

AGRICORD



**Agricord and
agri-agency members
and partners in Asia
and Philippines**

**FARMERS
FIGHTING
POVERTY**



AgriCord is the network of “Agri-agencies”, non-governmental organisations for development cooperation with structural links to the farmers’ and rural members’ organisations in their home countries in Europe, Asia and North America. AgriCord and Agri-agencies provide support to farmers’ organisations in developing countries, covering both capacity building and concrete operations.

The main programming framework of AgriCord is the Farmers Fighting Poverty (FFP) which has been operating since 2007 and includes projects in over 60 countries in Central and South America, Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia. FFP supports membership-based organisations of rural producers through a demand driven approach and employing peer-to-peer advisory services and exchanges between organisations. It is based on the relationships between Agri-agency members of AgriCord and FOs in developing countries. Its support to

Members agri-agencies			
Country	Farmer organisations	Agri-agency	Since
France	FNSEA, APCA, Jeunes Agriculteurs, CNMCCA	Afdi	2003
Netherlands	LTO, SSVO, NCR and NAIK	Agriterra	2003
Belgium	Boerenbond, Landelijke Gilde, KVLV and KLJ	Trias	2003
Canada	UPA Union des Producteurs Agricoles (Québec)	UPA DI	2003
France	Groupe Céréaliers de France (AGPB, AGPM, ARVALIS, UNIGRAINS)	Fert	2003
Sweden	LRF Federation of Swedish Farmers	We Effect	2004
Belgium	FWA Fédération Wallonne d’Agriculture	CSA	2010
Finland	MTK Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners	FFD	2006
Asia	AFA Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development	AsiaDHRRA	2011
Senegal	Organisations agricoles du Sénégal membres d’Asprodeb	Asprodeb	2011

Associated members		
Country	Farmer organisations	Since
Italy	CIA Confederazione Italiana Agricoltori	2009
Spain	UPA Union de Pequeños Agricultores y Ganaderos	2009
Germany	DBV Deutscher Bauernverband	2012

strengthening FOs' capacities covers 4 different areas:
1: Organisational strengthening and inclusiveness;
2: Institution development; 3: Policy elaboration
and advocacy; and 4: Farmer-led economic
development.

Several of AgriCord's members Agri-agencies
have on-going collaboration with farmers'
organisations in the Southeast Asian region.

As of mid-2014, 40 farmers' organisations' projects
were being implemented within the overall Farmers Fighting Poverty
programme in ASEAN member countries, with a total budget of 9 million
euros. Over 90% of these projects are implemented by local or sub-national
(district, province, etc.) level farmers' organisations. Agri-agencies have been
and are supporting FOs in the region also beyond the Farmers Fighting Poverty
programme. Beginning 2015, AgriCord is planning to up-scale the FFP in Southeast
Asia thereby further strengthening its presence and cooperation in the region.

The need to create synergies and complementation among Agri-agencies has
become a mantra for AgriCord to be more effective, efficient, and innovative in
its work. This move towards greater cooperation and coordination among Agri-
agencies was borne out of continuing reflections among the Agri-agencies, the
Board and its General Assembly. It is inspired by on-going efforts of working
together in some countries which have created positive impressions and actual
benefits to Agri-agencies and deemed useful to be mainstreamed in the network.
It is also compelled, if AgriCord aims to do more with less and build solidarity as a
network.

In the Philippines, five Agri-agencies (Agriterra, AsiaDHRRA, CSA, Trias, We
Effect) have agreed to create synergy guided by agenda of the FFP programming
framework of AgriCord. The first AgriCord Philippine Partners' Synergy Meeting
in November 2012 was followed by an official launch of AgriCord Agri-agencies
Philippines Synergy in October 2013. The sharing of lessons learned inspired plans
to find new ways of working to strengthen the collective efforts of value to each
Agri-agencies and respective partner FOs and to AgriCord. Convergence between
and among Agri-agencies has now started at community level (e.g. Oriental
Mindoro with calamansi growers), along commodity lines (e.g. Organic Rice
growers consolidation), and thematic interests (e.g. setting up of Agri Investment
Fund, International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) 2014 case documentation). The
synergy shall include learning on common issues that relate to global AgriCord
concerns e.g. Monitoring and Evaluation, Impact Assessment, Disaster Risk
Reduction and Management and Climate change Adaptation.





Agriterra is an Agri-agency for international cooperation that supports farmers organisations and cooperatives. It was founded in 1997 by the Dutch rural people's organisations LTO Noord, ZLTO and LLTB, the Dutch Foundation of Cooperating Women's Organisations (SSVO), the National Cooperative Council for Agriculture and Horticulture (NCR), and the Dutch Agricultural Youth Organisation (NAJK).



These organisations make up the Board and the Advisory Council of Agriterra. Agriterra is a founding member of AgriCord and Agri-ProFocus. In 2013 Agriterra supported 139 farmers organisations and cooperatives in 33 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe, with a total direct outreach of 607,000 farmers, of which 42 % are women. In the Netherlands Agriterra cooperates with some 30 organisations. Agriterra has a total staff of 51 people, of which 45 work in the office in Arnhem and 6 people work abroad.

The objective

Agriterra aims to promote economic activities of farmers in developing countries. Agriterra wishes that farmers organisations and cooperatives develop themselves into strong and representative members' organisations with a primary focus on providing services in rural areas. Agriterra expects that such organisations will positively influence the economic, social and democratic sustainable development of rural areas, and that in doing so rural people will enjoy higher standards of living.

Working Method

Agriterra supports farmers' organisations and cooperatives in three main areas: creating farmer led companies, promoting rural entrepreneurship among farmers, and strengthening advocacy capacities of farmers. Agriterra offers advice and financial support in these areas. A key focus in the work

of Agriterra is the cooperation from farmer to farmer. Through its Agripool, Agriterra mobilises experts from Dutch rural organisations and companies to support strengthening processes of farmers' organisations and cooperatives in developing countries.

Agriterra in the Philippines

Since about 10 years Agriterra has been supporting farmers' organisations (FOs) and their projects in the Philippines. At present, Agriterra intervenes through the Team Grass-roots entrepreneurship and the Team Advocacy. The Team grass-roots entrepreneurship cooperates with farmers organisations of which the members want to expand their agricultural activities. Agriterra helps setting up local groups and cooperatives. Groups of enterprising farmers get support in increasing the productivity of their own farms and taking action collectively, like purchasing agricultural tools, selling or processing collectively or getting a better access to credit. The team also invests in leadership and organisation development, and pays particular attention to female entrepreneurs.

Agriterra supports since 2012 three farmers organisations, with the following projects:

1. Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA), project "Building Agro-Based Social Enterprises in the Philippines"
2. Federation of Free Farmers (FFF), project "Support programme for Development of marketing activities of FFF biofarming clusters"
3. PASAKA, project "Developing Sustainable Agro-Enterprise and Marketing for the Small Farmers in Mindanao".
4. These projects are all focused on the promotion of sustainable agro-businesses of small farmers.

The Team Advocacy cooperates with farmers organisations at national and regional level. These farmers organisations strive to influence government policies in order to create positive impact on the economic and social wellbeing of the member farmers. To amplify the farmers' voices Agriterra has developed the FACT approach. FACT (Farmers Advocacy Consultation Tool) supports farmers organisations in a systematic and structured manner to make advocacy towards government and other parties more effective. The advocacy network in which the farmers organisation operates enhances the potential success of the proposals made.

The team advocacy supports the AFA (Asian Farmers Association for sustainable development, operates on regional level), since 2003 with institutional finance. This has allowed AFA to become a regional and a global player in the field of small farmers rights. AFA has been recognised by large multilateral organisations as FAO and IFAD to be the voice of the small farmers in the region. Agriterra intends to support PAKISAMA in the near future on advocacy issues that impact large groups of farmers like the coconut levy issue.



The Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia (AsiaDHRRA) is a regional partnership of eleven social development networks and organisations in eleven Asian nations that envisions Asian rural communities that are just, free, prosperous, living in peace and working in solidarity towards self-reliance.

Tracing its history from the founding workshop on the development of human resources in rural areas in 1974 in Swanganiwas, Thailand, the DHRRA network's

mission is to be an effective promoter and catalyst of partnership relations, facilitator of human resource development processes in the rural areas and mobilizer of expertise and opportunities for the strengthening of solidarity and kinship among Asian rural communities. It is dedicated to the empowerment of farmers in the Asian region.

AsiaDHRRA's strategic objectives revolve around a) regional policy advocacy on priority issues that impinge on the development of rural peoples, their organisations and communities; b) capacity building through regional and national on-ground model building (socio-economic alternatives); and c) partnerships and movement building in support of resource generation and development.

AsiaDHRRA works through DHRRA members, with farmers' organisations, and other CSO partners in 11 countries, mainly in Southeast Asia namely in Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

It plays an important role in the Asian region as catalyser and co-convener of CSO platforms and mechanisms for more effective engagement and cooperation with regional organisations such as ASEAN, FAO, ADB and relevant multi-lateral and bilateral agencies. AsiaDHRRA sees the importance of connecting national and regional grassroots voices with global policy making processes and vice versa recognizing that development issues are

interconnected and that reform is most compelled if with a strong demand from those that are directly affected by public policies and programming.

In 2012, AsiaDHRRA became a member of AgriCord, as mandated by the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA) whose formation was catalysed and accompanied by AsiaDHRRA from 1999 to 2002, serving as its secretariat until 2006 when it span off operationally, following a programmatic FO autonomy framework. As an Agri-agency, AsiaDHRRA heightens its contribution to the socio-economic upliftment of grassroots communities by providing financing support and technical assistance to membership-based organisations. It promotes FO-FO exchange and advising and mobilizes expertise from DHRRA members and other relevant service providers.

In the Philippines, AsiaDHRRA works with PhilDHRRA and PAKISAMA in linking small farmers to markets and in empowering producers' groups in their collective engagement with diverse market players. Currently it works with the following FOs:

1. Mindoro Ecological and Sustainable Agriculture Federation, Inc. (MESAFED) on the promotion of productivity enhancing farm practices in calamansi plantations in Mindoro and supporting the catalysing process of the federation building among calamansi growers in the country.
2. Federation of Organic Practitioners of Antique, Inc. (FOPA) on enhancing the production capacity of small farmers in Antique on Organic Diversified Farming Systems.
3. National Confederation of Farmers and Fishers Organisations (PAKISAMA) on strengthening local farmers' association and farm and livelihood rehabilitation, post disaster; and
4. Seven (7) other indigenous local farmers/fishers associations in Leyte, Eastern Samar, and Palawan on building resilient livelihoods and communities post Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan).

AsiaDHRRA created the Post Yolanda (Haiyan) Facility for Local Initiatives to facilitate direct access to financing and promote participation of local farmers/fishers organisations in rebuilding their farms and livelihoods, to respond to efficiency issues, post disaster settings, and create greater ownership and responsibility by the community of projects intended for them. It is also a model-building initiative to develop more responsive approaches for agricultural communities and farmers' organisations' to develop better capacities for disaster risk reduction and management and climate change adaptation in light of the continuing environmental disturbances in the country and the region.



CSA is a development NGO specialized in agricultural and food policy issues. The association was founded in 1984 on the initiative of several Belgian French speaking development NGOs. Our aim is to promote sustainable agriculture and food security by strengthening farmers' organisations and the promotion of food sovereignty in different regions of the world. We have always considered the strengthening of farmers' organisations as crucial for the development of developing countries.

Farmers' organisations provide a role of political and professional representation, are involved in the production system and are active in the social issues. But their structure, their ability to provide services to farms, and their partnership with governments remains insufficient.

Since its inception, CSA has maintained a strong partnership with the farmers' organisations in Wallonia, the French speaking region of Belgium. On-going collaboration between Walloon Federation of Agriculture (FWA) and CSA is grafted around looking for the best possible understanding of international food policies issues, advocacy for the viability of family farms, and solidarity between farmers' organisations in developing countries and those in Europe. In 2009, CSA, in partnership with the FWA, has applied for membership to AgriCord, which allowed both our organisations to play our respective roles, i.e. to represent farmers and act as an organisation for international cooperation.

Since our integration in the AgriCord network in 2010, alongside our historical advocacy work on agricultural and food policies and the facilitation of direct links between farmers organisations in the South and farmers' organisations in the North (plus South-South and North-North connections), CSA has developed an activity of financing FO strategic plan and projects and provision of technical assistance.



Our financial support and technical assistance are directed:

- a) To support the FOs to obtain policies (agricultural, commercial and cooperation) adapted to the farmers' need, which lead us to work primarily with umbrella organisations at the national and regional levels and the mediation with public institutions.
- b) To support the strengthening of the market power of farmers (supply management, collective marketing, storage and warehouse receipt, collective contracts ...), which lead us to work primarily with FO cooperatives and the mediation with public and private actors within the value chain.

At the regional level, in the context of the ASEAN integration and EU-ASEAN relations, CSA, AFA and AsiaDHRRRA have collaborated since 2005 to organize several tours and missions in Europe for Asian farmers' organisations and facilitate their access to European civil society and the European policy makers. CSA approach and experience on strengthening capacity of CSOs to influence agricultural and trade policies in Europe and at the international level was shared with Asian CSOs. In particular, the reference from the European Farmers organisations' experiences on dialogue with the authorities for more participation in policy dialogue on agriculture in the ASEAN region is regularly shared.

In the Philippines, CSA has worked, since 2009 with PAKISAMA in collaboration with AFA and AsiaDHRRRA. It was at first mainly an advocacy support on agriculture and trade policies, but since 2011 CSA has also worked with PAKISAMA through AFA on the increase of market power of the FOs and their cooperatives. From 2014, CSA will support PAKISAMA on commercial activities related to institutional purchases in close collaboration with Agriterra supported activities in a PAKISAMA programme entitled "Developing Institutional Purchase and Building Sustainable Agro-Based Social Enterprises in 4 provinces in the Philippines". This programme will consist of:



- Strengthening the agro-business activities of 3 operational levels (the farmers' clusters, the cooperatives and the member federations),
- Productivity enhancement
- Development of products and markets for cooperatives (in particular the development of institutional purchases); and
- Establishing favourable environment for marketing activities.



**STEUNT ONDERNEMENDE
MENSEN IN HET ZUIDEN**
WWW.TRIASNGO.BE

Trias is a Belgian development NGO that works with local organisations in 14 countries in Asia, Latin America, and Africa. In Flanders, it is backed by 6 entrepreneurial membership organisations (MBOs): KLJ (rural youth), KVLV (rural women), Landelijke Gilden/Boerenbond (rural men), Markant (enterprising women), UNIZO (small entrepreneurs) and Neos (enterprising senior citizens). Trias incorporates the solidarity and know-how of these movements. Each has a rich tradition as an association, service provider and defender of the rights of its members. They are represented in the Trias board, together shaping Trias' identity.



Trias believes in the power of people and groups. Individuals, groups, and MBOs like cooperatives, savings groups, etc. have the strength for self-development and joint action towards social and economic empowerment, poverty alleviation, wealth creation, and well-being. With our partner organisations, Trias works to improve the lives of family farmers and small-scale entrepreneurs by supporting their MBOs. Trias also stimulates worldwide exchange and cooperation between farmers and entrepreneurs.

Ten (10) region/country offices coordinate the programmes implemented by over 100 local partner organisations. Globally, Trias supports one million family farmers and small-scale entrepreneurs, of which 55% are women.

In 2007, AgriCord accepted membership of Trias as the mandated Agri-agency of Boerenbond, the largest farmers' association of Flanders.

Trias in the Philippines

Since 2003 Trias has supported programmes targeted at family farmers in the Philippines, with multiple partners and MBOs. Key funding partner has been the Belgian Government and the Belgian public.

Creating Movement through Movements and Family Farmers: 2014-2016

Trias implements from 2014 to 2016 a programme under its strategy “Creating Movement through Movements” focused on mainstreaming organized small-scale entrepreneurs and family farmers in the market. Rural to urban links are key in particular in and between Camarines Norte and Sur and the metropolitan Manila markets. As part of the sustainability of the strategy, Trias supports partners to work on a better micro-enterprise policy climate, inclusion of livelihood-oriented entrepreneurs and farmers, youth and women participation, reducing the environmental effects and adapting to climate change.

Family Farmers are reached through 5 MBOs.

1. Tao sa Kalikasan Foundation of the Philippines, Inc. (TKFPI) provides enterprise services for farmers to produce and sell abaca, Muscovado, and their by-products as per market demands.
2. Bicol Federation of Dairy Cooperatives (BFDC) builds communities of dairy producers and increases its commercial capacity as processor and distributor. It also builds local and national alliances for the sustained growth of the dairy industry.
3. Labo Progressive Multi-Purpose Cooperative (LPMPC) enhances the market position of pineapple farmers in Camarines Norte through expansion of pineapple production and strengthening marketing channels.
4. Camarines Norte Federation of Cooperatives (CANOFECO) builds capacity of member-cooperatives’ social enterprises and will lobby and advocate for an enabling environment for farmers.
5. Baa0 Parish Multi-Purpose Cooperative (BPMPCO) will expand its agricultural production credit integrated with technical services to include formation of plantation farms, engagement into synchronous farming and mainstreaming organic farming. The direct and indirect MBO partners of the “Creating Movement through Movements” programme unite 22,000 farmers.

Trias Country Office works with a team of 6, of which 3 are enterprise and market development advisors. They coach the MBO partners’ social enterprises, bringing in technical assistance in assessing business feasibility, developing business and expansion plans, product development, marketing and promotion, market penetration and linkage building. Technical expertise includes facilitating processes towards inclusion of poor producers, women and youth in the value chains, policy advocacy and lobby, and strengthening MBO sustainability. The Country Office provides a bridge facilitating the intercultural dialogue in North-South exchange. Trias works with the AgriCord local network, Belgian NGOs, and Entrepreneurs du Monde (EDM), to achieve more impact by complementing partner services and NGAs expertise, common organisation of activities, sharing of tools and methodologies, and joint learning.



We Effect (formerly Swedish Cooperative Centre) is a development cooperation organisation that has acted and worked with a long-term approach since 1958 in order to effect change. Helping people to help themselves is the guiding principle of its development efforts in 25 countries on four continents.

We Effect focuses on areas where it can make the biggest difference in reducing poverty and injustice: rural development, microfinance, housing, access to land and gender equality. It strengthens member-based organisations to address the needs and rights of their members and communities. In Asia, We Effect works with around 30 local partners in the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Palestine

In the Philippines, We Effect is implementing the “BUILDING RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES IN FIGHTING POVERTY AND INJUSTICE” programme which seeks to enhance and strengthen organisational capacities and leadership of civil society organisations and cooperatives. In the programme, We Effect supports and works with Philippine partners to facilitate the empowerment of organised communities to



address basic needs, and uphold the fundamental rights of their members, and whole communities. The programme covers 103 rural farming and urban poor communities, with gender equality and reducing vulnerability and risk as crosscutting focal themes.

The individual projects being implemented revolve around sustainable agriculture, housing, and humanitarian disaster response:

Theme	Project Title	Partner Organization
Sustainable Agriculture	Building the Organizational and Business Capacities of Small Farmers Cooperatives and Self-Help Groups in Davao	Davao Federation of Integrated Service Cooperatives (DAFISCO)
	Building Capacities for Cacao and Coffee Agri-business Development of Tribal Farmers in Sibulan (Davao City) Ancestral Domain	Foundation for Agrarian Reform Cooperatives in Mindanao, Inc. (FARMCOOP)
	Promoting Sustainable Farm Commodity Production and Market Enhancement Project in Negros Island	Federation of Multi-Sectoral Alliance for Development (MUAD-Negros)
	Stopping Land Grabs in Four Communities to Assert Land, Water and Ancestral Domain Rights in Luzon and Visayas Regions	Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA)
Housing	Enabling Access to Adequate Housing by the Urban Poor in Metro Manila	Institute for Philippine Cooperatives and Social Enterprise Development (IPSCED)
	Ensuring Access by Children to Safe and Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services (WASH) in New Cooperative-Managed Resettlement Sites for Slum Dwellers	IPCSED
	Realising Sustainable Community-led Cooperative Housing Project in the Philippines	Julio and Florentina Ledesma foundation, Inc.(JFLFI)
Humanitarian Disaster Response	Rebuilding homes, rebuilding lives, and building sustainable housing cooperative communities in Eastern Visayas	National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) Economic Development Center (NEDC)
	Livelihood Rehabilitation and Disaster Preparedness after the typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in Philippines	Center for Emergency Aid and Rehabilitation (CONCERN)



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