



Social forestry trends in ASEAN

Policies, practices and impacts



- I am honored to be with you today to celebrate the achievements of ASEAN and ASFCC and to explore the way forward.
- We have achieved so much together: ASEAN and ASFCC. But the future is challenging.
- We need social forestry more than ever.
- To meet these challenges, we need to do more, to do it better, and build on what we have achieved and what we have learned.
- Today, to set the stage for our deliberations, I will talk about what we have achieved, the lessons we have learned, the big trends that are affecting us, and what I think we need to do next.



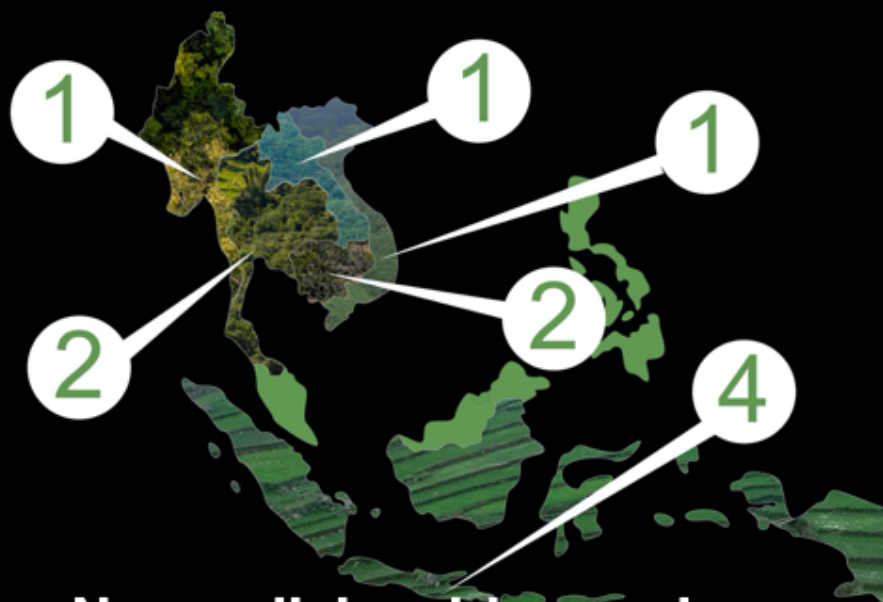
Achievements

- In 2010 there were no social forestry working groups under ASEAN.
- In 2020, we have the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry which gathers officials from ASEAN member states to promote social forestry policies and practices.
- This gives us amazing influence in the right places, it formalizes our work, and provides the kind of access we need to influence laws at the regional and national levels.
- I believe this, and the strength and longevity of our partnership, are our greatest achievements.
- We must build on that.



New policies drive environmental, social and economic changes

- In 2010 there were few social policies and laws in ASEAN member states.



New policies drive environmental, social and economic changes

- Today, in 2020, 6 countries adopted or are about to adopt new or significantly revised social forestry laws. These are today supported by policies, instructions and guidelines. The numbers you see behind me are only minimum estimates. We know there are many more.
- These laws, policies and other instruments have driven significant environmental, social and economic changes.
- Their development was informed by Participatory Action Research by SEARCA and other partners.
- These policies and laws were accompanied by massive changes in institutions that were required to implement them.
- In 2010 few countries had institutions within ministries dedicated to social forestry.
- By 2020, Lao, Indonesia, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Malaysia had restructured their institutions to support social forestry -- giving clear mandates, roles and budgets.



Multi-stakeholder working groups connect villages to policy makers

- In 2010 there were no multi-stakeholder social forestry working groups or national level working groups

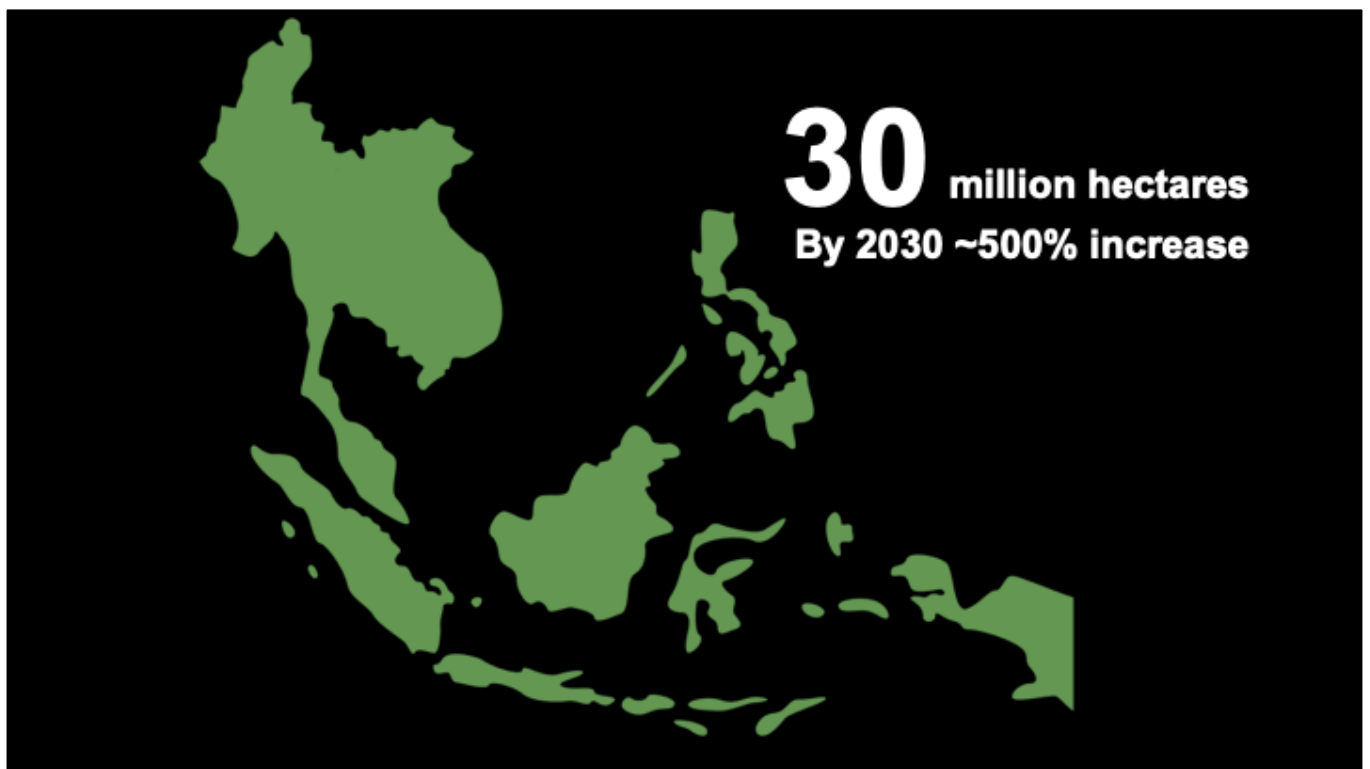


Multi-stakeholder working groups connect villages to policy makers

- By 2020, 4 countries have established multi-stakeholder national working groups on social or village forestry
- This allows communities to communicate with national policy makers, to connect, and transform conflict into collaboration

Countries

- Cambodia
- Lao PDR
- Myanmar
- Philippines



In 2010 there were 6.7 million hectares managed by local communities under social forestry practices.

By 2020, this number doubled to 13.8 million.

If ASEAN member states achieve their targets for social forestry, we will reach 30 million hectares by 2030.

This would increase the hectares of forest managed by communities by almost 500% in only 20 years.



- In 2010 capacity for social forestry was low.
- By 2020, we trained 421 social forestry officers and educators.



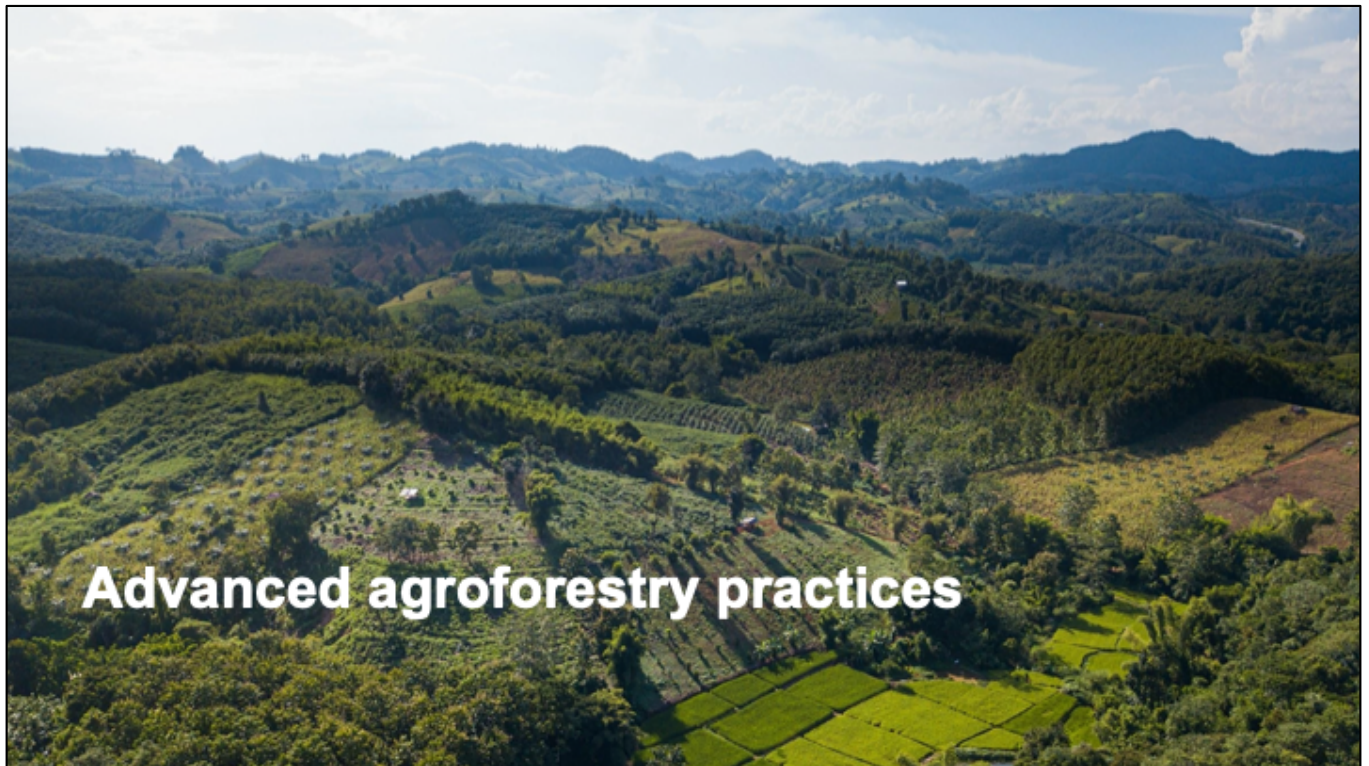
- Through exchanges, study tours and dialogues we reached an additional 2,640 people working on the ground and the policymakers who serve them.



- And we did much more. For example, NTFP build the capacity of 10,000 beekeepers and honey gatherers in 8 countries. NTFP-EP also created a regional platform that facilitates dialogue among state and non-state actors.



CIFOR shed light on swidden agriculture practiced in Indonesia, Laos and Viet Nam, changing lives and futures in communities that depend on slash and burn systems.



ICRAF gave us guidelines that are shaping agroforestry development across ASEAN.



NTFP produced guidelines for ASEAN on how to responsibly invest in the region's food, agriculture and forestry sectors.



- Together we changed the paradigm and the discourse.
- People are now talking about social forestry and understanding that it is part of the solution to the greatest issues of our time.
- And we changed the story – the story for the many millions of people who participate in social forestry in ASEAN.



5 learnings

1

Social forestry provides a foundation for designing and managing sustainable and inclusive multi-functional landscapes

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Social forestry builds diversified, resilient and more inclusive local economies

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Social forestry leads to mutually beneficial transformational changes

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4

Social forestry reduces illegal activity

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Social forestry lowers the cost of achieving climate change and SDG targets

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- **Economic growth** in ASEAN is going up rapidly but unevenly: The proportion of ASEAN population living with less than \$1.25 PPP per day has declined from 47% in 1990, to 22% in 2005, to 14% in 2015.
- Competing resource demand with other commodities. Economic return from social forestry may not compete with mainstream commodities but services from social forestry can improve governance, reduce carbon emissions, build landscape resilience, reduce conflict, create opportunities for better health, increase gender equality and social inclusion, and create partnerships, unity and solidarity in ASEAN Member States.
- **Deforestation and forest degradation are increasing.**
- **Climate change is reducing food securing and increasing disasters: poor people, women and children are most vulnerable.**
- Conflicts are increasing over forested landscapes, resources and political power.
- Migration is increasing as people move from rural communities to cities and across borders.

An aerial photograph showing a winding asphalt road that curves from a dense green forest on the right towards a field of tall, dry grass on the left. A small white car is visible on the road. The text 'The future' is overlaid in white on the forest area.

The future

- We need to strengthening the land tenure rights of those who depend on forests to end deforestation and forest degradation, achieve zero hunger, overcome poverty and ensure gender equality.
- We need to invest in social forestry, taking a cross-sectoral and landscape approach.
- **We need to continue our strong partnership and cooperation.**



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Thank you