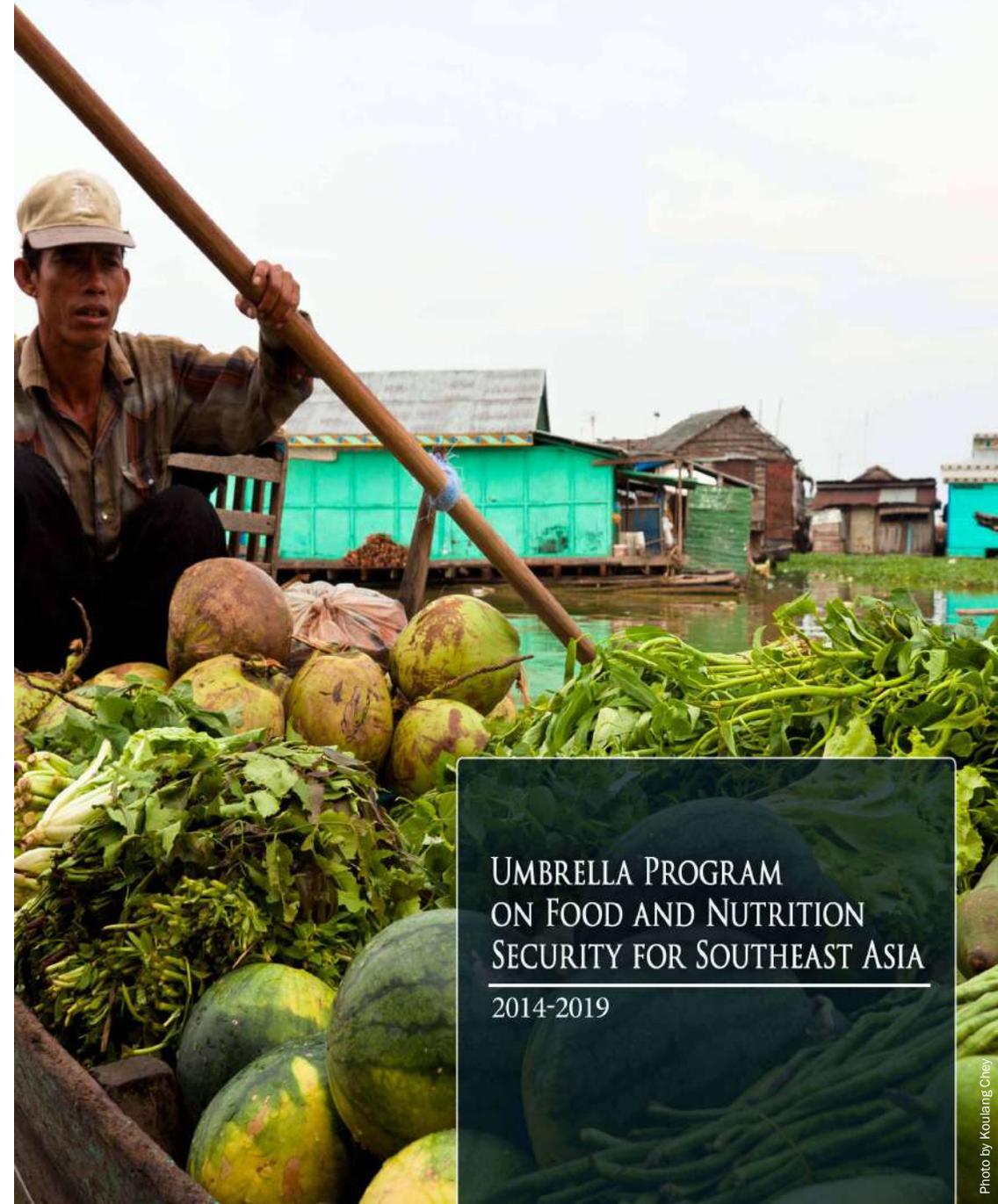




Southeast Asian Regional Center
for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture
College 4031, Laguna, Philippines
Telephone +63 49-536 2290
URL: <http://www.searca.org>



UMBRELLA PROGRAM
ON FOOD AND NUTRITION
SECURITY FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA
2014-2019



Photo by Rosemarie Razon

Umbrella Program on Food and Nutrition Security for Southeast Asia

The *Umbrella Program on Food and Nutrition Security for Southeast Asia* is envisaged to serve as a platform for collaborative research on food security among the University Consortium members and partner universities/institutions from the other Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) member countries. It aims to align the program of work on food security of SEARCA and the University Consortium to the development needs in the region and to support ongoing ASEAN-level programs on improving food security. The priority areas for collaboration shall be addressed through three integrated components: research and development, capacity building through graduate

education and training, and knowledge management.

Participatory and bottom-up approach was observed in the development of the *Umbrella Program* including consultations with the SEARCA senior fellows; benchmarking, scoping, and policy reviews; survey of UC members and other potential partners in the region; and regional consultation-workshop.

Consistent with the currently accepted international food security frameworks and the Food and Agriculture Organization's definition, which in itself subsumes nutrition security and food safety, this *Umbrella Program* highlights

the interrelations of the dimensions of food security as follows:

- FS Dimension 1 - Food availability
- FS Dimension 2 - Physical Access
- FS Dimension 3 - Economic Access
- FS Dimension 4 - Utilization
- FS Dimension 5 - Stability

The *Umbrella Program's* work scope will directly contribute to ASEAN-level initiatives on food security. It is guided by the strategic thrusts of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework, specifically *Strategic Thrust 2: Promote Conducive Food Market and Trade; Strategic Thrust 4: Promote Sustainable Food Production; Strategic Thrust 5: Encourage Greater Investment in Food and Agro-based Industry to Enhance Food Security; and Strategic Thrust 6: Identify and Address Emerging Issues Related to Food Security.*

In general, the *Umbrella Program* is guided by the following principles: inclusiveness and participation, collaboration, sustainability, supply and value-added chains, ecosystems approach, partnership with private sector, link to policy, climate change risks, and vulnerability management. In its present form, the *Umbrella Program* considers current global issues and trends which

recognize, inter alia, the ecological foundation of food security; Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and Post MDG or Sustainable Development Goals; a Green Economy; and equitable development pathways.

The criteria for the *Umbrella Program* include the following: value-add-addresses gaps or under-researched areas; relevance and importance for the region; benefits from collaboration; balance of R&D, capacity building, and knowledge management; and convergence with donor institutions.

Three major themes

Theme 1:
Food Reserves, Trade and Investment

Theme 2:
Sustainable Food Production and Utilization Systems

Theme 3:
Emerging Issues Related to Food Security



Photo by Al Benavente

Theme 1: Food Reserves, Trade and Investment



Photo by Manizul Hasan Bhuiyan

Sub-Theme 1.1: Food Reserves (FS Dimensions 1,3,5)

- Project 1.1.1: Comparative study on food reserve management and policies in Southeast Asia (Government and Community Reserve)
- Project 1.1.2: Investment requirements, and optimal location and storage capacities for food reserves within the Southeast Asian Region

Sub-Theme 1.2: Food Supply Chain and Logistics (FS Dimensions 1,2,5)

- Project 1.2.1: Development of efficient supply chains of major commodities
- Project 1.2.2: Enhancing participation of smallholder farmers in value chains: Identification of investment opportunities and sharing of experiences and best practices
- Project 1.2.3: Comparative studies on trade facilitation systems for agricultural exports in Southeast Asia

Sub-Theme 1.3: International/Regional Trade Agreements and Investments (FS Dimension 3)

- Project 1.3.1: Expanded ASEAN Free Trade Agreements: Economic and agri-food impacts on selected ASEAN countries
- Project 1.3.2: Feasibility of futures markets in the region for major agricultural commodities
- Project 1.3.3: Role of locally rooted cooperatives in global markets
- Project 1.3.4: Developing the ASEAN agri-food market information systems (FS Dimensions 1,2,3,4,5)

Sub-Theme 1.4: Standards on Food Quality and Safety (FS Dimensions 1,4)

- Project 1.4.1: Development of risk-based food safety measures and harmonization of science-based food safety standards for priority ASEAN food commodities
- Project 1.4.2: Capacity Building for ASEAN food quality and safety

Sub-Theme 1.5: Resilience of Food Markets and Informal Systems (FS Dimensions 1,2,3)

- Project 1.5.1: Comparative study on traditional food markets and informal systems in selected Southeast Asian countries
- Project 1.5.2: Policy analysis and cost-benefit analysis of national self-sufficiency versus regional sufficiency programs of strategic commodities
- Project 1.5.3: Causes and costs of price instability of major commodities



Photo by Raniel Jose M. Casanueva

Theme 2: Sustainable Food Production and Utilization systems (FS Dimensions 1,4,5)

Sub-Theme 2.1: Efficient Food Production Systems in Southeast Asia

- Project 2.1.1: Accelerating improvements in food production efficiency and sustainability
- Project 2.1.2: Capacity building for food production systems with improved efficiency
- Project 2.1.3: Knowledge management to improve food production systems
- Project 2.1.4: Resilient food production systems in response to disruptive natural and anthropogenic factors

Sub-Theme 2.2: Food Processing and Postharvest System Improvement in ASEAN

- Project 2.2.1: Value adding through post-production innovations in ASEAN
- Project 2.2.2: Capacity building and information exchange to improve postharvest systems management and food processing

Sub-Theme 2.3: Food Utilization Improvement

- Project 2.3.1: Food nutrition and consumption
- Project 2.3.2: Knowledge management for improved food utilization

Sub-Theme 2.4: Environment-related Issues in food production

- Project 2.4.1: Efficient water management
- Project 2.4.2: Green technology
- Project 2.4.3: Capacity building on the different ways to transfer information
- Project 2.4.4: Information Education Communication campaign

Theme 3: Emerging Issues Related to Food Security (FS Dimensions 1,2,3,4,5)

Sub-Theme 3.1: Systems of Knowledge Sharing

- Project 3.1.1: Meta-analysis of all food security-related work in UC and partner institutions
- Project 3.1.2: Capacity building and knowledge management in food security

Sub-Theme 3.2: Emergent Technologies

- Project 3.2.1: Emergent food sources including underutilized crops, fungi and algae
- Project 3.2.2: Capacity building workshops on emergent technologies

Sub-Theme 3.3: Climate Change and Use of Natural Resources

- Project 3.3.1: Policy and technology research on climate change effects on agriculture
- Project 3.3.2: Capacity building in anticipation of climate change effects on agriculture

Sub-Theme 3.4: ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2015

- Project 3.4.1: Collaborative research on cross-border spread of pests and diseases
- Project 3.4.2: Research on demographic changes and their associated effects on food security as a result of anticipated changes due to AEC2015
- Project 3.4.3: Workshop on anticipated changes on intellectual property protection and data security due to AEC 2015



Photo by Samuel De Leon



Photo by Luisito Cleofas