Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) and its involvement in the 2030 Agenda implementation

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Overview
1. Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum)
2. ENVforum Annual Conference 2021
3. Agriculture & its link to SDG 15
Asia-Europe Environment Forum

- Established in 2003
- Partners:
  - Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
  - Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF)
  - ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Center (ASEIC)
  - Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
  - Government of Sweden through the Strategic Collaborative Fund administered by Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
Overview

AIM
Foster inter-regional cooperation between Asia and Europe on sustainable development and climate change issues.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE
Organise and present findings at international conferences to promote intellectual exchange between Asia and Europe on issues related to 2030 Agenda and climate change.

RESEARCH
The ENVforum has been carrying out research projects on SDGs since 2013.

CAPACITY BUILDING
Support policymakers in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam in mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda through national workshops and regional conferences.
ENVforum Annual Conference 2021

• Circular Food Systems: Solutions to reverse climate change (30 Nov – 1 Dec 2021)
• Thematic policy briefs:
  o Regenerative Agriculture
  o SMEs & Food circularity
  o Food Policy & Security
  o International Food Trade

asef.org/future-of-food
Regenerative Agriculture

*Life on Land*

COVID-19 recovery & 2030 Agenda through addressing SDG 15
Agriculture & SDG 15

• Agriculture practice is responsible for...
  – 25% of greenhouse gas emissions,
  – 70% of biodiversity loss, and
  – 80% of deforestation

**Indicator 15.2:** By 2020, promote the sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation [...]
Regenerative Agriculture

6 Core Principles of REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

- Minimize soil disturbance
- Keep the soil covered
- Integrate livestock
- Understand context of your farm operation
- Maximize crop diversity
- Maintain living root year-round

www.generalmills.com/Responsibility/Sustainability/Regenerative-agriculture
Conventional Agriculture vs Regenerative Agriculture

**CONVENTIONAL FARMING PRACTICES**
- Weak, easily erodible soils
- High input costs
- Ever-increasing quantity of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides needed
- High irrigation requirement
- Low crop diversity
- Low biodiversity
- Polluted water bodies
- Health risks of chemical exposure for farm workers
- Low resilience
- Threat to long-term yields due to soil degradation

**REGENERATIVE FARMING PRACTICES**
- Biologically active soils
- Low input costs
- High water infiltration and storage
- High crop diversity
- High biodiversity
- Healthy local ecosystem
- High water holding and filtration capacity
- Low health risks to farm workers
- Tasty crops with high micronutrient content
- Increased resilience
- Support long-term yields
- Multiple revenue streams

Interaction of the 10 elements of Agroecology

www.fao.org/agroecology/overview/overview10elements/en/
Solutions

- Adjusting subsidies to agriculture should be based on net contributions to climate change and provision of ecosystem services
  - “almost 90% of the $540bn in global subsidies given to farmers every year are harmful”
- Gathering more evidence on the performance of alternative food production systems
- More institutional support towards regenerative agriculture and agroecology
- Find ways for conveying the evidence in a form that is useful to drive and support policymaking
- Need for overcoming disciplinary and sectoral divisions in research and policy-making
  - Transition towards a trans-disciplinary and problem-oriented approach
COVID-19 recovery & 2030 Agenda through addressing SDG 15
Thank You
For your attention
www.asef.org