

HESA-SIANI WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Brief Highlights/Key Recommendations

“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”

PHILIPPINES ACADEMIC-GOVERNMENT-FARMER-AGENCY POLICY DIALOGUE

(03 August 2017, UP Diliman Campus, Quezon City)

OVERVIEW. Around 35 participants representing academics, farmer groups, NGOs, government offices, regional agency and international organizations from across the Philippines, actively attended this information sharing and policy dialogue workshop, 3 August 2017 to

- **Facilitate** academic debate and policy dialogue designing, improving, innovating and financing sustainable agri-food system curricula, teaching, research and farmer extension
- **Discuss** how to implement, monitor and evaluate SDGs
- **Make Recommendations** (to university administrators, government and regional organizations) that will help in the design and implement agri-food system component to the *ASEAN Work Plan on Education (AWPE), 2016-2020*.
- **Propose specific project ideas** for multi-year research, education, capacity development and extension activities to improve government policies and public investments

Workshop discussions yielded various suggestions to improve government policies and public investments in HESA and HEIs in the PHILIPPINES (and implicate Southeast Asia or ASEAN Member States more broadly). Participants highlighted in particular the following:

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS for PHILIPPINES.

1. Monitor and evaluate implementation of the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 for HEIs
2. Promote nationwide offering of BSA, major in Sustainable Agriculture and BSA major in Organic Agriculture, and BS in Agri-EcoTourism Management and develop the CMO for these courses with CHED and ACAP –member schools collaborating for this purpose
3. Promote academe – industry linkage to make students’ research and internship experiential and more rewarding for the students, the school and the organic farms
4. Make all Agriculture HEIs establish an Agri-Eco Farm to showcase organic agriculture technologies that generate income while ensuring healthy options for consumers
5. For HEIs in Agriculture to set up radio and TV programs to promote sustainable / organic agriculture practices.
6. Develop a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation program for Agricultural Sustainability

7. Conduct Curricular reform to address concern for SA, food and nutrition security, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and preparedness for the agriculture sector and gender perspective integration in agriculture and rural development studies
8. Identify technologies, products, and services that can be utilized by stakeholders for the advancement of agriculture education, research, and extension for SA, food production and nutrition security, including OA for farming communities, in Asia- Pacific countries
9. Review institutional arrangements for coordinating R & D activities of departments (ministries), agencies, academe, business sector and civil society organizations (CSO) and recommend appropriate...overseeing and allocation of R & D budgets, i.e through Gross expenses on research and development (GERD) toward meeting a UNESCO recommendation of at least 1 % GDP.
10. Strengthen graduate scholarship with teaching load programs. Mentoring should also be done to aspiring youth by agricultural experts. Instruction must be relevant and quick to innovate. Publicly-funded Family Farm Schools for agriculture should also be established.
11. Give small research grants to fresh graduates or individuals with TESDA National Certificates. Weightier incentives must be given to researches with clear societal benefit and sustainable development.
12. Improve extension capabilities of LGUs with HEIs through ICTs

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS for ASEAN or the REGION more broadly

1. Improve ASEAN policies and programs for HAE while participating in dialogues like this engaging major key players in agriculture and education to bridge the gap between what the school offers and what the industry needs with respect to graduates' competencies
2. Promote/patronize programs and projects of relevant international organizations of agriculture education professionals and youth groups like APEAEN, APIRAS, APEN, AAIEE and YPARD
3. Anchor theme and subthemes of international conferences on the SDG 2 and 4 and cross-cutting concerns (more study on linkages is needed)
4. Strengthen use of ICT tools for extension and communication (e.g. smartphones, drones, retooling of extensionists) including social media and internet platforms must also be utilized and maximized while empowering youth to become extensionists
5. Strengthen agriculture through scholarships (e.g. ACEF Scholarship by DA) and a youth-in-agriculture development roadmap together with government institutions.
6. Support regional youth agribusiness hubs for technology/business incubation