



Agroecology and
Safe Food System
Transitions



Mid-Term Evaluation of ASSET Project

Brief Results and Recommendations

*ALiSEA General Assembly
March 2024*



Co-funded by
the European Union

Section 1- General

Objectives of the midterm evaluation

Provide relevant stakeholders (AFD, EU, implementing institutions, MAF, authorities and local stakeholders...):

- **An overall independent assessment of achievements**, quality and results of the project according to the OECD-DAC criteria (relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability)
- **Formulate conclusion and recommendations** to improve the performance of the intervention and build solid foundations for the sustainability of the ASSET project in the remaining time available

Methodology

Result of implementation, processes, quality of the approaches

Focus on the different levels and interaction between the subcomponents

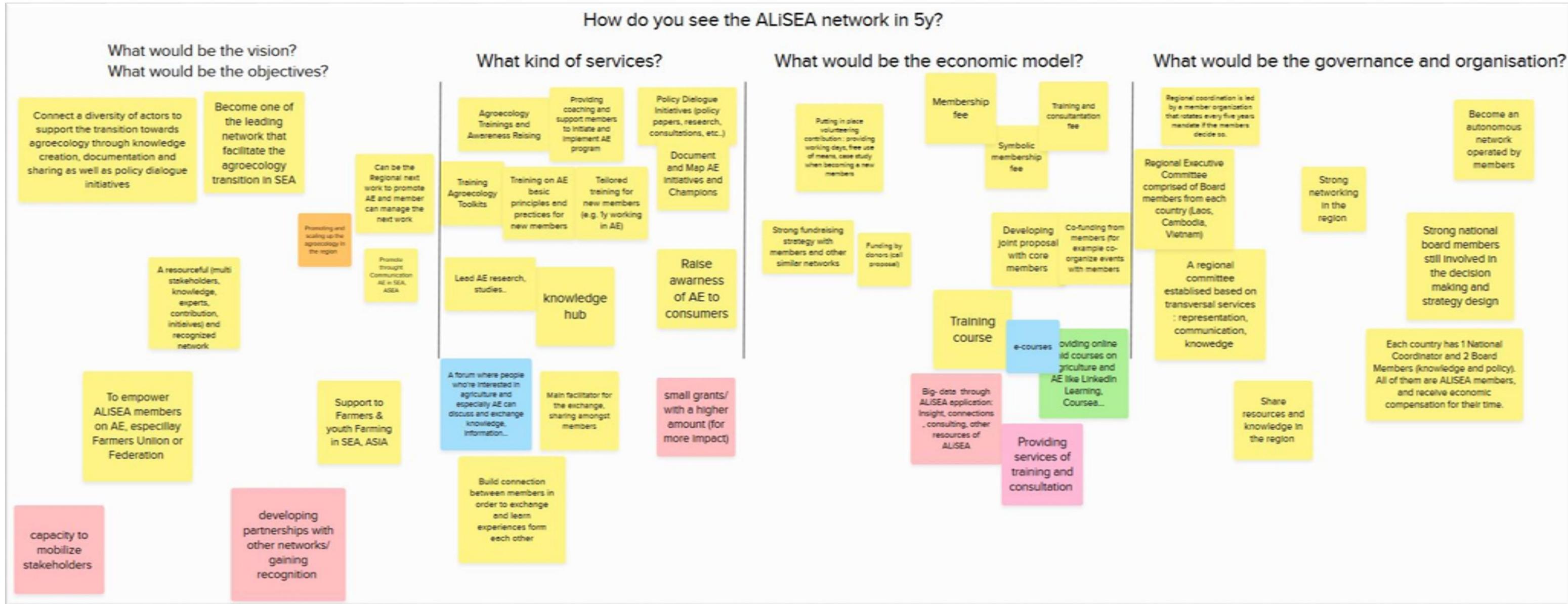
Mid-term : strong focus on the learning aspects (to improve implementation)

Who involved: ALiSEA stakeholders (BoM, members, ...)

Organisation of the evaluation

Inception phase (Sept 2023), field data collection (Sept-Oct 2023), remote interviews (Sept to Nov), online workshops using Mural (Dec-Jan)

How do you see the ALiSEA network in 5y?



Vision: Catalyzing the transition to agroecology by connecting stakeholders, promoting knowledge exchange, and empowering farmers and youth

Goals:

- Establishing a leading network for advocacy and partnership.
- Promoting agroecology through training, advocacy, and policy dialogue.
- Serving as a knowledge hub for sharing resources and facilitating discussions.
- Supporting sustainable operations and member engagement.

Strategies:

- Training, advocacy, and support for education and empowerment.
- Policy dialogue, research, and documentation for supportive policies.
- Knowledge sharing, resource dissemination, and small grants for impactful projects.
- Fundraising, diverse training services, and consultation.

Regional Coordination:

- Rotating member organization every five years for diverse leadership.
- Regional executive committee overseeing representation and communication.
- Emphasis on resource and knowledge sharing for a robust network.
- Decision-making involving strong national board members for autonomy

Source: Mural result of online discussion during the mid-term evaluation

Structuration of the network

- Establishment of BOM in the 3 countries
- Development of ALiSEA action plan in each country
- Participation of BOM to ASSET's activities
- Organization of national assemblies/regional workshops

Activities

- 102 events organised thematic talk, trainings, workshops...
- Broad number of topics : AE practices, PGS, policy dialogue, certification, marketing...
- 814 participants

Small Grants

- 1 st call for proposal in 2022, 2nd in 2023
- Budgets : 20,000 euro per project in 2022, 18,000 in 2023
- In 2022, 7 projects selected (implementation is ongoing)

National level TOC

- Collective reflection on the future of agroecology and food systems
- Development of a common vision
- 3 workshops organised

- Building and developing a network is a **long-term process**
- ASSET managed to **consolidate the dynamic** that emerged during ACTAE
- ALiSEA is less central in the project (limited synergies with other SC) than it was planned
- **Membership has increased** (170 members) , **participation to events is relatively good**, number of events organised increase
- Interest from members : exchange of information, access to diversified resources, knowledge of other actors engaged in AE
- **Membership is very open** : interesting to promote AE, but legitimacy to contribute to a positioning/ALiSEA vision?
- **ALiSEA is not autonomous** : still perceived as a project activity, no independent budget to manage
- Need for Gret to **find the good distance** to support autonomy
- ALiSEA **cannot be sustained only by members' contribution** : need for support from donors
- There are **potential financing opportunities** : shows the interest of ALiSEA

- Developing the network's organisation and governance : key steps towards **autonomy + materialize** its vision and rules
- **Approach of the project** (working in parallel on governance, structuration and activities) is very relevant and ensure **ownership**
- Cautious approach to **institutionalisation**
- **Selection of BOM** does not come from governance process
- BOM : mix between **governance** and **technical function is questionable** :
 - **Dispersion** of activities (but implications from more members)
 - **Difficulties** to coordinate
 - **Limited efficiency** (insufficient funds)
- **Scenarios of evolution of the network** (strong regional structuration vs informal regional structuration have both pros and cons)

- **2 call for proposals** (2022 and 2023) : 7 proposals selected in 2022 (implementation on-going), amounts about 18 000 to 20 000 euro for 1 to 1,5 years of implementation
- Not possible at this stage to assess results
- Very **concrete step** to materialize the network
- **Well appreciated/incentive for CSO** : provide opportunities to develop activities and contribute to the dissemination of approaches and models contributing to transition
- **Lengthy process/difficulties** to ensure accountability towards donors' requirements for CSOs Access for very small CSO is difficult but development of joint proposal should help
- **Not possible to develop structuring project** (limited budget and duration) except for match funding to be documented)

- Continue the strengthening of the network to prepare its **future autonomy**, but no need to push for Gret's full hand over since the network does not appear mature enough
- Continuing the work on the **organisation and governance** of the network in relation with the development of a clear **strategy for ALiSEA**
 - **Clarify roles of BoM:** technical work vs national secretariat (+financial support)
 - Structuring the network at regional level (build on their benchmark of existing networks)
 - Proactive to identify future members, organise **election of BOM**
- Continue the work on the design of an **economic model** for the network
 - Continue developing and clarifying services to the members
 - Involvement of donors and financial mechanism (basket fund)
- Finalize and implement **the new website of ALiSEA** and develop links with the **knowledge hub**
- Develop a **third round of small grants** through other development programmes
- Continue the **development of services** such as learning workshops, field visits, visibility in events and policy dialogue spaces

Communication

- Ease the layout of the field information into **material for learning (ALiSEA) and advocacy and policy dialogue**, help anticipate the needs of evidence and materials according to the political agenda
- Keep strengthening capacities to **producer to produce knowledge material** (video, storytelling)

Capacity building

- Training courses should be **monitored and followed up** (pre- and post-training surveys, as well as evaluation of the application and **impact** of newly acquired knowledge).

Thanks for your kind attentions !

