



# SINGAPORE 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. Singapore is one of the founding member countries of SEAMEO, which was established in 1965.

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 in order 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 Graduate Scholarships**

So far, there had been only four Singaporean participants in SEARCA's Graduate Scholarship Program. The first two Singaporean SEARCA scholars were awarded in academic year 1972- 1973, while the third and fourth scholars were awarded in academic year 1978-1979 and 1980- 1981, respectively. All of them studied at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

The Singaporean alumni are:

- Mr. Chu Sin-I MS, Food Science, 1974
- Ms. Ng Huang Gieh MS, Botany, 1975
- Mr. Tan Winston Kian Ann MS, Development Communication, 1982
- Mr. Khoo Saw Huat MS, Silviculture, 1982
- English Course for SEARCA Scholars

The SEAMEO Regional Language Centre (RELC) based in Singapore and SEARCA had teamed up in conducting a 10-day course titled "English for Academic Purposes" to SEARCA scholars. Offered as a staple short course for SEARCA scholars, the training aims to enhance the

learning and participation of new scholars in their graduate programs. So far, the course has been offered three times, twice at SEARCA (June 2014 and July 2015) and once at Kasetsart University in Bangkok Thailand (January 2015). All the lecturers came from RELC.

The English course for SEARCA graduate scholars was already conducted three times, but the July 2015 course is the first offering after the two SEAMEO centers had signed an agreement to formally commit to allocate resources toward the success of the training.

## ■ 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 SEARCA began this capacity-building service in 1970, 41 Singaporeans had participated in 32 SEARCA training and learning forums. These learning events covered topics such as:

- Agricultural research management
- Training methodology and techniques
- Strengthening project development and management
- Integrating ecosystems services into development planning
- Climate change impacts and adaptation for food and environmental security
- Leaders in ASEAN agriculture and development
- Agriculture and development in Southeast Asia

In addition, eight SEARCA learning events had 24 resource persons from Singapore.

SEARCA implemented with The HEAD Foundation (THF) the two regional and two in-country offerings of the Leadership Development Program for Higher Education Institutions (LDP-HEIs). The LDP-HEIs in Southeast Asia were implemented at SEARCA in 2019 and 2020. The LDP-HEIs in the Philippines were implemented virtually via the SEARCA Online Learning and Virtual Engagement (SOLVE) platform. The first in-country offering was conducted from 21 April 2021 to 7 June 2021, with coaching calls on 1-30 July 2021. The second LDP-HEIs in the Philippines was conducted from 4 October 2021 to 29 November 2021, with coaching calls from 3 January to 4 February 2022.

The third LDP-HEIs in the Philippines was conducted on a blended mode, with virtual sessions on 3 November-13 December 2022, face-to-face sessions on 11-13 January 2023, with coaching calls in February 2023.

In January 1980, SEARCA organized a Grain Storage Seminar for 11 Singaporeans from the International Trading Company, International Development Company, Department of Trade, and the Singapore Institute for Standards and Industrial Research (SISIR) to discuss modern concepts of controlled humidity storage. The storage and handling aspects of rice imports to Singapore at the time were reviewed. Also, as Singapore was planning a national policy of improving warehouse construction and handling, the participants considered prospects for multistorey warehousing with controlled dehumidification.

## 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.

SEARCA has as its Senior Fellow on Food Security a Singaporean—Dr. Paul S. Teng of the Centre for Non-traditional Security Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University (NTS-RSIS-NTU).

### ► 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 Singapore:

#### **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 Singapore, 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 non-formal 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.

## **Review and Assessment of the Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) in ASEAN**

The Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) collaborated with SEARCA for the conduct of this scoping study whose results were the basis for the policy dialogue between the OECD and ASEAN countries, including Singapore, to secure food security in a long-term perspective.

Implemented from July 2015 to June 2016, the study aimed to identify the policy issues to improve agricultural productivity growth and sustainability in ASEAN region. Specifically, it aimed to provide an overview of agricultural innovation system in ASEAN countries, highlighting the need to evolve agricultural innovation system to generate innovative solutions for long-term food security concerns.

## **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 Singapore 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.

### **Other Past Research Projects**

SEARCA implemented the following research projects with significant outcomes in Singapore:

- Strengthening ASEAN Mechanisms for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD Plus) (Mar 2012 - Dec 2013)
- Southeast Asia Cooperative Postharvest R&D Program (1976)
- Food Fermentation Project (1973)
- Downy Mildew of Corn Project (1971)

## **► 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.

### **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**

SEARCA also developed strong ties with the universities in Southeast Asian region as they were often invited to participate in the roundtables and conferences. As universities are steeped in the culture of research, they were drawn in to collaborate with the ministries in post roundtable endeavors (e. g., research, training programs) toward formulating policy inputs. Singaporeans were able to participate in the following regional PRT and conference:

- Roundtable Discussion Series on Sustainable Food and Agriculture Systems in Southeast Asia: Digital Economies for the Food and Agriculture Sector (18 April 2023, PICC, Manila, Philippines)
- ASEAN Multisectoral Workshop on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Food and Agriculture (4-6 Dec 2018, Bangkok, Thailand)
- Second International Conference on Agricultural and Rural Development in Southeast Asia (ARD2014) (12-13 Nov 2014, Makati City, 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 Singapore, 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 Singapore**

SEARCA published a primer on Singapore in 2006 as part of its Southeast Asian Agriculture and Development Primer Series. Each volume of the series presents the featured Southeast Asian country’s state of agriculture in a holistic, yet concise form. The first edition focused on how appropriate agricultural technology has enabled the country to produce a measure of its food supply and other agricultural products of economic value. Its authors are Dr. Ngiam Tong Tau and Mr. Leslie Cheong. Dr. Ngiam was



at the helm of agriculture and veterinary developments of Singapore for more than 25 years, six years of which were served as Chief Executive Officer and Director General of the AgriFood and Veterinary Authority (AVA) of Singapore until his retirement in 2005. Mr. Cheong served as Director of AVA's Food Supply and Technology Department.

Published in 2017, the second edition of the primer discusses the experiences, impacts and lessons in policy reforms and institutional innovations in agriculture, which takes off from the results of a regional workshop convened by SEARCA to take stock of the current situation of the agriculture sector in Southeast Asia, review current institutional and policy regimes of countries in the region, and determine how they affected agricultural productivity and competitiveness vis-à-vis government responses. This edition is authored by Dr. John Jackson Ewing, Research Fellow of NTU's RSIS-NTS.

### **Other Publications**

Aside from the Singapore volumes in SAADP, Singapore is featured along with other countries in seven publications published by SEARCA, namely:

- Agricultural Insurance in Southeast Asia: Status and Directions
- Capacity Development Needs Assessment in Southeast Asia Toward an Informed Human Development Program in Inclusive and Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (ISARD)
- The Rice Economy and the Role of Policy in Southeast Asia
- Directory of Agricultural Information Resources of Selected Southeast Asian Countries
- A Review of Issues and Challenges in Climate Change and Agriculture in Southeast Asia
- Southeast Asian Agriculture and Development Primer Series: Singapore
- Agricultural Policy and Institutional Reforms in Singapore: Unique Food Challenges and Opportunities

### **► 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, ECommerce, 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:

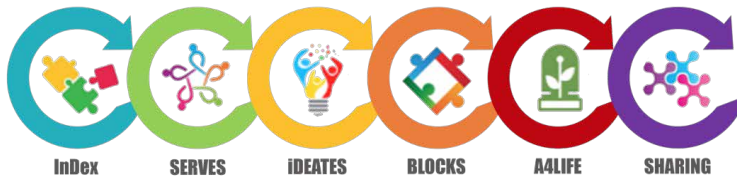
- Agricultural technology development and technology transfer,
- Adaptation and adoption of village-scale relevant technologies,
- Inclusive rural community development
- Local and immediate agribusiness clustering, and
- Gender inclusive and high impact projects.

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

#### **M4Life**

**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.

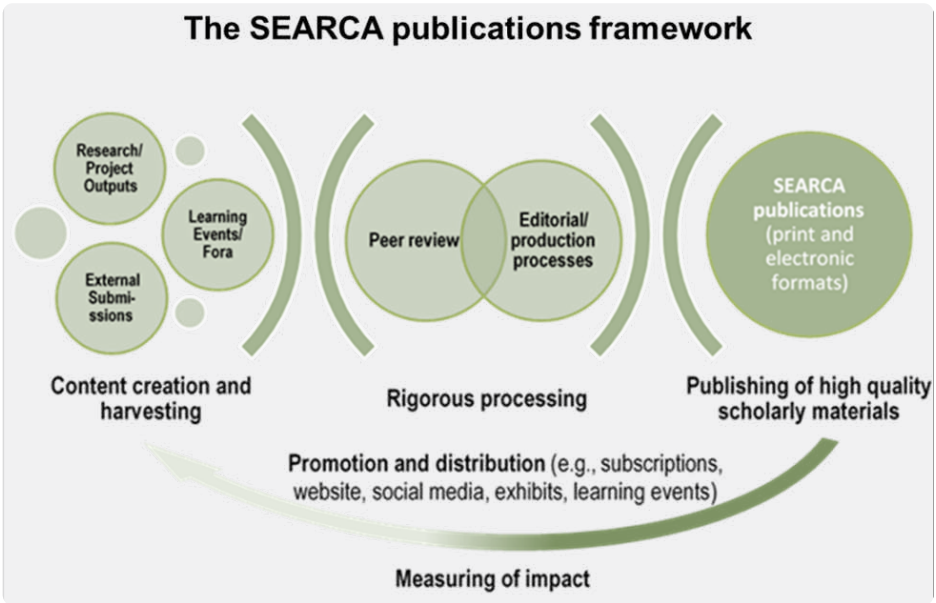
## SHARING

### 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

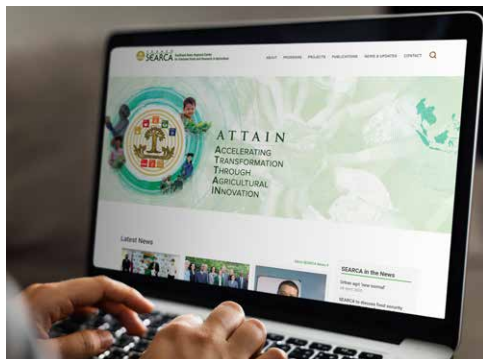
SEARCA publication provides one important avenue for knowledge creation in ARD. This ensures that research results, policy discussions, and best practices from the field, among its primordial knowledge sources, are packaged and broadly shared. SEARCA aims to publish high-quality professional, intellectual, 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, 5 titles either focused on Singapore or included it in its country of coverage have been published by SEARCA. These include monographs (2) and journal articles (3).

### ► 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 June 2023 over 45,310 publications have been downloaded from [searca.org](http://searca.org), SEARCA's official website. Some 17,700 people from total 159 countries have downloaded these knowledge materials. The most downloaded types are journal articles, briefs and notes, and monographs. As of June 2023, 231 downloads of SEARCA publications

### ► 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

Singapore is currently represented in the SEARCA Governing Board by Prof. Chew Fook Tim, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences and Vice Dean, Undergraduate Education and Student Life, Faculty of Science, Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore. 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.

