



# TIMOR-LESTE 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. Timor-Leste joined SEAMEO in 2006.

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.

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#### **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 toward 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.

# EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE LEARNING



SEARCA's core program on Education and Collective Learning (ECL) leads the development of a new breed of agriculture leaders and professionals through its scholarships and other graduate study programs. ECL also leads the technical and professional trainings, and coordinates roundtable discussions, conferences, fora, and all other SEARCA learning events.

## ■ GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### ► GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

One of SEARCA's main objectives is to produce high-quality human resources in agriculture for the SEAMEO region to strengthen their institutions that would propel regional development. One of the major undertakings under this program is the provision of scholarships that enable Southeast Asians working in agriculture and rural development to pursue their master's or PhD studies.

#### **Full Master's and PhD Scholarships**

So far, 69 full graduate scholarships (51 MS, 18 PhD) were awarded to Timor-Leste nationals. These include the scholars funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) under a special scholarship project for Timor-Leste nationals in 2003 even though Timor-Leste was not yet a member of SEAMEO at the time. To date, 59 Timorese scholars (44 MS, 15 PhD) have completed their graduate programs.



## Graduate Alumni

The first set of SEARCA Alumni Association of Timor-Leste (SAAT) officers took their oath of office on 15 January 2015 in Dili. Mr. Agustinho da Costa Ximenes, SAAT President, led the alumni who attended the event.



Less than a year after constituting SAAT, Timorese alumni led the conduct of the 2nd Regional SEARCA Fellows Association Conference on Food Security, Poverty Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation on 8-9 October 2015 at Hotel Timor.

Attended by more than 120 participants, the conference was sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Timor-Leste and SEARCA. It was also supported by 21 international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), European Union (EU), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

A number of the SEARCA graduate alumni from Timor-Leste are holding or have held high positions of responsibilities in government, universities, and research or development institutions.

## Emerging Leaders in Transition Economies (ELITE) Awardee

Mr. Agustinho Da Costa Ximenes, a Timorese SEARCA alumnus, received this special citation on the occasion of SEARCA's 50th Anniversary in November 2016 for his continuous active contributions to nation-building, policy formulation, and program delivery.



Mr. Ximenes earned his MS in Agronomy in 2010 from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), which he completed under the SEARCA scholarship program.

## Academic Bridging Program

This program provides assistance to nationals of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam to strengthen their academic preparation and qualification to pursue graduate studies in agriculture and related fields.

Aside from enabling scholars to enroll in undergraduate technical courses to enhance expertise in their areas of specialization, the program also supports English language proficiency training. The UPLB Graduate School offers a non-degree program specially designed to suit the academic background and specialization of each qualified candidate.

Seven bridging scholarships had been awarded to Timorese so far. Upon completion of their non-degree programs, six of the scholars were accepted to the UPLB Graduate School and one to the UGM Graduate School. All of them have since obtained their master's degrees. This program has been supported by the DAAD and SEARCA.

## ► INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Timor-Leste was one of the beneficiaries of SEARCA's Institutional Development Assistance (IDA) Program, which provided support to develop centers of excellence in agricultural education in SEAMEO member countries. SEARCA selects strategic universities that have the potential to contribute to the country's development.

SEARCA has been assisting Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL) under this program through scholarship support to its faculty members and by enabling UNTL faculty and research staff to participate in the following SEARCA activities:

- Short course on Climate-Agriculture-Impact Modelling
- In-country training/conferences
- Other SEARCA learning events

## ■ TRAINING FOR DEVELOPMENT

Short-term training is SEARCA's fast lane to building capacities in the agriculture and rural development sector of SEAMEO member countries. Training activities are geared toward developing the technical and managerial competencies of university faculty members, researchers, agricultural and environmental leaders, and practitioners in Southeast Asia.



Since Timor-Leste joined SEAMEO in 2006, 57 Timorese had participated in 24 learning events, namely:

- Southeast Asian Learning Framework on Inclusive, Integrated, and Innovative Public Policy Cycles for Family Farming (2022)
- International Ecotourism Travel Mart (2023)
- Experts' Consultation Meeting on Overcoming Obstacles to Agricultural Microfinance in Southeast Asia (2007)
- Unraveling the Policy Issues and Development Challenges on Biofuels: An Executive Forum (2008)
- 2nd International Training Course on Responding to Changing Climate: Knowledge-based Strategies in Managing Risks in Agriculture and Environment (2009)
- Second, Third, Fifth, and Sixth Executive Forums on Leadership Excellence in Academe
- Program for Southeast Asia (LEAP SEA) (2010, 2012, 2014, 2015)
- Second Online Course on Responding to Climate Risks in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (2011)

- Impact Assessment of Poverty Alleviation: Focus on Technology and Capacity Development (2012)
- International Conference on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Food and Environmental Security (2012)
- Executive Forum on the New ASEAN Agriculture Landscape (2013)
- Executive Forum on Food Security: Leaders in ASEAN Agriculture and Development (2015)
- Innovation Platforms, Rural Advisory Services, and Knowledge Management towards ISARD: A Forum-workshop (2016)
- IFS-SEARCA Workshop on Collaborative Research (2017)
- Knowledge-sharing Workshop on Processes and Outcomes of ISARD (2017)
- Exposure-Workshop on Farm Tourism Practices in Southeast Asia (2017)
- Value Chain Development Course (2018)
- Executive Forum on Food Security: Leaders in ASEAN Agriculture and Development for Timor-Leste (2018)
- IFS-SEARCA Mentoring Workshop on Collaborative Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (2018)
- First Leadership Development Program for Higher Education Institutions in Southeast Asia (2019)
- SEARCA Independent Dialogue for the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) 2021: Breaking Silos: Transforming Agricultural Education and Research toward Sustainable Food Systems in Southeast Asia (2021)
- Basic English Training for SEARCA Scholars (2021)

On 28 February-2 March 2018, SEARCA collaborated with Timor-Leste's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), UNTL, and the SEARCA Alumni Association of Timor-Leste (SAAT) in organizing the "Executive Forum on Food Security: Leaders in ASEAN Agriculture and Development for Timor-Leste." This learning event was held at UNTL in Dili,



Timor-Leste. The forum is part of the offerings of SEARCA's Short-Term Training Program under the then Knowledge Management Department-Training Unit. It has been tailored from what SEARCA has been offering as a regional course according to Timor-Leste's specific context and needs. Thirty-one middle managers and senior leaders in 12 national agriculture, fisheries, and rural development agencies, nongovernment organizations (NGOs), and key faculty members and officials of higher education institutions (HEIs) in agriculture and related fields participated in this forum.



# 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.

## ► PAST RESEARCH PROJECTS AND POLICY STUDIES

SEARCA has worked with various development organizations and research institutions in the implementation of the following completed research and policy studies in the ASEAN region, including Timor-Leste:

### **Implications of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and Trade and Investments on Regional Food Security**

SEARCA partnered with the Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) of Indonesia to implement this project which was identified by the SEARCA-initiated Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC) as one of the six priority research and development areas for collaborative undertaking under SEARCA's Umbrella Program on Food and Nutrition Security for Southeast Asia (FANSSEA). The project analyzed the potential impacts of AEC on existing trade agreements, flow of investments, and related commitments among ASEAN member countries, including Timor-Leste, and across existing ASEAN Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), and its implications on food security in the region.

## **Competency Certification for Agricultural Workers in Southeast Asia**

SEARCA had been enjoined by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) in 2017 to conduct a study on competency standards for agricultural workers in Southeast Asia as a step forward in mapping national competency standards among the Southeast Asian countries. SEAMEO promotes technical and vocational education and training (TVET) as one of its seven education priorities. Hence, the collaborative study has been instrumental to the formulation of regional and national qualification reference frameworks and assurance framework, which was recognized to be essential in the harmonization and internationalization of TVET in Southeast Asia.

The results of the project were presented and validated in a regional workshop convened in May 2018 in the Philippines and jointly hosted by SEARCA and the Philippine Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). It was participated in by representatives of TVET institutions from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam; SEAMEO Secretariat; SEAMEO Regional Center for Vocational and Technical Education and Training (VOCTECH); SEARCA; the International Labour Organization (ILO); and private sector organizations involved in skills development of agricultural workers. It crafted a four-point recommendation that was subsequently presented and elevated for consideration in the 4th HOM on SEA-TVET held in September 2018.

The four-point recommendation focused on the following:

- Encourage TVET institutions to increasingly assume proactive and transforming roles in assessing, validating, and certifying skills and experience gained through non-formal and informal modes within a lifelong learning framework;
- Strengthen and expand competency certification systems to cover recognition of nonformal and informal learning;
- Encourage TVET institutions to pursue partnerships and alliances with a broader range of stakeholders; and
- Promote support from regional TVET networks and international cooperation.

## **Umbrella Program on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Southeast Asia**

From 2015 to 2020, this program was jointly implemented by SEARCA and the UC with the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security–Southeast Asia (CCAFS SEA) and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). It covered Timor-Leste and the 10 other Southeast Asian countries.

## **Umbrella Program on Food and Nutrition Security for Southeast Asia**

The Umbrella Program on Food and Nutrition Security for Southeast Asia was envisaged to serve as a platform for collaborative research on food security among the UC members and partner universities/institutions from the SEAMEO member countries. It aimed to align the program of work on food security of SEARCA and the UC to the development needs in the region and to support ongoing ASEAN-level programs on improving food security. The priority areas for collaboration were addressed through three integrated components: research and development, capacity building through graduate education and training, and knowledge management.

## ► RESEARCH AND COLLABORATIVE GRANTS

### **Seed Fund for Research and Training (SFRT)**

The Southeast Asian region has a number of promising researchers and scientists whose desire to contribute to the region's development through research and knowledge dissemination initiatives is hindered by lack of funds. This situation serves as a barrier to translating promising research and training into scientific outputs that could be applied to promote development.

To address this concern and in line with the Center's thrust of promoting, undertaking and coordinating research programs relevant to the agriculture and rural development needs of the region, SEARCA will make available a pool of funds to be known as the SEARCA Seed Fund for Research and Training (SFRT).

The SFRT is envisaged to provide chosen research and training project proposals with limited start-up funds intended to enhance chances of securing long-term support from donor agencies. A grant of up to USD 15,000 shall be awarded as seed fund for research/training.

Mr. Dedisio Jose Lay Ximenes of HealthNet Timor-Leste has been the only SFRT grantee so far. His research was "Enhancing Food Production, Quality and Safety through Integrated Sustainable, and Marketdriven Farming Systems."

### **Travel Grants Program**

To reinforce the Center's efforts and resources in accelerating transformation through agricultural innovation (ATTAIN) and become a leading enabler and champion of excellence in agricultural and rural development, SEARCA provides travel grants of up to a maximum of USD 1,200 to each qualified agriculture and agriculture-related professional, social scientist, or graduate student in Southeast Asia.

### **IFS-SEARCA Collaborative Research Grants**

In 2016, the International Foundation for Science (IFS) and the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) implemented a grants scheme for collaborative research called the IFS-SEARCA Collaborative Research Grants Pilot in Southeast Asia. It was open to the nine Southeast Asian countries of Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam, and focused on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

As a follow-on collaboration between IFS and SEARCA, in December 2020, the Mentorship Program for Advanced Grants was launched with a Call for Research on Accelerating Transformation through Agricultural Innovation (ATTAIN). Promising scientists will benefit from translating their research and scientific outputs into knowledge that can be applied to promote development, while enhancing their capacities to develop research proposals and conduct research, and also expanding their reach in terms of contributing to the body of knowledge in their research areas. The purpose of the Mentorship Program is to nurture relationships between established scientists and early career researchers (the IFS-SEARCA grantees) that are intended to help the latter to strengthen their research processes, ensure that their projects are of high quality, and produce useful results.

In partnership with SEARCA, IFS supports Southeast Asians who are enrolled in a PhD degree program or have recently completed a master's or PhD degree within the five years from the time of the call, and with limited research start-up funds. This call, however, gives priority in terms of number of slots to its scholarship alumni; faculty and staff of partner universities and universities under its institutional development assistance program; and other regular employees of development organizations, academic institutions and government agencies of Southeast Asian countries, such as Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.

The implementation of the new Advanced Grant scheme continued. Ten (10) successful applicants received an IFS-SEARCA Advanced Grant to conduct their research within one to three years.

### ► POLICY ROUNDTABLES AND CONFERENCES

Timorese also participated in various policy roundtables, conferences, and fora with focus on providing evidence-based policy lessons/implications resulting from science-based studies. Likewise, these provide venue for in-depth discussion among stakeholders to address the issues concerning agricultural and rural development in the region.

- Regional Workshop on Competency Certification for Agricultural Workers in Southeast Asia (9-10 May 2018, SEARCA, Philippines)
- Regional Roundtable Discussion and Workshop on the Development of Ecological Monitoring Network in Southeast Asia (24-25 Oct 2016, SEARCA, Philippines)
- Second International Conference on Agricultural and Rural Development in Southeast Asia (ARD2014) (12-13 Nov 2014, Makati City, Philippines)
- Regional Consultation Workshop: Umbrella Program on Food Security (25-26 Jul 2013, SEARCA, Philippines)

### ► RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

#### **Agroforestry Status, Trends, and Outlook in Southeast Asia**

The World Agroforestry (ICRAF) and SEARCA recognize the momentum brought by the adoption of the ASEAN Guidelines for Agroforestry Development and would like to harness this development by heeding the call of the ASEAN food, agricultural, and forestry (FAF) sector to produce the first Agroforestry Status, Trends and Outlook for Southeast Asia. The report published in 2021 gathered the relevant perspectives from key stakeholders in the sector to respond to the challenges and ensure resilient interventions in agroforestry. This will further guide development efforts and sustainable policies that can shape leadership roles, produce more responsive institutional arrangements, and enhance governance.

Under the Technical Cooperation Program of the Food Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the ASEAN Secretariat on "Scaling up Agroforestry for food security and environmental benefits in Southeast Asia," the ASEAN Food, Agriculture and Forestry sector is requesting a report that encapsulates the status, trends and outlook of agroforestry in the Southeast Asian region. Such report will:

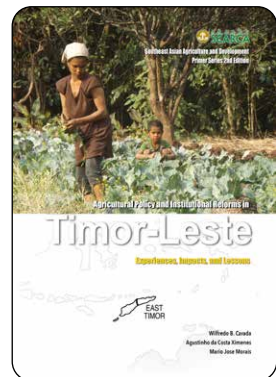
- Provide information on agroforestry practices, concepts, programs, policies, training, education and research, industry, issues/challenges, impacts and other relevant aspects.
- Draw an outlook of agroforestry into the future toward a resilient Southeast Asian region.
- Have an accompanying monitoring and reporting design for ASEAN Member States, which include Timor-Leste, to report on contributions and progress toward achieving resilience through agroforestry in the region.

### **Farms, Food, & Futures: Toward Inclusive and Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development in Southeast Asia**

Dubbed as Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) Book 2016, SEARCA spelled out in this publication the nuances of productivity-enhancing interventions moving forward, carefully drawing from in-depth analyses and syntheses of lessons, experiences, and empirical evidence on Asia’s ARD. The book provided an overview of the complex issues and challenges, as well as opportunities arising from the structural transformation and market integration happening in the region. For the ARD Book 2016, SEARCA assembled eminent experts and thought leaders working in ARD in the region, and together authored the book with four cross-cutting and contemporary ARD themes, namely: inclusive growth; sustainability; regional integration; and institutions, governance and transformation.

### **Agriculture and Development Primer on Timor-Leste**

SEARCA published a primer on Timor-Leste as part of its SAADP Series in 2018. The Timor-Leste primer analyzed the country’s experiences, lessons, and insights on policy reforms and institutional innovations in the agriculture sector. It revealed how Timor-Leste regained its competitiveness in food and agriculture products through liberalization of its trade policy and prudent macroeconomic management. The primer also discussed the major structural changes in the country’s agriculture sector that led to its strong resurgence as a key driver of Timor-Leste’s economy, particularly the government’s efforts to enhance food safety. The primer is authored by Wilfredo B. Carada of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, and Agostinho da Costa Ximenes and Mario Jose Morais, both of Timor Leste’s Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.



### **Other Publications**

SEARCA has published books, monographs and other publications on various topics related to Timor-Leste’s agriculture. Many of these were outputs from SEARCA’s research projects and knowledge events. Timor-Leste is featured along with other countries in six publications published by SEARCA, namely:

- The Rice Economy and the Role of Policy in Southeast Asia
- A Review of Issues and Challenges in Climate Change and Agriculture in Southeast Asia
- Conservation Agriculture: A Biological Engineering Approach to Sustainable Agriculture in Support of Rural Development in Southeast Asia

- Capacity Development Needs Assessment in Southeast Asia Toward an Informed Human Development Program in Inclusive and Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (ISARD)
- Operation One ASEAN: Towards Food Security in 2020 (SEARCA-DAAD Alumni Associations Regional Consultative Workshop)

Timor-leste is also featured along with other countries in nine publications published by SEARCA. Moreover, three Timorese co-authored in various SEARCA publications.

## ► **AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND NATURAL RESOURCES (AFNR) KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM**

For almost six decades, SEARCA has been actively working with different like-minded institutions and networks in conducting research that addresses critical issues related to the region's agricultural and rural development. Capitalizing on this knowledge resource, SEARCA is leading the establishment of the Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources (AFNR) Knowledge Platform.

This primarily aims to facilitate and sustain an ecosystem for knowledge sharing that contributes to agricultural and rural development in the Southeast Asian region and beyond. It also ensures access to an accurate, highly credible, sound, timely, and reliable source of information that will fuel future research activities, capacity building initiatives, policy development and technological innovations aimed at accelerating transformation in the region's agricultural sector.

It has three main components: knowledge generation, exchange, and utilization. Knowledge generation includes the conceptualization and organization of opportunities for knowledge sharing and learning (conferences, roundtable discussions, webinars, etc). Part of this is facilitating the link with other SEARCA programs and the AFNR KP. While AKRU works on scholarly publications, AFNR will work on popular formats, addressing the needs of our other stakeholders and providing another entry point/access to other SEARCA resources.

The second part is the Knowledge Exchange, the actual website itself. In this part, contributions of the programs will be categorized into these thematic areas. These are loosely based on our ATTAIN Priority Areas (our current five-year plan): Food and Nutrition Security; Sustainable Farming Systems and NRM; Value Addition, E-Commerce, and Industry Development; Policy and Thought Leadership; and Training and Capacity Building. There will also be links to other tools/resources like the SEARCA Library, AgPractices, Access Agriculture videos, etc.

The last part is knowledge utilization, the community of practice. We envision the contents of the AFNR KP to stir discussions in the COP. Regular activities (example: online forum on a certain timely/relevant topic) will be designed to keep the COP active and engaging.

## EMERGING INNOVATION FOR GROWTH



SEARCA's core program on Emerging Innovation for Growth (EIG) is focused on providing farmers and farming families wider access to innovative products and services as well as business models for increased productivity and income through:

- Open Innovation and Agri-Incubation
- Knowledge and Technology Transfer
- Project Development, Monitoring, and Evaluation

### ► InnovEIGhts

The InnovEIGhts program is envisioned to support, facilitate, and implement co-created and co-piloted agribusiness incubation, information and technology transfer projects, and impact- and action-driven extension and technical assistance engagement for Southeast Asia. The said program envisions to establish and develop the agriculture and rural development sector through:

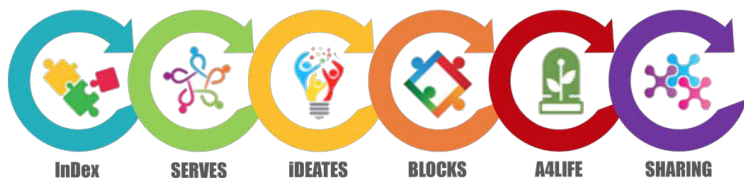
- Agricultural technology development and technology transfer,
- Adaptation and adoption of village-scale relevant technologies,
- Inclusive rural community development
- Local and immediate agribusiness clustering, and
- Gender inclusive and high impact projects.

The program also intends to achieve a number of goals in support of inclusive agricultural and rural development:

- Strengthen university public agri-research and university-based agribusiness incubators to promote local inclusive innovation ecosystem,
- Provide platform and projects for more effective and efficient prototyping, up-scaling, and commercialization of technologies and delivering impact-driven farming community assistance,

- Provide value-added services and assistance in the promotion of A/F tech-based startups and in the scaling-up of existing agri-technologies and agri-enterprises.
- Advance knowledge, attitude, and skills of farming communities and startups through innovation and entrepreneurial mentoring and trainings, and
- Build a coalition of support services from key government institutions and other relevant stakeholders.

The InnovEIGhts program is a combination of independent but highly integrated components design to achieve SEARCA ATTAIN in aligned to targeted SDGs and to serve the different levels of beneficiary-stakeholders and Academe-Industry-Government (AIG) partners.



The program is composed of:

1. Innovation Index Studies (InDex) is the research and information arm of the InnovEIGhts program.
2. Specialists and Experts for Rural Viable Emerging Solutions (SERVES) is a program that provides co-created and co-piloted farming family and farming community livelihood projects that identify and implement innovative but practical solutions to persistent farming challenges.
3. Emerging Ideas Competition (iDEATES) focuses on engaging the youth, children, and agri-innovators in promoting agri-innovation and scientific farming methods to modernize agriculture and build local rural innovation ecosystems.
4. Building Linkages and Open Collaboration for Knowledge System (BLOCKS) is an innovative and open shared service hub that offers a platform and networks of fabrication centers, design resources, experts, and projects. It is responsible for promoting locally adaptable agri-technologies and practices that can be adopted by small farmers and rural communities.
5. Agriculture 4.0 Livelihood Integration towards Farming Enterprises (A4LIFE) focuses on building local and community-based innovation ecosystem and inclusive agribusiness value chains. It aims to produce a generation of green startups and agripreneurs.
6. SEARCA Hub for Agriculture and Rural Innovations for the Next Generation (SHARING) is a powerful innovation and open collaboration platform and access tool that serves as a gateway for information, programs, resources, and networks in the world where SEARCA operates.



## InDex

### Innovation Index Study (Innovation Studies and Cases)

Provides access to information, cases and studies on ASEAN ARD, innovations, technology readiness, best practices, and benchmarks to serve as basis for policy making and decision making

#### **SERVES**

**Specialists and Experts for Rural Viable Emerging Solutions**

Provides farming communities with direct advisory services and linkages for innovation

#### **IDEATES**

**Emerging Ideas Competition**

A venue for radical young innovators to turn ideas into winning practical tech solutions

#### **BLOCKS**

**Prototyping and Technology Adaptation (Shared Service Facility)**

A makerspace that promotes scalable and innovative farm practices, models, and techs to increase their adoption and adaptation in communities

#### **A4Life**

**Agribusiness Incubation and Technology Acceleration**

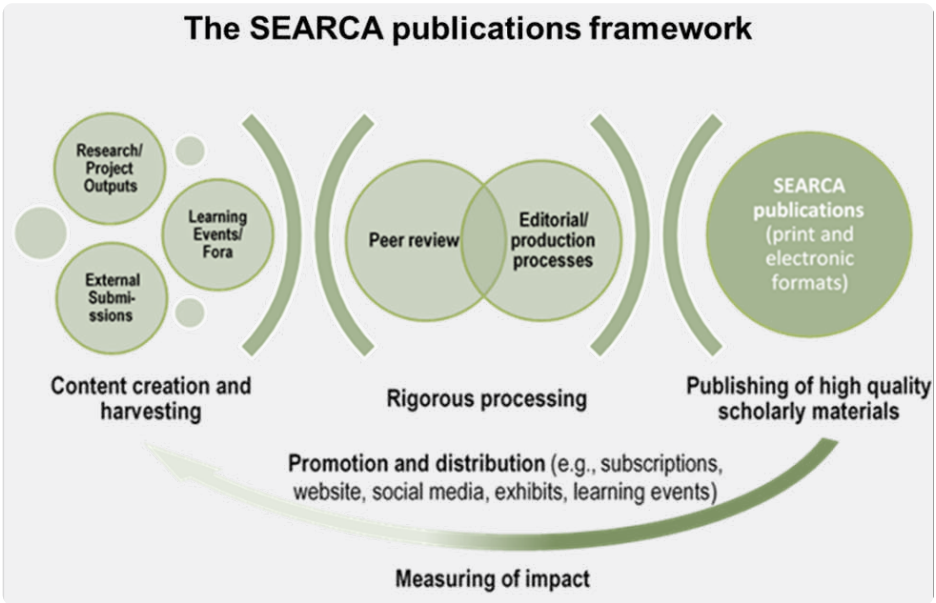
Promotes livelihood integration to enterprise through incubation of green startups; Accelerates technology adoption, adaptation and deployment through access to manufacturing, marketing and other networks.

## **SHARING**

### **SEARCA Hub for Agricultural and Rural Innovations for the Next Generations**

A platform that serves as a tool to accelerate the expansion of a collaborative (open) innovation network for connecting communities and industry partners' needs with the right research expertise and best funding possibilities.

# APPLIED KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES



The Center's applied knowledge resources 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.

Publishing for over half a century now, SEARCA has a publication pipeline of materials primarily sourced from outputs of its staple programs. External contributions are also welcome, notably for the Center's priority thematic content. All materials submitted for publication as books, monographs, or journal articles undergo rigorous peer review and editorial processes to ensure high quality.

Over 500 various publications are curated in SEARCA's knowledge inventory system (mostly those published year 2000 onward). As of 30 June 2023, 2 titles either focused on Timor-Leste or included it in its country of coverage have been published by SEARCA. These include a monograph (1) and a journal article (1).

## ► PROMOTION AND DISTRIBUTION

The Center has, in recent years, been investing in ensuring that its publications and other knowledge products maximize their intended use and not gather dust on a shelf. As it were, its momentum for more visibility online has proven more relevant than anticipated during the pandemic that started in 2020. The situation resulted to lessened printing and suspended the traditional distribution of physical copies and face-to-face knowledge exchanges/interactions.



The SEARCA website complemented by its social media presence are the current channels in which the Center's knowledge creations are accessed. Almost all publications are downloadable for free; learning/knowledge events and presentations are also freely accessible. As of 30 June 2023, a total of 45,310 publications have been downloaded from [searca.org](http://searca.org), SEARCA's official website. Over 23,000 people from 159 countries have downloaded these knowledge materials. The most downloaded types are refereed journal articles, books and monographs, and various briefs and notes. As of June 2023, 40 downloads of SEARCA publications have been made by Timorese.

## ► LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

The SEARCA library, which houses a collection of over 15,500 agriculture and development-related references, serves primarily SEARCA scholars and staff, but it also accommodates other users. The references are also listed in SEARCA's online library information system



(LIS) <https://lis.searcaapps.org/lis/> to facilitate faster access and search. The LIS also includes theses and dissertations of SEARCA scholars as well as weblinks to various online resources, such as articles on the latest updates in agriculture and development.

The Center's archives have digitized all vital records for efficient information processing, storage, access, and dissemination. As of September 2023, over 6,500 SEARCA documents have been digitized, including personnel and scholars' records, project reports, publications, financial statements, agreements, directors' exit reports, five-year plans, memorandums, and contracts.

## MANAGEMENT

Timor-Leste is currently represented in the SEARCA Governing Board by Dr. Acacio Cardoso Amaral, President, Instituto Politécnico de Betano (IPB), Timor-Leste. The SEARCA Governing Board is the Center's highest policymaking body composed of representatives of the 11 SEAMEO member countries.

At present, the SEARCA Director is Dr. Glenn B. Gregorio. The Deputy Director for Programs and the Deputy Director for Administration are Dr. Nur Azura Binti Adam and Assoc. Prof. Joselito G. Florendo, respectively.