



Empowering small scale men and women farmers in Asia

Rm 206, Partnership Center, 59 C. Salvador Street

Loyola Heights, Quezon City, 1109 Philippines

Telefax: (632) 436 4640

Email: afa@asianfarmers.org

URL: www.asianfarmers.org

Making Our Voices Heard

AFA Annual Report 2008



Contents

2008 at a Glance

Accomplishments in Policy Advocacy

Accomplishments in Capacity Building

Accomplishments in Governance

Major Challenges and Recommendations



2008 at a Glance

In 2008, AFA completed its first year after setting up its own secretariat.

The first half of the year saw a lot of organizational and advocacy activities; highlighted by a general assembly and regional and international conferences, with AFA as an independent organization.

The second half year, on the other hand, saw more activities carried out with members in their respective countries. It was a time for visiting member organizations, monitoring and documenting technology transfer projects, conducting national consultations on agricultural trade situation and implementing the FO growth monitoring tool, and exchanging updates. It was also a time for developing a new project proposal; one that includes a marketing component that is aimed at addressing an expressed need of the members. Advocacy activities continued, with AFA preparing for the CSO activities parallel to the ASEAN summit in December 2008, which however got postponed to the following year. AFA also continued its engagements with target institutions and other CSOs, as it got invited to regional and international conferences. An issue paper on climate change also got published, and AFA's organizational video was produced.



Accomplishments in Policy Advocacy

Strategic Objective: to influence key intergovernmental regional and international decision making bodies on common agricultural issues affecting our members

After three years, AFA is steadily being recognized as a dynamic regional alliance of small men and women farmers in Asia able to put forward the concerns and interests of small men and women farmers through representations in various fora, consultations and several dialogues with national governments, regional government (the ASEAN) and international institutions such as the World Bank, FAO and IFAD. It is with the economic and trade-related issues that AFA focused its advocacy efforts during the past two years, targetting ASEAN and WTO. AFA helped its members to understand deeper the issues related to ASEAN economic integration as well as climate change through several regional and national consultations. These consultations have also provided opportunities for the members to come in contact with possible allies in government and the CSO community. Yet, while indeed the space for consultation and dialogues has widened a little, there is still an absence of institutionalized mechanism for consultation, advising and much more, participation in decision-making processes, both at national and regional levels.



Consultations, fora, and dialogues organized by or with AFA

Regional Consultation-Workshop: China's Development, Climate Change and Asian Farmers' Realities: Old Problems, New Challenges for Farmers' Organizations in Asia. February 29-March 2, 2008. Cheonan, South Korea

The consultation-workshop aimed to enable AFA leaders to (1) understand the developments of China's agriculture and the emerging issues that it poses to small scale farmers and fishers in Asia, the causes of climate change and the extent of its impact on small scale farmers in the region, their initiatives and limitations in responding to the challenges posed by China's agricultural development and climate change; (2) put forward an analysis and critique of the WDR 2008 on agriculture; and, (3) put forward proposals and recommendations to international NGOs and inter-governmental decision-making bodies. Participants to the event included 32 representatives & staff from AFA members, 6 representatives from partner NGOs, 1 representative from inter-governmental bodies, and 7 representatives from the secretariat of local host and AFA, for a total of 46 participants from 10 countries – 33 men, 13 women. It was held back-to-back with the 3rd AFA GA.

Regional Forum on the Rice Crisis in Asia: Farmers' Situation and Responses. May 28, 2008. Quezon City, Philippines.

The forum-dialogue was a response to the rising global food prices that has become a burning issue all over the world. It was attended by AFA ExeCom Members who shared the situation of the rice farmers in their respective countries as well as their responses and calls to their governments. They issued a statement which was uploaded to the AFA website, disseminated through email, and distributed during other events related to the issue.

AFA Research on Agri Trade Situation and Consolidation of Farmers' National Trade Agenda. July 2008-March 2009.

AFA undertook a research to help define and consolidate the national trade agenda of small farmers across its member countries covered by ASEAN. The agenda embodied AFA's recommendations for a trade policy regime that is fair and equitable, and supportive of its advocacy for food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable rural development, for each country.

The study aimed to: (1) help AFA members consolidate a national and regional trade agenda that reflects the interest of small farmers and their aspirations for fair and equitable trade, food security and sustainable development; (2) provide AFA members with an empirical basis for their trade advocacy and engagement with their respective governments and with ASEAN; and (3) help improve farmers' capability to assess the potential implications of existing and emerging free trade agreements by providing them a blueprint with which to evaluate the same.

National Agri Trade Consultations were held by AFA members from ASEAN-member countries - Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam. These national consultations served as a validation exercise for the data on national agricultural situation; as well as initial brainstorming for the national and regional trade agenda.



For the Philippines, PAKISAMA organized the consultation last October 24, 2008. It was attended by around 25 people from PAKISAMA leaders and staff, AFA, government agriculture and trade departments, and FO and NGO partners.

For Thailand, SorKorPor organized the consultation last November 4-5, 2008. It was attended by around 25 people from SorKorPor leaders and staff, ministries of trade and agriculture, and NGO partners of SorKorPor.

For Cambodia, FNN organized its national consultation last November 18-19, 2008. For Indonesia, API organized its national consultation last November 25-26, 2008. For Vietnam, VNFU scheduled its consultation on February 16, 2009. Around 30 representatives from government, NGOs, and VNFU will be invited.

CSO Caucus on EU-ASEAN Partnership Negotiations. August 13, 2008. Quezon City, Philippines. Co-organized with PhilDHRRRA and PAKISAMA.

AFA joined various civil society organizations (CSOs) from trade, farmers, labor, and other sectors in a caucus to get updates on the EU-ASEAN partnership negotiations, and to come up with recommendations and a common plan of action. It brought together resource persons from civil society and the government.

CSO Consultation on ASEAN: An ASEAN We Can Aspire To? August 19, 2008. Cebu City, Philippines. November 24-25, 2008. Davao City, Philippines. Co-organized with Focus on Global South and Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC).

AFA partnered with Focus on the Global South-Philippines and the Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC), a Philippine multi-sectoral formation, in conducting consultations on the ASEAN at the local levels (regions and provinces of the Philippines). Ka Rene Cerilla of PAKISAMA made a presentation on the ASEAN Economic Blueprint during the August consultation, held in Cebu City. On the other hand, Ka Vic Fabe of PAKISAMA represented AFA and made the same presentation during the November consultation in Davao City. In their presentations, they emphasized the need for small men and women farmers to articulate what kind of agriculture development they want; what kind of regionalism and integration they want; and to push for participation in the development of the socio-cultural blueprint; among others.

First AFA International Farmers' Day Celebration. September 10, 2008. held in various countries.

AFA members commemorated the death anniversary of Korean farmer-leader Lee Kyung Hae who committed suicide as a form of protest against the WTO during the ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico last 2003. They affirmed their commitment to stand up for farmers' rights and to work for farmers' welfare. Lee Kyung Hae was a former Vice-Chairperson KAFF.

In Korea, KAFF held various events recalling the farmer-leader's sacrifice. September 7 was a national marathon event held in Jeonbuk province, with about 1,000 marathon runners joining one of the country's favorite sports. September 11 was Lee Kyung Hae's 5th commemoration itself, which was attended by lawmakers and politicians. Through these



events, KAFF hoped that the public will remember Lee Kyung Hae's sacrifices and think about the importance of agriculture and the lives of the farmers. AFA, SorKorPor, and API sent solidarity messages to KAFF, while AFA contributed a small amount for the marathon activity.

In Indonesia, API held a reflection-discussion session at the National Human Rights Commission, with the theme "Agrarian Reform as a Pre-Condition for Food Sovereignty". Various stakeholders such as NGOs, POs, students, and political parties joined the event.

In the Philippines, AFA and PAKISAMA called for a roundtable discussion with like-minded groups last September 10 at the PAKISAMA Office, in Quezon City, Philippines. In this meeting, the Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment (TSIA) report on EU-ASEAN FTA made by ECORYS Netherlands was discussed. Ten (10) participants attended from different organizations such as AsiaDHRRA, PhilDHRRA, Focus on the Global South, 11-11-11, and IDEALS. The meeting was also AFA's preparation for its presentation during the dialogue with Ecorys slated in October 2008.



Consultations, fora, and dialogues attended

Farmers' Forum. February 11-12. Italy. Convened by IFAD.

AFA joined around 80 other farmer leaders from around the world for the second global meeting of the Global Farmers' Forum (GFF) that took place on February 11-12, 2008 in conjunction with the thirty-first session of International Fund for Agricultural Development's (IFAD) Governing Council. The forum sought to: (1) review progress achieved in enhancing collaboration between IFAD and farmers' and rural producers' organizations; (2) discuss IFAD strategic and policy documents; and, (3) share positions on the following three critical issues for the future of smallholder family agriculture: access to natural resources, climate change, policy making and policy influence. In this forum, AFA was officially recognized as a member of the Steering Committee. AFA was represented by Mr. Seo, Jung Eui, Chairperson of AFA and former Chairperson of KAFF in Korea, Mr. Crispino Aguelo, National President of PAKISAMA in the Philippines, Mr. Muhammad Nur Uddin, Secretary General of API in Indonesia, and Ms. Ma. Estrella Penunia, Secretary General of AFA. During the thematic workshop entitled "Access to Land: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities. Role and Perspectives of Farmers' and Rural Producers' Organizations" held at the Palazzo dei Congressi in Rome, Italy on February 12, PAKISAMA National President Mr. Crispino Aguelo also shared lessons from their land tenure security campaigns. The AFA Secretary General read the synthesis of deliberations during the IFAD Governing Council meeting, in behalf of the participants of the GFF. She also participated in a press conference organized by IFAD for the Steering Committee members. Two other media agencies interviewed her (Vatican Radio and Grains del Sol). As a member of the Steering Committee, she also delivered the Opening/Welcome Remarks and took part in discussions for the finalization of the Synthesis for Deliberations.

FAO CSO Consultation on Climate Change. February 15-16, 2008. FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy. Convened by FAO.

From the Farmers' Forum, the AFA Secretary General and Mr. Crispino Aguelo of PAKISAMA attended the consultation on climate change and food security, convened by the FAO, as part of its preparatory activities to a High Level Meeting in June 2008. AFA actively took part in the discussions, presenting the contents of the AFA-API statement on climate change produced during the UN meetings in Bali, Indonesia in December 2007.

Dialogue with IFAD on COSOP-Philippines. March 11, 2008. Discovery Suites, Manila, Philippines. Organized by IFAD.

IFAD started to establish its "Country Strategy Paper" (COSOP) for the countries they work with. A COSOP is a framework for making strategic choices about IFAD operations in the country, identifying opportunities for IFAD financing, and for facilitating management for results. In the Philippines, the COSOP paper was on its final draft when it held a GOP-IFAD High Level Meeting re: COSOP-Philippines last March 11. AFA and PAKISAMA were invited to this consultation. Both presented their comments to the final draft of the COSOP.



ODA Forum. March 14-15, 2008. Fersal Place, Malakas St., Manila, Philippines. Organized by GCAP-Asia, et al

AFA, represented by the Secretary General, attended the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) Asia Forum planning meeting. The objectives of the forum were: (1) To enrich understanding of the G8 processes and the issues and initiatives involved in the 2008 Aid Effectiveness meeting in Ghana, (2) To gather updates from civil society organizations (CSOs) and networks involved in aid campaign, (3) Develop common policy positions and agree on a framework for action for mobilization and lobbying on ODA and aid effectiveness for 2008, (4) To create an Asia ODA regional action plan for 2008, and (4) Develop mechanisms for learning, sharing and coordination in the Asia region. The meeting was one of the follow-up activities identified during the ODA Asia Regional Conference held in Manila in July 2007. The Coordinating Committee members for this meeting are ASPBAE, CCEJ-Korea, Forum Asia, GCAP-Asia, Jubilee South Asia Pacific Movement for Debt and Development, JVC-Japan, ODA Watch Philippines, SANSAD-India, Social Watch Philippines, and Sustainability Watch.

Asia Sub-Regional Workshop on Capacity Building and Exchange of Experiences on Risk Assessment and Risk Management of Living Modified Organisms. April 15-16, 2008, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Organized by UN CBD.

AFA was represented by Ms. Dian Prawit, a staff of Aliansi Petani Indonesia, who is intently working on the issue of transgenic seeds in Kediri area in Indonesia. The workshop brought together scientists, regulators and decision-makers who were involved in risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms.

IFAP Internal Consultation on WDR. April 15-16 Manila, Philippines. Organized by IFAP.

The AFA Secretary General participated in IFAP's Asia's Internal Consultation on WDR, held April 15-16, 2008 in Manila, Philippines. AFA shared the results of its own internal consultation on the WDR during this meeting.

16th UN-CSD. May 12-16, 2008. UN Headquarters, New York City, New York.

As part of the Women's' Major Group in the Sixteenth Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, held in New York, USA last May 12-16, AFA, through its Secretary General Ma. Estrella Penunia, shared concrete experiences and problems encountered by women in its member organizations as they try to perform their varied roles as wife, mother, and farmer. It also shared on-ground initiatives in empowering women farmers, including establishment of women farmers' organizations and implementation of sustainable projects that respond to women's immediate and strategic gender needs. AFA also initiated contact with IFAP. The convenor of the CSD Farmers' Major Groups, to see how it can be involved as part of their delegation in future relevant CSDs. Last but not the least, it was also an opportunity for AFA to gain experience on how to engage the UN so that its issues and proposals can be heard by this body. AFA's participation in UN CSD was supported by WOCAN (Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management), a network of women and men professionals dedicated to increasing rural women's access to and control of resources in order to



enhance their livelihoods and alleviate poverty. WOCAN is co-facilitator of the CSD Women's Major Group.

High Level Conference on World Food Security: The Challenge of Climate Change and Bio-energy. June 3-5, 2008. FAO Headquarters, Rome Italy. Organized by FAO.

And Terra Preta: Forum on the Food Crisis, Climate Change, Agro-fuels, and Food Sovereignty. June 1-4, 2008. Città dell'Altra Economia (ex mattatoio), Largo Dino Frisullo, Testaccio, Rome. Organized by the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty.

The over-all purpose of the High Level Conference was to address food security issues in the face of soaring food prices and the new challenges of climate change and energy security. The objective was to assist countries and the international community in devising sustainable solutions to the food crisis by identifying the policies, strategies and programs required to safeguard world food security in the immediate, short and long term. The Conference built upon the work initiated at the Expert Meetings and Stakeholder Consultations held early in the year. The CSO parallel activity, organized by the International Planning Committee (IPC), focused also on climate change, bio-fuels and land security. It aimed to articulate the concerns of civil society groups on the issues being discussed at the official FAO meeting. AFA was an accredited observer both in the official and CSO parallel meetings. The AFA Secretary General represented AFA during these two parallel activities. The trip was funded by WOCAN, the same NGO that financed the AFA representation during the 16th UN CSD.

Dialogue with ASEAN negotiators for the EU-ASEAN FTA. June 26, 2008. Manila, Philippines. Organized by EU-ASEAN FTA Campaign Network.

Negotiations for an EU-ASEAN FTA are on-going. In June 25-27, the negotiators from both EU and ASEAN countries held its third "exchange of views" in Manila. National and regional groups banded under the EU-ASEAN FTA Campaign Network, seized this opportunity. A regional caucus was held in June 23-24, and a dialogue with lead negotiator from Vietnam and other ASEAN negotiators from Thailand, Cambodia and Philippines was held in June 26. An open statement, which was an output during the regional caucus, was presented during the dialogue. AFA was represented in this regional caucus and dialogue by the Secretary General and Treasurer. The PAKISAMA President joined a national meeting held on June 17.

East and Southeast Asian Conference-Workshop on Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change. October 12-14, 2008, Davao City, Philippines. Organized by Third World Network.

Forty participants from 15 countries, mainly in East Asia, gathered in Davao City to share country experiences on promoting sustainable agriculture, and to explore cooperation on mainstreaming ecological-friendly agriculture. With the theme "East and Asian Conference-workshop on Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change", the conference was organized by the Third World Network (TWN). AFA was represented by its Secretary General, Ms. Esther Penunia, Mr. Mai Philarak, First Vice Chairperson of Sor Kor Por, AFA member in Thailand, and Mr. Min Su Kang, AFA volunteer from Korea. Ms. Hoang Thi Mai Huong of VNFU also participated in the meeting. TWN covered the travel, board and lodging



of the AFA participants. During the conference, all participants agreed that sustainable agriculture is the only choice for human beings and that it is a key strategy in ensuring food security and self-sufficiency. The challenge is how to promote, mainstream and upscale this as soon as possible. Participants talked about the recent findings of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology (IAASTD) conducted in November 2007, which acknowledged the strategic role of sustainable agriculture in mitigating and adapting to climate change while reinvigorating the natural environment.

5th National Organic Agriculture Conference. October 15-16, 2008. Davao City, Philippines. Organized by DA, NOAB, GOM.

Some national and local leaders and staff from PAKISAMA as well as the AFA secretariat participated in the 5th National Organic Agriculture Conference held in Davao City last October 15-16, 2008. The conference was organized by the BAFPS, DA-Regional Field Unit XI, National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB), and the Go Organic Mindanao (GOM), a broad coalition of advocates and practitioners of organic agriculture in Mindanao. The creation of the NOAB was an output of a 2004 conference, a resolution signed by then DA Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo. AFA secretariat helped PAKISAMA set up its booth, as part of the latter's participation in the Go Organic Mindanao conference. PAKISAMA-Mindanao leaders exhibited their organic rice products. There were over 300 participants.

Third Global Congress of Women in Politics and Governance: Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction. October 19-22, 2008. Makati City, Philippines.

Organized by the Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics (CAPWIP), Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) and UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). About three hundred participants from all over the world attended this Third Global Congress. AFA's partner WOCAN (Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management), paved the way for AFA's participation in this conference. The over-all purpose of this conference was to provide a forum for legislators and decision-makers in national governments and leaders at all levels in formulating gender-responsive legislation and programs related to gender in climate change and disaster risk reduction. The AFA Secretary General made a presentation during a parallel session on "In Aid of CCA and DRR: a Gender Responsive Legislative Agenda". Much of the presentation was culled from AFA's statement and issue paper on climate change.

2nd IFAD Philippines Knowledge and Learning Market. October 28-30, 2009. Mandaluyong City, Philippines.

AFA participated in the 2nd IFAD Philippine Partners' Knowledge and Learning Market (IFAD-KLM), which was held on October 28-30, 2008 at the Astoria Plaza, Ortigas Business District, Mandaluyong City, Philippines. The theme of the event was: "Pagkaon sa Mesa: Bahandi ng Masa" (Food Security: People's Wealth). Upon the invitation of IFAD, AFA agreed to be the secretariat of the event. It was an opportunity for AFA to network with the IFAD's government partners in the Philippines, further strengthen its skills in event management and explore possible areas of cooperation with IFAD in the future. Because of this engagement, AFA is now part of the listserve of the Knowledge Networking for Rural



Development in Asia and the Pacific (ENRAP), which regularly features abstracts of success stories on rural development in pilot towns and villages across Asia. As secretariat, AFA was also able to give significant participation for PAKISAMA. The event gave an opportunity for PAKISAMA to interact with IFAD participants from government agencies, explore possible areas of coöperation, and present the gains in land reform and productivity improvement of one of its most successful member organisations, the Pecuaría Development Cooperative, Inc.

Workshop for ASEAN Civil Society on Trade SIA of the EU- ASEAN FTA. October 27, 2008, Bangkok, Thailand. Organized by Ecorys Netherlands.

The workshop was part of the ongoing Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment (TSIA) of the FTA to be negotiated between the EU and ASEAN that ECORYS Netherlands and its partners were then conducting. The main aim of the workshop was to invite comments, suggestions and inputs from civil society on results of the study up until that point and on the way forward for phase 2 of the study (in-depth sector and horizontal issues studies). AFA was selected as one of the participants whom ECORYS would sponsor. AFA sent its Treasurer, Ka Vic Fabe, to present its comments to the draft TSIA report (See Annex 7 for the presentation). AFA also made possible the representation of Mr. Chaiwat Suravichai for Sor Kor Por.

Forum on Regional Responses to Food Crisis. November 7, 2008. Manila, Philippines. Sponsored by Oxfam GB-Philippines.

AFA joined several NGOs, including AsiaDHRRA, Third World Network, G33 CSOs, East Asia Rice Working Group and Oxfam, in organizing a preparatory and planning meeting to responsibly engage ASEAN on the food crisis issue. Specific objectives were to: (1) determine the enduring sources of food insecurity in Southeast Asia; (2) assess the effectiveness of current regional strategies (e.g. ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board); (3) explore new approaches and their applicability to the SEA region; and (4) plan for the December dialogue with key ASEAN leaders. Representatives from the Philippines' Department of Agriculture (DA) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) were invited to the forum as well. The AFA Secretary General presented proposed key advocacy points during this forum, culled from draft regional trade agenda consultations that were conducted. Among these advocacy points were: (1) creation of a small farmers' council recognized as an advisory or consultative body by ASEAN; (2) creation of an ASEAN-wide agricultural policy that will benefit small scale producers; (3) creation of an agricultural development fund particularly targeting small scale producers; (4) ensure that trade agreements that ASEAN enters into must preserve member States' capability to exempt sectors important to food security, livelihood security, rural development and poverty alleviation objectives. These proposed advocacy points were well-received by the participants; these became one of the seven advocacy measures that this group planned to take on with the ASEAN leaders during a dialogue earmarked for December 2008 (Note: However, the dialogue did not push through because of the postponement of the ASEAN Leaders' Summit last December). The official from the Agriculture Department made commitments to help the group get more allies from agricultural officials from other countries who will support these advocacies.



ASEAN Social Forum. November 26-28, 2008. Manila, Philippines. Organized by ASEAN-Philippine Office.

AFA was invited to participate in a regional event called "ASEAN Social Forum: Working Together towards an ASEAN Community", organized by the ASEAN Affairs Office of the Philippines. AFA was represented by its Treasurer, Secretary General, and PAKISAMA president. Through the initiative of AsiaDHRRA, which is an accredited NGO by ASEAN, AFA made an intervention during the break-out session on agriculture. The advocacy points of AFA found its way into the draft statement of the Forum.



Direct actions undertaken

Mobilization against the July 10 text of the Doha round. July 23, 2008. Quezon City, Philippines.

While negotiators from 39 member countries of WTO met in Geneva last July 21-25, 2008 for a mini-ministerial meeting in efforts to conclude the controversial Doha Development Round of Negotiations, around 100 farmers and supporters belonging to PAKISAMA and other farmer groups and civil society organizations marched to the Department of Agriculture (DA) to ask Philippine WTO negotiators to reject the July 10 text of the Doha round and not to sign to a new round of agreement. Bearing placards that say "No to Deal on AoA!," the marchers included groups such as R1, TFFS, PNLC, PKKK, PAKISAMA and AFA. They set up a huge billboard at the gate of the DA containing a special order from peasants that the Philippine negotiators should (1) demand the reduction of subsidies of developed countries and (2) ask the WTO negotiators to go back to the original proposal of G33 and lobby for a good SP/SSM agreement. Otherwise, there should be no deal on AoA.



Papers, declarations, and statements delivered

AFA Solidarity Statement for the Peasants of Kelompok Tani Masyarakat Ingin Makmur (KTMIM) in Indonesia. July 30, 2008.

AFA sent a solidarity statement joining the call to “free the peasants of Kelompok Tani Masyarakat Ingin Makmur (KTMIM) and investigate the violation of human rights in Banjaran Village, Secanggang Sub-District, Langkat District” in Indonesia. The statement was sent to its Indonesian member, API, who distributed the letter to the proper authorities. The peasants who were peacefully guarding their land last July 25, 2008 were violently attacked by the PT Buana Estate and the Mobile Brigade. A 36-year old peasant woman was hit with a truck and brutally kicked, sending her into a coma in a hospital, fighting for her life. Forty-six peasants, including 2 women, were arrested by the police during the attack. The land belongs to the people of Kampung Banjaran who have lived there for generations since 1931. But in 1985, Plantation PT Buana Estate forced them to move out from the land, which has already been declared out of the right to use for PT Buana Estate through the Decree of Home Affairs Ministry No.9/HGU/DA/82 dated 25 June 1982.

Press Statement on the Killing of PAKISAMA Vice-President. November 26, 2008.

AFA delivered a press statement denouncing the killing of PAKISAMA Vice-President for Mindanao Vicente Paglinawan. Ka Vic has attended AFA activities before, including the 2nd General Assembly, as representative of PAKISAMA. He was shot dead by an unidentified man during a fiesta celebration in his hometown in Malabog in Davao City, Philippines. API, KAFF and SorKorPor gave solidarity statements as well. Through AFA, World Rural Forum, an international NGO based in Basque, Spain, gave a significant donation to the bereaved family.



Media exposure

Coordination of Korean TV Production on the Rice Crisis. April 25 and May 14, Philippines.

AFA coordinated the interviews and field visits of the Korean television company Munhwa Broadcasting Corp (MBC) for 2 documentaries on the rice crisis in the Philippines. The first production was aired in MBC channel Korea last April 25. It featured the interviews with AFA Secretary General and a PAKISAMA farmer from Bulacan province. The second production was aired last May 14. It featured PAKISAMA farmers from Quezon province. MBC is one of the top 3 TV stations in Korea and the airing of the documentaries helped create awareness on the rice crisis and the need to come up with short and long term solutions, especially policies supporting farmers and agriculture.



Accomplishments in Capacity Building

Strategic Objective: build strong, capable, credible, far-reaching national farmers' organizations

AFA has developed a checklist of systems and service delivery mechanisms that should be present in a strong and capable member organization. Four of its members have undergone an organizational audit using this checklist (API, SKP, FNN, PAKISAMA).



Technical assistance to members

The technical assistance projects of 5 AFA members have all been implemented.

SorKorPor drafted a hand-out on organizational systems, conducted seminars on organizational systems for target groups, and is installing organizational systems in its 10 regions, including women and youth groups.

API's technical assistance project was on organizational development which includes organizational and financial management trainings and building up of its information system.

PAKISAMA's included profiling activities, preparations and implementation of the solidarity march for Sumilao, and development and management of its website.

FNN's was on a training course on community business.

VNFU's was on a training course on project management for VNFU staff at Central and Provincial levels



Technology transfer support to members

Five AFA members - PAKISAMA, API, VNFU, SORKORPOR and FNN - availed of the Technology Transfer funds from this project. The AFA secretariat conducted monitoring visits to these members.

PAKISAMA's technology transfer project on the adoption of the Agrarian Reform Community (ARC) technology

Under the project, national leaders and staff of PAKISAMA conducted a study tour to the Pecuaría Development Cooperative, Inc. (PDCI), one of the country's most successful Agrarian Reform Community (ARC), and a member of PAKISAMA. PDCI is now touted as the "home of organic farms" in the Philippines. Inspired by PDCI's success, the national leadership of PAKISAMA resolved to adopt the ARC strategy in their areas. A video presentation on the success of Pecuaría was done by a young and awarded documentary film maker.

The Agrarian Reform Community strategy was started by the Department of Agrarian Reform in the 1990s to push for the comprehensive development of farmers' communities covered by the CARP. It involves the process of farmers acquiring legal title over the land, engaging in increasing farm productivity through improved irrigation, seeds, farm technology, pre- and post-harvest facilities, processing of crops to increase value, and capturing a larger market share for the farmers' products.

Fifteen (15) farmer leaders and management staff of PAKISAMA visited and studied the PDCI experience. Outputs of the study tour included: formulated organizational strategies and plans towards effective replication of technologies learned to serve the membership development and advocacy needs of the entire PAKISAMA confederation; appreciated the detailed agrarian reform community technology; deepened their commitment and understanding on this approach as they launch the next stage of campaign for the extension and reform of CARP; understood the processes involved in particular technologies within the broader ARC approach such as, muscovado processing, MASIPAG rice, and marketing healthy rice/sugar; and resolved to start ARC interventions in at least three selected PAKISAMA current and expansion sites. Through the project, PAKISAMA also trained the PDCI leadership on the basics of alternative tourism and how to host guests; developed a system within PDCI and in PAKISAMA on how to conduct an alternative study tourism; and developed a video production for dissemination to various institutions to inspire and educate the public about the importance of agrarian reform and the ARC technology in support to the broad peasant campaign for CARP extension and reforms.

API's technology transfer project was on Jelutung seedling propagation and charcoal briquette production

Through the Jelutung seedling propagation project, API aimed to produce seedlings of jelutung (a near-extinct species of rubber that lives longer than modern species), reforest 82,000 hectares of land which they were granted land use rights by the government with jelutung, increase farmers' capacities in propagating jelutung, prepare the sustainable economic (livelihood) sources of farmers, and develop PPJ (provincial FO implementing the project) as a learning organization and increase its capacity in project planning,



implementation, monitoring and evaluation. For the charcoal briquette production, the objectives were to increase the income of household peasants, provide charcoal coconut briquette for alternative energy source in Bohotokong area (in Sulawesi), enhance farmers' capacity in making the machine and producing coconut charcoal briquette. Through these technology transfer projects, API members were able to ensure a sustainable source of livelihood that also promotes and protects the environment, as in the case of the Jelutung seed preparation. They were also able to decrease household expenses through cheaper and cleaner source of energy for cooking, as in the case of charcoal briquette production.

The Jelutung propagation project had very good results. A nursery for 250,000 Jelutung seedlings was established. 50 farmers (10 persons in each district) were trained on propagating Jelutung seedlings. A knowledge center nursery for Jelutung propagation was established in Jambi. Community forests in 5 districts were identified, with each district allotting 25 hectares for seedlings nursery. And a manual on propagating Jelutung seedlings is being drafted.

The charcoal briquette production project also yielded positive outcomes. Peasant members of ORTABUN, with around 220 households, have become self-sufficient in replicating 5 charcoal briquette machines and were able to produce 100 kgs of charcoal briquette per day. API planned to continue to train farmers in Jelutung propagation technology and to promote charcoal briquette production in other provinces and train farmers in fabricating the machine and producing the charcoal briquette.

VNFU's technology transfer project is on training farmers in pig raising techniques, prevention and treatment of PTRS (Pig Troubled Respiration Symptom) disease in Hun Yen province

The project was implemented in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. In the first quarter of 2007, pigs in 59 communes of Hung Yen province were thought of being infected with PTRS disease and some other common diseases. The total number of pigs infected with the diseases in Hung Yen province in 2007 was 16,132 pigs, of which 11,246 pigs (69%) were burned. It caused a big loss to farmers. The technology transfer project was a concrete response to this problem. Through the project, farmers in Hun Yen were immediately equipped with good knowledge so that they can raise healthy pigs, avoid epidemics, and finally have higher income. This project has been very meaningful to farmers in Hun Yen. A total of 26 training classes were conducted, involving 1,172 households, around 50% of which are women. Through the project VNFU also received the other concerns of pig raisers not only in technical support, but also in cooperation, capacity building, and linking to markets. Thus, VNFU planned to organize more training course and to formulate the second phase of the project to address the urgent needs of its members.

SorKorPor's technology transfer project was on the promotion of alternative energy

The project had the objective of increasing farmer's knowledge on renewable energy which can be applied to use in daily lives, improving people's economic conditions by appropriate technology, and supporting the establishment of learning centers to demonstrate tangible models of alternative energy production for farmers and people in nearby communities. The alternative energy production technologies studied and replicated included: biogas



production from left-over food, biodiesel production from used cooking oil, ethanol production from palm or jatropha, gassifier technology, carbonization and wood vinegar production. Through these alternative energy production technologies, farmers were able to save on their production cost by using alternative fuel for farm machineries. They were also able to decrease their household expenses by using biogas for cooking. Finally, they were also able to use cleaner technology for cooking, as in the case of wood vinegar production.

The project achieved very good results. Ten working groups were organized in 10 regions that effectively managed the project and collected information from support organizations. Around 50 farmers were trained on alternative energy production. Training modules or session guides of training courses on different types of alternative energy were produced. Ten learning centers (one per region) were being run to demonstrate alternative energy.

SorKorPor planned to continue setting up the learning centers in its 10 regions, find cheaper materials for constructing the equipments for alternative energy production, promote the technologies to more and more SorKorPor members, and continue partner with other institutions (government and academe especially) for support. They also plan to look in the issue of possible conflict between biofuels and food security. But so far, SorKorPor members are into self-sufficiency in agricultural production, and this potential issue has not yet surfaced since the technology has been newly introduced.

FNN's technology transfer project was on exchange and training on community-led marketing.

The objectives of the project were (1) To increase knowledge and skill of 100 farmers in 50 villages on community business in term of: collective selling of chicken, pig, organic rice, and vegetables; collective purchasing of consumer goods and agricultural materials and equipments; establishment and management of cooperative shop systems (including capacity building such as on bookkeeping), empowering farmers to be self-sufficient in terms of food security in the community, and improving the collaboration between producer group and natural agri-product shop and expansion to new target groups. Through the project, 100 key farmers in 50 villages gained knowledge and skills on community led marketing through training workshop, exchange visit and follow up advice. The capacity of FNN committees in leading and managing the cooperative shop were also enhanced. Three hundred VCDs of the video on best practice in community led marketing was produced and distributed. The technology helped farmers improve their income by changing their mindset into becoming agri-business farmers, instead of just producing for consumption. To address the challenges in training farmers for community led marketing, FNN planned to strengthen the human resource knowledge and skills in selling, calculation, business operation, and business planning; promote the use of local products among farmers; and develop the leadership and management skills of the board of directors.



Capacity building

Organizational Audit of Members using AFA FO Growth Monitoring Tool.

For PAKISAMA, it was done last October 24, 2008. For SorKorPor, it was done last November 4-8, 2008. For FNN, it was held on November 17-23, 2008. For API, it was held last November 24-27, 2008. For VNFU, it was done February 17, 2009. The members expressed appreciation for the importance and relevance of the FO growth monitoring tool. The indicators allowed them to look at aspects of their organization in a more detailed and objective manner. They were able to see the strengths that they already possess, and the weaknesses that they need to address. For AFA, the tool gives it an objective base from which to plan concrete and custom-tailored approaches and activities for capacity building of its members.

Sharing of PAKISAMA organic farmers' experiences with SorKorPor, VNFU, TWADA, KAFF and AFA leaders and staff. October 14, 2008. Davao City, Philippines.

As a side event to the East Asia Southeast Asia Conference-Workshop on Sustainable Agriculture organized by the Third World Network (TWN), AFA organized this informal sharing session among leaders of Sor Kor Por, VNFU, TWADA, KAFF and PAKISAMA last October 14, 2008 at the Mindanao office of PAKISAMA. Meeting the fifteen (15) organic farmers from PAKISAMA-Mindanao, six (6) of them women, were Ms. Hoang Thi Mai Huong, Marketing Assistant of Vietnam Farmers' Union, Mr. Mai Philarak, Vice Chairperson of Sor Kor Por from Thailand, Mr. Vitoon Panyakul of Green Net Thailand (who served as Thai translator), Mr. Min Su Kang, Ms. Yeo Joung Seo of Korea, and Mr. Huang Sung Wei of Taiwan, who were working as volunteers of AFA and AsiaDHRRA, respectively. The meeting was one of the activities of AFA and PAKISAMA to commemorate World Food Day. Each participant shared his/her involvement in organic farming activities. In the course of the meeting, participants deepened their understanding of each country's organic farming situation. Agriculture is the only industry in the world that gives and makes life -- the seeds a farmer plants grows into a living tree. In the midst of difficulties in motivating other farmers to adopt organic farming systems, the intensive labor requirement of such practices, and the lack of government support, the participants all agreed that ecological-friendly agriculture is the way to attain food security, eliminate hunger, increase incomes, and protect and preserve their natural resources and health. The participants also said that sustainable agriculture should be controlled and managed by small men and women farmers.

Advocacy Training Workshops.

During the last quarter of 2008, AFA Secretariat developed generic one-day and. Included in the design were powerpoint presentations of each session and hand-outs. Actual workshops at the national level have been committed by members but schedules were moved to the first semester of 2009



Accomplishments in Governance

Strategic Objective: strengthen AFA's organizational systems and structures

AFA has now an independent and functional secretariat and has established basic organizational systems such as finance management, human resource management, project and program management, information management. The General Assembly and the Executive Committee has met regularly.



Efforts at more effective governance

Third AFA General Assembly, March 3, 2008, Cheonan, South Korea.

AFA held its 3rd General Assembly last March 3, 2008 in Sangnok Resort, Cheonan, South Korea, hosted by the Korean Advanced Farmers' Federation (KAFF), with the theme "China's Development, Climate Change and Asian Farmers' Realities: Old Problems, New Challenges for Farmers' Organizations in Asia." It was aimed at allowing participants to (1) appreciate the achievements of AFA for the year 2006-2007; (2) plot major thrusts and activities for the year 2008-2009, vis-à-vis the AFA 2006-2010 strategic plan; (3) affirm the status of membership in AFA; and, (4) select the new set of ExeCom members for 2008-2009.

Participants to the event included 32 representatives from AFA members, 3 representatives from partner NGOs, 1 representative from inter-governmental bodies, and 7 representatives from the secretariat of local host and AFA, for a total of 43 participants from 10 countries – 27 men, 5 women. It was held back-to-back with the regional consultation on China, climate change, and WDR 2008. AFA Day was also commemorated on February 28 during field visits to a flower farm and a pig cooperative. During the 3rd GA, AFA elected a new set of ExeCom officers. The election of the new Executive Committee officers of AFA from among its regular member organizations was done in a collegial manner, as AFA has traditionally done in the past two General Assemblies. The regular members of AFA (FNN from Cambodia, API from Indonesia, PAKISAMA from the Philippines, SORKORPOR from Thailand, KAFF from Korea, and TWADA and TDFA from Taiwan) elected Ms. Sudaporn Sittisathapornkul of SorKorPor as Chairperson, Mr. Sambito of API as Vice-Chairperson, and Mr. Vicente Fabe of PAKISAMA as Treasurer. During the General Assembly, AFA also approved its major thrusts and strategies for 2008-2010. The regular membership of FNN and TDFA was also approved.

Membership Expansion.

The regular memberships of FNN and of TDFA were ratified during the 3rd General Assembly in Korea, bringing the total of regular members to 7. Ainokai, an observer, has decided to apply for regular membership during the meeting of their Board of Directors last May 24. Their membership application will be approved by the AFA Execom in its next meeting.

Financial Audit.

The 2007 Finance Audit was completed in April 2008. Financial statement as of May 2008 has been presented to AFA ExeCom members.

Conduct of Orientation and Leadership Development for New AFA ExeCom Members, May 26, 2008, Philippines.

AFA held the "Orientation and Leadership Development for New ExeCom Members" on May 26 at the Partnership Center, Quezon City, Philippines, where the AFA office is also located. The event was hosted by the Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA). It was the first time that the AFA leaders saw the AFA office, almost a year after they decided to establish its own secretariat office. The activity enabled the AFA ExeCom members and secretariat to: (1) have a deeper appreciation of the history and



development of AFA; (2) have a better understanding of AFA's plans, programs, activities, operations; (3) develop mechanisms for coordination and communication among themselves as ExeCom members and between ExeCom and secretariat, and between members in general and secretariat; and, (4) formulate major projects and activities for 2008-2010 for further project development. It was held back-to-back with the 22nd AFA ExeCom Meeting. It was the first time that the AFA leaders saw the AFA office, almost a year after they decided to establish its own secretariat office.

ExeCom Meetings.

AFA held its 22nd ExeCom Meeting on May 27 at the Partnership Center, 59 C. Salvador St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City, Philippines. It was hosted by the Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA).

Staff Exchange Program.

AFA welcomed the first staff for its exchange program with members. The staff was recommended by KAFF. He was a former Secretary General of the Korean Alliance of Farmers (KAF) and the Korean Alliance against the KorUS FTA. He helped in AFA's advocacy work. -- Mr. Kang Min Su, the former Secretary General of the Korean Alliance of Farmer (KAF) and the Korean Alliance against the KorUS FTA, arrived in the Philippines on June 12 to join AFA as volunteer staff for advocacy work. Mr. Kang has a wide experience in advocacy work for farmers' organizations in Korea. He was actively involved in the protest movement in the 5th WTO Inter-Ministerial Conference held in Cancun, Mexico in 2003 and the 6th WTO Inter-Ministerial Conference held in Hong Kong last 2005. He aims to learn and exchange experiences and information about farmers' organizations in Asian countries. He is also interested to know how the farmers' organizations participate in policy making in their countries. Mr. Kang will also help coordinate the activities of the Korean Advanced Farmers' Federation (KAFF) with AFA. His volunteer work in the AFA secretariat was recommended by the KAFF Chairperson under AFA's staff exchange program for its members.

Volunteer Program.

AFA accepted 3 volunteers from Korea and 1 volunteer from Taiwan for a short period of time. The Korean volunteers designed the new AFA logo based on Execom's comments, laid out the issue paper on climate change, improved the AFA website masthead, and designed materials for the AFA GA and an IFAD event where AFA was the secretariat. The Taiwanese volunteer helped in the research and conceptualization of AFA's marketing project proposal.

Secretariat Mid-Year Assessment. August 1, 2008. Quezon City, Philippines.

In line with the thrust of building an efficient and effective secretariat, AFA conducted the mid-year assessment for its staff. The assessment had two (2) parts. The first was the personal and organizational assessment using the Operations Plan and Budget (OPB) for 2008. The second was the individual performance appraisal using the Secretariat Performance Appraisal Tool. The assessment was followed by planning of activities for the second semester.



Preparations for the AFA event in Bangkok, October-November, 2008.

In October, the AFA Secretariat and local host Sor Kor Por conducted preparatory administrative and logistical work for an AFA event in Bangkok, Thailand, entitled "Regional Consultation on an ASEAN Agricultural Trade Agenda", with an AFA Execom meeting. The event was designed to complement other CSO activities in a run-up to the ASEAN Leaders' Summit, scheduled on December 15-18, 2008. However, the political situation in Thailand in the last few weeks of November (where the "yellow shirts" occupied Bangkok's international airport and all flights there were cancelled) prompted ASEAN to announce last December 1 the postponement of the Summit to the first quarter of 2009. Other CSO events (listed above) were postponed too. After a discussion with the local host, AFA decided to postpone its consultation, and hold it nearer to another regional event that AFA will participate in.

AFA Website and E-Bulletin.

The website has been regularly updated with articles, photos, and publications for download. The Secretariat is happy to note that more members have submitted reports and photos for the website. They are SorKorPor, Ainoukai, FNN, and PAKISAMA. The Secretariat also found some articles from different online newspapers that mentioned about the AFA members. They are KAFF, FNN, and PAKISAMA. We also got some interesting feedback from our partners who read our website and e-bulletin. They are Agriterra, IFAD, FAO, WRF, and Bina Desa. New contacts were also established through the website. One French NGO decided to write about the Sumilao farmers after reading about it in the website. Another organization who read about Ainoukai got in touch with AFA to offer their Philippine retirement village for Japanese farmers.

Linkages forged and sustained

Visit to NGOs in Netherlands and FOs in France, February, 2008.

AFA Secretary General and PAKISAMA President visited some farmers' organizations and international NGOs in France and Netherlands, as a side trip after the Global Farmers' Forum. They visited Oxfam Novib, ICCO, CordAid and Agriterra in Netherlands; as well as IFAP and AFDI in France.

Meeting with AsiaDHRRA ExeCom, April 30, 2008. Quezon City, Philippines.

In an expression of support and continuing partnership with AFA, leaders of the Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia (AsiaDHRRA) visited the AFA office April 30 and met the secretariat staff. Dr. Sung Lee of KoDHRRA and Dr. Wenchi Huang of TaiwanDHRRA, who were both members of AsiaDHRRA's ExeCom, took the time to make the visit after the conclusion of AsiaDHRRA's ExeCom Meeting in the Philippines. AFA Secretary General Esther Penunia, Admin and Finance Officer Agnes Ramos, and Technical Assistant Shui Tsai welcomed the two AsiaDHRRA ExeCom officers and spent an hour with them talking about how to improve the interpretation work for AFA members and the last AFA GA held in Korea last March.



Participation in the AsiaDHRRRA GA

AFA was represented by its Chairperson. The GA was held back to back with a regional training on marketing, which was also participated in by AFA, as well as the PAKISAMA President. Among the issues of interest to AFA during the GA were the continuing partnership with AsiaDHRRRA and the involvement of AFA and its members in AsiaDHRRRA's marketing project.

Meeting with IFAD. June 23, 2008. Quezon City, Philippines.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) held a consultation meeting on the Philippine government's rice self-sufficiency program with some Philippine farmer organizations and non-government organizations last June 23, 2008, at the Ugnayan Hall, Partnership Center, Quezon City, Philippines. AFA organized this meeting upon the request from IFAD. AFA took the opportunity to invite IFAD's Mr. Thomas Elhaut, director of the Asia Pacific Division, Mr. Sana Jatta, IFAD Country Programme Manager, and Mr. Yolando Arban, IFAD Philippines Country Programme, to visit the AFA office.

Coordination of Agriterra Mission to Philippines. November 28-December 10, 2008.

AFA hosted the mission of Agriterra to its partners in the Philippines. AFA arranged the necessary logistics to make the mission of Mr. Michiel Buorgondien and Mr. Dik van Kookwijk as safe and pleasant as possible. The one-day meeting between AFA and Agriterra was fruitful, as the two parties shared updates about each other organization's activities and thrusts. The meeting further strengthened the partnership relationship between AFA and Agriterra, as it was an honest and sincere discussion of strengths of, and areas for improvement for AFA.

Trip to Belgium. December 1-5, 2008.

Together with the AsiaDHRRRA Secretary General, the AFA Secretary General went on an official trip to Belgium last December 1- 5, 2008, upon the invitation and sponsorship of CSA (Collectif Strategies Alimentaires). The general objective of the trip was to explore areas of possible cooperation with EU and Belgian NGOs, FOs, institutions) for regionally-coordinated but nationally implemented projects on food security through sustainable agriculture, pro-small farmer marketing and trading and FO empowerment. The AFA Secretary General presented AFA's activities to EU NGOs and the European Commission such as, (1) European Food Security Group (EFSG) of CONCORD (European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development); (2) the Union des Agricultrices Wallonnes (Women farmers from Belgium UAW); (3) Fédération des Jeunes Agriculteurs (Young Farmers -FJA); (4) several members of the Food Security Thematic Programme of the EU; (5) DG Agri and the the Desk for Asean Countries of the EU; (6) head of staff of the Belgian Cooperation minister and of course, the (7) CSA . We also managed to have a visit with AgriCORD (See Annex 16 for AFA presentation to the EU NGOs and EC). The visit was very worthwhile as AFA activities became known to many European NGOs who were working on food security issues, many of whom did not have any dealings with Asian farmers, only African farmers' groups. AFA also became familiar with the dynamics of the European NGOs involved in food security themes.



Participation in TAG meetings.

AFA continued to actively participate in the Trade Advocates Group, and Stop the New Round, two loose national groupings seeking to make quality and significant reforms to Philippine trade policies. While working at the national level with Pakisama, the member in the Philippines. AFA was able to get relevant and updated information, insights and analysis to many international trade agreements, such as WTO-AoA-Doha round, ASEAN. The information and analysis gathered during these meetings are passed to the members through e-mail exchanges.



Information materials produced

Issue Paper: ASEAN Charter and Economic Community Blueprint. Vol. 3, No. 1, Quezon City, Philippines, February 2008.

Jointly published with AsiaDHRRA. The ASEAN Charter and the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint are two important documents that the 40-year old ASEAN recently signed in order to advance its vision of a "sharing and caring community". Because majority of the people of Southeast Asia are small-scale farmers who depend on agriculture for their existence, it is important to ask how the charter, the blueprint, as well as the various free trade agreements, will impact on them. The issue paper presents basic information on the ASEAN Charter and the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint, including updates on ASEAN Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), as well as AFA's analysis and position on these topics. It was written by Focus on the Global South Program Coordinator Joy Chavez, who has been one of AFA's resource persons in its regional consultations on ASEAN-related matters. The issue paper has been translated into Filipino, Bahasa, Thai, Vietnamese, and Khmer, and is being disseminated by AFA members to farmers in their respective countries. Both the English and local language versions have also been uploaded to the AFA website.

Issue Paper on SP/SSM. March 2008. Electronic version.

The issue of Special Products and Special Safeguard Mechanism (SP/SSM) is a key issue in the current Doha Round of negotiations. The SP/SSM seems to be one of few issues that developing countries are quite strong on, and that the US is strongly opposed to, meaning that if the developing countries (G33) stay strong in defence of SP/SSM, it could keep the Round deadlocked. If the Round goes through, then SP and SSM are measures to protect farmers from further damage from WTO rules. The issue paper presents basic information on SP/SSM, reviews the G33 position, CSO position, and proposes advocacy points for farmers. Written for AFA by Lany Rebagay of AsiaDHRRA.

Monograph of AFA Field Visits & Farmer Interactions.

The monograph presents the highlights of the farmers' exchange visits (FEVs) in Indonesia and Japan, conducted by AFA, in cooperation with AsiaDHRRA. It also contains the highlights of the field visits held during regional consultations in Indonesia, Vietnam, and the Philippines. All of these FEVs and field visits occurred during the years 2006-2007. The conduct of these farmers' exchange and field visits is in line with AFA's strategic plan for 2006-2010.

Annual Report 2007.

The 2007 AFA Annual Report has been printed and an electronic copy has been uploaded to the AFA website. The report contains AFA's activities, results, major challenges and recommendations, members' activities, and financial report for the year that passed.



AFA Video.

AFA worked with a freelance documentary film maker to produce an AFA video from the many footages and pictures stored in the AFA video/photo bank. The video targeted farmers' organizations and partner NGOs and donor agencies. A first cut, running for 18 minutes, was shown to the Agriterra officers on mission to Philippines.



Major Challenges and Recommendations

However, the big challenge remains: diversify AFA's sources of funds; as Agriterra is the lone big funding partner of AFA. Several proposals have been submitted to other potential partners, but these proposals were turned down. Moreover, there is a need to get better translation services to members, especially those who do not have NGO partner volunteers.

With the strategic plan and its review in mind, AFA is set to seek support from Agriterra and other potential donors for the other activities that need to be implemented to achieve the plans two years from now.