



ASEAN CLIMATE RESILIENCE NETWORK

5-YEAR **PROGRAM**
FRAMEWORK

2026-2030



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FRAMEWORK**
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BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Agriculture and food security in ASEAN face increasing threats from climate change. To build resilience and ensure food security, the ASEAN Technical Working Group on Agricultural Research and Development (ATWGARD) launched the Promotion of Climate Resilience in Rice and Other Crops project in Thailand, forming the basis of the ASEAN Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN) in 2014.

Over the past decade, ASEAN-CRN has grown into a trusted regional platform promoting climate-smart agriculture and strengthening resilience across ASEAN's food systems. Through intensified regional cooperation, ASEAN-CRN made significant progress in advancing climate resilience in agriculture and food security.

Through the network, national studies were carried out to assess the vulnerability of key food crops, as well as existing practices and efforts to strengthen resilience in participating Member States. The results of these seven national studies were documented and consolidated into the book *Promotion of Resilience for Food Security in ASEAN*, which also prioritized climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices as key areas for regional collaboration. Building on this foundation, the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) endorsed the ASEAN Regional Guidelines for Promoting CSA Practices, providing a common framework for action.

In parallel, project proposals were collaboratively developed to secure climate financing for scaling up CSA across the region, while ASEAN-CRN also made its voice heard globally through technical submissions on agriculture and climate change to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These efforts culminated in the establishment of the ASEAN Negotiation Group for Agriculture (ANGA), which was formally endorsed by AMAF, further strengthening ASEAN's collective role and influence in shaping global climate and agriculture agendas.

Together, these accomplishments demonstrate how ASEAN has moved from knowledge generation to policy endorsement and global advocacy, laying a solid foundation for scaling up climate-smart agriculture in the region. By aligning national studies with regional priorities, securing ministerial support, and strengthening ASEAN's presence in international negotiations, the initiatives have not only advanced food security and resilience but also positioned ASEAN as a proactive contributor to global climate solutions.

ASEAN-CRN's relevance extends beyond agriculture. Its work contributes directly to ASEAN's cross-sectoral priorities in energy, health, and environment, especially through the climate–food–water–energy nexus.

The network's initiatives contribute directly to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), whose targets culminate in 2030.

ASEAN-CRN's ability to bridge science, policy, and finance stems from its multi-stakeholder approach and its informal yet highly collaborative working style. The network's achievements have been driven by the joint commitment of AMS and the steadfast support of development partners. Through the provision of technical expertise, financial resources, and platforms for dialogue, partners have played a pivotal role in advancing the network's goals. Their contributions have transformed shared priorities into tangible actions, enabling AMS to test innovative solutions, strengthen institutional capacities, and build momentum in promoting climate-resilient agriculture and food security across the region.

However, as climate threats intensify and cross-sectoral demands grow, ASEAN-CRN faces critical institutional challenges. The network's 2023 Institutionalisation Study identified key vulnerabilities: inconsistent recognition across AMS, frequent turnover in country focal points, and a heavy reliance on project-based funding. These factors have resulted in gaps in administrative support, communications, partnership development, and resource mobilization—undermining the Network's ability to deliver sustained impact. The study concluded, with concurrence from AMS, that the establishment of a permanent Secretariat under Thailand's Department of Agriculture would be the most effective way forward, with Thailand expressing its willingness to host.

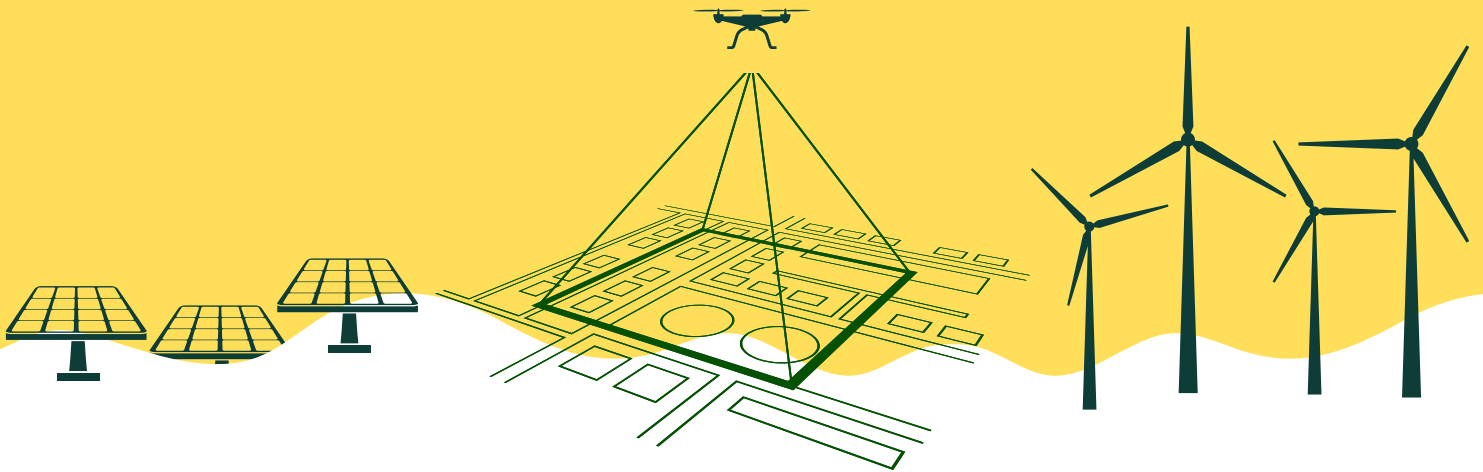
Building on this consensus, ASEAN-CRN seeks to move from a project-based model toward a more structured, programmatic approach. Central to this shift is the development of a comprehensive program framework that defines the networks' operational priorities and pathways.

Guided by Thailand's chairmanship, ASEAN-CRN has embarked on the development of its 5-Year Program Framework (2026–2030)—a strategic roadmap that builds on a decade of collaboration and learning. Rooted in the ASEAN Terms of Reference (TOR), which define the Network's overarching objectives, governance structure, and institutional foundation, the Framework introduces a forward-looking layer of strategy to guide its next chapter.

Importantly, the Framework draws on lessons and insights shared during the Network's 10th anniversary celebration in Chiang Mai in January 2025, which helped validate its direction. Building on this, inputs from the co-creation process conducted with members and development partners in May 2025—specifically shaping the network's workplan—have been incorporated into the 5-Year Program Framework. This ensures that its priorities reflect collective knowledge, practical experience, and shared ambitions. By addressing current challenges, shifting contexts, and priority actions, the Framework charts ASEAN-CRN's trajectory for the coming five years with a focus on bridging institutional gaps, harnessing emerging opportunities, and reinforcing the Network's role as a consistent driver of climate resilience in agriculture and food systems across ASEAN, while making a tangible contribution toward closing progress gaps in related targets under the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

OBJECTIVES

The ASEAN Climate Resilience Network 5-Year Program Framework (2026–2030) aims to strengthen the network’s institutional foundation and its role as a regional driver of climate resilience in agriculture.



Specifically, the framework seeks to:

1.

Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Climate Resilience

Foster joint efforts among ASEAN Member States to accelerate climate-smart agriculture adoption and align regional actions with national plans, ASEAN frameworks, and global commitments.

2.

Promote Inclusive and Evidence-Based Climate Action

Enhance digital transformation, knowledge systems, and private sector engagement to drive effective, inclusive, and evidence-based climate action.

3.

Expand Inclusive Climate Finance

Increase access to climate finance, innovative funding mechanisms, and blended investments, with a focus on smallholders, women, and youth.

4.

Mainstream Climate Resilience in Policy and Diplomacy

Integrate climate resilience into ASEAN strategies and action plans, while strengthening ASEAN-CRN’s role in shaping regional and international climate positions.

5.

Institutionalize ASEAN-CRN

Operationalize a permanent Secretariat under Thailand’s DOA and secure formal ASEAN affiliation to ensure sustainability, recognition, and long-term visibility.

SCOPE OF THE FRAMEWORK

Complementing the ASEAN-CRN's TOR, which outlines the Network's governance and institutional foundation, the ASEAN-CRN 5-Year Program Framework (2026–2030) defines strategic priorities that address current challenges and anticipate emerging contexts. It charts the Network's trajectory for the next five years, positioning ASEAN-CRN as a consistent driver of climate resilience in agriculture while contributing to ASEAN's broader sustainable development and net-zero ambitions.

THEMATIC COVERAGE

- Climate-smart agriculture, food security, nature-based solutions, climate finance, and sustainable natural resource management.
- Knowledge generation, sharing, and application to enhance resilience and adaptive capacity

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Capacity-building initiatives, regional research and policy dialogues, pilot and demonstration projects, and knowledge management platforms.
- Facilitation of collaboration between member states to harmonize approaches and share best practices.
- Global climate and agriculture commitment negotiations.

OPERATIONAL BOUNDARIES

- Activities are designed to complement, not replace, national climate action plans and regional and sectoral strategies.

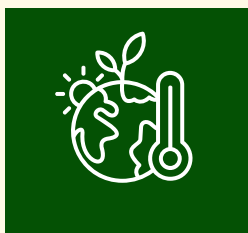
TIMEFRAME

- The framework guides activities and collaborations over a five-year period, from 2026 to 2030.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

The ASEAN-CRN 5-Year Program Framework (2026–2030) is structured around six strategic pillars, each representing a critical area for advancing climate resilience in the region. These pillars provide a coherent framework to guide program implementation, align activities with regional priorities, and ensure that ASEAN-CRN's efforts contribute effectively to sustainable agriculture, inclusive climate action, and strengthened regional cooperation. Collectively, they offer a structured approach to achieving the Network's objectives and enhancing its long-term impact.

CLIMATE-SMART AND INNOVATIVE AGRICULTURE

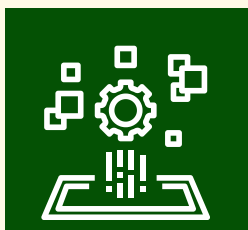


Scale up resilience in ASEAN's agriculture sector by promoting climate-smart practices, technologies, and commodity-based models that reduce vulnerabilities, strengthen food systems, and link resilience to nutrition and livelihoods.

Target Activities

- Support implementation of the ASEAN FAF Post-2025 Vision.
- Promote crop burning reduction and Good Agricultural Practice (No-Burn models).
- Develop and roll out Climate Innovation & Technology Guidelines.
- Integrate climate resilience into nutrition-sensitive agriculture.
- Advance commodity-based resilience models (e.g., rice, other key crops).

KNOWLEDGE, DIGITAL SYSTEMS, AND LEARNING PLATFORMS

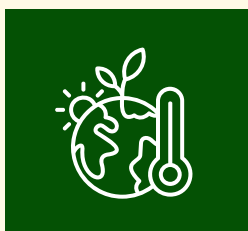


Build inclusive and evidence-based knowledge systems through digital transformation, data-driven decision-making, and cross-country learning platforms to advance regional climate resilience.

Target Activities

- Establish the ASEAN Climate Resilience Repository as a central knowledge hub.
- Enable digital analytics for evidence-based policymaking.
- Facilitate technical exchanges, dialogues, and regional case studies.
- Support collaborative research with regional partners (APAARI, SEARCA).

CLIMATE FINANCE AND GREEN INVESTMENT



Expand inclusive access to climate finance and mobilize green investment through innovative mechanisms that benefit smallholders, women, youth, and vulnerable communities.

Target Activities

- Build AMS capacity to access climate finance (e.g., GCF, SEADRIF).
- Develop regional investment pipelines for CSA and resilience projects.
- Pilot blended finance and financial innovation tailored for smallholders.
- Facilitate public-private partnerships and establish green deal labs.

POLICY INTEGRATION AND CLIMATE DIPLOMACY

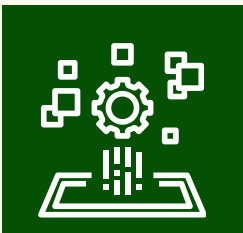


Mainstream climate resilience into ASEAN policies and strategies, while positioning ASEAN-CRN as a driver of regional and international climate action and diplomacy.

Target Activities

- Integrate resilience into ASEAN strategies, action plans, and sectoral frameworks.
- Develop regional policy briefs and roadmaps to guide AMS.
- Promote coherence across agriculture, environment, finance, and energy sectors.
- Support ASEAN joint positions in global platforms (e.g., COPs).

MULTI- STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT

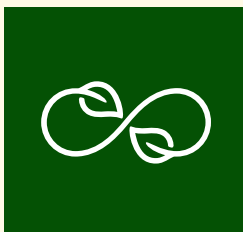


Broaden ASEAN-CRN's reach by engaging UN agencies, academia, civil society, and the private sector to co-develop and scale inclusive, innovative solutions for climate resilience.

Target Activities

- Strengthen partnerships with UN bodies, development partners, and academia.
- Scale public-private partnership models for CSA adoption.
- Foster multi-actor dialogues on innovation and investment.
- Mobilize regional champions (youth, women leaders, agri-entrepreneurs).

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTH AND SUSTAINABILITY



Ensure ASEAN-CRN becomes a recognized, well-governed, and sustainable ASEAN mechanism with strong institutional foundations, effective coordination, and enduring visibility.

Target Activities

- Operationalize the ASEAN-CRN Secretariat (2026–2030).
- Develop governance, branding, and partnership guidelines.
- Hold rotational annual meetings to reinforce ownership and shared responsibility.
- Secure ASEAN affiliation and sustained funding mechanisms.

STRATEGIC TIMELINE

2026-2030

Year	Key Milestones & Activities
<p>2026 - Strengthening the Foundation</p>	<p>Institutionalization: ASEAN-CRN Secretariat unit established as the coordination and administrative backbone under Thailand’s DOA.</p> <p>Visibility: Branding guidelines developed and launched to strengthen ASEAN-CRN’s identity.</p> <p>Climate Action: Crop burning reduction initiatives and Good Agricultural Practice (No-Burn models) introduced as flagship field activities.</p> <p>Finance & Investment: Initial regional finance and investment partnerships initiated with support from development partners.</p> <p>Knowledge Systems: ASEAN Climate Resilience Repository initiated as a central hub for data and resources.</p>
<p>2027 – Operationalizing & Piloting</p>	<p>Institutionalization: Secretariat operational framework endorsed by AMS to formalize roles and coordination.</p> <p>Innovation: Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) Innovation & Technology Guidelines piloted in selected AMS.</p> <p>Learning Platforms: Expansion of regional technical exchanges and digital tools to strengthen evidence-based policymaking.</p> <p>Finance: Pilot blended finance mechanisms and investment pipelines for smallholder-oriented CSA projects.</p>
<p>2028 – Strengthening & Expanding</p>	<p>Institutional Recognition: ASEAN-CRN affiliation application formally submitted</p> <p>Institutional Capacity: Secretariat capacity further strengthened (staffing, systems, partnerships)</p> <p>Regional Cooperation: Expansion of commodity-based resilience models (e.g., rice, maize) across AMS.</p>
<p>2029 – Transition & Consolidation</p>	<p>Institutional Transition: Gradual transfer of Secretariat leadership and core functions from Mekong Institute to Thailand’s DOA initiated.</p> <p>Review & Learning: Mid-term review of ASEAN-CRN activities conducted to assess impact and adjust priorities.</p> <p>Policy Integration: Evaluation of regional policy integration mechanisms to align with ASEAN sectoral frameworks.</p> <p>Finance: Mobilization of inclusive climate finance scaled up to benefit smallholders, women, and youth.</p>
<p>2030 – Institutionalization & Integration</p>	<p>Institutionalization: Thailand’s DOA formally assumes leadership of the permanent ASEAN-CRN Secretariat.</p> <p>MEL Systems: Regional Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) systems consolidated to track progress and accountability.</p> <p>Diplomacy & Policy: ASEAN-CRN recognized as a fully institutionalized ASEAN mechanism integrated into agriculture and climate resilience agendas.</p> <p>Knowledge Consolidation: Regional best practices and knowledge reports are published to guide future action.</p>