



GERMANY AND SEARCA

SEARCA's headquarters was constructed with funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada and the Government of the Philippines.



Established in 1966, the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) is one of the 26 specialist institutions of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), a treaty organization that promotes regional cooperation in education, science, and culture.

The SEAMEO member countries are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. The associate member countries of SEAMEO are Canada, France, Germany, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

SEARCA's objectives are to:

1. Provide high-quality graduate education and training in agriculture;
2. Promote, undertake, and coordinate research addressing the development needs and problems in agriculture of the region; and
3. Disseminate the findings of agricultural research and experimentation.

SEAMEO SEARCA

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Our Vision

A leading enabler and champion of excellence in agriculture and rural development in Southeast Asia

Our Mission

To elevate the quality of life of agricultural families through sustainable and resilient livelihoods and access to modern networks and innovative markets



Our Strategic Objectives

- Access new and innovative financial services
- Adopt new, sustainable, and resilient production technologies and systems
- Integrate with modern postharvest and logistics system
- Gain access to and operate in modern networks and markets





supports the
UN Sustainable Development Goals



Our Strategic Intent

SEARCA, in the next five years, commits to BETTER, BIGGER, and SMARTER outcomes and impact on the agriculture industry and its stakeholders, most especially the larger proportion of resource-poor farmers, by delivering better services through more context-relevant and valuable services to even more beneficiaries in more effective and efficient ways.

Alongside other global, regional, and national organizations, SEARCA aligns its direction towards contributing to the achievement of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that address global challenges to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. SEARCA commits to contribute and allocate resources for the achievement of five SDGs which directly align with its mandate and focus, with an emphasis on creating partnerships (SDG17). Moreover, SEARCA also touches three other SDGs as it tries to achieve the five.



■ GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

► GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) or the German Academic Exchange Service has been SEARCA's most steadfast partner in human resource development, having funded SEARCA graduate scholarships since 1975.

As of March 2024, 378 of the DAAD-SEARCA scholars have graduated and become DAAD-SEARCA alumni. Of these alumni, two were among those awarded as **Outstanding SEARCA Scholarship Alumni (OSSA)** and another was one of the two that garnered the **Emerging Leaders in Transition Economies (ELITE) Award** conferred by SEARCA during its 50th Anniversary celebration in November 2016.

Moreover, three DAAD-SEARCA scholars were recognized for their academic achievements during their graduate studies. In August 2022, SEARCA awarded a Special Citation to Shahidah MD Nor, a DAAD-SEARCA scholar for her significant academic achievements, having obtained a general point average of a perfect 4.0 when she pursued PhD in Horticulture at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). She also presented at the **Agricultural Transformation and Market Integration (ATMI)-ASEAN High Level Policy Forum** and was chosen as a Chrysalis Award finalist, meant to

Outstanding/Elite Alumni



Prof. Dr. Musliar Kasim
(Indonesia)
OSSA Award for Public
Policy and Governance



Mr. Delfin J. Ganapin, Jr.
(Philippines)
OSSA Award for Public
Policy and Governance



Mr. Agostinho Da
Costa Ximenes
(Timor-Leste)

contribute to Malaysia's Science, Technology, Innovation, and Economic ecosystem. While she was a scholar, Dr. Shahidah also published seven papers as lead author in refereed journals and presented four others in scientific forums.

DAAD-SEARCA scholar Nor Akhlishah Zulkipili won 1st Runner-up and People's Choice Award at the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) faculty level competition in UPM on 5 April 2021. Her win qualified her for the university-level competition where she was 2nd Runner-up on 22 April 2021. She then won third prize in the 3MT National Competition in June 2021.

DAAD-SEARCA scholar Tuan Syaripah Najihah Tuan Mohd Razali, Malaysia, PhD in Agricultural Technology, was also given a SEARCA special award in August 2021 for having completed her graduate program on time.

► OUTSTANDING SEARCA SCHOLAR FY 2022-2023

Dr. Vina Eka Aristya, who completed her PhD in Agricultural Sciences from the Universitas Gadjah Mada was recognized as the Outstanding SEARCA Scholar for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. The award recognizes Vina's academic excellence, including seven publications in scientific journals (two indexed in Scopus with one in a Q1-indexed journal), numerous papers presented in international conferences and garnering Best Presenter awards in two of these occasions, and other co-curricular engagements.

► SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROJECTS

Starting academic year 1980-1981, SEARCA administered 32 undergraduate and graduate scholarships funded by the German Foundation for International Development (DSE). The scholarships were awarded to 2 Ghanaians (1 BS, 1 MS), 24 Nepalese (23 MS, 1 PhD), 1 Nigerian (MS), 1 Filipino (MS), and 4 Western Samoans (3 BS, 1 MS). The scholars studied at UPLB and Central Luzon State University (CLSU), Philippines.

The Center for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry (CeTSAF) of the Georg-August University of Göttingen also funded SEARCA graduate scholarships. The scholarships were awarded to 3 Cambodians, 1 Laotian, 1 Filipino, 1 Thai, and 1 Vietnamese. They pursued their MS in Integrated Tropical Agriculture and Forestry Science at CeTSAF starting in academic year 1998-1999.



CeTSAF-SEARCA alumnus, Dr. Oupakone Alounsavath (center), who heads the Lao Department of Forestry-Village Forest and Non-timber Forest Product Management, with SEARCA staff.

One year after Timor-Leste gained its independence, SEARCA began to administer the Special Project on DAAD Scholarships for Timor-Leste. From academic year 2003-2004 to 2005-2006, 12 MS scholarships were awarded by DAAD to Timorese under the project. Upon accession of Timor-Leste as a member of SEAMEO in March 2006, succeeding DAAD-funded scholarships awarded to Timorese were subsumed under the regular DAAD-SEARCA scholarship program.

DAAD continues to provide generous support to DAAD-SEARCA alumni by co-sponsoring regional and national alumni conferences and workshops organized by SEARCA, including the following:

- SEARCA Fellows Seminar in Agricultural and Rural Development, attended by 115 alumni (1992)
- International Conference on the Role of DAAD-SEARCA Fellows in Poverty Alleviation, attended by 45 alumni (2001)
- Conference on the Winning the War on Poverty: Failures and Lessons of Southeast Asia, attended by 50 alumni (2005)
- International Conference on Developing Tomorrow's Leaders in Agriculture and Rural Development: Responding to the Challenges of Globalization, attended by 100 alumni (2008)
- SEARCA-DAAD Alumni Associations Regional Consultative Workshop with the theme "Operation One ASEAN: Towards Food Security in 2020," attended by 40 alumni (2013)



► ACADEMIC BRIDGING SCHOLARSHIPS

DAAD-SEARCA Academic Bridging Scholarships were also awarded to five Timorese to enable them to upgrade their BS degree to qualify for admission to the Graduate School of reputable universities in Southeast Asia and even outside the region.

► UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM

Georg-August University of Göttingen (UG) is an affiliate member of the SEARCA-initiated **Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC)**, having joined in October 2002.

The UC is a network that links strong universities in Southeast Asia, Germany, Canada, Japan, and Taiwan. Launched by SEARCA in 1989, the UC was designed as a viable approach to pursuing agricultural human resource development by linking top universities in the region to facilitate free exchange of information, facilities, and expertise.

The UC regular members are:

- Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) (now IPB University), Indonesia
- Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Indonesia
- Universitas Brawijaya (UB), Indonesia
- Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Malaysia
- University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), Philippines
- Kasetsart University (KU), Thailand

Tokyo University of Agriculture (Tokyo NODAI), Japan and National Taiwan University (NTU) are associate members. And the other affiliate members are University of British Columbia, Canada; Maejo University, Thailand; Visayas State University, Philippines; and Central Luzon State University, Philippines.



As the Consortium Secretariat, SEARCA coordinates UC student and faculty exchanges, thesis grants, and UC meetings and workshops.

UG has participated in UC meetings and other activities, including hosting the 17th UC Executive Officers and Coordinators Meeting held in November 2004 in Göttingen, Germany.

► EXPERTS CONSORTIUM

SEARCA was also involved as Associate Partner in the UG-initiated project called **EXPERTS (Exchange by Promoting Quality Education, Research and Training in South and Southeast Asia)**. The EXPERTS project had 29 partner universities and 13 associate partners in its consortium. Göttingen International of UG serves as the project secretariat.

EXPERTS I and its successors—EXPERTS II, EXPERTS III, EXPERTS4ASIA, and EXPERTS-SUSTAIN—were scholarship projects funded by the European Commission. The aim is to enhance the capacity for international cooperation among its participating countries in South and Southeast Asia (SSEA) and to exchange knowledge and ideas among the Asian and European partners.

► FOOD SECURITY CENTER

The University of Hohenheim tapped SEARCA as one of its network partners in its Food Security Center (FSC) supported by the Government of Germany from 2009 to 2019. The FSC is one of the five excellence centers of the Exceed-Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation program supported by DAAD with funds from Germany's Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The FSC aims to make effective and innovative scientific contributions to research, teaching, and policy toward achieving food security in collaboration with partner universities in Asia, Africa, and Latin America as well as national and international development and research organizations.

During the decade they worked together, SEARCA and FSC successfully and consistently conducted activities that deal with issues of sustainable food availability, food access, food use, food quality and safety, and food utilization.

SEARCA hosted several of these FSC activities, including the following:

- Short Course on Values and Institutions of Biodiversity and Ecosystems (2010)
- Roundtable on Achieving Greater Food Security in Asia Through Improved Information Network (2010)
- Seminar-Workshop on Risk-based Food Control Programs in Southeast Asia (2011)
- International Conference on Climate Change
- Impacts and Adaptation for Food and Environmental Security (2012)
- Regional Consultation Workshop: Umbrella Program on Food Security for Southeast Asia (2013)
- FSC Summer School with the theme “Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development for Food Security” (2013)
- FSC Short Course on Food Supply Chains and Logistics (2014)
- Short Course on Methods and Approaches in Food Value Chain Analysis at the Firm-Farm Level (Aug 2015)
- Short Course on Precision Farming (Sep 2015)
- Short Course on Water Resource Management for Smallholder Farmers (Oct 2015)
- Short Course on GIS Applications for Understanding the Effects of Climate Change to Agriculture (Oct 2015)
- Short Course on Food Quality and Safety Across the Value Chain (May 2016)
- Short Course on Utilization of Indigenous Crops to Strengthen Food Security (June 2016)
- Short Course on Crop Systems Modeling: its Application to Climate Impact Assessment (Sept 2017)
- FSC Summer School with the theme “Transformative Changes in Agriculture and Food Systems” (Sept 2019)

FSC also sponsored the participation of SEARCA officials and senior staff in eight *World Food Day Colloquiums* held in Stuttgart, Germany, namely: Contributions of Cooperatives to Global Food Security (2012) Water Efficiency for Food Security (2013), the Family Farming - A Solution for Food and Nutrition Security? (2014), the Grasslands - Secret resource for a hungry world? (2015) - No Sun – No Food: Climate disasters and food security (2016), Food and Digits (2017), Cooperatives: essential for food security?! (2018), and Food Security and Trade in the Period of Change and Innovation (2019).



Dr. Maria Monina Cecilia Villena (second from right) of SEARCA presented a paper on “Digitalization and Food Security amidst the Changing Landscape of Asian Agriculture” at the 2017 World Food Day Colloquium.

FSC also funded the following regional workshops with participants from Southeast Asian countries:

- Regional SEARCA Alumni Association Executive Board Meeting and Workshop: Developing Collaborative Projects on Inclusive and Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (8-9 Jan 2018, SEARCA)

- Workshop on Data Analysis and Management for Researches in Agriculture (8-12 Jan 2018, SEARCA)
- Regional Workshop on Enhancing Food Security in Southeast Asia Through Extension and Agricultural Advisory Services (25-26 Jan 2018, Jakarta, Indonesia)

► SOUTH EAST ASIAN GERMAN ALUMNI NETWORK

SEARCA was tapped by DAAD and the South East Asian German Alumni Network (SEAG) to organize the **International Symposium cum Workshop on Resource Management: Public and Private Partnership and Knowledge Sharing** held in 2001 at SEARCA. The event was a joint activity of three German universities (Göttingen, Marburg, and Kassel-Witzenhausen), IPB, DAAD, and SEARCA.

In 2002, DAAD and SEAG once again collaborated with SEARCA to organize the **3rd International Symposium cum Workshop in Southeast Asia** which had the theme “From a Transitional to an Industrialized Society: The Role of Dialogue and Networking” held in Hanoi, Vietnam.

■ TRAINING FOR DEVELOPMENT

From 1975 to 1985, DSE funded the **SEARCA-DSE Training Program**, which sponsored more than 30 specialist courses in agriculture and rural development attended by more than 600 participants from Asian and Pacific countries. The courses focused on increasing agricultural productivity and strengthening the steps taken to foster economic and social development in rural areas.

SEARCA also conducted a four-week **International Training Course on Sustainable Agriculture (EcoFarming) and On-Farm Experimentation** with funding from DSE.

Moreover, SEARCA had six German participants in four of its international/regional learning events, namely:

- Climate-Smart Villages as Platforms for Community-Level Anticipatory Climate Adaptation to Improve Food Security and Resiliency: A Roving Workshop held in in September 2023 via Zoom and onsite in the Philippines.
- Asian Experts Meeting on the Establishment of Center for Irrigation Systems Management for ASEAN Countries (CISMA) held on 14-18 December 1982 in Manila and SEARCA.
- Training Workshop on Strengthening Project Development and Management in Southeast Asia held on 13-17 August 2012 at SEARCA
- International Conference on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Food and Environmental Security (ICCIAFES) held on 21-22 November 2012 at SEARCA
- Training Workshop on Integrating Ecosystems Services (IES) into Development Planning on 3-8 December 2012 at SEARCA

The learning events held in 2012 were also funded by the Government of Germany. The *ICCIAFES* was funded by FSC and the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) GmbH or German Society for International Cooperation, while the two training workshops were also supported by GIZ.

GIZ also funded two training courses on **Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Plans and Investments** co-organized by SEARCA. The first course was held on 3-5 September 2013 at SEARCA, while the second course was held on 24-26 September 2013 at the Regional Community Forestry Training Center (RECOFTC) in Bangkok, Thailand.

On the other hand, FSC and DAAD also provided funding support to SEARCA's **Sixth Executive Forum on Natural Resource Management (NRM): Water and Food in a Changing Environment** held on 11-13 April 2012 at its headquarters.

FSC and DAAD also funded the **Risk-based Food Control Programs in Southeast Asia: A Regional Seminar-Workshop** organized and hosted by SEARCA on 17-19 May 2011.



RESEARCH AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP



One of SEARCA's main objectives is to conduct and coordinate appropriate and relevant research that promotes accelerating transformation through agricultural innovation (ATTAIN). Central to the Center's resolve to be strategically visible and more relevant for all stakeholders and strategic agricultural and rural ecologies, SEARCA's core program on Research and Thought Leadership undertakes policy analyses, research for development, and facilitate knowledge platforms.

SEARCA completed its work on the GIZ-funded project **Promoting Climate-smart Land Use (CSLU) through ASEAN Policy Documents and Regional Events**. The project involved the conduct of two virtual runs of the **ASEAN Climate Leadership Programme (ACLP)**, one in 2020 and the other in 2021. The ACLP had four modules that featured all or a combination of four elements, namely, theoretical foundation, strengthening personal leadership, observing climate-smart land use, and working on a change project. Each module consists of a leadership component and thematic highlights of climate-smart land use.

The project also produced the ASEAN Guidelines on Climate Smart Agriculture (Volume 3) and strengthened the coordination role of ASEAN to contribute to international and national climate-policy processes for climate-smart land use in agriculture and forestry.

► OTHER PAST RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

SEARCA conducted Research for Development activities with the participation of German institutions and nationals, including:

- A DSE-funded project on training experts for agricultural and technical services in the field of rice production and extension

- General Workshop on Development Support Communication, with funding from DSE
- Southeast Asian Cooperative Postharvest Research and Development Program, which had the participation of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) now known as GIZ
- Enhancing Protected Area Management



Protected Areas Management

SEARCA also completed the conduct of the **Protected Area Management Enhancement in the Philippines (PAME-PH)** project in 12 of the country's 62 existing protected areas covered by the project, which was led and funded by GIZ in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (DENR-PAWB), Philippines. SEARCA was tasked to conduct the study in the following protected areas in Regions 4A and 5:

- Taal Volcano Protected Landscape
- Mts. Palay-palay and Mataas na Gulod Protected Landscape
- Quezon Protected Landscape
- Mts. Banahaw and San Cristobal Protected Landscape
- Alibijaban Wilderness Area
- Abasig-Matognon-Mananap Natural Biotic Area
- Mt. Isarog Natural Park
- Lagonoy Natural Biotic Area
- Caramoan Natural Park
- Catanduanes Watershed Forest Reserve
- Bicol Natural Park
- Bulusan Volcano Natural Park

SEARCA led the data/information gathering, stakeholder consultation, review, analysis to assess the legal, institutional, financial, process, and cooperation aspects of the protected areas. SEARCA also produced the *Management Effectiveness and Capacity Assessment* report for each assigned protected area, which served as basis for determining the level of support needed to enhance effectiveness in the management of the protected area.

Promoting Climate Resilience in Rice and Other Crops

SEARCA was commissioned by the ASEAN-German Programme on Response to Climate Change (GAP-CC) to carry out the project titled **ASEAN Network on the Promotion of Climate Resilience in Rice and Other Crops** in seven ASEAN Member States (AMS), namely, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The project was funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH through GAP-CC.

GAP-CC aims to support ASEAN in further advancing the implementation of regionally coordinated strategies and policies for food security and climate protection within its Member States in agriculture and forestry sectors. Under the project, SEARCA facilitated and coordinated the conduct of a series of national consultative meetings and regional forums to:

- 1) Promote a common understanding of the climate change-related threat to the agriculture sector focused on selected crops (i.e., rice, maize, cassava);
- 2) Identify successful practices and policies at the AMS level for tackling these climate change-related threats that can be promoted and up-scaled; and
- 3) Identify common concerns and capacity needs as well as propose regional support strategies and instruments to address these in a coherent manner.

2nd International Conference on Agricultural and Rural Development in Southeast Asia (ARD2014)

Held on 12-13 November 2014 in Makati Shangri-La, Manila, Philippines, the SEARCA-led ARD2014 highlighted creative and innovative technological and practical approaches in the various processes comprising the agriculture system, spanning the entire agriculture value chain from production through postharvest, processing, marketing, transport, and logistics.

Several German organizations supported ARD2014. GIZ and FSC of the University of Hohenheim were both gold sponsors and session convenors. GIZ convened the session on "Integrated Eco-system Management," while FSC joined SEARCA in organizing the session on "Regional Food Security Systems and Investments."

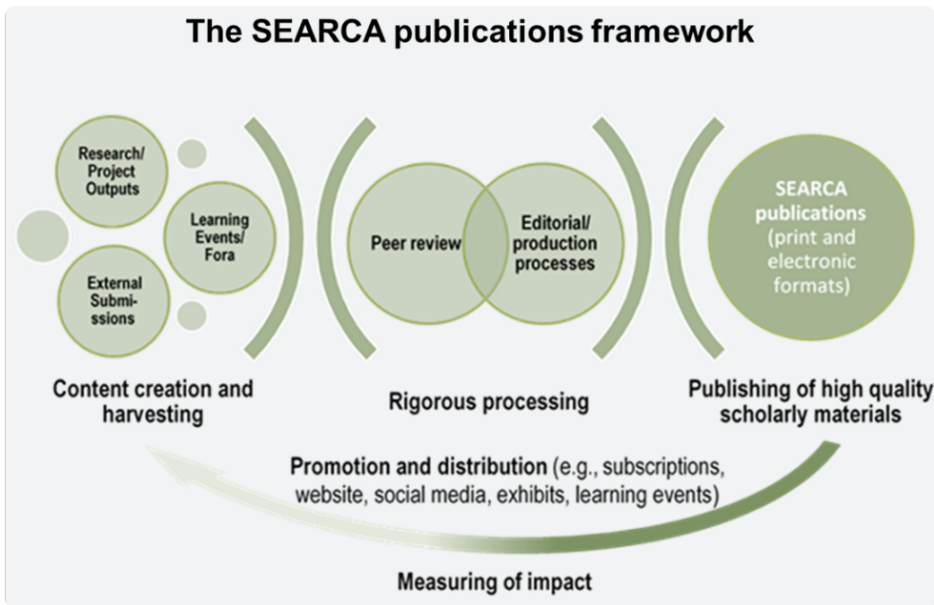


GIZ also participated in the Partners Dialogue, a side event of the conference that brought together more than 400 agriculture and rural development experts from the academe and research institutions, government policymakers, local government executives, farmer-leaders and practicing farmers, private sector practitioners, representatives of civil society organizations, and other stakeholders from 24 countries.

Moreover, the GIZ-funded ASEAN-German Programme on Response to Climate Change (GAP-CC) supported the participation of the ASEAN Technical Working Group on Agriculture and Research Development (ATWGARD) in ARD2014. The sponsorship was under the auspices of the GAP-CC-funded project titled ASEAN Network on the Promotion of Climate Resilience in Rice and Other Crops.

DAAD also sponsored participants to ARD2014 as well as convene, together with SEARCA, the session on "Higher Education and Capacity Building."

KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

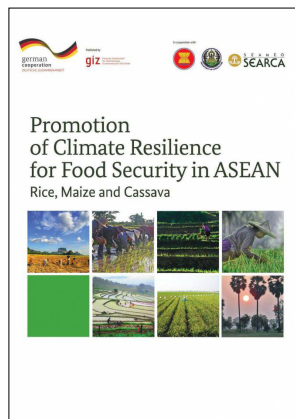
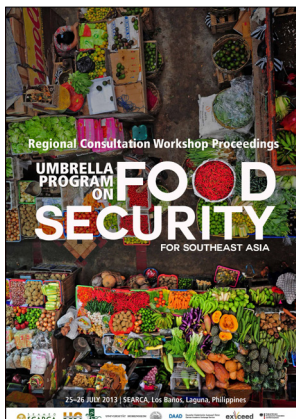


The Center contribute to SEARCA's vision of becoming Southeast Asia's leading enabler and champion of excellence in ARD, particularly by asserting leadership in knowledge creation in these fields. Apart from the packaging of knowledge through publication, these knowledge products are also shared through its websites and increasingly complemented by social media. SEARCA also maintains a library and an archives system to store generated knowledge.

► PUBLICATION

SEARCA publication provides one important avenue for knowledge creation in ARD. This ensures that research results, policy discussions, and best practices from the field, among its primordial knowledge sources, are packaged and broadly shared. SEARCA aims to publish high-quality professional, intellectual, and scholarly output in ARD with scholars, researchers, and policymakers as intended readers. A broad spectrum of ARD themes is published through a number of serial and non-serial SEARCA publications that include books, journal articles, monographs, discussion papers, and policy briefs.

The book titled *Promotion of Climate Resilience for Food Security in ASEAN Rice, Maize, and Cassava* published in 2015 was a joint undertaking by the ASEAN Technical Working Group on Agricultural Research and Development (ATWGARD) and GIZ through the ASEAN-German Programme on Response to Climate Change (GAP-CC) in partnership with SEARCA.



Earlier, SEARCA published the *Proceedings of the Regional Consultation Workshop for the Umbrella Program on Food Security for Southeast Asia* held on 25-26 July 2013 at SEARCA, which had participants from governments, agricultural and state universities, and research centers in nine Southeast Asian countries. Organized together with the Food Security Center (FSC) of the University of Hohenheim, Germany and the SEARCA-initiated University Consortium (UC), the SEARCA-led workshop developed a regional collaborative program on food security among UC members and other universities and research institutions in the region.