



# Building a Climate-Resilient Agriculture in ASEAN

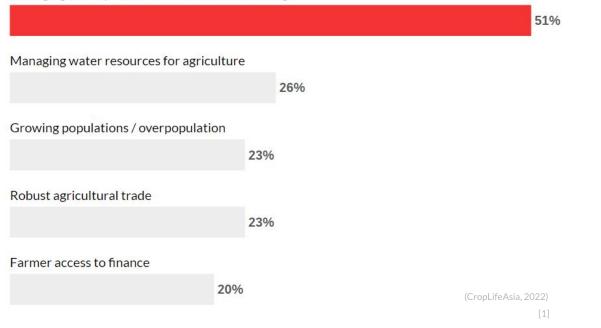
Bridging the Information Gap: First Step to Sustainable Agriculture

Team HYVE A1910 Ong Yun Yi Fong Bi Qi



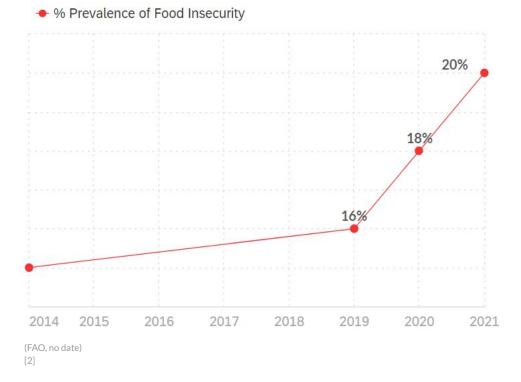
# **Impact of climate change** is the **TOP 1** food systems obstacles faced by ASEAN countries as agreed by ASEAN policymakers.

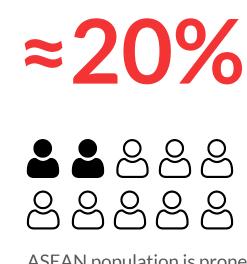
Managing the impact and effects of climate change



<sup>1</sup> Survey data are derived from the "Policymaker Survey: Climate Change Impact on ASEAN Agriculture" (2022), collected from 35 ASEAN policymakers between late 2021 - early 2022.

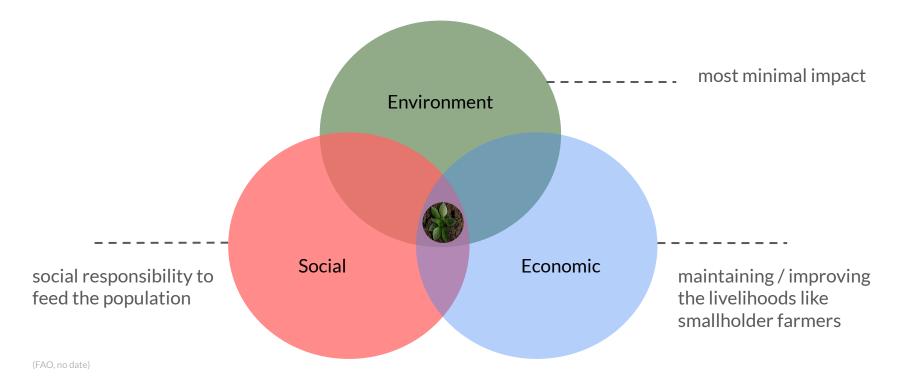
### Yet the % ASEAN population prone to food insecurity has been **increasing**.





ASEAN population is prone to food insecurity.

### To feed a wider population, **sustainable agriculture** has garnered attention.



ASEAN region should move together towards sustainable agriculture, considering we have shared characteristics...

Make up of Smallholder Farmers

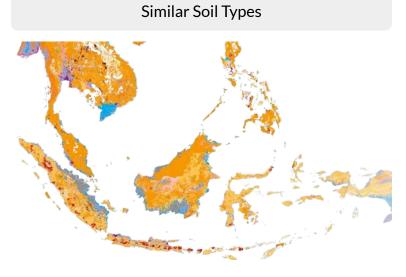
# 100 million

(WWF, 2021)

average owns



(WWF, 2021)



**acrisoils** and **cambisols** made up the majority soils with characteristics of low in soil fertility and medium soil fertility respectively.

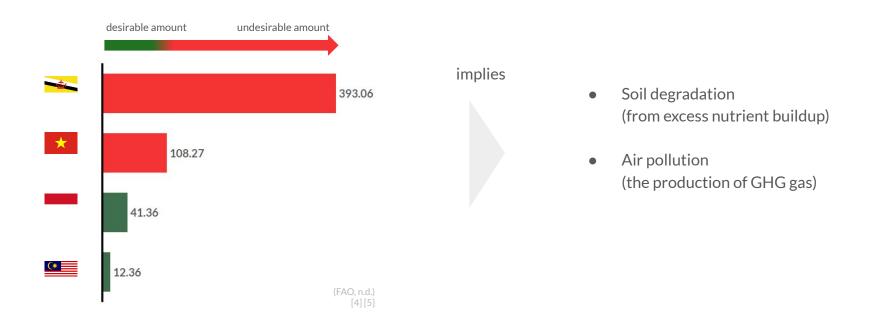
(European Commission, JRC, & FAO, 2023 ; ASEAN, 2017) [3]

<sup>3</sup> The soil map is retrieved from the Soil Atlas of Asia by the European Commission, JRC, and FAO (2023), and further supported by data from the ASEAN Guidelines on Soil and Nutrient Management (2017), as referenced in the appendix.

Recommendations

#### Environment

However, ASEAN agriculture is unsustainable. <u>Environmentally</u>, we observed signs such as **excess nitrogen levels in cropland** (kg/hectare), indicating that nitrogen is overapplied to crops.

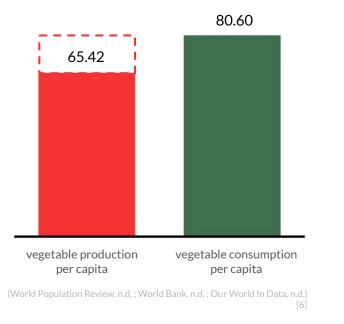


<sup>4</sup> The desirable nitrogen surplus amount is 80 kg/hectare and below.

<sup>5</sup> Data for the bar chart are retrieved from FAOSTAT under the sustainability indicators, specifically the sub-indicator: Cropland Nutrient Balance, measured in kg / ha.

Social

# From <u>social aspect</u>, total local production per capita (kg/capita) is unable to meet the total local consumption per capita (kg/capita).



#### implies

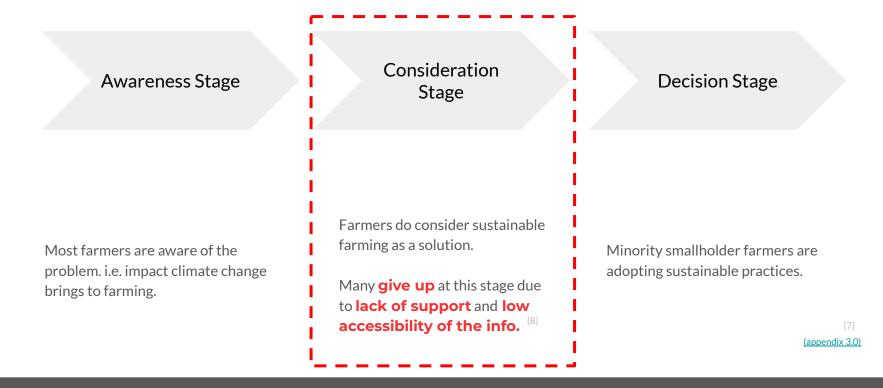
- Unable to feed the entire population
- Risk to nutrients imbalance

#### **Economic Implications:**

ie. reduce farming yields & income Increase input price

<sup>6</sup> Brunei and Singapore were excluded from the total ASEAN consumption and production aggregation due to the unavailability of local vegetable production data for Brunei and Singapore minimal domestic vegetable cultivation. Laos was excluded from the calculations as it was identified as an outlier, not representative of the ASEAN region.

## Let's dissect the **root cause** using the marketing buyer's journey approach.



<sup>7</sup> The marketing buyer's journey approach was developed after conducting three in-person interviews—one with an organic farmer and two with regenerative farmers—and reviewing a smallholder survey conducted by the Khazanah Research Institute with 2,200 farmers across Malaysia, collected between 2022 and 2023.

<sup>8</sup> Need contextualise information to Malaysian. All that has had to be studied and field-trialed painstakingly. A lot of people cannot go through this." - interviewee A

**ASEAN** Profile

Impact

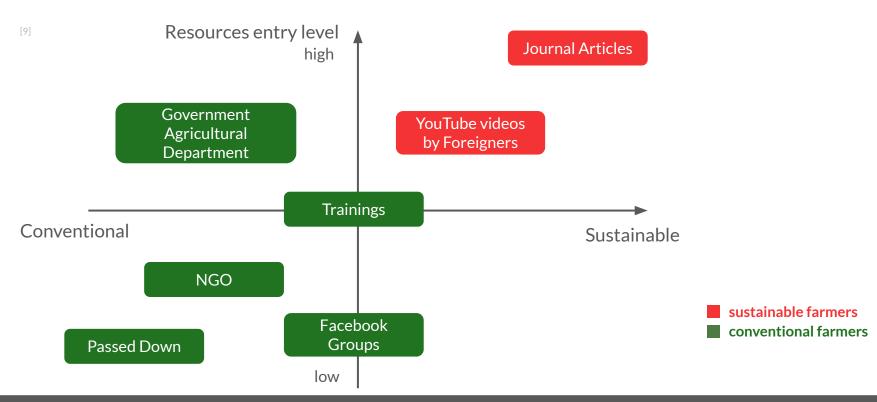
# **Information Gap** is <u>restraining</u> farmers from farming sustainably.

**ASEAN** Profile

Impact

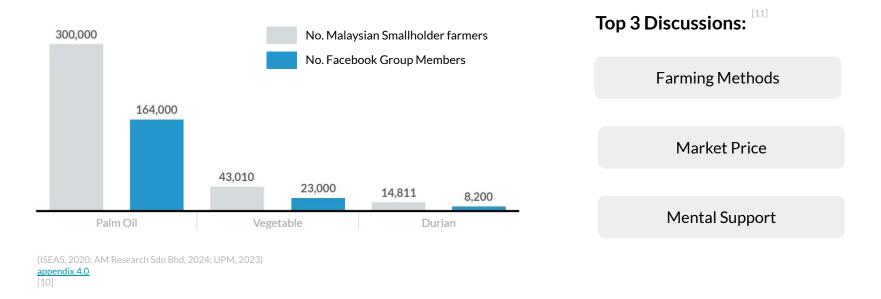
# Now, let's zoom into Malaysia's data to understand more about the root cause.

**Sustainable farming knowledge** comes in formats that are difficult for those without a formal education or strong language skills to access and are limited as compared to **conventional farming knowledge**.



<sup>9</sup> The product matrix was developed after conducting three in-person interviews with 1 organic farmer and 2 regenerative farmers from Malaysia, and performing extensive online research using reputable sources such as Khazanah Research Institutes production. This approach ensured that the matrix reflects both practical insights from the field and current knowledge consumption trends.

We observed that smallholder farmers likely rely on **informal sources** for agricultural information, with **Facebook group memberships** exceeding **50%** of the smallholder farmer population for each crop.



<sup>10</sup> The data on Mal	laysian smallholder fai	rmers population for each crop	were retrieved from m	ultiple sources, including th	ne ISEAS (2020), Univers	siti Putra Malaysia (UPM) (2023,	), and Am Research Sdn Bhi	d (2024). The number	of Facebook group mer	nbers was sourced
directly	from	Facebook,	with	detailed	group	information	available		the	appendix.
<sup>11</sup> The top three di	iscussions were derive	d from a content analysis of	over 30 posts and com	ments across 10 public Fa	cebook groups related t	to farming, with total membersh	ips ranging from 6.500 to	164.000. Observatio	ns were conducted over	er one week. from
		ata was anonymized to ensure					0			

# Smallholder farmers **lack adequate trainings and support** to transition into sustainable agriculture.



[12

"of smallholders surveyed have not attended any training, but this is not representative of their interests in upskilling themselves"

(Khazanah Research Institute, 2023)

#### **Reasons:**



Lack exposure to training programme



Training irrelevant to their needs

#### We ask in our interviews...

Q: How can we convert conventional farmers into sustainable farming?  $\ensuremath{\scriptscriptstyle [13]}$ 

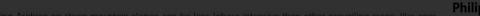
"The only way to fight this issue is **education** in school, not education when they're already adults"

"Network and exchange ideas with them and slowly build that **support system** through themselves The most important **knowledge**... at least can understand the growth process of plants. This is quite difficult, but it is a basic requirement

<sup>12</sup> Both quantitative and qualitative data were sourced from Khazanah Research Institute's Project Semai, which surveyed 2,200 crop smallholders in Malaysia from 2022 to 2023. <sup>13</sup> The qualitative data are retrieved from a three in-person interviews—one with an organic farmer and two with regenerative farmers in Malaysia where interviews output can be found in <u>opperative</u> 3.

# What Are the Challenges Facing Lao **Hill-Tribe Coffee Farmers?**

#### 5. Lack of Knowledge





# **Opinion** | The push for sustainable palm oil isn't going far enough

PETANI PADI INDONESIA

# **Problems** farmers faced in accessing info

Information Gap					
Low Accessibility	Low Quality	Low Digital Skills			

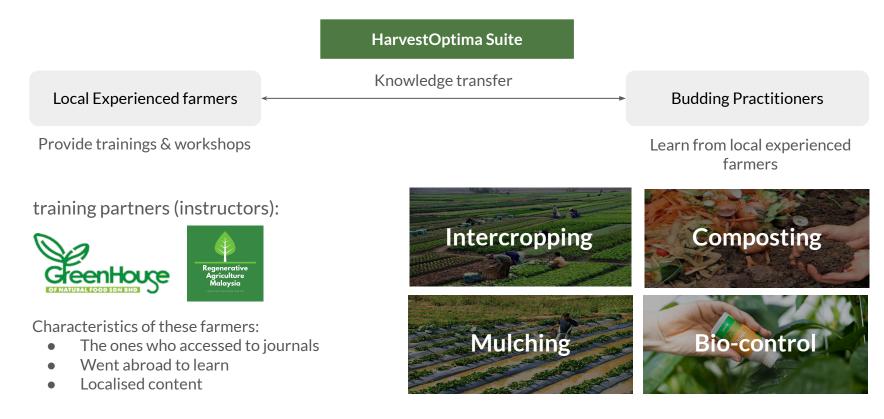
# **Opportunities** for us

Information Gap						
Lack trainings	Low Accessibility	Low quality info				
	HarvestOptima Suite					
Sustainable Farming Academy	Sustaina	able Farming Tools				
	Advisor Bot	IPM Guide Ask Others!				

Impact

# Solution 1: Sustainable Farming Academy

A platform connecting pioneer sustainable farmer with budding sustainable farmer with knowledge.



## Solution 1: Sustainable Farming Academy

Mobile app act as a complementary tool to support the learning.



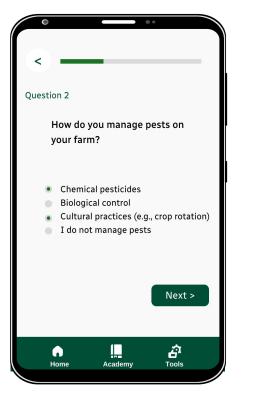
Personalised learning plans through farming methods assessment

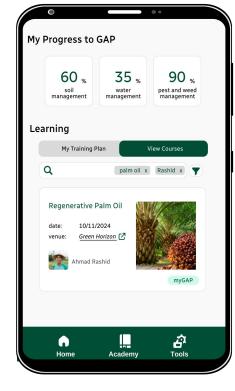


Book physical training slot easily



Curriculum aligned with Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) standards





### **Solution 2: Sustainable Farming Tools**

Complementing these training programs, HarvestOptima Suite offers a range of practical tools to support farmers in implementing sustainable practices.

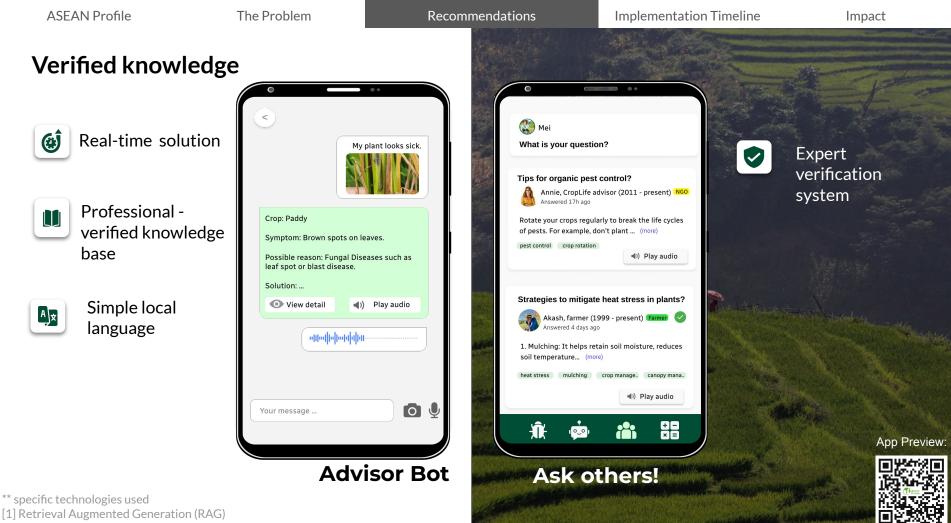


Advisor	Bot
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IPM Guide





[2] Large Language Model (LLM)

ASEAN Profile

The Problem

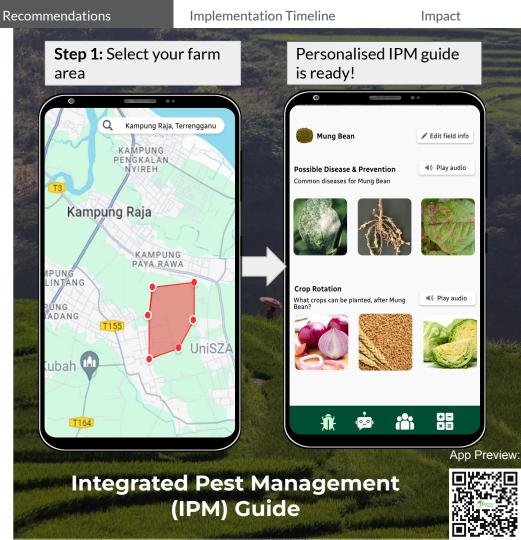
# **Easily Navigable**



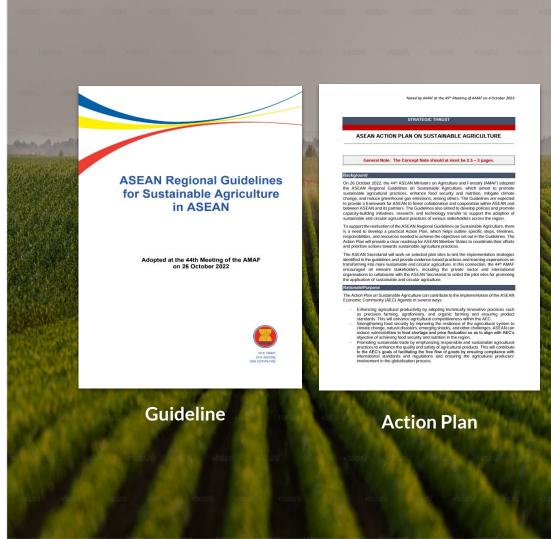
Actionable advice personalised to your crop



Satellite-powered crop detection

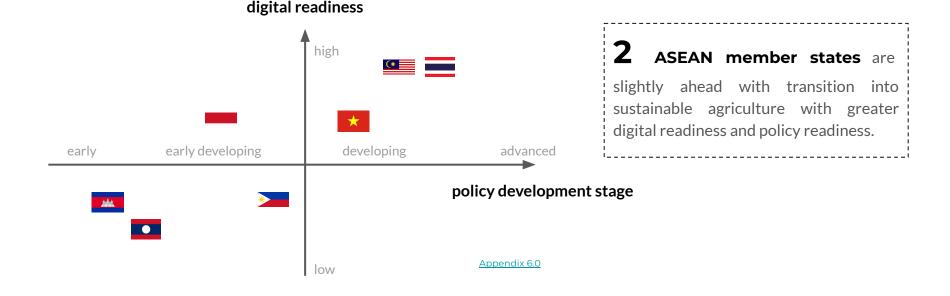


# ASEAN is committed to **accelerating** the adoption of sustainable agriculture.



Impact

### **ASEAN Member States** are slowly shifting to sustainable agriculture.



<sup>8</sup> The evaluation of each country's readiness to transition into sustainable agriculture focuses on two main aspects: policy development stage and digital readiness, which encompasses infrastructure, accessibility, affordability, and quality. This analysis is based on national strategic agriculture plans and policies sourced from the Food & Fertilizer Technology Centre (FFTC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for policy development, as well as the Universal Service Provision Fund, percentage of rural population, fixed and mobile internet access, internet speed, and affordability to assess digital readiness. Detailed findings are presented in Appendix 6.0.

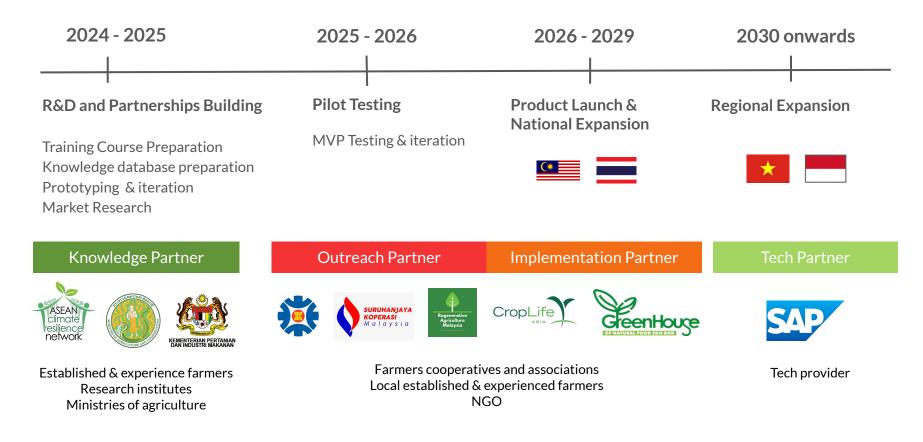
# Our solution is...

Feasible	Scalable	Sustainable	Impactful
2	4	6	≈65%
ready country markets	country markets	long-term national & regional partnerships	ASEAN smallholder farmers
	phase 1	3	Source:ASEAN (2023)
	phase 2		
		revenue streams	
		(Appendix 8.0)	

The Problem

Recommendations

# Implementation Timeline & Key Enablers



**UN SDG Targets** 

# **ASEAN Blueprints**



# **A.4.** Promoting Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

**B.3.** Enhancing food security and safety

**D.10.** Responding to Climate Change and addressing its impacts

ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT 2025

**B.4.** Productivity-Driven Growth, Innovation, Research and Development, and Technology Commercialisation

B.8. Sustainable Economic Development

#### <u>Appendix 9.0</u>



# Target 2.3

By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers



#### Target 2.4

By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production



#### Target 13.1

Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

📵 one vision, one identity, one community





# ensure a **food-secure** ASEAN

# **THANK YOU**



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# view our prototype:



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# Appendix

#### **Appendix 1.0 - ASEAN Soil Groups Distribution Data**

Table 3 Proportional area of FAO-UNESCO Soil Groups (FAO 1974) in the ASEAN region.

FAO-UNESCO	BRN	KHM <sup>A</sup>	IDN	LA0 <sup>B</sup>	MYSC	MMR	PHL	THA	VNM <sup>D</sup>
Soil Group				_	(%)				
Acrisols	57	14	29	73	62	10	25	38	63
Alisols									1
Andosols			4				4		
Arenosols				3	3		1	2	2
Cambisols		2	35	12	11	28	11	2	
Ferralsols			12	1	4	39		< 1	8
Fluvisols	13	27	10	1	3	2	<1	1	18
Gleysols	10	12		2	4	14	2	8	2
Histosols	10		8		8			< 1	
Leptosols				1				1	1
Lixosols				1					

FAO-UNESCO	BRN	KHM <sup>A</sup>	IDN	LA0 <sup>B</sup>	MYSC	MMR	PHL	THA	VNM <sup>D</sup>
Soil Group					(%)				
Luvisols		28		4	3	3	11	8	
Nitosols		1				3	42		
Plinthosols								5	
Podzols					2			< 1	
Regosols				2					
Vertisols	10	16	2			1	4		
Slope complex <sup>E</sup> (Thailand; Vietnam)								32	5

<sup>A</sup>Rice soils only (White et al., 1997); <sup>B</sup>Soil Survey Land Classification Centre, National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute, 2015; <sup>C</sup>Department of Agriculture (Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak), 2004 (unpubl. data) UNESCO; <sup>D</sup>Vietnam Soil Science Society, 2000; <sup>E</sup>Slope > 35%.

## Appendix 2.0 - Soil Descriptions

Soils	Characteristics	Major Crops
Acrisols	Acidic soils with low base cation status; formed under conditions of strong leaching; increase in clay content in the subsoil; may have hard - setting surface characteristics; <b>low soil fertility status</b> ; <b>low</b> <b>soil biological activity</b> .	Upland rice, paddy rice, soybean, maize, groundnut, cassava, tea, coffee, rubber, pineapple, sugarcane, banana, cashew
Cambisols	Brown soils with a weakly developed subsoil; loamy to clayey texture; generally well structured with a moderate plant available water - holding capacity; slightly acidic to neutral pH; satisfactory soil fertility; risk of landslip if deforested on sloping land	Forest, fruit trees, rubber, mango, pineapple, soybean, maize, cassava, coffee

(ASEAN, 2017)

### Appendix 3.0 - In-Person Interview Output

Link to spreadsheet

1. The top 3 challenges for sustainable farming. (yes for sustainable farming)	<ul> <li>a) Mindset shift:</li> <li>"The top three challenges for me personally as a farmer, right? I mean, influencing others is science. I guess in the six years that I've been doing this, which is not a lot, honestly, there are much older generation farmers out there and they've been doing this for like decades right but I guess if you want to say strictly for our generation what are the challenges that I observed myself and other farmers will chew it up number one is the mindset shift away from conventional agriculture to more sustainable means."</li> <li>b) Lack of support:</li> <li>"The second challenge would be the lack of support from our Malaysian context. Now, what I mean by that is be it through support of financial funding, be it through partnerships, collaborations with both private entities and government bodies, right, is sorely lacking in the Malaysian context, right."</li> <li>c) Building community:</li> <li>"The third challenge I would say is the community you see without the knowledge and without the support and evidence that we are hoping that our ancestors and the government can provide us, we have no one else to rely on but ourselves. We need to look at our neighbors our fellow farmers be it from whichever state however far sabah sarawak kelantan to penang we need each other to support each other both motionally and say hey we're doing something right you know hey keep it up bro kind of a thing"</li> </ul>	"Number one would be the societal aspect. Because breaking through into the agriculture industry in Malaysia is quite tough because the society within it is quite tough. There's a bit of discrimination within the industry especially if you are a city boy coming into the rural areas to start agriculture projects" b) Economic challenges: "Second would definitely be economically because in malaysia actually it's a double-edged sword when it comes to the economics of things. You can make a lot of money here in Malaysia, to be very honest, bigger than those first world countries such as the US or the UK, right? However you have to put more effort into the business compared to the organized structures that exist within first world countries." c) Access to land: "Third would be, okay, I take it back. Third one is also a big issue for me, which is access to land So it is quite hard to find a land that can be rented above two, three acres, you know. And even if you find it comes back to the societal issue where if you are successful, you might agree at a price already with the landlords, but when they start seeing you a bit more successful, they will start to they start to dig in you know either by raising rent prices and both then what we agree or they want to take the land back"	"In Malaysia, this place is actually a very old area. So, in this area, our water quality is mainly brown, because our water quality is brown. In brown areas, and in high-temperature weather, our water quality is very high, also very warm, and also has a lot of rain."
2. Question on if they experienced climate change impacts	"Because the rain pattern is becoming so erratic, it's becoming less frequent. But when it does rain, it's a lot more extreme. So, I think just two weeks ago, there was this recent flux and wave of sharing online. We can see a lot of farmers posting wind damage. Corn, fruit trees, being blown over by the recent typhoon."	The farmer doesn't directly address climate change impacts. However, he shows awareness of environmental factors affecting farming: "During the monsoon season heavy rains and wet conditions they're the ideal environment for fungus right so i had a fungal outbreak but my plants were strong and resilient enough that, and this, I'm talking about all, the whole plot of Bendi, right? Got infected by fungus. Just like that, within two days."	High heat, high rainfall. Soil condition and weather
mostly they don't give a direct answer for this questions, so you can jsut mentioned that their answer(what they have stated) have some sort cover that they are aware of the impacts by climate change			
	mentions several sources of information and support: 1) Online resources: ""Hence, we go to Uncle Google and Auntie YouTube. We go visit and read and study all these journal articles that others have done their research overseas and try our best to extract that information and try and apply it in the local context." 2) Community support: ""We need to constantly ask ourselves, push ourselves		"So I say the second reason is because I get the most

#### Appendix 4.0 - No. of Facebook Group Members for Palm Oil, Durian and Vegetable

Сгор	Smallholder population	Facebook Group Members
Palm Oil	300000	164000
Durian	14811	8200
Vegetable Farmers	43010	23000

source: (ISEAS, 2020) source: (AM Investment Bank, 2024) source: (Universiti Putra Malaysia, 2023)

## Appendix 5.0 - Facebook Group Memberships and Source Links

Groups	Members
Pemborong Dan Pembeli Pertanian Malaysia	33.8K
Malaysia Agriculture	6.5K
Pertanian dan ternakan	<mark>21.3K</mark>
Kelab Pengusaha & Penanam Tebu	100.8K
Persatuan Penanam Sawit Malaysia	164k
PERTANIAN PETERNAKAN RAKYAT MALAYSIA	21.1K
油棕公会	72.5K
Pertanian dan Penternakan Malaysia	33.6K
榴莲马来西亚华农交流平台	8.2K
Persatuan Penanam Sayur Malaysia	23K

	Strategies related to Sustainable Agriculture	To Take Note	Stage
National AgroFood Policy 2.0	Paradigm Shift towards a sustainable food system. Adapted to Climate Change	It's observed greater focus put on Modern Agriculture rather than sustainable agricultural practices.	Developing stage
<u>Thailand Agriculture Policies</u> and Development Strategies	Strong emphasis on the balance and sustainable management of agricultural resources and environment	Thailand launch the plna as a 20-year development plan with many sub-development plans within which clear priorities is needed and ensure it's relevant in this VUCA world.	Developing stage
<u>Vietnam's National Action</u> <u>Plan</u> <u>on Sustainable Food Systems</u> period 2021-2030	Strong emphasis of sustainable agriculture: Transition to ecological agricultural production (agroforestry, organic, IPM,SRI/SRP, VAC, landscape agriculture, favorable weather) Invest in large-scale training and technical assistance to assist vulnerable farmers, cooperatives, and businesses in adopting good agricultural practices and increasing resilience		Developing stage

(\*

\*

	Strategies related to Sustainable Agriculture	To Note	Rating
Strategic Plan of the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture 2020-2024	Show emphasis on climate-resilient agriculture Maintaining the sustainability of agriculture resources and the availability of agricultural infrastures and facilities	Strategic Plan did not mentioned about food self-sufficiency.	Early Developing Stage
Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028	Strengthen capability exchange of farmers/fishers in the adoption of appropriate and modern technologies Upskill farmers/fishers, AEWs and ESPs through distance learning programs and knowledge sharing activities	The plan is just recently launched in 2023.	Early Developing Stage

	Strategies related to Sustainable Agriculture	To Note	Rating	
Lao PDR Agriculture Development Strategy to 2025 and vision to the Year 2025	Budding focus on sustainable development and organic agriculture.	Limited but growing efforts. Many smallholder farmers in Laos already practice low-input or traditional farming methods, using fewer chemical fertilizers and pesticides compared to industrial farming good foundation for transition into sustainable farming. Planning stage for agriculture modernisation.	Early Stage	
<u>Strategic Development Plan for</u> <u>Cambodian Agro-Industries</u>	Emerging focus on sustainable agriculture. strong strategic plans developed	The complexity of coordinating between various government bodies could slow down progress. While there is a focus on adopting new technologies, more investments in agricultural technology and climate resilience are necessary.	Early Stag	

	Indonesia	Malaysia	Thailand	Philippines	Vietnam	Cambodia	Myanmar	Lao
Universal Service								
Provision Fund	since 2010	since 2008	since 2012			recently		
% Rural Population								
Fix Internet							N/A	
Mobile Internet								
Internet Speed								
Affordability								

Source: https://www.eria.org/uploads/An-Inclusive-Digital-Economy-in-the-ASEAN-Region.pdf

#### Appendix 7.0 - Customer / Consumer Journey for Experienced Farmers and Budding Practitioners

#### **Experienced farmers**

Labels i.e., if satisfy myGAP or myOrganic

1. Propose training content and labels for courses

2. Peer review process by other experts, and refinement

3. Workshop outline and available training slot details are published on the app, ready for booking

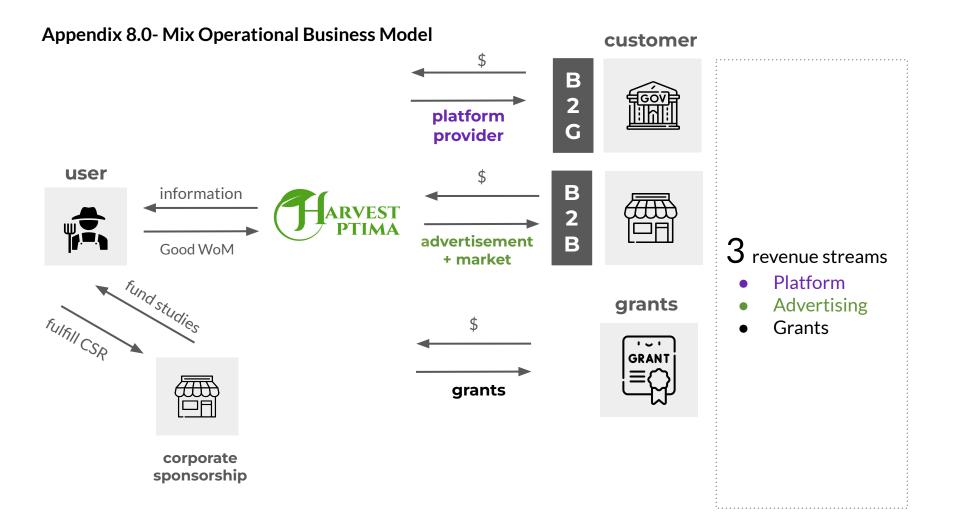
4. Schedule an on-site audit with a platform representative

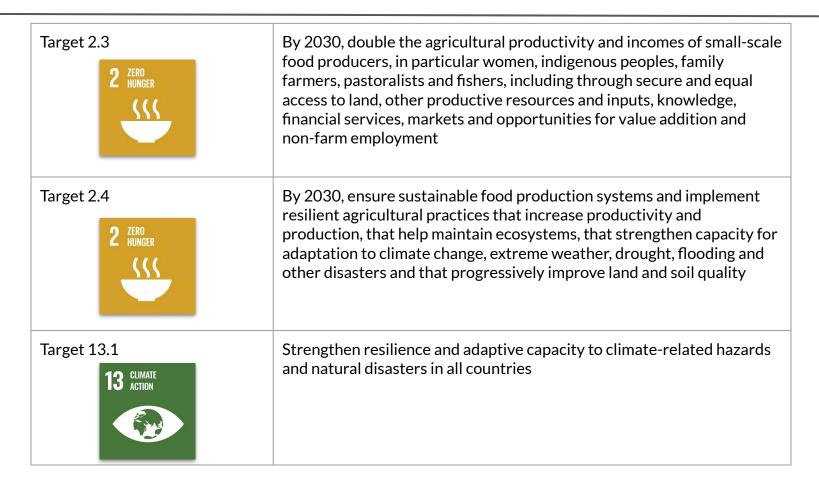
#### **Budding practitioners**

1. Assess their farming methods

2. Receive personalised training plan suggestion

3. Pay and book a training slot

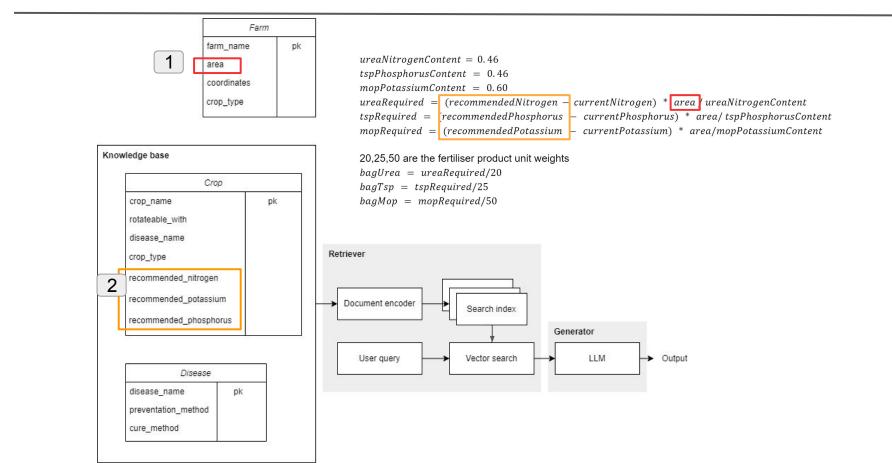




### Appendix - Prototype Design For Sustainable Farming Tools

	Front end: SAP Build Apps			
Feature	Agri Advisor Chatbot	Integrated Pest Management	Discussion Forum	
Technology	Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) on LLM i.e., <u>BlenderBot</u> by meta	Crop classification on GEE remote sensing imagery	SAP HANA Cloud	
API used	Llama AI API (LLM)	Google Earth Engine (GEE) API (fetch remote sensing imagery)		
	F	Free		
Benefits	Reliable information - No content hallucination	Reduce user manual inputs by detecting crop type and farm segments area through satellite imagery	User engagement and content analytics monitoring	

#### **Appendix - Technical Architecture**



## Appendix - About CRN

Organisation	Description	Field of Work
ASEAN Climate Resilience Network	The ASEAN-CRN is established to ensure that ASEAN member states (AMS) are in a better position to adapt their agricultural sector to climate change and optimize its mitigation potential.	<ul> <li>National-level Implementation of Regional Agreements</li> <li>Knowledge Management and Capacity Building</li> <li>Mobilizing Resources</li> <li>Regional Policies and Engagement</li> <li>Research and Innovation</li> </ul>