



## **DRAFT WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT**

### ***A PHILIPPINES ACADEMIC-GOVERNMENT-FARMER-AGENCY POLICY DIALOGUE*** **on** ***“Achieving SDGs and the ASEAN Work-Plan on Education, 2016-2020*** ***Through Strengthening Higher Education for Sustainable Agriculture (HESA) and*** ***Food Systems in Southeast Asia”***

#### **Co-Organizers/Co-Sponsors**

- Asia-Pacific Association of Educators in Agriculture and Environment (APEAEN)
- Chulalongkorn University School of Agricultural Resources (CUSAR), Thailand
- Asia Pacific Island Rural Advisory Services (APIRAS) Network in cooperation with GFRAS
- SEAMEO Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA)
- Swedish International Agricultural Network Initiative (SIANI) through Sida funding
- University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB)

**Date:** Thurs 3 Aug 2017 **Venue:** University Hotel, UP Diliman Campus, Quezon City **Time:** 8:30 am to 5:30 PM

In 2015 the Philippines was among three countries (with Laos and Thailand) to pilot a new SIANI-Sida supported Expert Group on *Higher Education for Sustainable Agriculture (HESA) and Food Security in Southeast Asia*, which engaged in dialogue with governments and drafted Policy Briefs (see <http://www.siani.se/expert-groups>) with action recommendations. Follow-up CUSAR led research in 2016-2017 established a broader network of academics from eight countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam) which have strong rural and agriculture based economies. Philippine academics also contributed to that project and publication on *“Mapping and Assessing University-based Farmer Extension Services in ASEAN through an Agro ecological/Organic Lens”* (see Reports at <http://ali-sea.org/>).

APEAEN, APIRAS/GFRAS, SEARCA and UPLB Experts variously contributed to previous initiatives. This year, HESA-SIANI Phase 2 (2017-2018) will build on lessons learned to facilitate new dialogues among universities, farmer groups and other educational partners to help achieve United Nations *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*. They will also contribute to developing an agri-food systems subproject and technical contribution to a regional Social and Sustainability Sciences Assessment with a planned regional academic network. The Thai and Philippine governments committed to co-lead this for the *ASEAN Work-Plan on Education (AWPE), 2016-2020*. The Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC), Thailand hosted initial discussions on SDGs and the AWPE March 2017 where SEARCA and CHED were represented.

The aim of the 3 Aug 2017 workshop to be held at UP-Diliman in Manila, is to discuss how Philippine academics, farmer-scientists and others can contribute to the SDGs and AWPE. Speakers and resource people will be invited from ADB, AFA, ANGOC, APRN, APEAEN, APIRAS/GFRAS, CHED, DAR, DENR, FAO, IFAD, MASIPAG, PSSC, SEARCA, UPLB and more. The agenda will include discussion of potential multi-year research activities in cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta and contributing to a multidisciplinary regional conference in Bangkok on *“Greening Agri-food systems and Ensuring Rural Sustainability in ASEAN,”* 23-26 January 2018. The workshop is FREE, but space is limited and pre-registration is required. Please contact the UPLB or CUSAR organizer below to confirm participation.

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