



# BRUNEI DARUSSALAM and SEARCA

SEARCA's headquarters was constructed with funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada and the Government of the Philippines.



Established in 1966, the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) is one of the 26 specialist institutions of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), a treaty organization that promotes regional cooperation in education, science, and culture.

The SEAMEO member countries are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. The associate member countries of SEAMEO are Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Brunei Darussalam joined SEAMEO in 1984.

SEARCA's objectives are to:

1. Provide high-quality graduate education and training in agriculture;
2. Promote, undertake, and coordinate research addressing the development needs and problems in agriculture of the region; and
3. Disseminate the findings of agricultural research and experimentation.

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## **12th Five-Year Development Plan (FY 2025/2026 - 2029/2030)**

### **Sustainable Transformation of Agricultural Systems through Innovation in Southeast Asia (SUSTAIN Southeast Asia)**

It signals SEARCA's resolve to transform agricultural systems holistically — encompassing policies, institutions, practices, and people — so that they become climate-resilient, inclusive, and future-ready.

SEARCA recognizes that innovation must be inclusive and human-centered, ensuring that farmers, especially youth and women, are not left behind but are empowered as co-creators of solutions.

#### **MISSION**

To elevate the welfare and quality of life of agricultural families in Southeast Asia by strengthening human and institutional capacities to achieve more inclusive and sustainable agriculture growth.

#### **VISUAL**

A leading catalyst for sustainable agricultural transformation in Southeast Asia.

#### **CORE VALUES**

Respect for Diversity | Integrity | Commitment | Excellence

## SUSTAIN Southeast Asia Outcomes

SEARCA is translating strategy into the following tangible outcomes for Southeast Asia.



### POCKET

Sustained increases in farmers' income



### PLACE

Sustained resilience of agricultural systems



### PLATE

Sustained improvement of food security and nutrition



### PEOPLE

Sustained empowerment of farmers, farmer groups, stakeholders, and their institutions

To realize these outcomes, SEARCA concentrates on four **Key Priority Areas** that knit together the region's most urgent needs and greatest opportunities:

1. Inclusive Agri-Food Value Chains and Rural Development
2. Food and Nutrition Security
3. Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Farming Systems
4. Education, Capacity Building, and Youth Engagement

These key priority areas are addressed with deliberate consideration of three **Cross-Cutting Themes**:

1. Environmental Stewardship
2. Gender and Youth Inclusion
3. Cultural and Social Milieu



# EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE LEARNING



SEARCA's core program on Education and Collective Learning (ECL) leads the development of a new breed of agriculture leaders and professionals through its scholarships and other graduate study programs.

## GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

One of SEARCA's main objectives is to produce high-quality human resources in agriculture for the SEAMEO region in order to strengthen their institutions that would propel regional development. One of the major undertakings under this program is the provision of scholarships that enable selected Southeast Asians to pursue their master's or doctoral studies.

So far, there has been only two participants from Brunei Darussalam in SEARCA's Graduate Scholarship Program. Ms. Nuraizat Abidin completed her MS degree in Plant Pathology in October 2020 under the Universiti Putra Malaysia-SEARCA Joint Scholarship Program, while Dr. Haji Anjah Amzah bin Abdul Rahman completed his PhD in economic development.



*Dr. Haji Anjah Amzah  
bin Abdul Rahman*



*Ms. Nuraizat Abidin*

## **INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Proposed Assistance to Wasan Vocational School**

In 2013, a SEARCA team held a dialogue with officials from Wasan Vocational School (WVS) and the technical departments of Brunei Darussalam's Ministry of Education (MOE) to explore opportunities for collaboration in mainstreaming agriculture in the country.

In the discussions with the MOE and WVS, some of the issues and challenges of the agriculture sector in Brunei Darussalam noted were a general lack of interest in and appreciation of agriculture among Bruneians, especially the youth; and a small population/domestic market, therefore a lack of employment opportunities in agriculture.

Since Brunei Darussalam is a special case wherein it has yet to mainstream agriculture in the country and within the context of promoting domestic agriculture in line with the pronouncement of the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam, possible SEARCA interventions identified were at three levels as follows:

#### ***At the level of primary schools***

- Develop innovative learning materials on agriculture (as inputs in the learning process of school children and provide technical content through subject matter specialists, and for WVS to integrate in its outreach program)
- Enhance existing school gardens program (to address education, nutritional deficiency, economic issues)

#### ***At the level of WVS***

- Enhance WVS entrepreneurship program called "Jumpstart" through capacity building (e.g., develop/customize training for teachers; enhance curriculum to incorporate/bring in new paradigm/subjects such as supply chain management, how to do business in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), market analysis/research, biotechnology, IT)
- Some of the options to pursue this project are: (1) for WVS to send teachers to SEARCA for customized training; (2) for SEARCA to send experts to WVS to mentor the teachers through demo teaching, etc.; and (3) through distance learning

#### ***At the level of the ministries***

Strategic planning to develop domestic agriculture for food security and regional/global markets

His Excellency Pehin Abu Bakar Apong, then Minister of Education, acknowledged the proposed actions outlined above. He provided additional suggestions as follows:

- Produce innovative books for school children that feature rice and rice by-products from various Southeast Asian countries. This initiative will promote agriculture, as well as ASEAN culture and solidarity.
- Explore special markets in agriculture (e.g., landscaping, etc.)/special type of agriculture.
- Involve other ministries, especially MIPR; an inter-ministerial meeting focusing on agricultural development in Brunei Darussalam will be organized through MOE.

The plan was for SEARCA to pursue proposed interventions in Brunei Darussalam with the ultimate goals of developing domestic agriculture for food security and regional/global markets. This would necessitate the following strategies: (1) changing the mindset of the youth through agriculture education; and (2) finding niche or developing special type of agriculture/viable business enterprises that will make agriculture attractive as a career and source of income. Meanwhile, SEARCA's initiatives to assist WVS could be linked to its Institutional Development Assistance to young and strategic universities in the economic corridors.

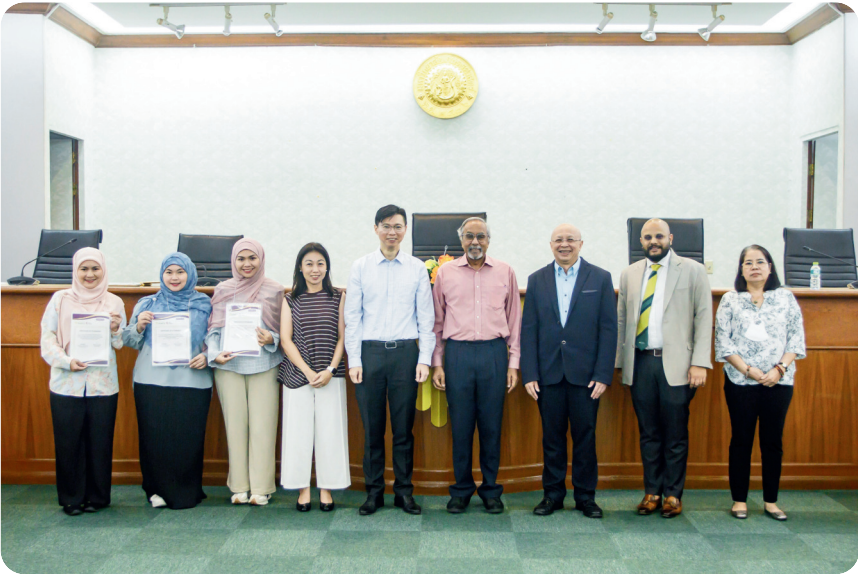
## TRAINING FOR DEVELOPMENT

Short-term training remains one of the Center's most effective approaches for cultivating change-makers and thought leaders capable of transforming the agricultural and rural development landscape in Southeast Asia. Since SEARCA began this capacity-building service in 1970, 95 Bruneians have participated in 19 SEARCA training and learning forums. These learning events covered topics such as:

- Integrating ecosystems services into development planning
- Regional food safety systems
- Knowledge management of agricultural higher learning institutions
- Watershed governance
- Pasture management
- Development strategies and planning for farmers' communities
- Strategies for rural development
- Data management
- Leadership development for higher education institutions
- Climate leadership
- Sustainable food systems

Two learning events took place in Brunei Darussalam: one on strategies for rural development and another for advanced higher education administrators' development.

In 2020 and 2021, online events on climate leadership and food systems were held due to the pandemic, with participation from three Bruneians. Additionally, three Bruneians from Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) joined a hybrid regional leadership development program for higher education institutions in 2024.



*Ms. Hasmahwati Haji Mohamad (leftmost), Ms. Fazira Kamis, and Ms. Nurdiana Daud of UNISSA successfully completed the 6th Leadership Development Program for Higher Education Institutions in Southeast Asia (LDP-HEIs in SEA), which was conducted via hybrid mode from March to May 2024, with coaching sessions in June 2024. Photos were taken during the face-to-face sessions in Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand.*



## RESEARCH AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

SEARCA fulfills its mandate to promote, undertake, and coordinate research on the region's emerging issues through research focused on supporting policy development and program advisory toward sustainable transformation of Southeast Asian agricultural systems through innovation.

Through its Research and Thought Leadership program, SEARCA conducts participatory, evidence-based research studies that address real-world needs toward increased farmers' income, improved food security and nutrition, greater climate resilience of agricultural systems, and empowered farmers, farmer groups, and agricultural stakeholders and their institutions

### **PAST RESEARCH PROJECTS AND POLICY STUDIES**

SEARCA has worked with various development organizations and research institutions in the implementation of the following completed research and policy studies in the ASEAN region, including Brunei Darussalam:

#### **Implications of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and Trade and Investments on Regional Food Security**

SEARCA partnered with the Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) of Indonesia to implement this project, which was identified by the SEARCA-initiated **Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC)** as one of the six priority research and development areas for collaborative undertaking under SEARCA's **Umbrella Program on Food and Nutrition Security for Southeast Asia (FANSSEA)**. The project analyzed the potential impacts of AEC on existing trade agreements, flow of investments, and related commitments among ASEAN member countries, including Brunei Darussalam, and across existing ASEAN Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), and its implications on food security in the region.



## **Competency Certification for Agricultural Workers in Southeast Asia**

SEARCA was tapped by SEAMEO in 2017 to conduct a study on competency standards for agricultural workers in Southeast Asia as a step forward in mapping national competency standards among the Southeast Asian countries. SEAMEO promotes technical and vocational education and training (TVET) as one of its seven education priorities. The collaborative study has been instrumental to the formulation of regional and national qualification reference frameworks and assurance framework, which was recognized to be essential in the harmonization and internationalization of TVET in Southeast Asia.

The results of the project were presented and validated in a regional workshop convened in May 2018 in the Philippines and jointly hosted by SEARCA and the Philippine Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). It was participated in by representatives of TVET institutions from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam; SEAMEO Secretariat; SEAMEO Regional Center for Vocational and Technical Education and Training (VOCTECH); SEARCA; the International Labour Organization (ILO); and private sector organizations involved in skills development of agricultural workers. It crafted a four-point recommendation that was subsequently presented and elevated for consideration in the **4th High Officials Meeting** on SEA-TVET held in September 2018.

The four-point recommendation focused on the following:

- Encourage TVET institutions to increasingly assume proactive and transforming roles in assessing, validating, and certifying skills and experience gained through non-formal and informal modes within a lifelong learning framework;
- Strengthen and expand competency certification systems to cover recognition of nonformal and informal learning;
- Encourage TVET institutions to pursue partnerships and alliances with a broader range of stakeholders; and
- Promote support from regional TVET networks and international cooperation.

## **Review and Assessment of the Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) in ASEAN**

The Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) collaborated with SEARCA for the conduct of this scoping study, whose results were the basis for the policy dialogue between the OECD and ASEAN countries, including Brunei Darussalam, to secure food security in a long-term perspective.

Implemented from July 2015 to June 2016, the study aimed to identify the policy issues to improve agricultural productivity growth and sustainability in ASEAN region. Specifically, it aimed to provide an overview of agricultural innovation system in ASEAN countries, highlighting the need to evolve agricultural innovation system to generate innovative solutions for long-term food security concerns.

### **Umbrella Program on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Southeast Asia**

From 2015 to 2020, this program was jointly implemented by SEARCA and the UC with the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security–Southeast Asia (CCAFS SEA) and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). It covered Brunei Darussalam and ten other Southeast Asian countries.

### **Umbrella Program on Food and Nutrition Security for Southeast Asia**

The Umbrella Program on Food and Nutrition Security for Southeast Asia was envisioned to serve as a platform for collaborative research on food security among UC members and partner universities/institutions from SEAMEO member countries. It aimed to align the program of work on food security of SEARCA and the UC with the development needs in the region and to support ongoing ASEAN-level programs aimed at improving food security. The priority areas for collaboration were addressed through three integrated components: research and development, capacity building through graduate education and training, and knowledge management.

## **RESEARCH AND COLLABORATIVE GRANTS**

### **Seed Fund for Research and Training (SFRT)**

The Southeast Asian region has a number of promising researchers and scientists whose desire to contribute to the region's development through research and knowledge dissemination initiatives is hindered by a lack of funds. This situation serves as a barrier to translating promising research and training into scientific outputs that could be applied to promote development.

To address this concern and in line with the Center's thrust of promoting, undertaking and coordinating research programs relevant to the agriculture and rural development needs of the region, SEARCA will make available a pool of funds to be known as the SEARCA Seed Fund for Research and Training (SFRT).

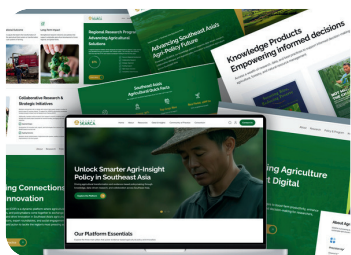
SFRT is envisaged to provide chosen research and training project proposals with limited start-up funds intended to enhance chances of securing long-term support from donor agencies. A grant of up to USD 15,000 shall be awarded as seed fund for research/training.

### **Travel Grants Program**

SEARCA provides travel grants of up to a maximum of USD 1,200 to each qualified agriculture and agriculture-related professional, social scientist, or graduate student in Southeast Asia.

## **AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND NATURAL RESOURCES (AFNR) KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM**

For almost six decades, SEARCA has been actively working with different like-minded institutions and networks in conducting research that addresses critical issues related to the region's agricultural and rural development. Capitalizing on this knowledge resource, SEARCA established the Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources (AFNR) Knowledge Platform.



The knowledge platform primarily aims to facilitate and sustain an ecosystem for knowledge sharing that contributes to agricultural and rural development in the Southeast Asian region and beyond. It also ensures access to an accurate, highly credible, sound, timely, and reliable source of information that will fuel future research activities, capacity building initiatives, policy development, and technological innovations aimed at accelerating transformation in the region's agricultural sector.

It has three main components: knowledge generation, exchange, and utilization, which support the Community of Practice (CoP). Knowledge generation includes conceptualization and organization of opportunities for knowledge sharing and learning (conferences, roundtable discussions, webinars, etc). AFNR works on popular formats, addressing the needs of our other stakeholders and providing another entry point/access to other SEARCA resources.

The second part is the knowledge exchange, the actual website itself that was launched in March 2025. The AFNR Knowledge Platform brings together timely data, strategic foresight, and research outputs that inform real-world solutions empowering users to design more resilient, future-ready agri-food systems amidst climate change, urbanization, and shifting demographics. It advocates D4A (Data for All) that supports data inclusivity and access through the development and provision of agricultural statistics database and digital tools.

The last part is knowledge utilization, the CoP. The knowledge platform will continue to be client-driven, catering to the information needs of external stakeholders. Its content will also be designed to stir discussions in the CoP. Regular activities (e.g., an online forum on a certain timely/relevant topic) will also be conducted to keep the CoP active and engaging. Transformation happens through shared purpose. Hence, the knowledge platform will serve as a living network that connects governments, academic institutions, private sector actors, and civil society to co-create strategies, exchange learnings, and scale good practices across the region.

## EMERGING INNOVATION FOR GROWTH



SEARCA's core program on Emerging Innovation for Growth (EIG) is focused on providing farmers and farming families wider access to innovative products and services as well as business models for increased productivity and income through:

- Knowledge and Technology Transfer
- Open Innovation and Agri-Incubation

### **KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**

It aims to enhance partnership and leadership in priority areas and emerging concerns.

#### **Farm-Level Technology Transfer**

Under the Knowledge and Tech Transfer initiative is the facilitation of the adoption and transfer of emerging and innovative agri-tech innovations and linkages. SEARCA promotes the adoption of innovative agri-tech solutions at the farm level to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability. Through partnerships with academic and research institutions, SEARCA facilitates the development and dissemination of technologies that address specific challenges faced by farmers. This initiative focuses on practical solutions that improve efficiency and profitability at the farm level, ensuring that innovations are accessible and beneficial to smallholder farmers across the region.

#### **Digital Agriculture Platform**

SEARCA is modernizing agriculture through digital platforms that connect farmers directly with markets, ensuring fair trade and improved livelihoods. These platforms leverage technology to streamline the supply chain from farm to fork, benefiting both farmers and consumers. In an increasingly digital world, SEARCA's Digital Agriculture Platform bridges the gap between farmers and markets, enabling small-

holder farmers to thrive in a competitive landscape. By integrating technology into traditional farming practices, SEARCA is helping to secure a sustainable and profitable future for agriculture in the region.

### **Agri-Robotics Activities**

SEARCA is dedicated to bringing about agricultural transformation through the adoption of a new concept of agriculture, Agri 4.0, redefined by modern technologies, processes, and dynamics. Moreover, SEARCA is committed to the development of the next generation of agriculture leaders and professionals.

#### ***Development and Piloting of Agri-Robotics Module***

Envisioning the acceleration of transformation to Agriculture 4.0 by nurturing innovations, SEARCA invests in empowering and equipping the youth, and in developing and making innovative programs available and accessible to spark their interest in agriculture through new and creative approaches to complex problems in food production. One way to achieve this is by building the capacities of schoolteachers and equipping them with resources that enable them to integrate Agriculture 4.0 into their lessons under the K-12 curriculum.

### **Agri-Mechanization through Tractor Development**

SEARCA is advancing agricultural mechanization by promoting open systems manufacturing, which allows for the customization and scaling of farming equipment to meet the specific needs of smallholder farmers. This initiative focuses on developing and deploying innovative, locally adaptable machinery to enhance agricultural productivity. Empowering farmers with the right tools is essential for sustainable agricultural growth. Through its agri-mechanization initiative, SEARCA is collaborating with global and local partners to bring innovative, open-source machinery to the fields, tailored to the unique needs of smallholder farmers in the region.

## **OPEN INNOVATION AND AGRICULTURE INCUBATION**

### **Grants for Research Towards Agricultural Innovative Solutions (GRAINS)**

GRAINS is a SEARCA program started in 2020 to support agri-entrepreneurial minds by providing short-term starter funds to innovative agricultural concepts, prototypes, and ventures, advancing sustainable agriculture and rural development across Southeast Asia. By 2025, GRAINS supported 29 total projects hailing from Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Timor-Leste, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

### **Agri-Innovation Forum and Knowledge Exchange**

SEARCA organizes agri-innovation fora and knowledge exchange events to catalyze collaboration and strengthen the innovation ecosystem. These multi-stakeholder platforms bring together innovators, researchers, entrepreneurs, farmers, investors, and policymakers to share ideas, co-create solutions, and explore opportunities for scaling impact. Agri-innovations are showcased through exhibits, demonstrations

and business pitching, providing potential startups and venture teams with a strategic venue to present investment-ready technologies. By supporting dialogue and deployment of innovations, the program helps build a more dynamic, inclusive, and responsive agricultural landscape in Southeast Asia.

### **Agripreneurship Acceleration**

To foster the growth of startups in the agriculture sector, we launched acceleration programs in collaboration with business incubators. Our goal is to mentor startups in the region, helping them advance to the next stage of growth to become sustainable businesses that ultimately benefit farmers and farming communities across Southeast Asia.

### ***Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security Enhancement Acceleration (SAFE Acceleration) Program***

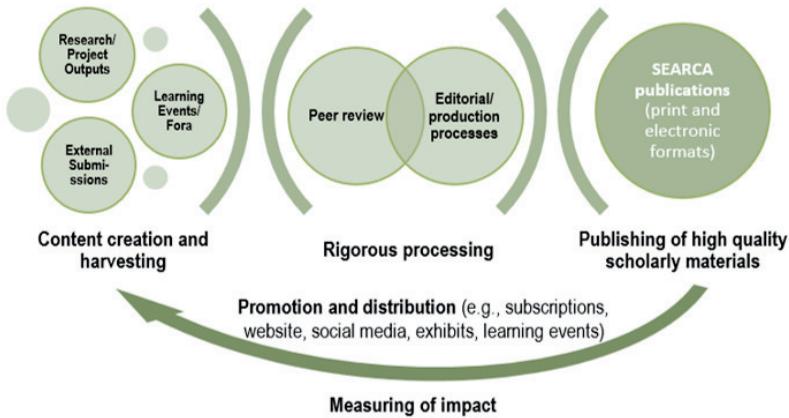
This was designed to help scale innovative business models and early-stage enterprises that tackle Southeast Asia's most urgent challenges. Through intensive capacity building, expert mentorship, and access to investor networks, the program helps participants refine their business models, strengthen their impact and connect with funding opportunities.



### **Unveiled Impact Stories of Innovation**

Stories of agri-innovation from projects funded by SEARCA GRAINS are regularly disseminated through the SEARCA website ([www.searca.org/grains#stories](http://www.searca.org/grains#stories)) and social media platforms such as YouTube. Over a dozen video packages are featured to inspire the adoption of best practices and to draw lessons toward successful project implementation.

# KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT



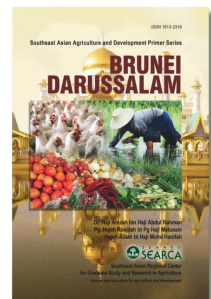
## PUBLICATIONS

SEARCA publishes peer-reviewed books, journal articles, monographs, discussion papers, policy briefs, research notes, and case stories that equip scholars, researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders in agriculture and rural development with actionable knowledge. Drawing on its core programs—and select external contributions—every submission undergoes rigorous editorial and peer review processes to ensure consistently high quality.

SEARCA's Knowledge Inventory System and the **Asian Journal of Agriculture and Development (AJAD)** archives curate over 850 titles. As of 1 July 2025, nine of these publications either focus on Brunei Darussalam or is among the countries covered. These include two books, two country primer volumes, two monographs, one regional synthesis report, one conference proceedings, and one journal article.

### Agriculture and Development Primer on Brunei Darussalam

SEARCA published a primer on Brunei Darussalam in 2011 as part of its **Southeast Asian Agriculture and Development Primer (SAADP)** Series, which presents each country's state of agriculture in a holistic yet concise form, highlighting institutions, structures, policies, and other factors shaping the sector over the past three decades. Brunei Darussalam's volume focused on crops and livestock and their contribution to the economy, authored by Dr. Haji Amzah bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Pg Hajah Rosidah bt Pg Haji Metussin, and Hajah Aidah bt Haji Hanifah of the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.



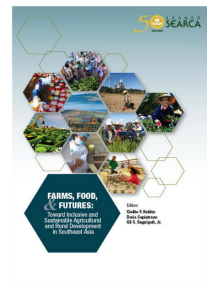
The second edition (2016) focuses on experiences, impacts, and lessons in agricultural policy reforms and institutional innovations in the country. It builds on discussions in a regional workshop convened by SEARCA to review the state of agriculture in Southeast Asia, examine institutional and policy regimes, and assess their impacts on productivity, competitiveness, and government responses. It was authored by Hajah Aidah Binti Haji Mohd Hanifah, Fuziah Binti Haji Hamdan, and H.M. Thippeswamy.



### Other Publications on Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam is among the ASEAN Member States featured in the **Agroforestry Status, Trends, and Outlook for Southeast Asia**, jointly published by World Agroforestry (ICRAF) and SEARCA in 2021. Developed in response to the ASEAN Food, Agriculture, and Forestry (FAF) sector’s call following the adoption of the ASEAN Guidelines for Agroforestry Development, the report consolidates stakeholder perspectives to address challenges, promote resilient interventions, and guide sustainable policies. It provides information on agroforestry practices, programs, policies, training, research, and industry; outlines a forward-looking outlook to strengthen regional resilience; and introduces a monitoring and reporting framework for ASEAN Member States, including Brunei Darussalam, to track progress in advancing agroforestry.

Brunei Darussalam is also covered in SEARCA’s **Farms, Food, & Futures: Toward Inclusive and Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development in Southeast Asia** (2016), widely known as the Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) Book. The publication analyzed productivity-enhancing interventions through in-depth lessons, experiences, and empirical evidence on Asia’s ARD. It explored the challenges and opportunities arising from structural transformation and market integration, and brought together eminent experts and thought leaders who authored the volume around four cross-cutting themes: inclusive growth; sustainability; regional integration; and institutions, governance, and transformation.



### KNOWLEDGE CHANNELS

SEARCA has been investing in ways to ensure its publications and knowledge products achieve maximum impact. Its strengthened online visibility and reach continue to expand, enabling wider access to the Center’s knowledge resources.

The SEARCA website, [www.searca.org](http://www.searca.org), complemented by a dynamic social media presence, serves as the primary gateway to these resources. Nearly all publications are freely downloadable, while learning events and presentations are likewise made openly accessible, reinforcing SEARCA's commitment to knowledge sharing and inclusivity. A total of 62,131 downloads from [searca.org](http://searca.org) were made by over 33,436 individuals from 175 countries, including Brunei Darussalam.

Bruneian researchers, educators, students, policy and decision-makers, government staff, practitioners, and farmers can access SEARCA's collection of over 16,700 agriculture and development references — everything from journal articles to theses — via its online Library Information System (LIS) at <https://lis.searcaapps.org/lis/>. The LIS streamlines discovery with direct links to up-to-date web resources, allowing users to stay informed on the latest ARD innovations and data.

The Center's archives have digitized more than 7,400 vital records to ensure not only efficient information processing, storage, access, and dissemination, but also to make SEARCA's knowledge resources more widely usable for research, education, and policy development.

## EVENTS AND VISITS



### **Courtesy Visit**

Dr. Mercedita Sombilla, SEARCA Center Director, together with Dr. Nur Azura Binti Adam, Former SEARCA Deputy Director for Programs; and Mr. Jaymark Warren Dia, Unit Head for Management Information Systems, met with Dr. Suhaimi bin Haji Abdul Wahab, Principal of the Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE) Satellite Campus and Brunei Darussalam's representative to SEARCA Governing Board; and Mrs. Zaitunah Haji Kurus, Head of School/Education Officer (Special Level) of the School of Agro-Technology and Applied Sciences, IBTE Agro-Technology Campus and Brunei Darussalam's representative to the Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Tropical Biology (SEAMEO BIOTROP) Governing Board.

During the meeting, potential areas for collaboration were identified, particularly in supporting Brunei Darussalam's efforts to promote agriculture among the Bruneian youth.

### **57th Governing Board Meeting (GBM)**

SEARCA held its 57th General Board Meeting (GBM) in Ganong, Brunei Darussalam, from 19 to 21 October 2009. As the highest policymaking body of SEARCA, the Governing Board (GB) evaluates the Center's performance with a focus on its regional operations and financial resources.



## MANAGEMENT

Brunei Darussalam is currently represented in the SEARCA Governing Board by Dr. Suhaimi bin Haji Abd Wahab, Principal of IBTE Satellite Campuses, Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE). The SEARCA Governing Board is the highest policymaking body composed of representatives of the 11 SEAMEO member countries.

At present, the SEARCA Center Director is Dr. Mercedita Sombilla, and the Deputy Director for Administration is Dr. Rico Ancog.









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