

Engaging with Academia and Research Institutions (ARIs) to support Family Farmers and Food System Transformation During and Post COVID-19 Pandemic in Asia



With technical assistance from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Challenges of farming families and the role of Academia and Research Institutions (ARIs) in supporting the transition toward a sustainable farming system

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Investing in rural people

Key challenges faced by Family Farmers

ICT	Lack of access to ICT: need for inclusive rural information and communication services; and knowledge-sharing capacities of producer organizations
Human Capital	Limited Human Capital: need for investment in human capital and capacity building programmes
Business Services	Slow Business Services: need to improve capacity of enterprises, access to value chains, markets and finance
Voice	Voice and Visibility: need for horizontal exchanges between farmers, negotiation and advocacy skills
Climate Threats	Climate Change Threats: need to Identify climate-resilient diversified production systems and implement them for different landscapes



Innovation and Knowledge to address challenges

- **Closing the digital divide;** investment in digital knowledge and skills and access to inclusive rural information and communication services
- **Strengthening knowledge sharing mechanisms;** for generating, documenting, and sharing knowledge, as well as exchanging good practices and lessons learned
- **Building resilience to climate change;** connect government mitigation, adaptation, restoration, and resilience programmes into climate resilient landscape plans
- **Agroecological market innovations;** increase the availability of diverse, affordable, safe, healthy and locally produced foods, and allocate greater value to agroecological products



Academic and Research Institutions to support the transition



Partnerships and policy dialogue; work with partner ARIs to identify innovative mechanisms around agroecological production, transformation, and commercialization, and facilitate policy dialogues.



Strengthen family farmers' organizations; Knowledge and awareness of their rights, roles and responsibilities, boosting their effective and meaningful participation in multi-actor decision-making processes



Development of guidance materials (in local languages); to increase the use of international instruments, apply best practices and lessons learned



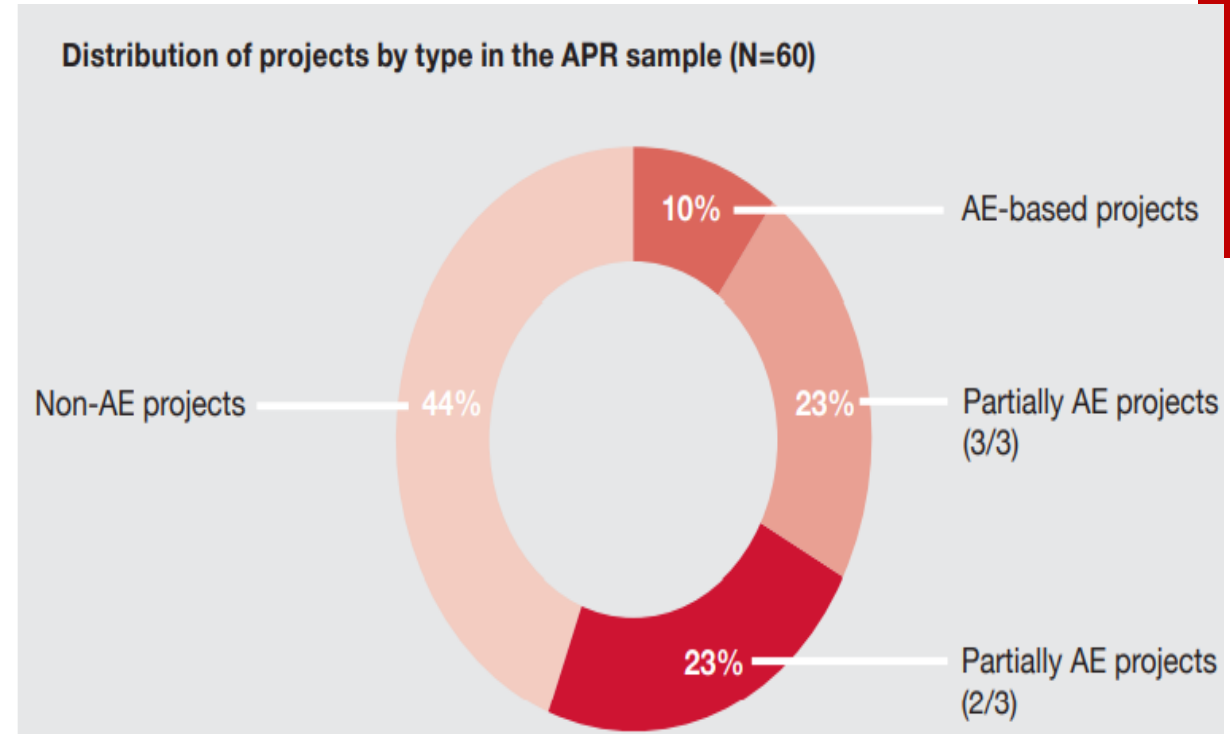
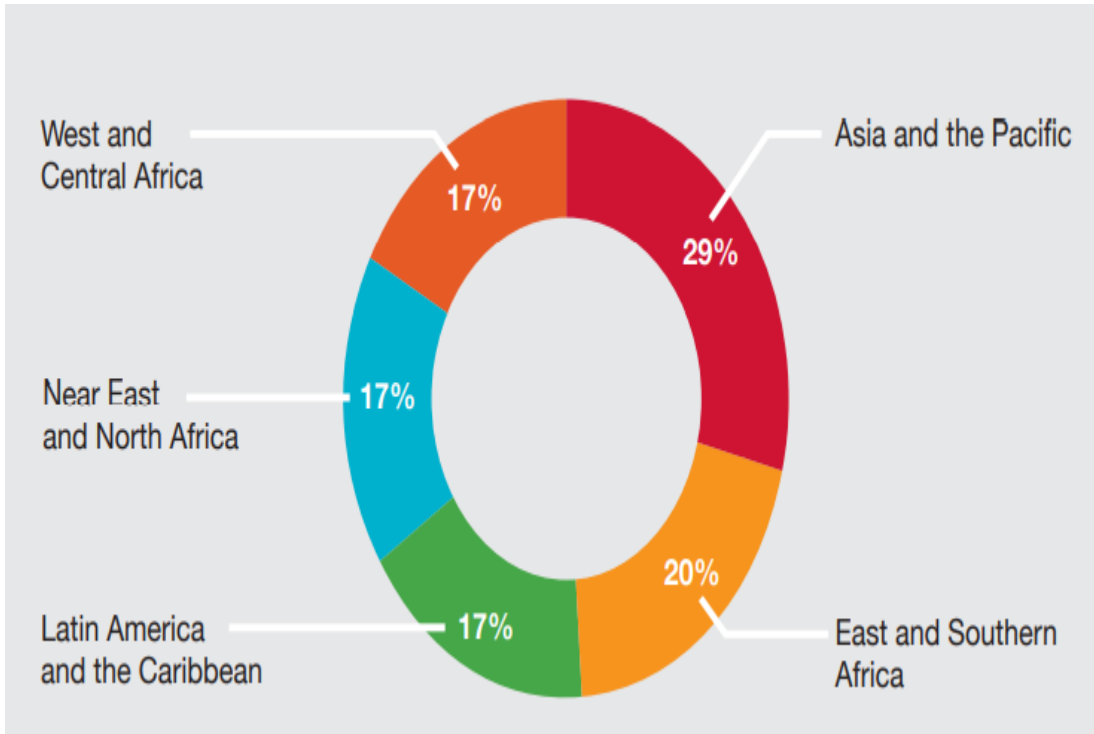
IFAD recent regional engagement with ARIs to support food system transformation

- **Consortium for Scaling-up Climate Smart Agriculture in South Asia' (C-SUCSeS) - SAARC Agriculture Center:** promote sustainable and resilient agricultural intensification in South Asia through enhanced capacity (policy, institution, skills) to scale up climate-smart strategies and technologies.
- **Sustainable Farming in Tropical Asian Landscapes (SFITAL) – ICRAF, Rainforest Alliance, MARS:** link small-scale producers to global supply chains in an environmentally sustainable, economically viable, and socially responsible manner
- **Asian Pacific Farmers' Programme (APFP) - Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA):** build capacity of FOs to provide sustainable demand-driven (business and technical) services to their members and engage in effective policy dialogue for the improved livelihoods and incomes of smallholder farmers
- **Agricultural Transformation and Market Integration in ASEAN Region: Responding to Food Security and Inclusiveness Concerns (ATMI) – IFPRI:** promote the role of small scale rural producers in agrifood market integration and the transformation of agrifood systems in South-East Asia.
- **International Symposium on Transitioning Shifting Cultivation to Climate Resilient Farming Systems in South and Southeast Asia – ICIMOD:** strengthen resilience of shifting cultivator communities to climate and other shocks through effective transition towards economically viable, inclusive, climate resilient and nutrition secure farming systems
- **Enabling Digital Transformation of Smallholder Agriculture – Grow Asia/WEF:** supporting the integration of ASEAN smallholders into the evolving digital technology landscape in agriculture
- **Specific facility (RPSF) for post-Covid recovery** which leveraged also digital innovations, home gardens, food safety etc.

IFAD: Strengthening Climate Resilience

- IFAD 11 (2019-2021): 25% of the US\$3.5 bn programme climate focused: so far US\$ 873.5 M across 61 projects (mainly adaptation)
- All projects screened for climate risks, all 38 approved new country strategies incorporate NDCs priorities
- IFAD 12 (2022-2024) target: 40% climate focused
- E/CC Strategy (2019-2025) : mobilize extra US\$ 500 M in supplementary climate finance (AF, GEF, GCF, ASAP+) – by Dec 2020 US\$ 150 M
- Stronger integration of biodiversity: commitment to focus 30 percent of its climate finance to support nature-based solutions in rural small-scale agriculture by 2030

IFAD's Agroecology stocktake (2018-23)



Linking AE projects to thematic areas in APR

AE-based projects have higher incorporation of the IFAD mainstreaming priorities and indigenous peoples (above 80%), with less frequency for youth (67%) compared to Non-AE projects (4% nutrition, 12% climate change, and 27% youth, 46% IPs)

Adaptation in the Mekong Delta

Key AE activities with ARIs - Tra Vinh University (TVU) and Can Tho University (CTU)

- **Water saline content monitoring and forecasting system** and participatory community vulnerability mapping and scenario development;
- **Diversification and integration:** Rice with fruits and vegetables to cope with salinity; Rice/shrimps rotations; organic integrated pest and soil fertility management in coconut, rice and shrimp cropping systems;
- **Resource use:** Soil fertility management through System of Rice Intensification (SRI); Water use efficiency;
- **Integration of CC concerns** into the provincial Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP);
- **Policy dialogue at provincial and national level** on vulnerable populations/social vulnerability in CC policy, planning and investment;
- **Co-financing for CC adaptation** through matching grants introduced in communes and villages



Key results

- 80,981 people trained on adaptation systems and technologies, including 50% women, and 28% ethnic minorities
- Over 130 climate-resilient farm innovations and models replicated by more than 52,192 households.
- 4000 non-beneficiary households adopted climate resilient innovation by self-replication and reported a 10% increase in productivity and a 9% income improvement.

THANK YOU

