



# FACT SHEET

Overview of ASEAN Guidance Documents  
for Climate-Smart Land Use



The members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have committed to addressing the challenges of food security and climate change in the agriculture and forestry sectors. For this purpose, ASEAN has produced a number of policy documents, including guidelines, frameworks, recommendations, studies, books and many others. These are useful policy tools that help guide policy-makers and practitioners in the region working in particular areas and at the same time showcase ASEAN priorities and experiences.

The ASEAN guidelines and similar documents were produced as part of regional activities and policy processes and are designed to influence regional and national activities reflected on the Vision and Strategic Plan of regional cooperation and other frameworks.

The large number of guidance documents produced in the region highlights that the policy tools play a prominent role in ASEAN processes. As one of 13 bodies in the economic pillar of ASEAN, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) alone currently offers 21 guidelines on a variety of topics, including organic certification, soil nutrient management and animal vaccines, sustainable forest management, to name but a few.

A number of these guidelines and recommendations specifically contribute to advancing the ASEAN agenda at the intersection between agriculture and forestry, climate change and food security. Together, they shed light on different aspects that ASEAN Member States might want to consider when developing and implementing climate-smart policies and programmes in the food, agriculture and forestry sector (FAF).

This factsheet provides an introduction to these ASEAN guidelines and recommendations in order to increase awareness about their content and to promote their application in the ASEAN context.

## Behind the Scenes of the ASEAN Guidelines Process

Regional guidelines and similar policy documents draw on various sources. They are developed as part of the ASEAN work plans, as a tool to support implementation of ASEAN's sectoral frameworks, at the request of the ASEAN Member States in response to issues that would benefit from regional support or to create a reference for policymakers and practitioners within the region.

The ASEAN Secretariat promotes and facilitates the development of guidelines, often with the support of a development agency or consultant. The experts overseeing the development of guidelines consult with ASEAN member states through written inputs and in-person workshops, referring to existing guidelines and to ASEAN priorities and frameworks. The ASEAN Member States then provide feedback and approve the guidelines before they are finalised at the working group level, endorsed by Senior Officials (ASOF/SOM-AMAF) and submitted to AMAF for adoption.

### How To Use ASEAN Guidelines

The ASEAN guidelines are not legally binding documents. Implementation of the guidelines is based on country priorities and on whether national users will see them as useful tools to support country policy processes.

The Guidelines can be helpful:

- To understand regional challenges and ASEAN Member States' priorities;
- To find out about relevant principles, technologies and management practices;
- To learn from experience gained during application of these approaches in the ASEAN context;
- To receive guidance on the aspects to consider when developing regional, national or local strategies, policies or action plans;
- To exchange ideas and experience with other experts and policy-makers working in a related area.

## Key Guidelines for Addressing Climate Change and Food Security in Agriculture and Forestry: An Overview

1. ASEAN Regional Guidelines for Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Practices, Vol. I and II, 2015 and 2017
2. 10 Phases in Developing a National Crop Insurance Program: Guide Overview, 2017
3. ASEAN Guidelines for Agroforestry Development, 2018
4. ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry, 2018
5. ASEAN Public-Private Partnership Regional Framework for Technology Development in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry (FAF) Sector, 2017
6. AMAF's Approach to Gender Mainstreaming in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors, 2018

### The ASEAN Regional Guidelines for Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Practices, Volumes I and II

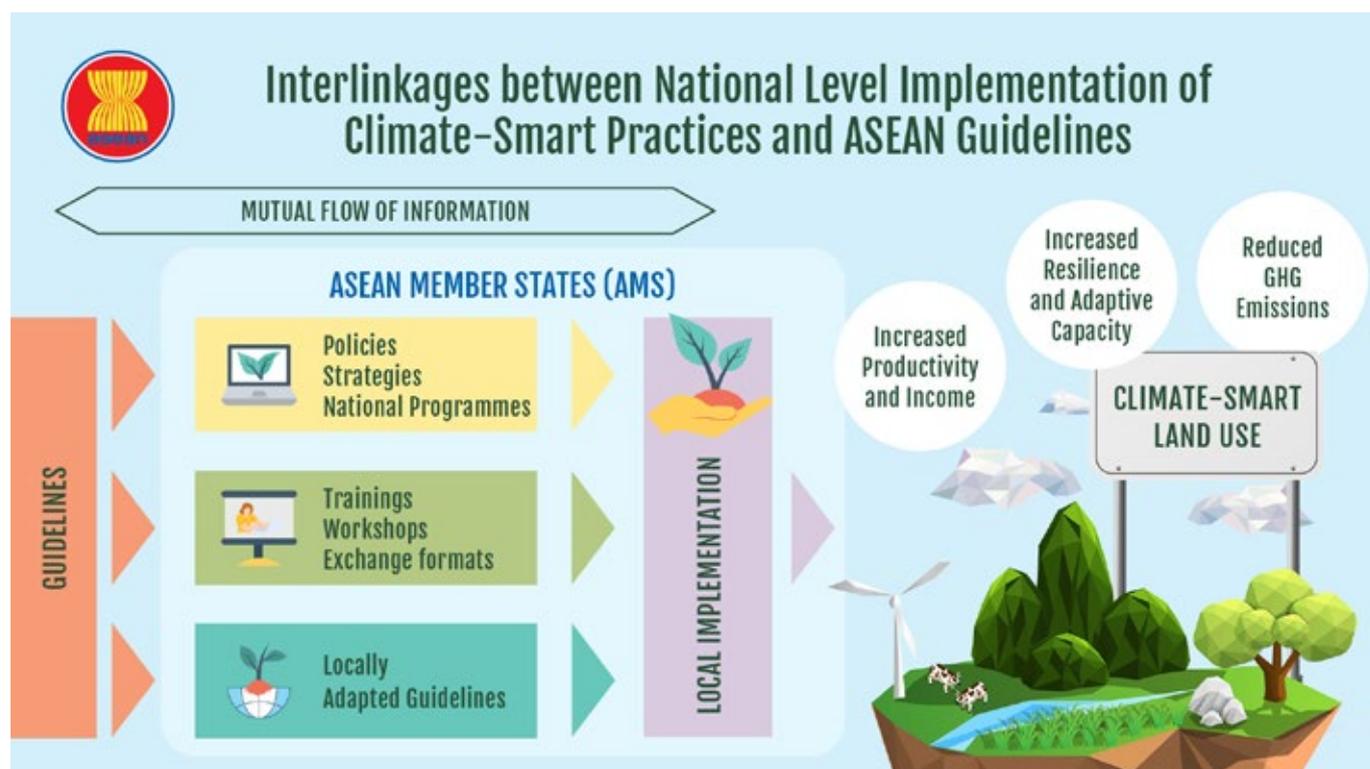
Volume I of the CSA guidelines (2015) addresses the threat that climate change poses to the region's

agricultural production, food security, ecological stability and sustainable development. In addition, CSA practices often integrate indigenous practices, crop management and knowledge-based options to enhance climate resilience (ASEAN, 2015). Five good practices were outlined in the guidelines: stress-tolerant rice varieties; stress-tolerant maize varieties; agri-insurance using weather indices; alternate wetting and drying; and a cropping calendar for rice and maize. The detailed descriptions of different CSA methods enable formal knowledge to be shared that can be expanded as ASEAN member states continue to implement the practices.

Volume II of the CSA guidelines (2017) was released as a follow-up to the first, outlining four additional CSA practices: integrated farming systems; rice shrimp farming; agricultural insurance; and climate information services for agro-advisories. These practices highlight ongoing or completed projects on climate resilience in FAF sectors in ASEAN.

### 10 Phases in Developing a National Crop Insurance Program: Guide Overview (2017)

The guide complements the agricultural insurance chapters in Volumes I and II of the CSA guidelines. It was developed based on the ASEAN-CRN knowledge exchange event on the issue. This is a step-by-step guide for ASEAN member states to implement or improve existing national programmes.



The ten phases include stakeholder assessment of the need for an agricultural insurance scheme; a feasibility study and risk assessment; a regulatory framework; national policy creation; product development, distribution and pricing; division of stakeholder responsibilities; field implementation and training; piloting; process and product revision; and full programme launch. The stakeholder assessment is explained in detail in the second half of the report. Insurance programmes can offer farmers a safety net to protect them against climate-related hazards by transferring some of the production risks to the insurance sector with the aim of reducing negative coping strategies.

### **ASEAN Guidelines for Agroforestry Development (2018)**

The guidelines are designed to be applicable to all types of land or ecosystems targeted for agroforestry interventions within ASEAN member states. The Guidelines aim to promote agroforestry practices in achieving multi-purpose outcomes (social, economic and environment at landscape level and to guide the formulation of agroforestry policies, programmes, projects and investments between and within ASEAN member states. The guidelines elaborate 14 principles and key guidelines for each principle that serve as a check list for developing agroforestry programmes. The principles are divided up into institutional, economic, socio-cultural, technical design, and communication and scaling principles, including effective scaling up and sustainability.

### **ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2018)**

The purpose of the Guidelines is to promote investment in food, agriculture and forestry in the ASEAN region that contributes to regional economic development, food and nutrition security, food safety and equitable benefits, as well as the sustainable use of natural resources.

This document consists of ten guidelines that address several challenges, including food security, land rights, jobs and livelihoods, climate change and the environment, technical and institutional capacity, and project failure and investor-state contracts. Guideline 7, which aims to contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation, directly mentions the importance of 'developing, testing and scaling up climate adaptation measures and effective, efficient and affordable

strategies for climate resilience' to complement the CSA guidelines (ATWGARD, 2018a, p. 21).

### **AMAF's Approach to Gender Mainstreaming in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors (2018)**

Gender equality is recognised as being an essential precondition for sustainable development, as expressed in the ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals (2017). The guideline begins by outlining a) gender equality in ASEAN and b) women in the food, agriculture and forestry sector in ASEAN. The document is a reference guide for ASEAN member states in their efforts to promote gender equality. This approach aims to raise awareness of the importance of gender policies, enhance the sharing of best practices and provide a forum for regional collaboration. One of the document's objectives is to 'promote gender-equitable research supporting climate-smart agricultural technologies' (ATWGARD, 2018b, p. 7). This is further elaborated throughout the guide alongside calls to train both men and women in CSA technologies.

More broadly, the guidelines provide important insight into how gender can be mainstreamed in the implementation of any CSA approach by describing potential limitations and considerations for successful application.

### **ASEAN Public-Private Partnership Regional Framework for Technology Development in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry (FAF) Sector (2017)**

The guideline highlights the importance of private sector investment to achieve innovation and technology development in order to increase productivity and reduce harvest losses. This framework underlines CSA practices as a core component for sustaining productivity increases and reducing the risk of pre-harvest and post-harvest losses through innovative 'green' technologies and sustainable resource management systems. Its overall objective is to 'increase collaborative investments in sustainable technology development, adoption and dissemination throughout whole value chain in the FAF sector in ASEAN' (ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Food, 2017, p. 5). Public-private partnerships are important for implementing commitments made under the Paris Agreement and CSA practices. Climate resilience and the promotion of CSA are considered when selecting public-private partnership projects.

## Insight: The ASEAN-CRN as a Driver of Regional Policy outputs

The ASEAN Technical Working Group on Agricultural Research and Development (ATWGARD), led by Thailand, initiated a project on the Promotion of Climate Resilience in Rice and Other Crops in 2014.

With support from German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) ASEAN-German Programme on Response to Climate Change, this initiative resulted in the publication of the Promotion of Climate Resilience for Food Security in ASEAN Rice, Maize and Cassava in 2015, which collected best practices that promote resiliency in rice, maize and cassava.

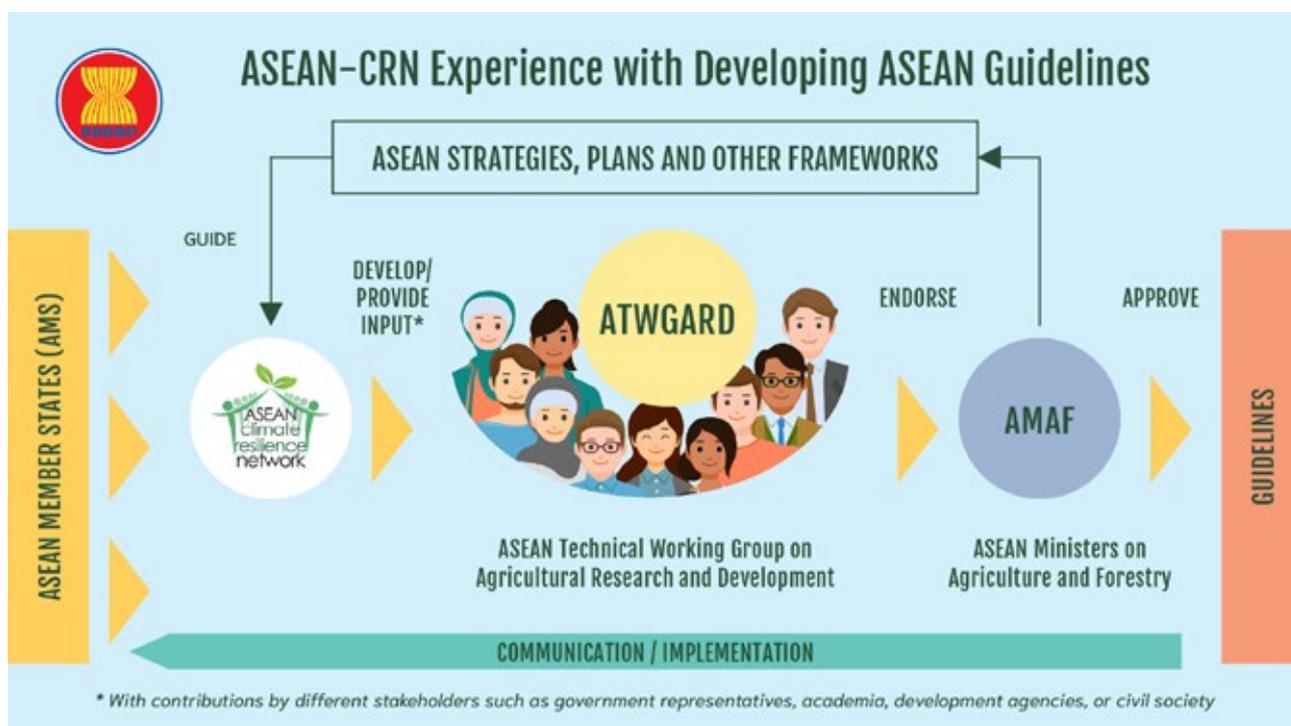
This compilation, which was a product of almost two years of national and regional consultations, led to the formation of the ASEAN Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN), initially formed by representative government organizations which comprise focal points of the ATWGARD.

ASEAN-CRN became a platform for regional

of information, experience and expertise on climate-smart land use. The network facilitates the translation of science into policies to promote resilient agriculture and explore its mitigation potential, through resource matchmaking with various stakeholders.

The ASEAN-CRN, using the above initial body of work as a basis and the ensuing knowledge exchange events on the identified practices, has contributed to producing several guidelines in the FAF sectors with the help of development partners, endorsed by the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF). Further, ASEAN-CRN supports implementation of the guidelines to enhance climate resilience, promote climate protection and improve agricultural productivity in ASEAN.\*\*

*\*\*Not all of the guidelines introduced in this factsheet have been developed with the help of ASEAN-CRN, but the network considers itself as a knowledge management and exchange platform which promotes regional cooperation on agriculture and food security under climate change in general.*



All the guidelines mentioned here are available for download on the ASEAN Secretariat website (<http://www.asean.org>) and the ASEAN-CRN website (<https://asean-crn.org/relevant-asean-guidelines-on-land-use/>).

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The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States of the Association are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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