



Highlights  
from  
2024

# SIANI's 2024 collaborative achievements



**SIANI regional network meeting in Bangkok**

Through continued engagement with a wide range of sectors and dedicated members, SIANI has deepened existing partnerships and forged valuable new connections—particularly with actors in the private sector, but also with the public sector, civil society, academia, the UN, youth partners, and Indigenous communities.

SIANI has taken an active role in organizing and participating in key local, regional as well as international events, elevating critical issues to global platforms and amplifying the voices of its diverse network.

These collective efforts have further solidified SIANI's role as a trusted convener and catalyst for sustainable, inclusive, and rights-based food systems.

# The year in review



## 1000+

people from academia, civil society, the private and public sectors, and international organizations took part in activities around sustainable and inclusive food transformation, organized or co-organized by SIANI.

## 112

groups submitted applications for SIANI's call for expert groups.

## 168

speakers from academia, civil society, the private and public sectors, and international organisations provided their insights at SIANI's events.

**SIANI strengthened regional action during its members' meeting in Bangkok in November 2024**, with 31 people attending in person and 24 people online. Past and current expert groups exchanged learnings and the participants had a workshop on outcome harvesting to collect impact from the groups' work since 2020.

## 18

early career researchers attended the Young Researchers Workshop at SLU.

## SIANI webpage

SIANI's website had over a **hundred thousand views**. Top website visitors are based in Sweden, Kenya, the United States, Nigeria, and Ethiopia. India is the top country of website visitors in Asia.

***ASAPP's emphasis on the farm's strong social and community component led Alnarp's Agroecological Farm to successfully apply for funding related to its social impact, and were selected as one of the winning teams of the Menu for Change Challenge.***

## Publications

SIANI published **11 publications**. One publication on Agroforestry and energy access, authored by Selorm Kugbega and produced together with the Agroforestry Network, gained particular attention in the media leading up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP29.

SIANI launched its two first **Amplifying Stories of Agroecology Practices and Principles (ASAPP)** case studies, creating ripple effects of impact for the participating farms.

## Events

**Focali – SIANI dialogues and related co-arrangements have been increasingly valued and recognized** forums for exchange by actors from different sectors engaged in forest, biodiversity and livelihood issues at the International Day of Forests event, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress networking session, as well as dialogue series, side events, and a webinar in connection to the Biodiversity COP16 in Colombia.

**SIANI organized and participated in events at key international fora** such as IUFRO World Congress, the Committee of Forestry at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), The Committee on Forestry (COFO), the World Food Forum flagship event, and the Committee for Global Food Security (CFS).



# Expert groups

## Expert groups make long term impact in their regions

The expert group “Small-scale farmers and biodiversity in Nepal” led by Li-Bird and Oxfam was funded by SIANI 2021–2022. In 2023, the group published a Training Manual on Agrobiodiversity and Farmers’ Rights to increase the capacity and sensitize development practitioners, academics and extension workers on agrobiodiversity and farmers’ rights.

The group’s impact extends to national policymaking: four out of seven expert group members are today part of the working group preparing the Agroecology Roadmap of Nepal, contributing to the Nepali Government’s goal to build resilient, equitable and sustainable food systems. Additionally, members are also part of the National Agrobiodiversity Society (NABS) Agrobiodiversity working group, promoting agrobiodiversity and future actions in Nepal.

The group “Higher Education for Sustainable Agriculture (HESA)”, part of SIANI’s expert group 2015–2018 cohort, has continued its work beyond its initial scope. The group has since then produced several reports and recommendations based on the policy briefs published together with SIANI. For example, the group contributed to new recommendations on university-based rural extension services in Laos, Thailand and the Philippines.



Small-scale farmers and biodiversity in Nepal, SIANI expert group

# Expert groups

## Key achievements 2024

Sharing of knowledge and exchange of experiences around honey value chains and beekeeping as part of poverty alleviation between six living labs in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Laos (Pollination knowledge exchange for food, nutrition, and livelihood security in South and Southeast Asia).

Following participation in COP16, key audiences and policy makers have initiated contacts with experts on land rights, food security, and climate change in Latin America for knowledge exchange and possible collaboration (Rural land rights and food security in a changing climate – rethinking rural development approaches in Latin America).

Interest among stakeholders in the WaSH and agricultural sector to integrate aspects of zoonotic risks and reuse of excreta in WaSH interventions, recognizing the need for multi-sectoral frameworks (A One Health Approach to WaSH in Burkina Faso). This also resulted in a new consortium with SVA, SLU, SEI and UU in a research application submitted to Formas in 2025.

Networks of agrobiological actors established in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania, and contact established between experts and regulators (The East African Agrobiologicals Working Group).



Pollination in Asia, SIANI expert group



SIANI youth partners create  
meaningful impact internationally

# Youth

SIANI enabled several young people to be recognized as participants and organizers at the World Food Forum (WFF) flagship event in 2024.

SIANI has significantly boosted the credibility and confidence of young entrepreneurs. Naol Oli Adugna, a young entrepreneur from Ethiopia, initiated the start-up Beta Blockers to produce nutritious biscuits for children. With the credibility and confidence from SIANI's network, Naol has established a sales point outside of Addis Ababa.

"Not only did my time with SIANI **allow for me to reflect** about youth's positionality (and as such – my own positionality in being part of the youth demographic) – but it also **gave me practical insights** as to **how to engage youth across agrifood systems**, including for them to **become part of decision-making processes**."

*Ebba Engström, PhD student at Imperial College London, and member of the World Food Forum's Young Scientists Group.*



Young Researchers' Workshop – Communicate your  
science: where, how & to whom?

## SIANI boosted engagement and networking in the private sector

**“There will be trade-offs and conflicts when it comes to bioresource use and bioeconomy advancement in Africa. A network like SIANI can connect different actors, creating shared knowledge and potentially turn conflicts into win-win solutions. SIANI has done this already, and there is space to do it even more in the future.”**

*Ivar Virgin, Senior Research Fellow at Stockholm Environment Institute*

**SIANI established new connections with the private sector.** For example, SIANI connected Danone with Trase at the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and Tetra Laval. SIANI also provided space for private sector actors in multisector dialogues. At Järvaveckan, for example, SIANI and Sida invited Norrskén to present how they work with young entrepreneurs and start-ups in agri-businesses in Eastern Africa. Moreover, SIANI's work with agroecology has gained interest. As a result, additional actors decided to financially sponsor agroecology day at SLU, apart from SIANI who has been the sole sponsor for many years. The development of SIANI's work with agroecology has further led to collaboration with AgriCord, a global alliance of agro-agencies and farmers' cooperatives.



**Policy brief launch:  
Leveraging agroforestry  
for bioenergy security in  
Sub-Saharan Africa  
and Southeast Asia**