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ASEAN ACTION PLAN ON FALL ARMYWORM

WOMEN AS IPM LEADERS PROGRAMME

CONCEPT PAPER

ASEAN FAW ACTION PLAN
Supporting IPM Across Southeast Asia

Supported by

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GrowAsia

Introduction

The ASEAN Action Plan on Fall Armyworm (FAW) sets out a regionally agreed multi-stakeholder model for supporting Southeast Asian (SEA) countries to monitor and manage FAW based on an integrated pest management (IPM) approach. The Women as IPM Leaders Programme is a key cross-cutting component of the Action Plan. The proposed programme seeks to empower women as leaders in IPM across SEA by:

- Understanding the enabling conditions and levers for women to be leaders in IPM
- Strengthening the capacities of women leaders to implement IPM in Southeast Asia
- Developing women IPM leadership models
- Creating and nurturing women leadership and entrepreneurship opportunities in IPM.
- Identifying opportunities for women empowerment, gender integration and social inclusion activities across the region and under the ASEAN FAW Action work programmes

There are five components of this work programme:

- Communication, information, and knowledge-sharing
- Enabling environment
- Women leadership models and gender-inclusive IPM entrepreneurship
- Education and training
- Mainstreaming gender in IPM programmes and activities.

It is important to note that the Women as IPM Leaders programme is not crop or pest-specific. This recognises that women in the region are involved in many diverse crop and vegetable production and value chain activities as part of farming systems across the region. And, that there are multiple plant pests, weeds, and diseases that farmers must contend with at any one time. IPM must be part of a systems approach to improving the sustainability and resilience of food systems. Therefore, while the starting point for this programme is addressing FAW the intention is to expand its women-empowerment approach to other integrated pest and disease management.

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Background

ASEAN smallholder farmers, both women and men, are in urgent need of effective, safe, gender-responsive, and affordable crop management solutions. These solutions need to be cognisant of the emerging threats to farmer livelihoods including pressures from the Covid-19 pandemic as well as climate change and biodiversity loss impacts

FAW was first reported in Southeast Asia in late 2018. It has since rapidly spread, and its presence is now confirmed across the region. The pest can cause major damage to maize and sorghum, although more than 350 host plants can potentially suffer FAW damage. The impact of FAW damage on crop yields and livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Southeast Asia is a serious issue for food, feed, and income security in the region; this is further amplified by the severe impact of COVID-19-related implications on agricultural supply chains. Other plant pests, weeds and diseases can also cause serious damage when not managed appropriately, not to mention the threat of the arrival of new invasive alien species in the future.

On 21 October 2020, Agricultural and Forestry Ministers of ASEAN agreed on a regional ASEAN Action Plan on Fall Armyworm Control. This Action Plan has six objectives and six work programmes which set out a comprehensive plan to build capacity and capability within the region across different stakeholder groups (e.g., farmers, policymakers, researchers) to effectively monitor, manage and control FAW.

The ASEAN FAW Action Plan emphasises the need for strong gender-transformative and social inclusion approaches to be progressed across the design, implementation, and evaluation of activities, including in projects and communications.

The Role of Women in Agriculture

Women play a critical role in implementing IPM in many parts of Southeast Asia. However, their roles are not very well recognized by both agricultural research and development, and their needs are often not reflected in the design and implementation of IPM programmes, as well as community extension work. It is vital, therefore, that the development and implementation of IPM programs consider how women can be encouraged and supported to be key leaders and decision-makers.

The roles women play and the degree of decision-making power they have in the agricultural sector in Southeast Asia are very context-dependent. Women farmers are a diverse group and their experiences in the agricultural sector are varied, depending on factors such as age, marital status, class, ethnicity, religion, and location (Nguyen et al, 2019).

Cultural factors such as beliefs, traditions, languages, and laws held by a nation also shape roles and the degree of decision-making power of women in farming and vary significantly between countries and even within countries. Caution should therefore be taken with the use of generalisations that can mask the diversity and complexities of the different roles that women play or could play in driving improved IPM across Southeast Asia. Country-specific, even community-specific, gender intervention frameworks are likely to be necessary to overcome gender gaps in agriculture and to empower women to become leaders across agricultural value chains. Projects should normally invest in understanding local cultural nuances before designing IPM-related management programmes.

The percentage of female employment in agriculture in 2019 ranges from 6% in Malaysia to 64% in Lao PDR (World Bank, 2021 [1]). The last 30 years also shows a marked decline in the percentage of female employment in agriculture in the region, in line with the rapid transformation of Southeast Asian economies over the last three decades. As the total female working population has increased over the last 28 years by 69%, the number of women employed in agriculture has decreased by 10%, with 8.6 million fewer women employed in 2019 compared to 1991. Anecdotal evidence points to a possible reduction of women studying agriculture, and there may also be a reluctance amongst young women to take on roles in the agricultural sector that involve strenuous outside work, unprotected from harsh weather conditions when there are alternative opportunities for employment indoors and/or which require less physical input.

	Percentage of Female Employment in Agriculture (1991/2019)			Total change in women employed
Country	**1991 (%)**	**2019 (%)**	**Difference (%)**	
Cambodia	80	37	-43	31 000
Indonesia	57	26	-31	-2,673,000
Lao PDR	91	64	-27	289,000
Malaysia	21	6	-15	- 182,000
Myanmar	63	42	-21	-1,280,000
Philippines	32	14	-18	-392,000
Thailand	61	28	-33	-3,326,000
Viet Nam	71	38	-33	-1,101,000

Figure 1: Percentage of female employment in agriculture.
At https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.AGR.EMPL.FE.ZS

*Singapore and Brunei Darussalam are not included in the table due to < 1% female employment in agriculture.

[1] At https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.AGR.EMPL.FE.ZS

Similarly, while the total male working employed population increased by 66%, the number of men working in agriculture decreased by around 6% with around 6.6 million fewer male farmers employed in the sector in 2019.

Trends also highlight differences across the countries. The following two graphs show the percentage of employment in agriculture for females and males in Thailand and Viet Nam. Both demonstrate a considerable decrease in the share of total employment in the agricultural sector. In 1991, the percentage of women employed in agriculture in Thailand was higher than male employment in this sector. By 2019, however, the share of employed females in agriculture was less than their male counterparts. Viet Nam shows the share of female and male employees in the sector at around 70% in 1991. By 2019, however, this had dropped to around 38% and 36% with a trend that also shows a greater decrease in the share of male employment in agriculture across the period.

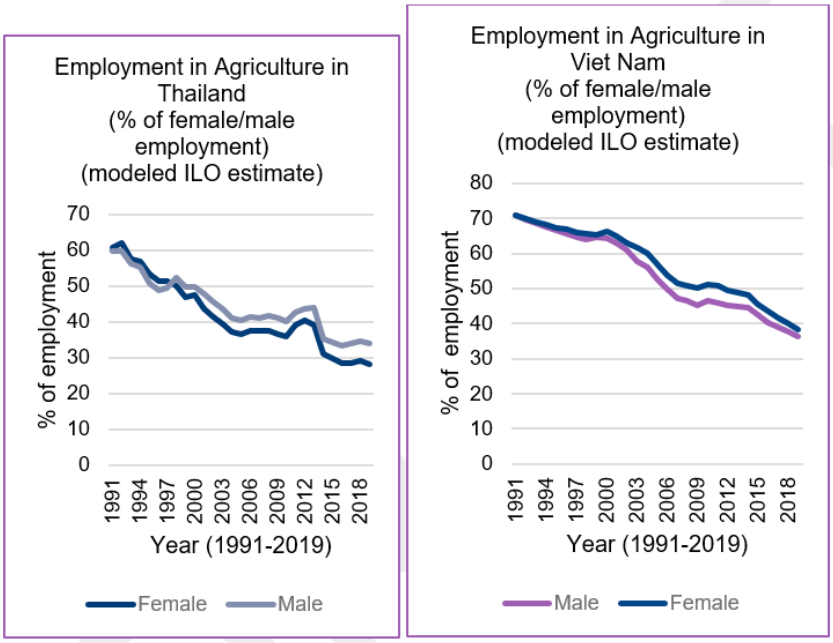

Figure 2: Percentage of female and male employment in Thailand and Viet Nam (1991-2019). At https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.AGR.EMPL.FE.ZS)

It should be emphasised that the above statistics do not consider the significant share of agricultural employment of women that is informal and/or unpaid. It may be likely that the share of women in the informal sector, including subsistence agriculture, is relatively high but not recognized. For example, qualitative studies in Vietnam have shown that women play significant roles in agriculture in the context of male-out migration (Kawarazuka et al., 2021) and women who are involved in rural-to-urban migration frequently return to home villages to maintain family farms (Resurreccion and Ha 2007; Nguyen 2014). Other factors should also be considered, for example, wage employment in agriculture has a positive impact on women, but female workers tend to be paid less than male workers, and wages tend to be low (Giroud and Huaman, 2019). The age of women farmers and the size of the family, including generations cared for as part of the family unit, is also of interest. Gendered migration patterns of family members are likely to be extremely important (e.g., seasonal out-migration of family members to other locations/sectors).

It is important that the Women as IPM Leaders Programme develops a robust understanding of how changing population and gendered socio-economic patterns impact and modify women farmer roles in Southeast Asia. For example, older women farmers may be likely to require different IPM training, support, and policy interventions compared to younger farmers. In addition, the role of women may be rapidly changing if they are left to manage the farm while males migrate to find work in cities to supplement the family income. Women who are household heads (e.g., matrilocal, widowed, separated, or living in households where the spouse was away) are also likely to act differently than men or women in male-headed households.

Demographic and socio-economic factors are crucial to understanding how women can be empowered to become leaders in IPM. At the same time, understanding underlying structural barriers to women's empowerment is also essential. These might include time and labour constraints due to their domestic responsibility, limited intra-household decision-making power and lack of or comparatively less access to financial services (credit, insurance); training and agricultural extension; business and marketing services; and resources like land, agricultural inputs, improved crop varieties and technologies. Women can also often be underrepresented in higher value-added tasks and activities as well as agricultural groups and organizations that help support, research, and/or provide leadership to farming communities. Gender and social norms may also act as a considerable barrier in some communities to women taking on different roles. For example, a female farmer might learn new information about agricultural technologies, but social norms might prevent her from accessing the credit to fund them, and without the support of her husband, she might be considered a risky investment (ISDS, 2018; CABI, 2021). Literacy and education levels represent another factor, particularly in areas where ethnic minorities use their own languages, women leave school relatively early or where literacy rates are comparatively lower. This can create significant barriers to obtaining information about new approaches in the field or on new technologies. Access to digital services may also be limited if women do not have ownership of a mobile phone. Women farmers often work longer hours than men (12-17 hours per day compared to 8-10 hours for men), which includes childcare and responsibilities in the house, leaving them little time to invest in extension advice (CABI, 2021).

Akter et al (2017) suggest that regional trends in Southeast Asia may contradict the conventional narratives of gender inequity in agriculture that have emerged from the studies of farming systems in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia and that Southeast Asian women may have equal access to productive resources such as land and inputs, and comparatively greater control over household income than men. The authors also point to a lack of gender and agriculture research specific to the Southeast Asian region.

The Women as IPM Leaders programme focuses on developing a strong base of knowledge about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to women leadership in IPM across Southeast Asian countries. This recognizes the need to generate a greater understanding of the needs and opportunities for women's empowerment in IPM before developing multi-year activities or projects to ensure that any projects best meet the needs of women farmers over the long term.

Integrated pest management relies on the sustainability basics to be done well (e.g., healthy soils, strong plant varieties, robust habitat and crop management and adequate monitoring). Therefore, linkages to climate change and biodiversity loss will also be addressed in activities under the programme, where relevant. For example, crop management tactics can contribute to biodiversity loss (e.g., the overuse of pesticides can cause significant harm to habitats including killing beneficial insects). Climate change can decrease the resilience of habitats to pest attack through increased storms, rainfall, droughts, and stronger wind events. Climate change may also open up new pathways of introduction of new invasive alien species (e.g., new shipping passages, the Belt and Road Initiative).

Furthermore, economic pressures on women smallholder farmers are considerable – only exacerbated by climate change and Covid-19, amongst other things. The Action Plan, therefore, seeks to take farmer-centric approaches to support holistic approaches to addressing the multiple barriers to achieving sustainable integrated pest management.

Women as IPM Leaders

IPM supports farmers to protect their crops from the impacts of plant pests and diseases in an environmentally beneficial, safe, and economically sound way while also building the resilience of farmers to respond to future threats. This requires farmers to suppress pest populations below an economic threshold using a combination of pest management tools and actions that are based on observations and sound decision-making. The regular, systematic inspection of crops and plants for pests and diseases – is necessary to identify and quantify pest and disease incidence and make judicious decisions on when and how to initiate controls. While IPM does not rule out the use of chemical pesticides, these are encouraged to be used only as necessary, and as a measure of last resort.

While the literature on IPM emphasises the importance of understanding social contexts, it does not explain details and overlooks heterogeneity among farmers, especially gender. As a result, IPM is not always an easy concept to apply in practice, especially for smallholder farmers. It requires some level of ecological literacy through targeted education and training, supportive policies and markets, and access to effective and economic technologies, approaches, and inputs. It also requires time. Time is not always held in abundance by women farmers who are often time-pressured given the range of household and farming duties they may be responsible for. Therefore, it is important to consider how to design efficient IPM approaches that aid women and their families to best address plant pests and diseases in a way that reduces yield loss increases incomes and resilience to future threats and allows options for different approaches that best fit with their capacity and needs.

Kawarazuka et al (2020) emphasise that considering gender in research on pests and diseases helps to facilitate the development of more efficient approaches to increasing the adoption of crop protection technologies and practices by women and men farmers according to their roles, knowledge, and capacities. They conclude that a transdisciplinary agricultural research approach, involving gender-responsive participatory research and participatory approaches is important and can promote new ideas and approaches to agronomy research and crop protection, including:

- Allowing researchers to move beyond exploring the issues of pests and diseases in a single crop and single scientific discipline toward exploring crop systems. This can be revelatory because women and men farmers' strategies for controlling pests and diseases are closely associated with their interests and priorities in other crops.

- Enabling researchers to explore a broader value chain process of the targeted crop rather than focusing on a particular stage of production where pests and diseases take are most prevalent. This can unlock an understanding of seed systems and gendered constraints while considering post-harvest market demands that can provide entry points for innovation, such as replacing local varieties with disease-resistant ones.

- Providing an opportunity to explore problems and solutions from the viewpoint of women and men farmers instead of "scientists." Women and men farmers may have very different perceptions on issues than "outsiders" and understanding perceptions and motivational drivers are essential to understanding gendered power dynamics and potential opportunities for long-term behavioural change.

Other studies have revealed important factors to IPM and gender-sensitive approaches. Some of these include:

- Agricultural programmes that include a conscious effort and clear target to engage women can significantly improve women's access to extension services. This can lead to changes in cropping practice by increasing the cultivation of the number of major and minor crops and the number of plots (Akter et al, 2016).

- Women and men from the same community can perceive pests in very different ways.

- Women and men may focus on different parts of the farming system and have developed different methods. Certain roles may be regarded as more gender-specific than others.

- Women can often be underrepresented in agricultural and non-agricultural organizations.

- IPM can represent new economic opportunities for women e.g., the application of a naturally occurring fungus called Trichoderma has increased women's wages while protecting plants from disease (IPM Innovation Lab), supporting GAP certification.

- Funding and work on gender need to be just as much about social norms as it is about extension services; the influence of social norms on women's roles in farming and across the food value chain must be understood. For example, a woman farmer might attend agricultural training and learn about the use of new inputs, but social norms might prevent her from travelling to buy those inputs. In some contexts, it is not considered moral for women to travel to buy agricultural supplies (CABI)

- It is important to test the validity of perceptions and statements and be aware of the importance of context. For example, women may not be necessarily safer or less likely to use pesticides and statements abound that may not hold true in different locations and communities across countries and within countries. This is an area where work to understand the path of pesticide exposure in communities and women's and men's concerns and attitudes regarding pesticide application would be useful.

Regional Initiatives

Examples of organisations and initiatives that focus on the important role of gender and IPM within the region or have a broader gender and agriculture role are summarised below. Activities that support IPM activities can include research/education/training/support/etc on:

- Pesticide use, including trade-related education/training related for residual management
- Bioprotection/biocontrol technologies and approaches
- Crop management, including soil, seed, and harvesting management
- Crop monitoring and surveillance
- Ecological literacy skills
- Plant pest and disease monitoring and management
- Broader education and training that improve farm management, marketing, selling, entrepreneurship and technology skills that support IPM outcomes.

Organisation	Description
CGIAR	The CGIAR takes interdisciplinary approaches to pest and disease management in developing countries. Recently, a group of scientists at the CGIAR had a series of webinars for the International Year of Plant Health. Currently one CGIAR initiative "Plant Health and Rapid Response to Protect Food and Livelihood Security" is under preparation, expecting to start in 2022. Initial focus countries in Southeast Asia are Indonesia and Vietnam, but other SEA countries are not excluded. Gender and social inclusion are a major part of this initiative.
iDE-Cambodia	iDE has established and maintained an extensive network of relationships and partners with local and national government bodies, research institutions, and (most importantly) tens of thousands of farmers in rural communities. iDE adopts a strong Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) approach and supports social representation in activities and community and institutional leadership positions to ensure that critical voices are heard, and those project activities are done with the informed consent of participants.
IPM Innovation Lab and CESAIN	The IPM Innovation Lab has been exploring opportunities for developing a capacity-building program to be based at Royal University of Agriculture to prepare the next generation of agricultural professionals so that they can implement agricultural research, development, and/or extension programs that can address the specific needs and priorities of women farmers. Currently, CESAIN is an active partner.
THRIVE: Corteva Agriscience and Grow Asia	Grow Asia and Corteva Agriscience have created a joint initiative to progress the economic empowerment of women farmers and agripreneurs in Southeast Asia. The joint initiative is called THRIVE (short for Train Her to Promote Resilient, Inclusive Value Chains and Economic Empowerment). THRIVE has two goals: to increase women farmers' farm management, digital and business skills; and directly support women farmers, farm-level influencers and agripreneurs through networking events and mentorship opportunities. The THRIVE project ultimately aims to reach 400+ women farmers and agripreneurs in rice and maize value chains in Southeast Asia. The program has three core elements: 1) women-only farmer training on non-agronomic topics (such as financial literacy); 2) business development and networking events for women lead farmers, influencers and agripreneurs; and 3) mentoring programs between those women and Corteva staff.

Project Plan

Five components are proposed for this programme:

Communication, Information and Knowledge

This component will communicate the results of the work programme to the wider community in a coordinated way to ensure the effective uptake of all outputs of the Women as IPM Leaders programme. It will also investigate the efficacy of communication modes and channels for reaching out to, and communicating to women farmers. Under this work area, information, advice, knowledge-sharing events, and recommendations will be developed and/or distributed. Sharing of learnings from other programmes, as well as other regions, will be encouraged. The aim will be to create a community of experts and practitioners from the public and private sector that wish to champion the important role of women in IPM.

Enabling Environment

This component will assess important enabling factors that support women's empowerment in IPM and look to identify and implement SMART projects that can address barriers and seize opportunities to support women leadership towards improved IPM. In addition, research on the barriers for women to adopt and implement IPM practices will be considered. Some assessment of formal institutions and policies as well as informal institutions and social norms that might influence the enabling environment will be conducted.

Women Leadership & Entrepreneurship

This component will identify what leadership means in different contexts and understand different leadership models. Entrepreneurship opportunities associated with IPM will be evaluated and promoted. Business training and marketing skills will be explored,along with access to finance. Enhancing women's participation in research, policy and farming decision-making organisations will also be a feature of this work.

Education & Training

This component will support targeted education and training to empower women to be able to make informed IPM decisions based on a menu of options that are effective, efficient, accessible, safe and which build the resilience and capability of women farmers to manage and extract more value from crops and agricultural value chains. Training on how to develop gender sensitive IPM programs and conduct gender sensitive IPM promotion to relevant stakeholders, such as NGOs, Government organizations, research organizations involved in promoting IPM will also be considered.

Mainstreaming

This component will identify opportunities for gender-responsive approaches to be progressed across programmes of the ASEAN FAW Action Plan and will also seek to draw together regional private and public sector support for ensuring that existing activities, partnerships, projects, policy and operations carried out in the region consider gender responsive IPM activities and women empowerment opportunities.

Implementation

Implementation of this programme will be divided into three phases, noting that some phases may run concurrently later in the programme.

Phase 1: Exploration

September 2021 - November 2022

Phase 1 will focus on developing a better understanding of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the roles and decision-making power of women as IPM leaders in Southeast Asia. This does not prevent certain projects and activities going ahead if there is an identified gap or opportunity in which partners wish to invest in.

Phase 1 will also provide a dedicated regional platform for sharing information, learnings, and perspectives on gender and IPM to help raise awareness and promote opportunities for women leadership in IPM. This includes drawing on the learnings and results of other efforts carried out in the region.

A one-day regional workshop will be held in September 2022 to share learnings from Phase 1 and build the community of learning.

Phase 2: Acceleration

November 2022 - November 2024

Phase 2 will build on the exploratory work in Phase 1 and activities already initiated in the region to identify and implement projects and activities to support women IPM leadership. A matchmaking funding platform may be pursued to help match proposed community-led projects with support and/or donors.

A one-day regional workshop will be held half-way through Phase 2 to consolidate learnings from progress on activities and to bring stakeholders together.

Phase 3: Evaluation

November 2024 - February 2025

Phase 3 will assess the effectiveness of activities under Phase 1 and Phase 2 to help support empowerment of women in the region as IPM leaders. A Report that evaluates the outcomes of the programme, along with recommendations for next steps will be produced.

A two-day regional Women as IPM Leaders event will be held in November 2024 to bring stakeholders together to share learnings and to also catalyse discussion on future activities with the region.

Activity Plan

Phase 1: Exploration	October 2021 – November 2022

Communication, information, knowledge-sharing	• Provide a common platform for communicating information and resources • Grow a community of practice on gender and IPM research and action

Activities:

Run a 12-month (bimonthly) webinar and workshop series exploring Women and IPM topics, with at least 1 case study in each session:

- Gender, farming, IPM and demographic profiles
- Gender digital IPM and drones
- Gender and pesticide use
- Gender and IPM implementation case studies
- Gender IPM education and training approaches

Promote sharing of resources, lessons, research, and activities carried out in the region on the ASEAN FAW Action Plan Knowledge and Information Hub (K&I Hub).

Understand the potential of different communication channels (e.g., TikTok, Facebook, radio) and modes of communication, to help inform, and communicate with, women farmers on IPM, and use these appropriately for communicating and raising awareness.

Identify local and regional influencers or "Champions of Change" in different communities that can help support the dissemination of information on the important role of women as IPM leaders.

Identify a champion or key supporter of the programme in the public and private sector in each ASEAN country.

Identify other programmes and activities carried out by public and private sector stakeholders and highlight this work, where relevant, on the K&I Hub.

Publish 10 blogs/articles related to the work of the programme.

Interview women farmers from around the region and record their experiences of IPM on the programme page on the K&I Hub to provide a more visible voice to women farmers on IPM.

Draw on approaches such as Most Significant Change Technique and the INGENAES Technology Assessment to assess how the gender dimensions of pest management (and agriculture) have shaped the dissemination and application of IPM practices and to document farmers stories on how IPM has changed their agricultural practices and livelihoods.

Instigate a simple 3-minute survey across women farmers groups in each ASEAN country to identify 3 top priorities in IPM for women.

Activities continued...

Hold a video/Tik Tok competition to help highlight the roles, challenges, and opportunities for women farmers in the region working on IPM. One subject theme could be to show the formal and informal roles of women in agricultural settings to draw attention to this important facet of women's multiple roles in agricultural settings.

Encourage partners of the Programme to publicly commit to 3 actions per year to help empower women or incorporate gender-inclusive actions into BAU activities of the organisation/company.

Develop the programme of work for Phase 2 and Phase 3 for presentation by September 2022.

Hold a Women as IPM Leaders Conference in September/October 2022 to bring together the community, learnings, and results from the first year to share and launch Phase 2.

Supportive enabling environment for women as IPM leaders	• Understand the enabling environment for empowering women in IPM • Understand the barriers for women to adopt and implement IPM practices. • Improve understanding of the levers for change towards empowerment in different IPM contexts. • Analyse formal institutions and policies as well as informal institutions and social norms that might influence the enabling environment. • Provide an opportunity for skill development for graduate/post-graduate students in gender and IPM research and/or policy roles

Activities:

Summarise existing research and past activities that have been conducted in the region to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the current situation.

Commission research that includes at least 5 case studies that seek to understand better the different roles women play in IPM across the region by purposefully using communities that have different women population dynamics and factors (e.g., religion, ethnicity, cash crops versus vegetable farming, migration dynamics) to better understand the nature and influence of different contexts and opportunities for future project interventions in the Women as IPM Leaders Programme.

Conduct research on the range of barriers to women to adopting and implementing IPM practices.

Carry out a high-level assessment of formal institutions and policies as well as informal institutions and social norms that might influence the enabling environment.

Provide at least one part-time or full-time opportunity for paid work experience supporting the Women as IPM Leaders programme.

Activities continued:
In conjunction with other research projects identify and evaluate different leadership models for Women as IPM Leaders.

Identify and evaluate women entrepreneurship opportunities as part of IPM and practices in at least 3 different locations and consider how these could be developed and scaled, including identifying what additional skills-based training is needed.
Form a small women's farmer reference group to get regular feedback on potential activities and input into programme development.

Identify opportunities with public and private sector stakeholders to encourage more women input and representation in policymaking decision-making.

Run an annual competition to identify and acknowledge an individual [+ an organisation with programme] in the community that contributes greatly to IPM and who personifies many of the objectives of the Programme through their work. This will be announced at the annual conference.

Education and training	• Evaluate and promote opportunities for women farmer-focused ToT programmes, farmer field schools as well as education and training programmes. • Build a strong community of research and practitioner support across Southeast Asia.

Activities:
Assess current training opportunities designed for women, or which women can attend, and evaluate opportunities to improve and/or modify and scale up across the region.

Identify and evaluate opportunities for training and education in new technologies (e.g., drones, digital IPM)

Evaluate training and education needs for women farmers in basic health and safety, accounting, business, and marketing skills.

Evaluate the potential for an ASEAN responsible pesticide training and education programme designed for, and delivered by women, including the incorporation of associated benefits to women health as well as economic benefits.

Consider the usefulness of a minimum package of training to help develop skills and potential certification or recognition of training.
Identify opportunities to promote women involvement in higher-level education as well as vocational training programmes

Provide training on how to develop gender-sensitive IPM programs and conduct gender-sensitive IPM promotion to relevant stakeholders, such as NGOs, Government organizations, and research organizations involved in promoting IPM.

Set up 6-monthly meetings amongst the research and practitioner community who are working on gender and IPM and encourage regular networking/sharing of information/collaboration amongst different research groups in the region.

Mainstreaming gender-responsive activities & opportunities	• Identify opportunities for supporting and mainstreaming opportunities for developing women leadership in activities and opportunities across all the ASEAN FAW Action work programmes

Activities:

Brainstorm and identify with public and private-sector stakeholders potential 'low-hanging fruit' activities that partners might be able to take to increase and empower women's role in IPM decision-making using voluntary commitments/ partner-led initiatives/ PPPs/other.

Identify activities across the ASEAN FAW Action Plan programme ways and means to incorporate gender-sensitive and women empowerment activities.

Phase 2: Acceleration	November 2022 – November 2024

Communication, information, knowledge-sharing	• Provide a common platform for communicating information and resources • Grow a community of practice on gender and IPM research and action

Activities:
Run a regular workshop series on a six-monthly basis to share learnings, work, case studies, results from across the region on gender and IPM.

Promote sharing of resources, lessons, research, and activities carried out in the region on the ASEAN FAW Action Plan Knowledge and Information Hub (K&I Hub).

Highlight other programmes and activities carried out by public and private sector stakeholders and highlight this work, where relevant, on the K&I Hub.

Publish monthly blogs/articles series related to the work of the programme.

Hold a video competition for short films based on women farmers in the regions and IPM.

Use a variety of relevant communication styles and channels to raise awareness on activities, best practices, education and training opportunities for women in IPM.

Interview women farmers from around the region and record their experiences of IPM on the programme page on the K&I Hub to provide a more visible voice to women farmers on IPM.

Run an annual competition to identify and acknowledge an individual [+ an organisation with programme] in the community that contributes greatly to IPM and who personifies many of the objectives of the Programme through their work. This will be announced at the annual conference.

Implement and project manage the programme of work for Phase 2 and Phase 3, including providing a matchmaking service for projects partners to work jointly on activities.

Supportive enabling environment for women as IPM leaders	• Understand the enabling environment for empowering women in IPM • Understand the barriers for women to adopt and implement IPM practices. • Improve understanding of the levers for change towards empowerment in different IPM contexts. • Analyse formal institutions and policies as well as informal institutions and social norms that might influence the enabling environment. • Provide an opportunity for skill development for graduate/post-graduate students in gender and IPM research and/or policy roles

Activities:
Implement projects and activities based on the findings and recommendations of Phase 1.

Phase 2: Acceleration	November 2022 – November 2024

Women leadership models & entrepreneurship opportunities for IPM	• Develop an understanding of different leadership models for women in IPM • Assess women entrepreneurship opportunities for IPM. • Evaluate opportunities and promote enhanced participation in regional policymaking on IPM

Activities:
Implement projects and activities based on the findings and recommendations of Phase 1.

Continue a quarterly small women's farmer reference group to get regular feedback on potential activities and input into programme development.

Education and training	• Evaluate and promote opportunities for women farmer-focused ToT programmes, farmer field schools as well as education and training programmes. • Build a strong community of research and practitioner support across Southeast Asia.

Activities:
Implement projects and activities based on the findings and recommendations of Phase 1.

Mainstreaming gender-responsive activities & opportunities	• Identify opportunities for supporting and mainstreaming opportunities for developing women leadership in activities and opportunities across all the ASEAN FAW Action work programmes

Activities:
IImplement projects and activities based on the findings and recommendations of Phase 1.

Develop and publish a reporting framework to show how activities across the ASEAN FAW Action Plan programme are incorporating gender-sensitive and women empowerment activities.

Develop exemplars to publish on the KI Hub of how partners have incorporated gender-sensitive policies, reporting and empowerment opportunities for women.

Phase 3: Evaluation	November 2022 – February 2025

Final Evaluation	• Assess the impact of this programme to engage women, as well as the impact of this approach on women's lives and livelihoods. • Recommend key actions and/or pathways on future action to support Women as IPM leaders.

Activities:
Produce an Evaluation Report outlining key findings from the Programme along with successes and weaknesses in the approach and identify gaps and opportunities for further work.

Logistics

Project Duration

Four years (October 2021- February 2025).

Partners

A multi-stakeholder and cross-disciplinary approach will be taken to mobilize all the relevant stakeholders/institutes at different levels in the target ASEAN countries to ensure local ownership and effective implementation of the project. The ASEAN FAW Action Plan Secretariat will seek to work inclusively with a broad range of stakeholders from across ASEAN including Government regulators/Department of Agriculture/Plant Protection Extension Agencies/Research Institutes/Universities, CGIAR, CABI, IPP-CAAS/MARA-CABI Joint Lab (China), Sustainable Rice Platform, CIRAD, CSIRO (Australia), SEI, World Vegetable Centre, IPM Innovation Lab, GIZ, JIRCAS, USAID, SEARCA, APAARI, farmers groups.

Project Management

The programme will be coordinated and managed by ASEAN FAW Action Secretariat. It is envisioned that a research support partner may be invited to be a lead technical partner of the programme. In addition, a lead partner/s from the private sector may also be invited to play a key role in the implementation of the programme and be part of the project team. Other consultants and organisations may be called upon to help deliver activities under the Programme. These will be chosen based on capability, experience, funding support and must have a substantial footprint already established in Southeast Asia.

A project/governing committee will be drawn from experts, donors and practitioners working on IPM and/or gender and agriculture and who wish to contribute (in-kind) to the development and implementation of the programme through such things as providing written feedback on programme documents. Donors to the programme will be invited to participate in this committee. The Secretariat will make the final decision on members of the project committee. Where possible, projects requiring partners, including country-level participation, will be advertised in open calls which will seek collaborators for activities and funding. Interested stakeholders, including government and private sector representatives, are also encouraged to approach the ASEAN FAW Secretariat to suggest interest in developing activities and projects that align with this programme.

A monitoring and evaluation tool will be developed at the start of the project to enable tracking of the success/change of the programme.

Drawing on considerable resources and networks of existing organisations in the region is important. The project committee will consider carefully how to utilise existing organisations and structures in the region to work on various activities.

ASEAN FAW ACTION PLAN

Supporting IPM Across Southeast Asia

Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

GrowAsia