

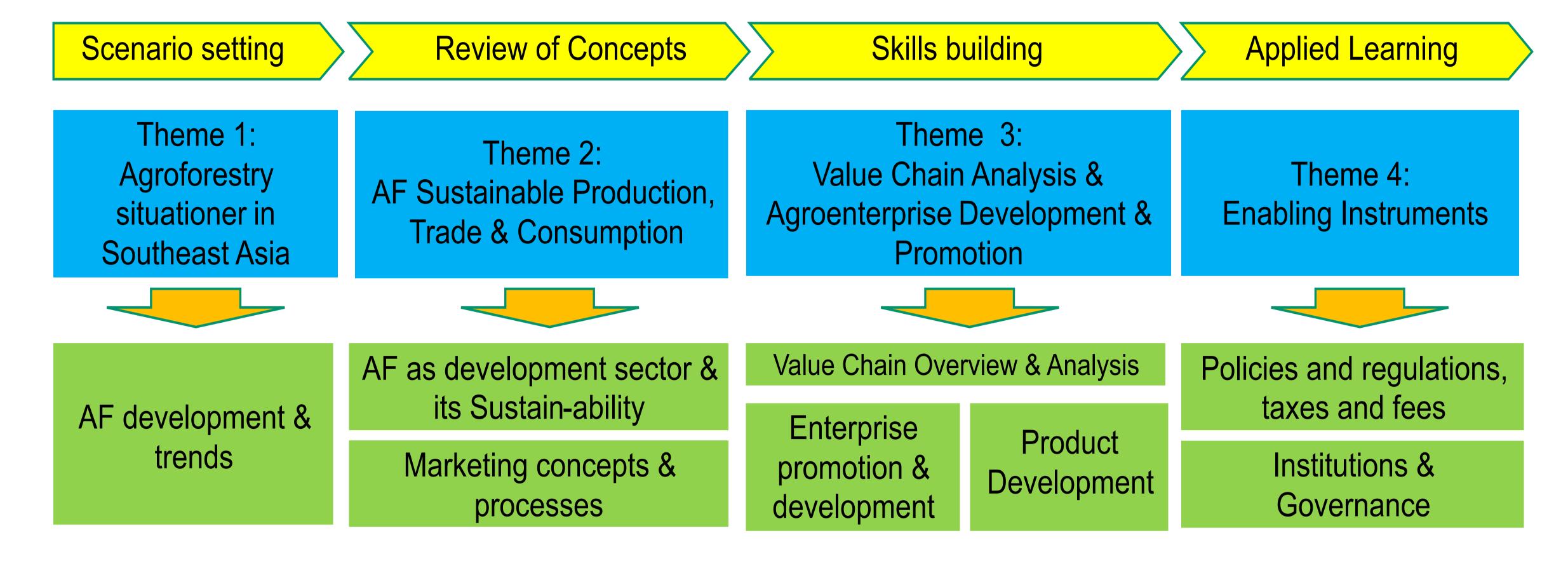
Integrating the Teaching of "Markets for Agroforestry Tree Products" in University Curriculum in Southeast Asia: The SEANAFE Experience



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Backgrounder

From 2005 to 2007, the Southeast Asian Network for Agroforestry Education (SEANAFE) developed a region-wide curricular framework and case study materials for teaching on 'Markets for agroforestry tree products (MAFTP)'. In general, the project was aimed at (a) improving agroforestry education in universities and colleges in Southeast Asia and (b) enhancing the teaching capacity of at least 100 lecturers from SEANAFE member institutions on the subject matter. Five country cases served as basis for developing the MAFTP curricular framework and teaching materials. In-country trainings were conducted and a Teacher's Guide on how to use the curricular framework and the teaching case study materials was produced and disseminated to SEANAFE member institutions. Below is the MAFTP curricular framework developed through the project



To ensure project impact, SEANAFE provided small grants to member institutions who showed interest to mainstream the project outputs. The action plans developed and submitted to SEANAFE by the in-country participants became the basis for implementing MAFTP mainstreaming activities in Indonesia, Laos, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Results — Courses where MAFTP Themes were integrated per County Subjects where MAFTP Themes were Integrated Country Theme 1 Theme 2 Theme 3 Theme 4 MS Level Indonesia Introduction to Introduction to Community Indonesia Introduction to Development Agroforestry Agroforestry Agroforestry Laos BS Level (under the sub-Community topic on Community Philippines Development Development Agroforestry) Diploma Level (under the sub-(under the subtopic on topic on Vietnam Agroforestry) Agroforestry) Thailand Introduction to Agricultural Agricultural Laos Agroforestry Economics **Economics** Levels wherein MAFTP Curricular Themes were Integrated in Number of SEANAFE Institutions per Country that Conducted MAFTP Philippines Entrepreneurship Processing and Agroforestry **Existing Courses** Mainstreaming Activities Utilization of in Agroforestry Governance, Agroforestry Policies & **Products Programs** Integration of Community Agroenterprise MAFTP Themes in Organizing and Management Agriculture Development **Existing Courses** Entrepreneurship in Agroforestry Offering of MAFTP Forestry **Curriculum** as Principles of Principles of Thailand* Agroforestry Agroforestry **Elective Course** Reforestation Reforestation Development of MAFTP Course Forestation and Forestation and Forest Protection Forest Protection Syllabus/Lecture materials Agroforestry Vietnam Came up with a modified version of the curricular framework mostly Faculties/Departments that Conducted MAFTP Mainstreaming Activities Nature of Mainstreaming Activities Done on MAFTP Project incorporating subjects under Themes 2 & 3 covering 9-hour duration

Conclusions

- The nature and extent in which the teaching of MAFTP can be integrated in university program offerings in Southeast Asia largely depends on the prevailing policies, protocols, and needs of SEANAFE member institutions. In most cases, integrating MAFTP themes in existing courses was easier than offering the whole curriculum as a separate course.
- MAFTP themes were also deemed relevant by some SEANAFE member institutions in courses other than agroforestry.
- The availability of the MAFTP Teacher's guide made integration of the subject matter in agroforestry and related courses much easier. The guide helped provide better ideas to universities on how and where improvements can be made in their existing course curricula.

Recomendations

- Conduct massive information campaign on the relevance of MAFTP as a subject matter to encourage further mainstreaming in university curricula in the region.
- Continuously enrich the list of reference and case study materials and provide training for lecturers to effectively implement the teaching of MAFTP.
- To maximize resources and enhance multiplier effect, conduct mainstreaming activities among a group of universities that offer similar agroforestry courses and share similar policies and needs on curricular improvement.
- Encourage the development of lesson plans and lecture notes on the MAFTP themes in local languages as supplement to the Teacher's Guide toward a more facilitative teaching-learning process.