Partnerships in Farmers Fighting Poverty involve longer-term cooperation under which each organisation formalises in a new proposal to close collaboration with an agri-agency. AgriCord maintains quality control through careful setting of proposals and by using a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system. It monitors the evolution of farmers’ organisations – in terms of organisational capacity and effectiveness – with measurable targets. Any new project includes the crosscutting issue of gender, the environment and financial management.

Offering a complementary package of services in the field is the most promising (although the most challenging task): coordinating national operations, developing and implementing regional projects and strengthening local capacities to provide for the farmers’ need for systematic and comprehensive action. The synergistic potential of the creative approaches used to support farmer organisations within AgriCord has so far been minimally realised.

In Southeast Asia, an essential step towards a significant asset to be capitalised, AgriCord is close collaboration with an agri-agency. Partnerships in Cuba, Afghanistan and Montenegro have proved their capacity to act at national levels (supporting regional, sub-regional and national farmer’s platform). During the first year of implementation, the dividing lines between the roles of FFP/ASEAN and FFS/ASEAN have become blurred. Both have proved their capacity to act at national level, and agri-agencies have started to build relationships with national and regional farmers’ organisations to support specific strategies linked to the political agenda. This positive evolution will be strengthened, through coordination and dialogue, in order to achieve complementarity. In the context of AIDS, the ASEAN Foundation supports ASEAN in developing a framework for Asian Cooperative Development model for Southeast Asia and a pool of agri-agencies have jointly contributed to this agenda through stakeholder consultations, risk analysis, qualitative analysis and joint participation in conferences.

Agri-agencies active in ASEAN countries

Agri-agencies mobilise technical and advisory support, coupled with co-funding from their governments, their constituencies and other private sources. The following agri-agencies are active in Southeast Asia:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Farmers’ organisations</th>
<th>Agri-agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Philippines, Thailand, Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore</td>
<td>FFS/ASEAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>FFS/ASEAN, National Agriculture Corporation, NAFAC</td>
<td>FFS/ASEAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laos</td>
<td>FFS/ASEAN, National Agriculture Corporation, NAFAC</td>
<td>FFS/ASEAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>FFS/ASEAN, National Agriculture Corporation, NAFAC</td>
<td>FFS/ASEAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
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<td>FFS/ASEAN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AFOPS’s total budget is 21.7 million, of which 15.9 million is provided by the EU. Overall budget:

- Total budget: 21.7 million
- FFP/ASEAN: 15.9 million
- ASEAN Foundation: 5.8 million
- MOA (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry): 0.02

AFOPS is focused on: over 50 sub-national or local organisations to benefit from exchange activities, and AgriCord itself is becoming a regional extension service.

AgriCord believes that organised farmers can drive inclusion, sustainable agricultural growth, forged by AgriCord, farmer organisations from the ASEAN have engaged in farmer-to-farmer learning and exchange activities, and AgriCord itself is becoming more dynamic as a result.

There is a new regional focus for the diverse farmers’ organisations and their needs in Southeast Asia. Seven agricorporate national farmer organisations or regional bodybuilding platforms, each with local cooperatives or farmer organisations at different stages in their development, from start-up onwards. A diversely driven spring is also attributed to farmer organisations (members of a national or regional level or local organisation) to benefit from ENP (in aid and 2012).

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Farmers Fighting Poverty ASEAN Programme (FFP/ASEAN):

Farmers’ organisations in ASEAN countries take the initiative in food security

While Southeast Asia is enjoying rapid economic development, a serious challenge remains – meeting the demand for food. In response, the Asian Foundation, with the initiative of FFP/ASEAN, has been focusing on providing effective solutions to the food security challenges in the region and to farmers. AgriCord – an alliance of agri-agencies – supports several such organisations, whose farmers members now benefit from regional economic growth.

AgriCord has been working with farmers’ organisations in developing countries across the world since 2005, harnessing the potential of farmers working together. Through long-term partnerships with these organisations, the alliance has contributed to a vision of stronger farmer support and development by transforming farmer organisations. In turn, AgriCord has succeeded in launching the Farmers Fighting Poverty ASEAN Programme (FFP/ASEAN) in Southeast Asia, which takes a regional perspective in supporting food security initiatives proposed by farmers organisations in Southeast Asia.

FFP/ASEAN is focused on: ensuring specific challenges – ensuring transparency and delivering modern finance standards; using agri-food businesses and co-operatives, technical and financial services; increasing access to international markets; and mobilising private and public investment for inclusive agricultural growth. Which farmer organisations are involved?

AgriCord believes that organized farmers can drive inclusion, sustainable agricultural growth. In the Philippines, AgriCord, farmer organisations from the ASEAN have used this framework, farmer organisations from the ASEAN have engaged in farmer-to-farmer learning and exchange activities, and AgriCord itself is becoming more dynamic as a result.

There is a new regional focus for the diverse farmers’ organisations and their needs in Southeast Asia. Seven agricorporate national farmer organisations or regional bodybuilding platforms, each with local cooperatives or farmer organisations at different stages in their development, from start-up onwards. A diversely driven spring is also attributed to farmer organisations (members of a national or regional level or local organisation) to benefit from ENP (in aid and 2012).
Farmers Fighting Poverty

Since 2002, Farmers Fighting Poverty has been providing funding and advisory services to farmers’ organisations in developing countries with the objective of contributing to poverty reduction. Farmers Fighting Poverty reflects the conviction that strong farmers’ organisations are the backbone of an effective, fair, and sustainable agricultural development. It stimulates farmers to become confident leaders by providing them with strong, dependable services.

Farmers Fighting Poverty has the backing of farmers’ organisations from eight G20 member states (Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, India, Japan, South Korea, and the United States). The alliance of agricultural experts includes leading farmers and rural people organisations from Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, India, Japan, South Korea, and the United States.

Three key components of FFP/ASEAN

Component 1
Organisational and institutional strengthening

Improving the capacity and management of farmers’ organisations is an essential step toward their sustainability and growth. Good governance is imperative, as it underpins the governing body that makes formal processes. Support and capacity-building of the staff members increases organisational growth in achieving growth, governance, and financial sustainability. iii

1. Organisational and institutional strengthening
2. Policy engagement
3. Develop economic services

The three components of FFP/ASEAN are aimed at supporting farmers’ organisations in developing countries with the objective of contributing to poverty reduction.

In Asia, emphasis is given to farmers’ integration into market-oriented farmers and cooperatives. In ASEAN, FFP/ASEAN focuses on improving the provision of farmers’ organisations’ services for business development.

Component 2
Develop economic services

In Asia, emphasis is given to farmers’ integration into market-oriented farmers and cooperatives. In ASEAN, FFP/ASEAN focuses on improving the provision of farmers’ organisations’ services for business development.

Feed Forests envisions a future where all smallholder farmers have the opportunity to access market-oriented services, with the goal of increasing their income and improving their livelihoods.

Component 3
Enabling Policy engagement

The aim is to enable farmers organisations to influence policies and work in partnership with sector stakeholders. To do so, FFP/ASEAN supports the provision of farmers’ organisations to strengthen their capacities and services. Through the so-called ‘Agripool’ (a group of Dutch agricultural cooperation organisations) that form a network of country offices in Southeast Asia. The agri-agencies and partners work with grassroots farmers’ organisations and their members to improve their ability to influence policies.

“We Effect facilitates inclusive and sustainable agricultural systems.”

The Swedish organisation We Effect promotes inclusive agricultural growth in order to improve the livelihoods of farmers from poor and resource-poor regions. We Effect works with the Foundation for Natural and Coordinated Development (NAD) in the Philippines to strengthen the capacity and participation of minority women’s farmers. We Effect works with the FAO to support farmers’ organisations in making their voices heard in policy dialogue and decision-making.

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