

Agroforestry education network

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Project contact:	Jesus Fernandez
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The Southeast Asian Network for Agroforestry (SEANAFE) is a network of 85 member institutions in five country networks throughout Indonesia, Laos, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

Since 1999, SEANAFE has been working towards improving agroforestry education, training, research and extension, and contributing to socioeconomic development, empowerment of farming communities and sustainable natural resource and environmental management in the Southeast Asian region.

The network assists member countries to:

- Prioritise educational needs in agroforestry and natural resources management;
- Access and analyse research outputs, policies and trends in forestry, agroforestry and natural resources management;
- Agree on regional strategies for developing curricula and teaching materials;
- Strengthen the teaching and research capacities of lecturers in agroforestry and natural resources management ;
- Improve access to appropriate teaching resources;
- Develop and adapt teaching methods and materials to national settings;
- Share agroforestry knowledge and management techniques through media and direct participation;
- Collaborate at the national, regional and international levels on agroforestry projects;



- Strengthen partnerships with government extension agencies, NGOs and farmer organizations;
- Advocate for improved agroforestry education policy among member institutions; and
- Produce graduates with practical knowledge and leadership skills in agroforestry and natural resources management to further national and regional development.

In each of the five countries, agroforestry networks operate autonomously but they are all guided by the SEANAFE board. The World Agroforestry Centre hosts the network and provides technical advice as required.



SEANAFA works closely with established networks, government agencies and regional and international development organizations in building capacities in agroforestry and natural resources education. It also welcomes collaboration with civil society and other non-government organizations involved in promoting the practice and science of agroforestry through either formal or non-formal education.

An impact study explored SEANAFA's impact at the institutional level. It showed a clear process of change in

education related to agroforestry and more widely to natural resources management in the region. It would be hard to imagine the institutions reverting to the narrow bio-physical approaches that were a total monopoly on the scene in the past. It is obvious that SEANAFA is one among the several players in this change process. The most significant achievements may have been reached in countries where there were synergies with strong bilaterally supported projects striving in the same direction, for example, in Vietnam.

