources, inputs, services (extension, advisory, and financial), education, training, markets, and information, and strengthening women's land rights.
17. Provide opportunities for women to gain access to inputs and market information and assist women's group to purchase equipment to expand processing.
18. Assist women to overcome mobility constraints and social barriers, especially those that obstruct their livelihood, employment and economic productivity.

19. Address safer working environment/work space for women's wellbeing, and protect rural women from gender-based violence i.e. rape and sexual harassment.

B.4. Promote an enabling Environment for Women in RDPE

20. Support Women Farmers' Organisations for Resilience building in the context of agriculture and rural development. Women's organisations can aid in participation in agri-value chains and in finding markets for the agri-products of rural women.
21. Advocate for gender equality in food, agriculture and forestry policies, programs, systems and structures at the regional and national levels; and
22. Promote gender-equitable research supporting climate-smart agricultural technologies and provide opportunities for women to learn agri-based technologies to enhance their productivity.

B.5. Regional Collaboration

23. Intensify relevant collaboration and information sharing with regional and national bodies, organisations and development partners working in the area of gender and agriculture and rural development.
24. Foster technology transfer to women to aid in their agribusiness, MSME growth and development. Encourage and enable women to learn digital technologies that can be used in growing their micro-enterprises.
25. Promote conservation agriculture, climate smart agriculture and sustainable agriculture) related activities that integrate male and female smallholder farmers designed to address gender disparities.

References

Anschell, N and Salamanca, A (2020) ASEAN Guidance for Climate-Smart Land Use Practices: A Review. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Jakarta.

ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators Baseline Report 2020 Jakarta, ASEAN Secretariat, November 2020.

Bas Arts, Marleen Buizer, Lumina Horlings, Verina Ingram, Cora van Oosten, and Paul Opdam. Landscape Approaches: A State-of-the-Art Review. Wageningen University and Research, 6708 PB Wageningen, the Netherlands.

Center for Strategic and international Studies.2020. 20Covid-19's Gender Problem in Informal Southeast Asia. <https://www.csis.org/blogs/new-perspectives-asia/covid-19s-gender-problem-informal-southeast-asia>

Charlotte Navarro and Marc Mees with the support of Claire Stoeckel, Dominique Morel and Laurent Biot. Territorial development from theory to practice in an issue of Farming Dynamics. SOS Faim Belgium. November, 2018.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The State of Food and Agriculture: Leveraging Food Systems for Inclusive Rural Transformation. 2017.

Hoyle, A.L.2016. Making Youths the Engine for Rural Diversification and Structural Transformation Promoting Youth Employment in fighting Rural Poverty. International Labor Organization

Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), Royal Government of Cambodia. 2019-2023 MRD Policy-Strategy-Action Plan. Phnom Penh in May/June 2018.

NA Chairman signs Resolution on 2021-2025 poverty reduction. Vietnam. 02 November, 2021. <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/na-chairman-signs-resolution-on-20212025-poverty-reduction/206177.vnp>

Nguyen Thi Thu Thuy – László Vasa. A New Approach in Rural Development in Vietnam: Evaluation of the National Target Programme for Building New Rural Areas, 2011–2015. Journal of Economic Literature. Polgári Szemle, 16. évf. 4–6. szám, 2020, 366–378., DOI: 10.24307/psz.2020.1029

Salim, A.; Bulan, W.R.; Untung, B.; Laksono, I. and Brock, K. (2017) Indonesia's Village Law: enabler or constraint for more accountable governance? Making All Voices Count Research Report, Brighton: IDS

SIAD Framework - Putting the Framework into Operations: A Guidebook. Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHRRA).March 2008

Thomas Forster, Angela Penagos, Sara Scherr, Louise Buck, Eduardo Ramirez. Territorial Approaches for Sustainable Development: Stocktaking on Territorial Approaches – Experiences

and Lessons. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Sector Project Sustainable Rural Areas, Bonn, 2021.

The 10 elements of agroecology, Guiding the transition to sustainable food and agricultural systems, 2018, Rome, Italy. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/I9037EN/>

UNDESA, COVID-19 and Indigenous peoples,
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/covid-19.html>

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Statistics Korea (KOSTAT), 2017, p. 45. Perspectives on Population Ageing in the Asia Pacific Region

Annex 1.

Scoping on Territorial Development Approach for the ASEAN Rural Development Master Plan (commissioned study by AsiaDHRRA with support from the Asia Foundation-Rockefeller Foundation and GIZ)

Rational and Alignment with ASEAN Policies

The goal of attaining rural development and poverty eradication in the ASEAN, while substantial progress has been achieved in the recent past, has remained elusive. This challenge is reflective of the global situation where millions of people are still languishing in poverty, many of whom reside in rural areas. Sustainable and inclusive development has thus become a major calling regionally and globally.

In Cambodia, for example, achievements in reducing poverty have been exemplar. It achieved the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halving poverty in 2009 and poverty continued to decline from 47.8 per cent in 2007 to 13.5 per cent in 2014. Unfortunately, about 90 per cent of the poor live in the countryside²⁰. In Viet Nam, poverty dropped from 58 percent in the early 1990s to an estimated rate of 14 percent by 2008 (GSO-World Bank estimates). Poverty in rural areas declined from 27 percent in 2010 to 18.6 percent in 2014, but it is still nearly five times higher than in urban areas (3.8 percent). The situation is analogous to other AMS where poverty has primarily become a rural phenomenon.

This is further complicated with the current social and economic transformations where challenges have become more complex and the processes highly inter-sectoral crisscrossing economic, political, ecological and socio-cultural sectors. Rural communities are similarly undergoing rapid and often unplanned transitions. Addressing these concerns is at the core of ASEAN AMAF's vision of "a competitive, inclusive, resilient and sustainable Food, Agriculture, and Forestry (FAF) sector".

In addressing cross sectoral processes and external influences, innovative approaches have been explored towards promoting sustainable and equitable development. These approaches will also have to take into account the sustainable use and management of natural resources and its impact on climate change that have hit hard on the livelihood of marginal rural communities. Given these considerations, territorial approach to rural development is recommended.

Definition, Key Principles and Characteristics

Territorial development is "the transformation process of a given rural area in order to improve the life condition of its population. The reduction of rural poverty is a crucial objective. Territorial development is set up around two main axes: on the one hand, it fosters productive transformation, and, on the other hand, it propels institutional change"²¹. The territory can be taken as a space where multi-stakeholders interact to pursue common development interest and

²⁰ Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), Royal Government of Cambodia. 2019-2023 MRD Policy-Strategy-Action Plan. Phnom Penh in May/June 2018.

²¹ Charlotte Navarro and Marc Mees. Territorial development from theory to practice in an issue of Farming Dynamics. SOS Faim Belgium. November, 2018.

implement interventions in a scale where they are able to coordinate and connect at different levels of governance mechanisms.

In 2019, an expert team from various organizations conducted a stocktaking exercise covering 14 case studies and one country study of existing territorial-level projects.²² They produced a White Paper elucidating that territorial approaches emphasize the participation of local actors, including the most marginalized groups, in identifying challenges, priorities and interventions, and managing solutions. It encourages collaboration of the various stakeholders by building new platforms or strengthening existing institutions for dialogue, negotiation and joint actions at different levels (local, provincial, national, regional). They are also open to various sectors and actors including public, private and civil society organizations. The key principles underlying territorial approaches are that they are place-based, people-centered, multi-actor, multi-level and cross-sectoral.²³

Some key characteristics of territorial approaches that can be derived based on these principles and descriptions are that these approaches are:

- Participatory and Inclusive
- Multi-stakeholders are involved
- Area-based or place-based development
- Adapted to local socio-economic conditions and ecological resources
- Provide a platform for collaborative operations
- Continuous and long-term engagement of partners

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in its 2017 State of Food and Agriculture Report, likewise recommended to address rapid rural transformations from a food system and territorial perspective. FAO called it "agroterritorial development". It emphasized the importance of the territorial dimension given that "rural transformations are often the result of a confluence of events in the food system that are location-specific".²⁴

Entry Points, Processes and Operationalization

In the operationalization of territorial approaches, some considerations would include entry points, implementation processes and monitoring and assessments. These processes would have to be contextualized but opportunistically, a number of learnings from past experiences can provide guidance.

Entry Points. Entry points are issues that have been recognized to have substantial impact on the people in a given territory. These local issues are normally linked to broader issues or would have amplified impact. On the other hand, these can also be can policy issues or national programs

²²This team (consisting of CIRAD, EU, AFD, OECD, FAO, UNCDF, NEPAD and BMZ/GIZ), along with four additional partners (ICLEI, UN-Habitat, Rimisp and EcoAgriculture Partners) conducted the stocktaking supported by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and GIZ's "Sustainable Rural Areas" project.

²³ Thomas Forster, Angela Penagos, Sara Scherr, Louise Buck, Eduardo Ramirez. Territorial Approaches for Sustainable Development: Stocktaking on Territorial Approaches – Experiences and Lessons. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Sector Project Sustainable Rural Areas, Bonn, 2021.

²⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The State of Food and Agriculture: Leveraging Food Systems for Inclusive Rural Transformation. 2017.

that would have significant implications on the communities. These could be concerns related to the economy, political, resource management or socio-cultural dynamics in the area.

Based on experiences, territorial approaches are most effective when thematic or institutional entry points have undergone participatory assessments and collectively adopted by the stakeholders. Given multi-sectoral coordination, it facilitates links and partnerships at various levels.

Collaboration of Stakeholders. A key principle in implementing territorial approaches is to find commonalities and consensus on positive collaboration starting from assessment and priority setting, planning, implementation to monitoring and evaluation.

Participatory planning and implementation may initially take more time but will greatly ensure sustainability which is important as interventions in reducing poverty would require long-term commitment and a continuous engagement of stakeholders.

Some key players that have played crucial roles and are systematically involved in implementing territorial approaches include local authorities (whether at regional, departmental or municipal level depending on the scope of action), cooperatives, community groups and non-government organizations (NGOs). In a number of analyzed cases, a support organization such as an NGO, plays a key facilitation role.

Operationalizing Territorial Processes. As assessed and summarized in the stocktaking of experts, they recommended the following steps in implementing programs using the territorial approaches:

- Establish or strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms
- Choose the right institutional conveners
- Provide ongoing support for territorial processes
- Conduct multi-stakeholder territorial assessments and planning
- Plan timing and phasing for capacity building
- Institute institutional and fiscal mechanisms
- Use coordination processes to generate synergies

These organizational and management processes would have to be adopted to the context of a specific territory. Thus, monitoring and assessments would have to be regularly conducted. Evidence-based and data supported analysis is deemed crucial in the process. Science will play an important role and the academe may be tapped as partners.

Insights Gained

Territorial approaches with the key principles of being place-based, people-centered, multi-actor, multi-level and cross-sectoral presents a good opportunity in addressing local concerns towards inclusive development. This is important as territories are active spaces of complex and diverging interests. This would require broader perspectives, understanding, negotiations and agreements.

TRD is gaining acceptance among practitioners and policy makers as it provides a pathway in attaining development goals particularly in eradicating poverty in the rural areas, reducing hunger

and malnutrition and instituting responsible governance of natural resources. The TRD approach empowers affected people to participate in program interventions, provides a framework for engagement and gives importance to the physical landscape.

Taking it up Further

Involvement of affected communities is a key characteristic of territorial approaches in ensuring inclusive development. Their participation from assessment, planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation guarantees that the interventions are relevant and useful. Ownership by the communities of the territorial development interventions will also bolster sustainability even beyond the project.

It is important to note, however, that these initiatives, being collaborative with other stakeholders, be aligned with existing policies to be accepted and valued by everyone. And this may present some hurdles for policy makers as they will have to balance growth, inclusiveness and sustainability across different sectors and territories. There will be dialogues, negotiations and compromises among the different stakeholders including government and non-government organizations.

Moreover, while key principles, characteristics and good practices are available, the context and dynamics of territories differ. Establishing baseline data, building local capacities, monitoring and regular assessments are imperative.

Annex 2.

Mainstreaming Women and Gender Equality in Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (commissioned study by AsiaDHRRRA with support from the FAO, 2021)

Mainstreaming women and promoting gender equality in rural development is an ongoing concern in the ASEAN region in order to attain an “**inclusive community** that promotes high quality of life, equitable access to opportunities for all, and promotes and protects human rights; a sustainable community that promotes social development and environmental protection; a resilient community with enhanced capacity and capability to adapt and respond to social and economic vulnerabilities, disasters, climate change, and other new challenges, and A committed, participative, and socially responsible community for the benefit of ASEAN people and a dynamic and harmonious community that is aware and proud of its identity, culture and heritage” as articulated in the vision of the Socio-cultural Community.

In 2018-2019, the three ASEAN Pillars defined concrete actions to mainstream gender within and between communities in their respective Gender Mainstreaming Conferences spearheaded by ASCC and hosted by the Philippines. An important policy development in 2018 is the adoption of a code of conduct, the Responsible Agriculture Investment (RAI), that specifies gender equality as a principle to be applied in the agriculture and rural development. The thrust of ASEAN actions is to 1) increase women’s participation in rural development; 2) enhancing women’s access to resources and social benefits and 3) creating and/or consolidating the women’s voice and agency in national platforms and policy making bodies.

Studies have documented the various challenges of rural women such as their lack of knowledge and training opportunities, their unequal access to resources for their farming and economic activities, including land rights and ownership, unfamiliarity with emerging technologies to upgrade their small farm and business productivity, lack of connection to product markets as well as to suppliers and buyers in the value chain where their agri-products belong and gender-based violence which is reported to have increased during the pandemic.

I. Increasing Women’s Participation in Rural Development

About 107 million women in rural areas of ASEAN Member States and many of them are young, age 15-64, and of working age. Agriculture employs 26.7 per cent of working age women in the ASEAN.²⁵

Women’s participation and their potential contribution must be recognized and acknowledged in development processes in times of peace and conflict. Women have a role in political, security and justice and peace processes; they can be peace agents as negotiators, mediators and first responders and women can play a role in preventing conflict because gender inequality is a cause of conflict and contributes to the risk of violent extremism.

²⁵ <https://www.oecd.org/southeast-asia/regional-programme/networks/OECD-strengthening-women-entrepreneurship-in-agriculture-in-asean-countries.pdf>. 2021: p. 9.

The pandemic and the new normal has decimated most ASEAN economies and the recovery processes necessitate that women - being half of the human resources in the AMS - be mobilized and harnessed to accelerate rural transformation and to cope with the new normal challenges. Specific areas of concern where increased women's participation will be particularly important are:

- Engaging Women in Climate Change Impact Mitigation and Disaster Management. Rural women have indigenous local knowledge and wisdom about the environment that can be harnessed in managing environmental challenges. Evidences show that women can effectively help in recovery from pandemics and disasters.
- Dissemination of Technology for Fostering Food Security and Agriculture Productivity of smallholder farmers, including women and youth. "Modern farming technology is used to improve the wide types of production practices employed by farmers. It makes use of hybrid seeds of selected variety of a single crop, technologically advanced equipment and lots of energy subsidies in the form of irrigation water, fertilizers and pesticides."²⁶ To increase agricultural productivity, smallholder farmers, among them are women and youth, access to modern farming technology must be facilitated. There are seventy millions of smallholder farmers in Southeast Asia, including women who must be empowered to acquire relevant and appropriate farming technologies.
- Promoting Women's Participation in Agricultural Value Chains (GVC) and Agri-based Enterprises. Many rural women are likely to be unpaid family workers in their farms and households or self-employed²⁷ as owner/operators of their micro and small agri-enterprises. MSMEs face difficulties in accessing domestic and global markets. It is a challenge for smallholder farmers, including women, especially with mobility restrictions due to the pandemic. This requires improvements in making women obtain technical knowledge and information as well improvements in the transport and logistical infrastructure of AMS.
- Building Capacity in the use of Digital Technology for Agribusiness. "Digital agriculture is the use of new and advanced technologies, integrated into one system, to enable farmers and other stakeholders within the agriculture value chain to improve food production. ... The resulting combined data is analysed and interpreted so the farmer can make more informed and appropriate decisions." Women must learn to use digital technology if their small agribusiness is to compete in domestic and global markets.

II. Enhancing Women's Access to Social Protection, Resources and Social Benefits

Access to and control of socio-economic resources and benefits is a challenge for ASEAN women due to their unpaid care work and household burden, travel and financial difficulties, land ownership, lack of information about emerging agri-related technologies, opportunities for training, livelihood, business and markets, lack of digital technology skills and vulnerability to domestic and sexual violence. The pandemic has compounded these challenges.

²⁶ <https://www.longdom.org/scholarly/modern-farming-technology-journals-articles-ppts-list-1826.html>

²⁷ <https://www.oecd.org/southeast-asia/regional-programme/networks/OECD-strengthening-women-entrepreneurship-in-agriculture-in-asean-countries.pdf>

- Women's access to social protection schemes such as insurance, cash transfers as well as protection from gender-based violence has been a concern even before the pandemic but more so during the pandemic itself. Rural women are mostly in agriculture and they are highly vulnerable to the risks of climate change-induced and natural disasters, including pandemics. There should be mechanisms for transitioning into alternative and productive livelihoods. Also, "crop insurance schemes exist in over three-fourths of the countries in developing Asia but are fully operational nationally in only four: India, the Philippines, the PRC, and Sri Lanka. Insurance programs use spatial information systems to speed crop damage assessments and expedite claim settlement. Enhanced spatial information systems can expand coverage of insurance programs."²⁸
- Facilitating Access to Land for Agriculture and Rural Development. Rural women's limited land ownership²⁹ in ASEAN hampers women's control over the use of land as an economic resource. Land can be leveraged to gain access to finance that could be harnessed for farming and agri-business. But national laws and policies may not make this easy. AMS vary in their laws on land ownership but there is evidence that women's land ownership tend to be nominal. Land titles may be in their name but their spouses retain control over such property.
- Skills Training of Women Farmers and Entrepreneurs in Agri-business. Women need a variety of skills such as technical skills for processing their agri-productions, application and use of technology-based skills, as well as management of small business under the new normal including digital skills for e-marketing. To be competitive in the market, women must learn to be agile and flexible in order to match the demands of the market.
- Promote Linkages and Networking in Value Chains and Markets for Agri-Products. Many AMS are part of the global economy and women, as farmers and small entrepreneurs need to link to domestic and global markets. They need to have information about global and domestic demand for their agri-products as well as practical know how in reaching such markets. For this purpose, women must develop linkages and network with the buyers and suppliers in the value chains of the industry.
- Access to technology and information to modernize farming systems and increase productivity in the rural sector (refer to section I above)

III. Creating and/or Consolidating the Rural Women's Voice and Agency in National Platforms and Policy making Bodies

Women's voices and representation/agency are essential in raising their concerns, needs and interests such as for example their need for transportation for moving their agri-products to the markets, their need for cash transfers and public works programs to enable them to re-build and reboot their lives and economic activities after the pandemic, their health, water, sanitation, safety and security needs or their need for housing and human resettlement to recover from civil strife.

The collective voice of women is vital in bringing their concerns to the attention of government authorities and to influence social policy and the duty bearers' decision making. Therefore, it is necessary for women to organize themselves so that they can bring their issues in the appropriate national platforms and policy-making bodies. This is a strategic approach that could generate public support. This will help drum up **support for Women Farmers' Organizations** to foster

²⁸ OECD.

²⁹ <http://www.angoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Women-issue-brief1.pdf>

resilience building in the context of agriculture and rural development in order to rebound from the pandemic and adjust to the New Normal, managing the impacts of disaster and recover from war and civil strife. (OECD, 2021: pp. 30-33)