



## Panel 3: Capturing Evidence Based Knowledge: What Role for Knowledge Systems Beyond Science

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# AFA in Brief

- **Nature:** An Asian alliance of national farmers organizations : **20 orgs, 16 countries, 13M family farmers, fishers, forest dwellers, IPs, pastoralists**
- **Vision:** Just, free, peaceful, healthy, economically viable, Sustainable and resilient farming communities in Asia.
- **Mission:** To build solidarity, raise our collective voice, and empower our members as key drivers and actors for sustainable rural development
- **Goal :** To strengthen capacities of national farmers' organizations leading to eradication of poverty and hunger, increased resilience, and sense of well-being of family farmers in Asia.
- **Priority Agenda:** rights to natural resources; sustainable and resilient agri; farmers cooperatives and enterprises; women farmers empowerment, attracting youth in agri
- **Key Programs:** Advocacy , Capacity Building, Knowledge Mgt along the 5 priority agenda

# FARMERS AS SCIENTISTS, INNOVATORS

Top: Ms. Xxxx, Nepali farmer entrepreneur. She uses plastic bags for her seedlings. But during Indian blockade (2015), plastic bags were expensive and scarce. So she made use of fallen leaves to contain her seedlings.

Bottom : Ms. Nirmala, daughter of farming family, a teacher. She got 50 more farmers and teachers to establish an organic fertilizer factory. She googled how to make organic fertilizer and then hired an expert.



# FARMERS AS SCIENTISTS, INNOVATORS

TOP: Mr Joharipin, Indonesian farmer. He continues his experiments from Farmers Field School. He teaches others about knowing the soil's organic content with the use of bulbs. He is currently breeding 10 varieties of rice in his experimental farm.

BOTTOM: A Tajik farmer experimenting on plastic mulching, as advised by a government extension agent.

A Lao farmer was able to harvest 60 kilos of sweet potato from farming with rubber tires.

[www.asia](http://www.asia)



# FARMERS AS SCIENTISTS, INNOVATORS

FROM TOP, CLOCKWISE: AFA, with support of GFAR, conducted a trainors training on grassroots foresight. Trainers from India then conducted workshops on grassroot foresight with farmers from Himalayan region . Trainers from Phiippines conducted workshops with farmers and fishers from indigenous communities reclaiming rights to lands and waters. In both cases, farmers were able to build future scenarios, identify their desired scenario and made some action plans.



# Farmers As Scientists, Innovators



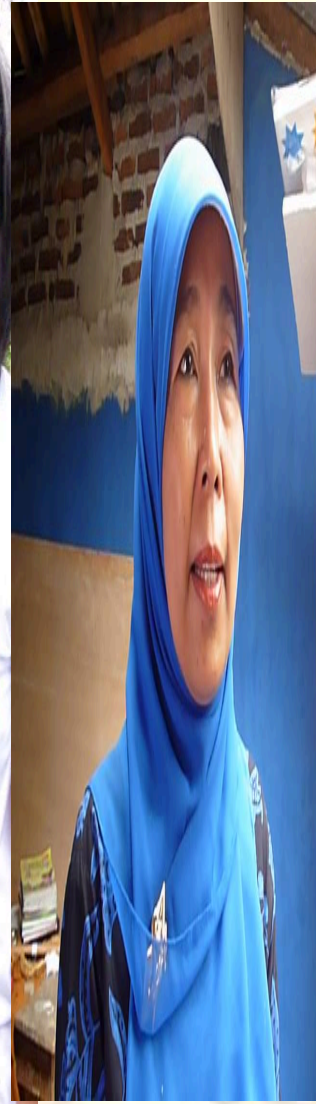
FROM TOP, CLOCKWISE: During a farmer-to-farmer exchange visit conducted by FO PAKISAMA (Phils), Celso, farmer leader from Brazil, saw plots with plastic mulching. He taught the women farmers to use rice straw instead. But women farmers counter, "but the chickens scratch the plots with it. And Celso understood.

Jonjon Sarmiento, Filipino farmer, was trained on integrated diversified organic farming by NGOs, church, Fos. Now he has his learning farm and is a sought after trainer by the governments extension office; also helping Huaiyan survivors.

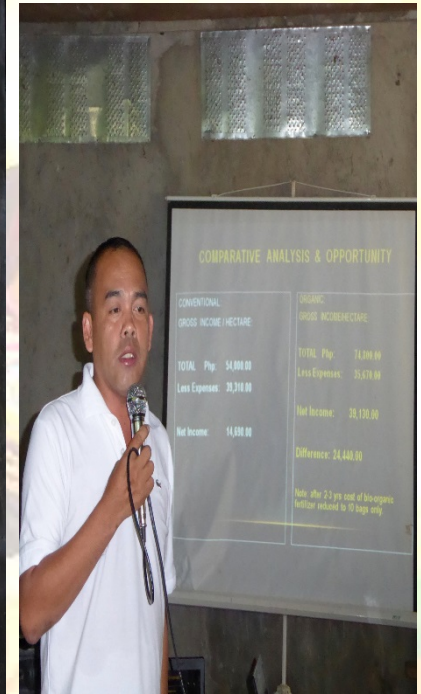
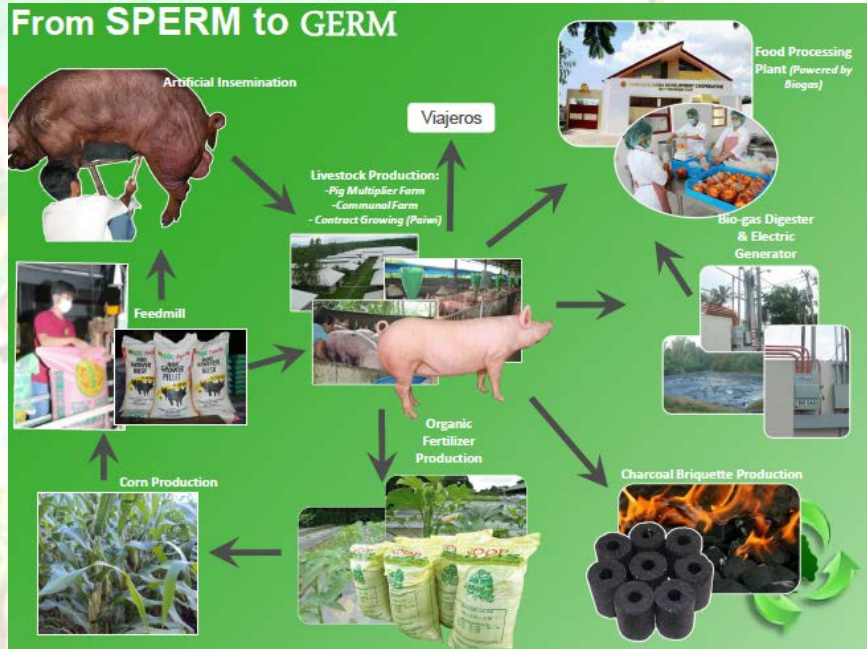


# Farmers As Entrepreneurs

FROM LEFT : A Filipino woman farmer leader explains her group's plan to develop the group's communal farm to be able to deliver fresh and organic produce to the village's day care feeding program. An Indonesian farmer sells breads and pastries from local crops such as taro.



# FOs As Entrepreneurs



FROM TOP LEFT, CLOCKWISE: Forty-year old cooperative, SIDC from Philippines, offer full value chain services for its 24,000 members. PDCI, a cooperative of Filipino agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) with 1026 members, is the biggest seller of red rice in the market. APCO, a three year old cooperative of 220 members, learning from both SIDC and PDCI, is now offering also full value chain services : from organic rice seeds, to farm labor, to ag machineries, to link to markets.





# Some Insights from the Stories

- **Who we are** : we are producers , consumers, value adders, food processors, marketers, consumers; we are scientists , innovators, agri entrepreneurs
- **What kind of knowledge we need** : those that can make us earn and live decent lives : we earn more, produce more, with less costs, while protecting the environment and maintaining biodiversity, and health of our natural resources and ourselves; how to add value to our products, where to market our produce; how to maximize our small farms
- **How/From where, from whom do we get knowledge** : own observations and experiments, internet, farmer-to-farmer exchanges/consultations/dialogues, trainings by NGOs, church, research institutions, FFS

# Gaps and Possible Solutions

- **Focus on smallholders/family farmers needs** : location and site specific; with particular focus on women and youth
- **Integrate research with advisory and extension** , with use of social and mass media.
- **Make ARI4D participatory** , by, with, for family farmers; in situ, FFS approaches; knowledge and innovation fairs, KM system driven by FOs!
- **Better , closer, stronger, longer partnerships with FOs:** involvement of farmers through their organizations with research institutions at national, regional, global levels , driven by FOs! AFA is in the steering committee of GFAR and APAARI , but national members do not have relations with national ag research.



org.



Long Live, Family Farmers!  
Empower Family Farmers!

😊 Thank you for your attention 😊