



ONWARD AFA

AFA Biennial Report 2004-2006

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Two years from its first General Assembly last 14 February 2004 in Depok, Indonesia, the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (or AFA) has grown in terms of membership, projects, activities, and linkages. AFA also has established mechanisms for its further formalization as a regional farmers' organization. Strategically, AFA has continuously moved towards greater participation in regional policy formulation and deliberations on crucial global issues.

It has to be noted that the formation of AFA was a fruit of five Farmers' Exchange Visits held in South Korea, Philippines, Indonesia, Japan and Malaysia in a span of three years from 1999. AFA was formally launched in Malaysia in May 2002.



SELAMAT DATANG WELCOME!

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The AFA Members

Regular members:

1. Aliansi Petani Indonesia (API) Alliance of Peasants in Indonesia
2. Korean Advanced Farmers' Federation
3. PAKISAMA (Philippines) (National Confederation of Peasant Organizations)
4. Sor Kor Por (Thailand) Farmers' Federation Association for Development
5. Taiwan Wax Apple Development Association

Associate Members

1. Farmer and Nature Net (Cambodia)
2. Jeonkuk Sae-Nongminhoe (Korea) Best Farmers' Association

Observers:

1. Ainokai (Japan)
2. Vietnam Farmers Union
3. Partner local farmers group
 - a. Laos Community Development Association and Sustainable Agricultural Forum and
 - b. DHRRRA Network Malaysia

Our Achievements

Formalized Organization

1. As a formal organization, we have nine organizational members, who are all national farmer organizations, representing 9 million farmers in Southeast and North Asia.
2. A certificate of corporation as a non-stock corporation under the Securities and Exchange Commission of the Philippines, thus granting AFA a legal personality
3. An 8-point Peasant Agenda , which serves as the members' inspiration, bases of unity and cooperation
4. Basic organizational documents, ratified during the First General Assembly. These include
 - a. constitution and by laws
 - b. membership guidelines
 - c. vision, mission and main programs
 - d. leadership development framework
5. A five member Executive Committee which has met almost on a quarterly basis for the past two years. The meetings were conducted back-to-back with an AFA-organized event. The ExeCom decided on key administrative, organizational and project –related issues and matters.
 - a. 8th ExeCom Meeting, June 6, 2004, Cambodiana Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
 - b. 9th ExeCom Meeting, August 11, 2004. Development Academy of the Philippines, Tagaytay City, Philippines.
 - c. 10th ExeCom Meeting. November 24 and 26, 2004, Viengtai Hotel, Banglumpoo, Bangkok, Thailand
 - d. 11th ExeCom Meeting. , March 8 and 9, 2005, Rim Doi Resort Hotel and Tambol Maena Hall Chiang Dao, Chiang Mai, Thailand.



- e. 12th ExeCom Meeting September 13, 2005, Garak Hotel, Songpa-gu, Seoul, Korea.
 - f. 13th ExeCom Meeting, December 17, 2005, Boys and Girls Club, Hongkong, China,
6. A regional office based in the Philippines, whose secretariat services is currently being performed by our strategic NGO partner, AsiaDHRRA; with our appointed Secretary General and a Technical Assistant .
 7. An AFA autonomy process approved by Execom members of both AFA and AsiaDHRRA, that sets principles and parameters of working relationships between both groups before and upon autonomy of secretariat operations.
 8. A start-up Capital Build-up Fund (CBU) for AFA's sustainability
 9. Information and communication materials for AFA such as its website, (<http://www.asianfarmers.org>) brochure, logo, and letterhead.

Our Campaigns

AFA is working to be a key regional lobby group for farmers' rights and sustainable rural development. Our campaign for the past two years focused on (i) sustainable rice and (ii) WTO-related issues. The campaign activities were aimed to increase the awareness of AFA leaders on these issues, formulate positions and proposals and then bring these to national governments and inter-governmental bodies, and link with groups who advocate same position as that of AFA's.

Campaign for Sustainable Rice

Year 2004 was International Year of Rice. The AFA Rice Campaign aims to (1) increase the awareness of AFA members about rice liberalization and sustainable rice issues, prospects and opportunities; and (2) draw and start implementation of a long term campaign plan to promote sustainable rice agriculture and stop negative effects of rice liberalization to farmers, both at the national and regional levels.

Awareness raising activities included :

- A half-day forum on International Production and Trade Issues in the Rice Industry (February 2004)
- An eight day forum “ Asian Forum on Rice : Promoting Sustainable Rice, Upholding the Interests of Small Rice Farmers”, an AFA event conducted August 2004. Rice situation in ten countries were presented; rice liberalization under WTO and AFTA were discussed.
- Field visits to areas using systematic rice intensification system and organic farming practices (Cambodia, June 2004; and Philippines, August 2004)
- Two Rice Festivals. The first was during the first AFA General Assembly in February 2004, where AFA members cooked rice dishes and delicacies, and shared these to all the local villagers in Karawang, one of the rice-growing districts in Indonesia. The second was during the first AFA Day celebration last 28 February 2005. AFA members shared one kilo of organic rice variety brought from their countries; these were mixed and then cooked for lunch. This activity symbolized the coming together of farmers’ organizations for solidarity, support, and nourishment to each organization’s avowed causes and concerns.

The AFA ExeCom also outlined a project proposal that will establish pilot sites for the promotion of systematic rice intensification in specified farmlands in Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand.

Campaign for Fair and Just Trade

One of AFA’s 8-point peasant agenda is “promote fair and just treatment of farmers in developing countries”. The WTO-AoA and the most recent free trade bilateral agreements have been negatively affecting farmers in Asia; the agreements are seen unfair and unjust for small farmers.

The August 2004 and March 2005 AFA events focused on building the knowledge base of AFA members on WTO issues and alternatives. Topics discussing WTO’s rules and their impact to farmers in all covered countries were held.

AFA and AsiaDHRRA also jointly conducted the “Civil Society Government Dialogue: Possibilities of Working Together for Fairer Agricultural Trade” last March 02, 2005. A set of recommendations and proposals were forwarded by farmer and NGO leaders to the government negotiators.



AFA members in Philippines, Thailand, Korea, Cambodia, Indonesia, conducted information dissemination cum signature campaign with their provincial farmers' groups. They also co-organized dialogue with their governments.

We brought the issues of unfair agricultural trade liberalization to our engagement with ASEAN and IFAD through the various conferences that we attended.

The events we conducted, in close cooperation with co-organizer AsiaDHRRRA , were :

1. First AFA General Assembly: Advancing the Asian Peasant Agenda. 11-17 February 2004 in Depok, Indonesia; with API as local host and Sekretariat Bina Desa or InDHRRRA as partner, with 64 males and 18 female participants and guest from ten countries.
2. Enhancing AFA to Promote the Asian Peasant Agenda. 1-6 June 2004 in Cambodiana Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, with Farmer and Net, then an AFA observer, as local host and Cambodian Center for the Study and Development in Agriculture (CEDAC) as its partner. This was a core group strengthening workshop for new AFA

Execom members; participated by 10 farmer leaders and 5 translators.

3. Asian Forum on Rice : Promoting Sustainable Rice, Upholding the Interests of Small Rice Farmers. 9-18 August 2004, in Development Academy of the Philippines, Tagaytay City and Bayview Hotel, Manila. This was a rural leader's capability session attended by 32 farmers and NGO leaders from ten Asian countries. It was hosted by PAKISAMA, an AFA member.
4. Third Core Group Strengthening Workshop: Honing Regional Advocacy Skills Through ACSF. 20-25 November 2004 in Viengtai Hotel and United Nations Conference Center, in Bangkok, Thailand, with Sor Kor Por as local host, and with 14 male and 5 female participants from five countries. This was a core group strengthening workshop for AFA ExeCom leaders and their translators, aimed to increase the leaders' exposure on regional advocacy work through participation in a regional conference.
5. Thailand Farmers' Exchange Visit: Farmers' Sustainable Initiatives and Advocacy in Response to Globalization



■일시: 2005. 9. 10

■장소: 서울 여의도 문화마당

일시추모사업회 / 전국농민회총연맹
한국농업기술자협회 / 전국여성농민회총연합회
한국가족농민회 / 한국낙농육우협회
한국농업경영인중앙연합회 / 한국여성농업인중앙연합회
국립전업농중앙연합회 / 전국농민단체협의회

무권농업사추

WTO!
KILLS
FARMERS



Challenges. February 27- March 9, 2005 at Pinnacle Resort Hotel, Chonburi province and Rim Doi Hotel, Chiang Mai province in Thailand, hosted again by Sor Kor Por and participated by 32 males and 12 females from 10 countries. Aside from the FEV, the celebration of the first AFA Day last February 28 and the first regional dialogue with Government Trade Negotiators (held March 1-2) were other major parts of this event.

6. 12th AFA ExeCom Meeting and 2nd Commemoration of Martyrdom of Lee Kyung Hae. 9-15 September 2005 at Seoul and Jangsu, South Korea, with Korean Advanced Farmers' Federation as local host, and participated by 18 men and 7 women from eight countries. AFA leaders joined Korean farmers in a big rally to protest against WTO unfair trade rules. Also, they visited some farmers who have tried to respond to the effects of agri trade liberalization in their own lives.
7. Special Regional Training on Advocacy and Global Agricultural Trade. 12-19 December 2005, Hongkong, China; participated by farmer leaders and their NGO partners- 30 males and 13 females from 11 countries. The event is a parallel activity to the Sixth WTO

Ministerial Conference and was co-organized with APHD. AFA participants joined street actions especially those organized by its member, Korean Advanced Farmers' Federation. AFA also co-organized a forum on WTO, Food Sovereignty and Alternatives to Globalization attended by about 250 participants .

Our participation in international activities

AFA chose to participate actively in regional conferences and activities that contribute to its campaigns and that promote its agenda. We participated in the following activities :

1. Rights, Life and Culture: Stand Up for Our Rice. March 2004, in Tagaytay City, Philippines; organized by SEARICE; represented by Heru Wardoyo, Esther Penunia, Vic Fabe.
2. Asian Civil Society Forum. November 2004, in Bangkok, Thailand; organized by Forum Asia, CONGO, SEACA among others; represented by 15 AFA regular members. AFA was signatory in the final ACSF statement.



3. Consultation Meeting for the International Coordinating Network. February 2005, in Hongkong, China, organized by HKPA; represented by Esther Penunia.
4. The Fourth ASEAN Peoples' Assembly: Towards a People-Centered Development in the ASEAN Community. 10-13 May 2005, in Manila, Philippines; organized by ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies; represented by Vic Fabe and Esther Penunia.
5. WTO Strategy Meeting and Asia World Social Forum Meeting. June 2005, in Negombo, Sri Lanka; organized by Focus on Global South, Monlar among others; represented by Tri Heru Wardoyo, Esther Penunia; where we shared AFA's WTO 2005 campaign plans. AFA was signatory to a declaration that resulted in this meeting.
6. Seminar on Privatization. July 2005, in Bangkok, Thailand; organized by Action Aid, represented by Heru Wardoyo.
7. Asia WSF Meeting. August 2005, in Bangkok, Thailand; organized by Jubilee South among others; represented by Sudaporn Sittisathapornkul, Panya Kongpal, Kanisorn Punyaprasiddhi.
8. Regional Conference on Civil Society Engagement in the ASEAN. 3-5 October 2005, in Bangkok, Thailand; organized by SEACA, AsiaDHRRA among others; represented by Heru Wardoyo, Vicente Paglinawan, Sudaporn Sittisathapornkul, Vicente Fabe, and Esther Penunia; where we presented (a) ASEAN and the WTO, AFTA and FTAs : Asian Farmers' Thoughts and (b) Asian Farmers' Thoughts on Asian Agriculture and ASEAN. AFA was a signatory to a declaration that resulted in this meeting.
9. Farmers' Conference and Final Pan-Asia Program Planning Meeting. 14-19 October 2005 in Siem Reap, Cambodia; organized by APHD; represented by Esther Penunia; where we presented AFA's WTO 2005 campaign updates and plans.
10. Agricultural and Rural Development in Asia: Ideas, Paradigms, and Policies Three Decades After. 10-11 November 2005, in Makati City, Philippines; organized by SEARCA, represented by Rene Cerilla, Esther Penunia.

11. Seeds, Treaties And Trade: A Regional seminar-Workshop Towards Sustainable Seed Conservation, Development And Use. 22-23 November 2005, in Vientienne, Laos, organized by SEARICE; represented by Heru Wardoyo, where we presented AFAs sustainable agricultural program.
12. Towards a Farmers' Forum at the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD): Preparatory Regional Consultation with Farmers' Organisations in Asia. 9-10 December 2005, in Cavite, Philippines; organized by IFAD; represented by Esther Penunia.
13. Forum on WTO, Food Sovereignty and Alternatives to Globalization. 14-15 December 2005, Hongkong , China, co-organized by AFA, AsiaDHRRRA, APNFS and ISGN. AFA signed a declaration that resulted from this forum.
14. Farmers' Forum. 13-16 February 2006, Rome, Italy; organized by IFAD; represented by Heru Wardoyo, Esther Penunia; where we (a) became lead discussant in the workshop on Regional Market Integration and

Family Farming (b) presented a quick profile of AFA during the Asia workshop ; and (c) became one of the two readers of the synthesis of the deliberations of the Farmers' Forum to the IFAD's Governing Council.

Our Publications

The publications we have released, in partnership with AsiaDHRRRA:

1. Shaping the Asian Peasant Agenda: Solidarity Building Towards Sustainable Rural Development in Asian Rural Communities . Released in February 2004, the book presents the 9 country reports, workshop results and lectures of keynote speakers and resource persons during the 3 sub-regional conferences conducted by AFA from August to October 2003.
2. Taiwan Farmers' Exchange Visit. Released February 2004, the monograph contained the highlights of AFA's leaders' visit to Taiwan last August 2003.



3. Thailand Asian Farmers' Exchange Visit . Released March 2005, this monograph contained the highlights of AFA's event conducted last February 27-March 5, 2005.
4. Possibilities of Working Together for Fairer Agricultural Trade: A Civil Society-Government Dialogue. Released August 2005, this booklet contained the highlights of the discussion of the dialogue between some WTO government negotiators conducted March 1-2 in Chonburi, Thailand.
5. Four issue papers, which have been translated into Bahasa, Filipino, Khymer, Thai, Vietnamese, Korean and Chinese languages:
 - a. Asian Farmers' Fight for Survival and Control of the Rice Industry (December 2004)
 - b. The UN MDGs : An Arena for Advancing Farmers'Rights? (January 2005)
 - c. GATT-WTO-AoA : Asian Farmers Struggle for Life (February 2005)
 - d. Agrarian Reform : Still a Development Imperative (March 2005)

Our linkages

To support our campaign, promote our agenda and build solidarity with other groups, we built and maintained linkages with some key players in regional advocacy work, particularly AsiaDHRRA, ASEAN Foundation, AJPN, ANGOC, APHD , CONGO ,Focus on the Global South, Forum Asia, IFAD, IFAP SEACA , SEACON, , TWN, and World Social Forum.

Our projects

All of the above events, campaign activities and representation were made possible mainly through the support of some partners in some concrete projects, among are the following :

1. Regional Capacity Building for Farmers' Organizations in Asia with Agriterra(phase 1 : March 2003- March 2005, phase 2 till December 2006)
2. Engaging Government WTO Trade Negotiators towards Fairer Agricultural Trade with SEACA, and with AsiaDHRRA as co-proponent (September 2004- March 2005)





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AFA Farmers' Exchange Visit
Mar: 2-10, 2005 Tambol Maena, Chiang Dao, Chiang

3. Reprinting of AFA and AsiaDHRRA issue papers, with SEACA, and with AsiaDHRRA as co- proponent (April to November 2005)
4. Asian Farmers' and NGO Campaign Towards Responsive MDGs and Fairer Agricultural Trade- Year 2005, with APHD, and with AsiaDHRRA as proponent (June 2005- March 2006)

Our member to member, member to secretariat cooperation

As an off-shoot of its solidarity building and exchanges, we started to have bilateral cooperation among each other, such as between VNFU and KAFF, VNFU and Laos farmers, SKP and TWADA farmers.

AFA's secretary general also became a resource person in one of Sor Kor Por's in-house training on alliance building and policy analysis and planning process. She has also observed the strategic planning process of Aliansi Petani Indonesia last May 2005. She has likewise conducted a PO profiling activity for Farmer and Nature Net of Cambodia in October 2005.

As secretariat to AFA, AsiaDHRRA mobilized resources, helped organize and manage the various AFA events, and facilitated its participation to some regional conferences, particularly those related with ASEAN, and those organized by SEACA and APHD. AsiaDHRRA helped in publication work and production of various information and communication materials.

Results and Impact

1. AFA gained initial recognition as a potential partner in rural development by inter-governmental bodies such as ASEAN and IFAD, and regional groups such as APHD, Forum Asia, Third World Network, SEACON and SEACA; while strengthening its relationship with AsiaDHRRA.
2. AFA as a regional farmers' organization was formalized and its institutionalization process has been strengthened.
3. AFA also has begun to involve itself in regional issues such as rice liberalization and GATT-WTO-AoA, doing its own share of awareness-raising among key constituents,

policy advocacy and lobbying through dialogues with governments.


4. Awareness of AFA leaders on regional issues have increased, thereby making them more confident in articulating their concerns and proposals.
5. AFA members' relationships with each other have grown stronger. Regular dialogues and common activities have brought them closer together. Respect is continuously being earned, solidarity being manifested, bilateral cooperation is starting.

Challenges Ahead

We face the year 2006 with a new strategic plan that hopes to bring us closer, forward to our peasant agenda and our aspirations as small farmers in Asia. We look forward to a more dynamic, stronger AFA : in terms of membership, structure, leadership capabilities and campaign activities and in terms of how well we forge interdependent relationships with our partners.

Acronyms

AJPN	Asia-Japan Partnership Network
ANGOC	Asian NGO Coalition on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
APHD	Asian Partnership for Human Development
API	Aliansi Petani Indonesia
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AsiaDHRRA	Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia
CONGO	NGOs in Consultative Status with the UN
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFAP	International Federation of Agricultural Producers
SEACA	Southeast Asia Committee on Advocacy
SEACON	Southeast Asia Council on Food Security and Fair Trade
TWADA	Taiwan Wax Apple Development Association
TWN	Third World Network

The background image is a blue-tinted photograph of a city skyline, likely Manila, with several flags flying in the foreground. The flags include the AFA logo, a flag with a stylized figure, and a flag with the text 'WTO Fight for Farmers' Rights'. A crowd of people is visible in the lower part of the image, some holding signs and banners.

The Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA) is a regional alliance of peasant federations and organizations in ten Asian countries. Established in May 2002, its formation was a fruit of a three-year, five Farmers' Exchange Visits held in South Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, Japan and Malaysia. AFA endeavors to build a strong and dynamic regional lobby for genuine agrarian reform and sustainable rural development, while facilitating the exchange of creative local grassroots initiatives that attempt to address the roots of rural poverty. It aims to promote and advocate for the rights of Asian farmers, promote cooperation and solidarity and support capacity building among them. Currently, AFA includes the Aliansi Petani Indonesia, Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA) in the Philippines, Sor Kor Por in Thailand, Korean Advanced Farmers' Federation and Jeonkuk Sae-nongminhoe in South Korea, Taiwan Wax Apple Development Association, Vietnam Farmers' Union, Farmers and Nature Net in Cambodia and Aino-Kai in Japan.

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