



PANAP's Congress honors activists advancing pesticide-free advocacy, food sovereignty, and people's land and environment rights.



# Annual Report

2024



# Annual Report

2024

# Table of Contents

Institutional Building

**2**

Pesticides Programme

**15**

Food Sovereignty  
Programme

**23**

Agroecology In Action  
Campaign

**26**

Asian People's Exchange  
for Food Sovereignty  
& Agroecology

**31**

Women in Agriculture  
Programme

**36**

Information  
& Communications  
Programme

**42**

Appreciation

**45**

# Institutional Building

---

## Towards pro-people food systems transformation, genuine sustainable development, and climate justice

Amid the worsening global climate and environmental crises and intensifying attacks against food sovereignty, there is a heightened urgency to advance people-led agroecology as a sustainable solution to the crises. Rising to this challenge, PAN Asia Pacific (PANAP) and its partners successfully organized in 2024 the 2nd Regional Farmers-Scientists Conference back-to-back with its Fourth PANAP Congress on November 6 to 9, 2024 in Penang, Malaysia. The events were attended by 125 individuals representing 73 organizations from 16 countries.

These major events served as the culmination of the various activities, initiatives, and campaigns of PANAP's Programmes in 2024, namely, Pesticides, Agroecology in Action, Food Sovereignty, and Women in Agriculture, as well as the regional platform it is co-coordinating, the Asian People's Exchange on Food Sovereignty and Agroecology (APEX).



*Farmers, scientists, and advocates listen intently to the panelists discussing sustainable agricultural principles and practices during the 2nd Farmer-Scientist Conference held in Penang in November 2024.*

## 2nd Regional Farmers-Scientists Conference

The 2nd Regional Farmers-Scientists Conference took place on November 6 to 8, 2024. It brought together peasants, farmers, women, indigenous peoples, rural communities, scientists, health practitioners, environmentalists, and consumers to advance food sovereignty and agroecology, while challenging corporate control



*Indigenous peoples from Sabah and Sarawak perform a ritual to open the conference.*

over food and agriculture systems. The gathering fostered collaborative, ground-level solutions to address the detrimental impacts of corporate-driven agriculture on livelihoods, health, and the environment, particularly in Asia, where governments have been influenced by corporate promises despite high economic, environmental, and social costs. By strengthening cooperation and solidarity, the conference united farmers, scientists, and civil society organizations to share knowledge, develop policy advocacy, and promote sustainable practices like agroecology, while democratizing scientific knowledge and encouraging participatory, community-based research to ensure science serves the people and fosters genuine sustainable development.

### **Confronting climate crisis and corporate control**

Specifically, the conference aimed to discuss and analyze emerging trends, evidence, and challenges related to corporate control of food and agriculture, as well as the use of hazardous technologies and chemicals, including pesticides, that negatively impacted rural communities. It also sought to address the impacts of climate change and share people-centered solutions for building community resilience and promoting sustainable approaches, particularly through agroecology. Participants shared experiences and enriched their perspectives on community-led innovations, such as farmer-led experiments in the field and participatory guarantee systems (PGS), while identifying key points of collaboration and strategies to respond to these challenges. The conference emphasized offering people-led solutions to strengthen community resilience and support movements advocating for sustainable and equitable food systems.

The regional conference opened with a focus on the challenges posed



*In their keynote messages, Asian Peasant Coalition Chairperson Emeritus Rafael Mariano and India's Sagari Ramdas of the Food Sovereignty Alliance criticize corporate agricultural solutions for harming smallholder farmers in Asia. They advocated for agroecology as a sustainable alternative and called for genuine agrarian reform.*

by climate change, corporate control, and industrial agriculture. Keynote speakers Rafael Mariano, chairperson emeritus of the Asian Peasant Coalition (APC), and Sagari Ramdas of the Food Sovereignty Alliance (India) highlighted the devastating impacts of corporate-driven solutions on smallholder farmers, particularly in Asia. Mariano emphasized agroecology as a sustainable alternative, citing successful initiatives in the Philippines, Bangladesh, and India, while calling for agrarian reform and youth empowerment. Ramdas criticized international institutions for promoting industrial technologies like GMOs and urged reclaiming agroecology for food sovereignty and social justice.



*PANAP deputy executive director Arnold Padilla, ETC Group's Kavya Chowdhry, Dr. Chito Medina of the Stop Golden Rice Network (SGRN), and PAN Aotearoa's Dr. Meriel Watts address global trends and their impacts on food sovereignty and agroecology.*

Panel discussions addressed corporate dominance in agrifood systems, with Arnold Padilla, PANAP deputy executive director, critiquing the influence of multinational corporations and corporate lobbyists in climate talks. Kavya Chowdhry of the ETC Group warned of the risks of digitalization in agriculture, highlighting the collusion between Big Ag and tech companies. Dr. Chito Medina of the Stop Golden Rice Network (SGRN) debunked myths around GMOs, emphasizing their environmental and health risks, while sharing successful grassroots resistance efforts in the Philippines. Dr. Meriel Watts of PAN Aotearoa presented alarming data on pesticide poisoning, particularly affecting women farmers, and called for urgent action to address its chronic health impacts.

The opening day underscored the need for agroecology, grassroots resistance, and policy advocacy to counter corporate control and promote sustainable, people-led solutions in agriculture. The conference highlighted the importance of empowering rural communities, preserving traditional knowledge, and fostering solidarity to achieve food sovereignty and climate justice.

Day 1 also featured workshops and learning exchanges focused on addressing threats to food sovereignty, promoting agroecology, and sharing sustainable agricultural innovations. In the False Climate Solutions and Digitalization workshop, participants highlighted trends like digital land mapping and carbon offset schemes, proposing strategies such as policy mapping, seed sovereignty campaigns, and youth engagement. The GMOs workshop emphasized the need for consumer awareness, policy advocacy, and promoting local seed varieties, with a focus on involving women and youth in the fight against GMOs. The Pesticides workshop addressed the use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs), advocating for stricter regulations, public awareness campaigns, and capacity-building for farmers.

Learning exchanges, meanwhile, showcased successful agroecological practices. EcoPro Farm and SRI Lovely from Malaysia shared their organic farming methods, including composting and natural pest control, while acknowledging challenges like dependency on external inputs. MASIPAG (Philippines) and SWI Nepal discussed their work on agroecology and Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS), celebrating victories against GMO crops. CGFED (Vietnam) presented its green market initiative, which supports household farming and has expanded to district levels. KMP (Philippines) and SRED (India) highlighted collective land cultivation as a tool for agrarian reform, with SRED empowering Dalit women through land occupation. The session on



Citizen Science & CPAM introduced Community-based Pesticide Action Monitoring (CPAM) and the International People's Agroecology Movement (IPAM), encouraging participants to engage in advocacy and agroecological transitions.

### **Advancing food sovereignty and agroecology**

The second day of the regional conference continued with a focus on advancing food sovereignty and agroecology through panel discussions, strategy workshops, and learning exchanges. The panel discussion on Advancing Food Sovereignty and



*Participants share their insights and recommendations during the learning exchanges and workshops.*

Agroecology through People’s Science and Movement Building featured discussions on the multidimensional principles of agroecology. Terence Lopez, coordinator of PANAP’s Agroecology Program, emphasized its holistic approach, integrating social, cultural, economic, and ecological dimensions, while Wali Haider from Roots for Equity (Pakistan) highlighted the commodification of seeds as a threat to biodiversity and food sovereignty. PANAP’s executive director Sarojeni Rengam addressed the environmental degradation caused by corporate-driven agricultural expansion, particularly in oil palm cultivation, and called for leveraging UN resolutions to protect natural resources.

During the simultaneous workshops, participants explored strategies for food sovereignty and peopleled agroecology. The Community Resilience on Climate Change workshop emphasized documenting indigenous agroecological practices and linking with social movements to combat climate change. The People-led Agroecology and Movement Building workshop addressed corporate land monopolization and oppressive laws, advocating for legal frameworks to secure farmers’ rights, fair land distribution, and community-led land ownership. The Seeds Sovereignty and Biodiversity workshop proposed a regional “Save Our Seeds” campaign, research on local seed varieties, and involving youth and women in seed conservation. The Safe Environment workshop focused on protecting water, soil, and forests through organic farming advocacy and public awareness campaigns.

Learning Exchanges in Day 2 celebrated successes in agroecology and sustainable practices. Malaysia’s PACOS Trust and Jungle School showcased initiatives strengthening indigenous knowledge and ecotourism, while Vikalpani (Sri Lanka) and SRED (India) highlighted women’s roles in agroecology, particularly Dalit women overcoming land and health challenges. Khoj (Pakistan) and CAP (Malaysia) shared

## 6 Institutional Building



*PANAP's Tey Lopez and Sarojeni Rengam and Roots for Equity's Wali Haider lead the panel discussion on food sovereignty and agroecology.*

urban gardening initiatives promoting food security and chemical-free farming. Malaysia's Tenaganita and Yayasan Beranda Migran discussed agroecology as a solution for migrant workers' food security and land loss. Thanal (India) presented findings on biodiversity improvements in organic farms, emphasizing ecological resilience and reduced pesticide use.

The day concluded with Learning Exchanges where RRAFA (Thailand) and Gita Pertiwi (Indonesia) shared their work on empowering women farmers through organic farming and debt management. Good Food Community and SUKI Network from the Philippines presented community-supported agriculture models, fostering direct farmer-consumer partnerships. PAN India discussed organic cotton farming challenges, while SIBAT (Philippines) highlighted technological support for farming communities, including microhydro power systems. Khoj and SAEDA emphasized urban gardening's role in food sovereignty, improving soil health, and fostering community bonds.



Day 2 reinforced the importance of agroecology, community resilience, and grassroots movements in achieving food sovereignty and climate justice, while celebrating innovative practices and strategies to counter corporate control in agriculture.

## Action plans and strategies

The final day of the regional conference focused on synthesizing discussions and planning coordinated actions to advance food sovereignty and agroecology. Participants emphasized the need to reframe messaging around agroecology principles, highlighting its holistic approach and the role of facilitators rather than experts. Key strategies included promoting pro-poor, pro-farmer, and pro-women practices, showcasing regional agroecological innovations, and building compelling narratives around natural pesticides. Strengthening regional platforms through in-person gatherings and engaging legal experts for policy advocacy were also prioritized.



*The conference concludes with the Appreciation to Innovators, a special recognition by PANAP for its partners' remarkable contributions to improving community conditions through innovations.*

In the Research and Documentation segment, participants agreed to monitor the long-term health impacts of pesticides and launch capacity-building initiatives to document agroecology practices scientifically. The Capacity Building discussions centered on developing comprehensive modules for effective policy work and establishing an informal platform to sustain the conference's momentum through learning exchanges and reciprocal support among PANAP partners.

The conference concluded with the Appreciation to Innovators, a special recognition by PANAP for its partners' remarkable contributions to improving community conditions through innovative agroecological practices. Among the honored organizations were BARCIK (Bangladesh), which integrates indigenous knowledge into sustainable agriculture; Ecopro Training Center (Malaysia), dedicated to ecosystem restoration and permaculture; and Food Today, Food Tomorrow (Philippines), promoting solidarity gardening and food sovereignty. Other recognized innovators included Gita Pertiwi Foundation (Indonesia), Good Food Community (Philippines),

Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (Vietnam), Khoj (Pakistan), MASIPAG (Philippines), PACOS Trust (Malaysia), SAEDA (Laos), SHISUK (Bangladesh), SIBAT (Philippines), SRI Lovely (Malaysia), SRED (India), Thanal Agroecology Centre (India), and Vikalpani Women's Federation (Sri Lanka). These organizations have demonstrated exceptional commitment to sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and empowering marginalized communities.

Day 3 reinforced the conference's collective vision for a just and sustainable food system, celebrating the achievements of grassroots innovators while outlining actionable steps to advance agroecology and food sovereignty in the region

## PANAP's Fourth Congress

The PANAP Congress took place on November 9, 2024 with the theme "Promote people-led agroecology, phase out highly hazardous pesticides, and assert the people's right to land and resources! Forward the people's agenda for a pro-people and pro-planet food systems transformation, genuine sustainable development, and climate justice!" The Congress addressed the pressing challenges to food sovereignty posed by corporate-controlled, fossil-fuel-heavy agriculture, which has been exacerbating ecological destruction, global warming, and human rights violations.

During the Congress, PANAP reviewed its achievements and challenges since its last meeting in 2013, presented and adopted its Five-Year Plan (2025-2030), and mobilized support for its implementation. The event strengthened PANAP's regional network of advocates and communities, mainstreamed the principles of people-led agroecology in policy discourse, and intensified campaigns against highly hazardous pesticides while demanding accountability from agrochemical companies. The Congress also focused on consolidating partnerships and fostering solidarity to support communities' access to and control over their land and resources, aiming to create favorable conditions for sustainable and equitable food systems. The Congress was a significant gathering of advocates, activists, and organizations dedicated to advancing food sovereignty, agroecology, and the fight against corporate-



*PANAP Congress takes a stand against the genocide in Palestine.*



*Partners offer valuable suggestions to further enrich PANAP's Five-Year Plan.*

controlled agriculture. The event opened with PANAP executive director Sarojeni Rengam's welcome remarks, which set the tone by condemning the global food sovereignty crisis driven by corporate dominance, fossil-fuel-intensive agriculture, and agrochemical dependency. She highlighted the worsening environmental degradation, climate change, and food insecurity caused by these practices, while celebrating grassroots efforts and sustainable agricultural practices as beacons of hope. Rengam emphasized PANAP's commitment to mobilizing for people-led agroecology, securing land rights, combating hazardous pesticides, and holding agrochemical companies accountable. She concluded with a call to action for solidarity and collective commitment to building a legacy of food sovereignty and justice.

Dr. Anwar Fazal, PANAP Chairperson of the Board and a member of its Steering Council member, in his message, further framed the Congress by contrasting the three dimensions of peace—with self, others, and Earth—against the harsh realities of ecocide and genocide. He outlined seven critical challenges facing the world,



including casino capitalism, rising criminality and corruption, the digital divide, the double-edged potential of genetic engineering, the urgent need for conservation, the commercialization of essential services, and the colonization of minds through aggressive marketing. Anwar called for conscience, courage, and competence, affirming that grassroots movements of ordinary people working together can achieve meaningful global change.



Glorene Das, a key member of PANAP's Board and Steering Council, gave a keynote speech that reinforced the collective vision of transforming food systems through justice, sustainability, and resilience. She highlighted the detrimental impacts of corporate interests, fossil fuel-intensive agriculture, and conflicts on food insecurity and displacement, particularly in Malaysia, which hosts over 6 million migrant workers, refugees, and displaced people. Despite these challenges, Glorene expressed hope in the resilience of rural communities fighting for food sovereignty and concluded with a powerful song verse from Tenaganita founder Irene Fernandez, urging everyone to "wake up and pay attention."

Reflections from various organizations showcased PANAP's impactful collaborations. KMP (Philippines) highlighted PANAP's support in resisting land grabbing and promoting agroecology through education, policy dialogues, and capacity-building. Thanal (India) shared successful programs like agroecology campaigns and soil camps for children, while Vikalpani (Sri Lanka) emphasized PANAP's role in strengthening their pesticide awareness campaigns and expanding their network. CGFED (Vietnam) detailed their growth through PANAP's support, including initiatives like Community Participatory Action Monitoring (CPAM) and the establishment of a green market model for sustainable funding and food security.

The Congress also featured discussions on PANAP's Five-Year Plan (2025-2030), with participants offering valuable suggestions. Key points included the need to highlight the political and economic dimensions of agroecology, expand campaigns to include state accountability, and focus on the health impacts of pesticides. Participants also called for expanding PANAP's reach to the Pacific region, documenting indigenous knowledge, and addressing emerging trends like the co-optation of agroecology by corporations. Emphasis was placed on empowering women and youth through

targeted programs, capacity-building, and creating independent platforms for youth initiatives. The Congress officially approved for implementation PANAP's Five-Year Plan.

The event concluded with PANAP recognizing 13 key activists for their outstanding contributions to pesticide-free advocacy and food sovereignty. The awardees included Kim Jai Ok (Consumers Korea), Dr. Romy Quijano (pesticide safety advocate), Dr. Meriel Watts (global pesticide reduction campaigns), Hon. Rafael Mariano (Ka Paeng) (Philippine peasant movement leader), Charito Medina (Doc Chito) (anti-GMO advocate), Professor Koa Tasaka (Tasaka san) (organic farming advocate), Song Vo Kyung (Song) (consumer rights champion), Dr. Irene Fernandez (Tenaganita co-founder), Aegile Fernandez (migrant worker rights advocate), Nguyen Thi Hoa (SRD Vietnam), Chandra Hewagallage (Vikalpani Women's Federation, Sri Lanka), Ramakrishnan Ramasamy (REACH founder), and Professor Kuang Rong Ping (pioneer in pesticide safety and digital education in China). Their recognition celebrated their legacy and inspired continued collective action toward a just and sustainable future.

The 2nd Regional Farmers-Scientists Conference and PANAP's Fourth Congress reaffirmed the urgent need to advance people-led agroecology, resist corporate control over food and agriculture, and uphold the rights of farmers, indigenous people, and rural communities. Through knowledge-sharing, movement-building, and



*PANAP partners in high spirits as they look forward to continued collaboration, advocacy, and grassroots actions.*

## 12 Institutional Building



*PANAP's Congress recognizes activists and leaders for their outstanding contributions to pesticide-free advocacy and food sovereignty.*

strategic action, participants strengthened solidarity and commitment to transforming food systems towards sustainability, equity, and justice. As the global climate and food crises escalate, PANAP and its partners remain steadfast in their mission to champion food sovereignty, promote agroecology, and advocate for policies that prioritise people and the planet. The outcomes of these gatherings will serve as a foundation for continued collaboration, advocacy, and grassroots action in the years ahead.

## **Solidarity and movement building**

The year 2024 also saw PANAP's participation and hosting of a series of major global and regional events that contributed to building and strengthening peoples' movements. In June, the organization participated in the International Women's Assembly (IWA), the International Festival for People's Rights and Struggles, and the International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) 7th International Assembly. These events were opportunities for PANAP to deepen the institution's knowledge of the world situation and build connections with other organizations and advocates from different regions in the spirit of solidarity.

Moreover, PANAP held its landmark gatherings: the 2nd Farmer-Scientist Conference and the Fourth Congress in November 2024. Both events were a success due to the valuable participation of partners and friends. These successes have strengthened the network's shared commitment to advancing people-led agroecology and grassroots action.

### **International Women's Assembly (IWA)**

PANAP participated in and co-coordinated the International Women's Alliance (IWA) General Assembly in Penang, Malaysia. This international assembly provided a platform for PANAP to network with other advocates, discuss the challenges faced by women in agriculture in Asia Pacific, learn from other regions and strengthen collaboration through solidarity efforts and campaigns. PANAP's Executive Director was elected as Chairperson of the new executive committee, presenting an opportunity to unite around common causes on rural women related to land rights, climate justice, social protection and rights to health and environment.

## **International Festival for People’s Rights and Struggles (IFPRS)**

The International Festival for People’s Rights and Struggles (IFPRS) 2024 is a two-day festival of cultural events, exhibits, plenary discussions, and simultaneous workshops for knowledge-building, skills-building, movement-building around the theme “Unite, Resist, Triumph: Celebrating global peoples’ struggles against imperialist war, plunders, and oppression” held on June 19 and 20, 2024 in Penang, Malaysia.

As one of the events in the IFPRS, PANAP and our NLNL partners from Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka organized “Building solidarity for the right to land: A forum on land grabs and rural people’s struggles for the right to land in Asia” on the second day of IFPRS.

Around 50 land activists, campaigners, and advocates from at least 10 countries joined the forum. The speakers presented trends in land and resource grabs and the people’s campaigns. It stressed the alarming state of global inequality and intensifying competition among the rich countries and their corporations for control over the world’s resources.

## **International League of Peoples’ Struggle (ILPS) 7th International Assembly**

The International League of Peoples’ Struggle (ILPS) is an anti-imperialist and democratic formation. It promotes, supports and develops the anti-imperialist and democratic struggles of the peoples of the world against imperialism and all reaction. The ILPS successfully held its 7th International Assembly (7IA) on June 21-24, 2024 in Penang, Malaysia with the theme, “Defeat Imperialism! Win Our Socialist Future!: Build a Peoples’ United Front to Fight Against Imperialist Plunder, War and Fascism. Draw in More Organizations and Movements to the ILPS in the Struggle to Win a Socialist Future for Humanity and the Planet!” The 7IA was attended by 535 participants which came from 44 countries and territories.

As a member of the ILPS, PANAP participated in and co-coordinated the ILPS 7IA, playing a significant role in ensuring the event’s success. Staff members took on tasks across different preparatory committees — logistics, documentation, registration and finance, and programs. The organization also sponsored partners who attended throughout the entire event. The 7IA provided a valuable platform for PANAP to network with organizations across the globe and learn from other regions, thereby strengthening solidarity relations with peoples worldwide.

# Pesticides Programme

## Community-based Pesticide Action Monitoring (CPAM)

The CPAM training, methodology, and process have consistently demonstrated a strong impact on local communities involved with partner organizations. These efforts have deepened awareness about the harmful effects of pesticide use on health and the environment, while also inspiring communities to take meaningful action toward change.

PANAP partners in Bangladesh, India, Laos, and Vietnam have used the CPAM results for awareness campaigns to reduce pesticide use and promote agroecology. BARCIK from Bangladesh, SAEDA from Laos, and SRD from Vietnam involved their local government officials as part of the monitoring teams on the ground. This collaboration—also seen in the work of PAN India—helped spark



*Body mapping session during CPAM training in Cambodia*



*A woman spraying pesticides in her paddy field was documented through CPAM monitoring*

greater interest among government officials, who recognized the value of CPAM documentation in deepening their understanding of pesticide use and its impacts. Additionally, SRD and CGFED translated the CPAM findings into awareness-raising materials and tools for local advocacy.

At the invitation of OXFAM Cambodia, PANAP facilitated a training session for their partners, including staff and farmers from local communities—many of whom still rely heavily on pesticide use. The training focused on the health impacts of pesticides, as well as occupational safety and health concerns. A simple, community-level questionnaire was used to gather firsthand data and sparked discussions.

A new CPAM report, incorporating the latest monitoring data from partners and covering 4,393 respondents, is scheduled for release in 2025. These updated findings will also be featured on a newly launched public platform, the CPAM Public Landing Page, which provides selected country-specific data for a wider audience, including researchers, academics, civil society organizations, NGOs, local communities, and policymakers.

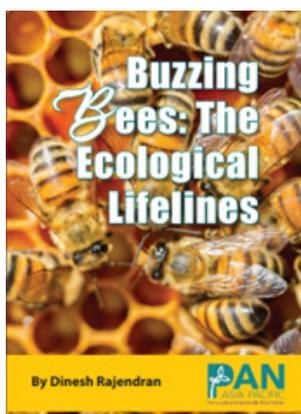
The impacts of pesticides were documented in four individual reports and one policy brief by PANAP. The report, “Sowing Harm: The Multifaceted Impact of Pesticides in Four Countries,” emphasizes the harmful effects of pesticide residues on human health, the environment, and food systems. It calls on governments to expedite the phase-out of pesticides that leave behind toxic and hazardous residues. A summary of this report was also released in the form of a policy brief.

Additionally, two Community Pesticide Action Monitoring (CPAM) results gathered by Thanal in Kerala and PAN India in Yavatmal, Maharashtra in India, as reported by farmers, revealed a range of acute health problems linked to pesticide exposure. These included vomiting, nausea, eye irritation, headaches, skin disorders, excessive sweating and salivation, and respiratory issues. Women farmers’ testimonies also revealed multiple health concerns in another report.

## Addressing Pesticide Impacts on Biodiversity

As we draw attention to the harmful impacts of pesticides on the environment, we also emphasize the critical role of agroecology in safeguarding biodiversity and enhancing climate resilience. PANAP published “Buzzing Bees: Ecological Lifelines” to highlight the vital connection between agroecology, pollinators, and environmental health. This publication was also featured on the Food and Agriculture Organization’s Family Farming Knowledge Platform, further amplifying its reach.

Agroecological knowledge was also spotlighted at the Asia Smart Farming & Food Security Exhibition & Conference 2024, endorsed by Malaysia’s Department of Agriculture. PANAP’s participation helped spread awareness about the importance



“ Bees play a pivotal role in maintaining the ecological balance and ensuring the availability of diverse and nutritious food. Their conservation is not just about safeguarding their future but also securing our own.”

From the [Buzzing Bees: The Ecological Lifelines](#)



of chemical-free, sustainable farming to nearly 20,000 participants from 26 countries. The event drew media attention, with six local media outlets featuring stories that highlighted agroecology as a key innovation for a healthier and more resilient agricultural future.

Thirty-seven (37) workshops were conducted for 1,221 people (1,102 women) in efforts to transfer agroecological knowledge by PANAP partners to their local communities. These efforts were effective as they spearheaded more farmers, particularly women, to establish agroecology practices in their home gardens and farms.

The Protect Our Children from Toxic Pesticides (POC) campaign in 2024 was supported by 78 organizations and reached over 141,142 people both online and offline—including children, students, teachers, and farmers. Through the efforts of PANAP’s partners, 26 schools committed to becoming Pesticide-Free Schools, taking a strong stand to protect students and their communities from harmful chemical exposure.



“ We managed to sell our produce at 50,000 Laotian Kip per kilogram in 2024 which is more compared to previous year.

Organic Farmer Association, Laos

As part of the POC campaign, PANAP also launched the initiative to raise awareness about the devastating impact of pesticides on pollinators. The campaign was officially launched during the PAN International Strategy Meeting held in Penang, Malaysia, on May 22nd, a day that is celebrated globally as World Bee Day.

In parallel, No Pesticide Use Week (NPUW)—observed annually from December 3 to 10—continued to commemorate the 1984 Bhopal disaster, the world’s worst industrial tragedy. Nearly four decades later, NPUW remains a powerful moment for advocacy, amplifying the voices of women and men, smallholder farmers, and workers calling for the elimination of hazardous pesticides and the promotion of agroecological alternatives.

Social media materials for both the POC and NPUW campaigns were widely distributed across partner networks to maximize outreach and impact.

## International Advocacy

### UNEA Resolution

In 2024, the U.N. Environment Assembly (UNEA) unanimously adopted a Resolution on Highly Hazardous Pesticides that called for urgent action to eliminate the use of the world’s most toxic pesticides globally by 2035. The action at UNEA on HHPs reinforces the 2023 adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC), and supports the formation of a Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides, as a collaborative, multi-stakeholder initiative convened by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).



*Left: CSO leaders gather to support UNEP/EA.6/ Res.12 (Environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflict)*

*Right: On behalf of CSOs, PAN Asia Pacific Executive Director Sarojeni Rengam delivers a statement in UNEA6.*

## Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Convention

PAN Asia Pacific joined the other PAN regional centres in taking the final steps to advocate for the inclusion of the neurotoxic pesticide chlorpyrifos—known to harm children’s brain development and bees—on the agenda of the Conference of the Parties (COP) under the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC) adopted the risk management evaluation (RME) for chlorpyrifos and decided to recommend it to the COP for consideration of listing chlorpyrifos in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention with certain specific exemptions. These specific exemptions will be further discussed at the COP. Many chemicals and nonchemical alternatives, including agroecological approaches in pest management, were described in the risk management evaluation for consideration by the POPRC.



*PAN Asia Pacific and PAN North America with other NGOs group in Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC)*

## The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Pesticide Action Network (PAN) International including PAN Asia Pacific (PANAP) has remained actively engaged in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) process and recently produced a briefing titled, “Leveraging NBSAPs Beyond the CBD”. This resource offers strategic guidance for governments that are developing or updating their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

The briefing emphasizes how advancing agroecology and phasing out Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) in agriculture can simultaneously fulfill commitments under three major UN policy frameworks: the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) under the CBD, the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC), and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

## **Resisting Corporate Capture**

Since 2021, PANAP has co-coordinated a global campaign to end the #ToxicAlliance, -a partnership agreement between Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and CropLife International (CLI), the association of the world's largest agrochemical companies. After three years of campaigning, with the support of more than 400 CSOs and people's movements, the FAO decided to cancel its agreement with CLI. Eleven organizations representing civil society and Indigenous Peoples across the globe have welcomed the statement by the UN FAO that it has officially ended its Letter of Intent (LoI) with pesticide industry lobby group CropLife International. This is an important victory, especially for farmers, farmworkers, and rural communities who suffer most from pesticide harm.

## **Consolidated List of Banned Pesticides and the List of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs)**

PAN International released two groundbreaking tools: the updated Consolidated List of Banned Pesticides, supported by PANAP and the List of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) supported by PAN Germany. These resources aim to empower stakeholders to identify and phase out HHPs in agriculture, aligning with global commitments like the UNEA resolution on Highly Hazardous Pesticides and the newly adopted Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC). The Consolidated List of Banned Pesticides identifies 568 pesticide active ingredients banned in one or more countries worldwide, most of which are HHPs.

This highlights ongoing progress in eliminating these dangerous substances. PAN International urges countries and stakeholders to intensify efforts to meet the UNEA goal of phasing out HHPs by 2035. The PAN HHP List provides a comprehensive overview of active ingredients that meet the criteria set by the WHO and FAO, as well as additional benchmarks established by PAN. Together, these tools serve as critical references for policymakers, advocates, and communities working to mitigate the risks posed by toxic pesticides.

## **End of online sale of banned pesticides**

The 2023 release of the report on the illegal sale of banned pesticides sparked significant responses from both the agrochemical industry and e-commerce platforms, prompting accountability measures from the Malaysian government. Following the report, major e-commerce platforms updated their policies, introducing stricter regulations on prohibited and restricted items.

In response, the Malaysian government launched enforcement actions to crack down on the sale of illegal pesticides online. It also strengthened existing policies by requiring all sellers on e-commerce platforms to obtain proper licensing before listing pesticide-related products, marking a critical step toward safeguarding public health and environmental safety.

Inspired by the impact in Malaysia, CGFED in Vietnam and Shisuk in Bangladesh replicated this study and campaign on the illegal sale of banned pesticides via e-commerce platforms in their respective countries.

## Engaging policymakers through advocacy efforts to drive meaningful policy changes

PANAP conducted the Malaysia Farmers Workshop with ERA Consumer in Malaysia to identify the policy gap and address key issues for farmers in Malaysia. The workshop emphasised sustainable farming practices, climate change challenges, and the health impacts of pesticide use on farmers. Experts and farmers shared insights on organic agriculture, indigenous knowledge, and innovative technologies including smart soil testing and integrated aquaculture. Discussions also addressed policy gaps, corporate influence on food security, and the need for government support in promoting sustainable food systems. Key recommendations included reducing pesticide reliance, empowering small farmers for agroecology, and advocating for structural changes to ensure fair food accessibility.



*PANAP, SAEDA, and partners from government, academia, and civil society convene in Lao PDR for the Pesticides Issues Workshop.*

PANAP was also part of the Pesticides Issues Workshop in collaboration with SAEDA and its local government, government agencies, public universities, and local NGOs in Lao PDR. The workshop objective was to underline the importance of participatory approaches in raising awareness about the pesticide impacts and improving the understanding of available alternatives to various multistakeholders.

PANAP was also invited as an NGO representative to the Inception Workshop on Pesticide Use Survey and Incident Monitoring in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 5-7 February 2024 by Pesticide Board of Malaysia. The workshop focused on adapted

tools for data collection, validation, and reporting. The project was developed to raise awareness, collect field data, and monitor exposure and health impacts.

*Women face grater greater exposure and negative health impacts from hazardous substances.  
Photo credit: Thanal*



In March, PANAP submitted a position paper to inform the Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights' report on gender and hazardous substances. The submission highlighted the toxic exposures faced by women and girls, with grave impacts on their rights to health, family, physical and mental integrity, and a clean environment. It also highlighted the lack of accountability by agrochemical industries.

In July, the "Report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes" was released, elaborating on gender-related health harms from exposure to hazardous substances. The Report cited data with "385 million of the world's farmers and farmworkers suffer unintentional acute pesticide poisoning every year, the proportion that are women is unknown." It also echoed our position that, "pesticides and chemical-based farming dramatically undermine women's power regarding their roles as food producers, caretakers of biodiversity and seed keepers. Furthermore, in many countries the use of costly pesticides and commercial seeds has augmented women's poverty." Several of our recommendations were also reflected, such as establishing, strengthening and implementing international standards on business and human rights; banning harmful chemicals; and ending the practice of double standards.

# Food Sovereignty Programme

## Helping build movements for food, land, climate justice

Building on its efforts in 2023 to rally the rural people for food, land, and climate justice, PANAP's Food Sovereignty Programme continued its initiatives in 2024 to foster regional solidarity and contribute to strengthening people's movements against land and resource grabbing in the region.

The Programme pursued many of its activities in 2024 as part of PANAP's contribution to the Global People's Caravan for Food, Land, and Climate Justice campaign. PANAP, with its allies and partners, launched the GPC during the March 29 Day of the Landless in 2023. The GPC aimed to unite and mobilize rural communities across Asia and beyond, amplifying their demands for food sovereignty, agroecology, and an end to corporate control over resources.



*Organizations across the globe organized various activities for the Day of the Landless campaign*

For the Day of the Landless in 2024, the Programme organized a series of consultations under the theme “Assert our right to land, exercise our right to resist!

Resist corporate land grabs and imperialist aggression!” With the Asian Peasant Coalition (APC), the Programme held a consultation on the issue of “Land and resistance”, where various movements in Asia shared experiences and insights on the different forms of asserting the right to land, including policy advocacy, protest actions, land occupations, etc. The Programme also organized a consultation on land and agricultural workers with the Coalition of Agricultural Workers International (CAWI) to deepen insights into the current situation of agricultural workers, many of whom were landless farmers compelled to sell their labour to corporations that have grabbed their lands.

Rural women play a significant role in the resistance against land and resource grabbing. The Programme launched its annual Land & Rights Watch Report 2023 on March 7, ahead of International Women’s Day, to celebrate their leadership in the struggle for the right to land and resources. The report highlighted the courageous struggles of women in marginalized rural communities for land rights, dignity, and justice amid increasing political repression. The report documented alarming human rights violations related to land conflicts, with the Programme monitoring 82 cases in 2023 alone. Among these cases, two women were murdered, 20 were arrested, detained, or persecuted, and six were harassed or physically assaulted.

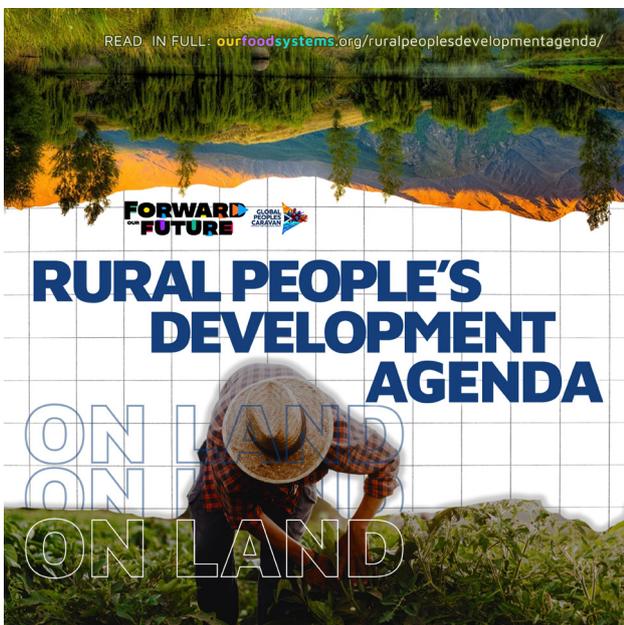


*Land & Rights Watch 2024 report highlighted struggles of women farmers and their leadership role in the campaign for the rights to land and resources*

In June 2024, the Programme gathered its No Land, No Life! partners and allies for a forum on “People’s struggles against land grabs in Asia” as one of the events during the International Festival for People’s Rights and Struggles (IFPRS) held in Penang, Malaysia. Around 50 land activists, campaigners, and advocates from at least 10 countries joined the forum. The Programme presented trends in land and resource grabs and the people’s campaigns. It stressed the alarming state of global inequality and intensifying competition among the rich countries and their corporations for control over the world’s resources. Meanwhile, No Land, No Life! partners from Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka shared national and local struggles against land and resource grabbing. Organized by various international groups, including PANAP, under the theme “Unite, Resist, Triumph: Celebrating global people’s struggles against imperialist war, plunder and oppression”, IFPRS served as a space for people’s movements to share and learn from each other about threats to people’s individual and collective rights.



*Activists and advocates of the people’s rights to land and resources from 10 countries joined a global forum on “People’s struggles against land grabs in Asia”*



*The Global People’s Caravan for Food, Land, and Climate Justice 2024 produced the Rural People’s Development Agenda*

The Global People’s Caravan for Food, Land, and Climate Justice 2024 campaign culminated with the Forward Our Future: Summit for the Rural Peoples Development Agenda for Food, Land, and Climate Justice held on September 23, 2024, to counter the United Nations’ (UN) so-called Summit of the Future. The people’s summit produced the declaration “Forward Our Future: Rural People’s Pact for Food, Land, and Climate Justice”, which reiterated the movements’ commitment to the Rural People’s Development Agenda, a set of demands that the Caravan gathered through various community consultations since 2023. But more than

a list of demands, the development agenda is a testament to the movements’ and communities’ ongoing struggles, fraught with numerous sacrifices but teeming with boundless courage, for the rights to food and produce food, land and resources, and a healthy environment that will benefit present and future generations.

# Agroecology in Action Campaign

---

## Towards strengthening people-led agroecology movements in Asia

In 2024, PANAP and its partners continued to advance people-led agroecology as a pillar of radical food systems transformation, and as a solution to climate change. PANAP continued its efforts in agroecology capacity building among women and youth, as well as strengthening the networks of Field Learning Sites, and contributing to building a future free from pesticides and fossil-fuels.

## Movement-building and learning exchanges

Through the Field Learning Sites (FLS) of the International People's Agroecology Movements (IPAM), PANAP's efforts in building the global movement for agroecology continued to gain momentum. For 2024, the number of FLSs has increased to 88 and reached out to 19 countries in Asia Pacific, Africa, and Latin America.

Several FLSs also hosted learning exchanges attended by members of the network. In July, Vikalpani Women's Federation (Sri Lanka) hosted a one-day field visit and exchange in their home gardens, community seed banks and women farmers' markets in Monaragala district, in the southeastern part of Sri Lanka. In September, Sri Lovely and Eco Pro (Malaysia) facilitated the four-day learning exchange, hands-



*PANAP partners and IPAM field learning sites exchange agroecology knowledge and learn SRI technique with Sri Lovely Farm in Kedah, Malaysia.*



## Capacity building on women and youth

As part of its thrust, the programme's agroecology capacity building focused on women and youth among our partners in 2024. Here are some of the highlights for the year: In India, Society for Rural Education and Development (SRED) has trained more than 250 women and youth and children from 10 villages on the importance of agroecology through natural farming and the ill effects of pesticides. Participants were trained on how to make organic kitchen gardens, composting, and vermiculture.

In Indonesia, Yayasan Gita Pertiwi conducted workshops on measuring soil fertility, and liquid organic fertilizer-making attended by 81 farmers in three villages. In the soil fertility workshop, participants learned to understand the measurement of soil fertility through paddy soil test devices, and laboratory tests.

In the Philippines, MASIPAG women and men farmers participated in the Alternative Pest Management & Soil Fertility Management (APM-SFM) Training, while more than 200 students were capacitated through agroecology orientation and discussion of the climate situation in the country and the important role of agroecology as a solution.

In Sri Lanka, Vikalpani trained women, youth, and children on leadership and agroecology anchored in raising awareness.

## 16 Days of Global Action on Agroecology

With the theme "Agroecology is our climate solution! Rural youth and women forward the future of food and the planet!" the 16 Days of Global Action on Agroecology 2024 saw participation reaching out to hundreds of communities across



*PANAP partner in Pakistan SPSD distribute organic seed to women, during the 16 Days of Global Action.*

the globe through various activities. Below are just some of the activities conducted by our partners. In Bangladesh, BARCIK organized various activities including those for women, farmers, youth, and indigenous peoples in different regions. Among the activities were native seed fairs led by women, safe food fairs, workshops on wild foods, agroecology practices, discussions on climate justice and agroecology, natural farming, family farming, food sovereignty workshops, photo exhibitions, and farmer solidarity events.

In India, PAN India organised collective farming activities showing agroecology practices in their organic cotton farms in Wardha and Darwa, Yavatmal,

Maharashtra. Farmers from different villages also joined their collective action. Meanwhile, the Food Sovereignty Alliance in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh joined the campaign with different activities across the two states such as community forums with children, youth, women and men farmers, bicycle rally, gram sabha (people's assembly), and other mobilisations. On the other hand, SRED organised organic seeds collection and sharing among village women aimed at replacing existing genetically modified seeds.

In Indonesia, Gita Pertiwi conducted a workshop with women on the dangers of pesticides while SERUNI showcased their organic farm, which is established and maintained using agroecological practices as a climate solution.

In Malaysia, PANAP and IPAM FLS Sri Lovely Farm hosted a learning exchange that launched the 16 Days campaign through a seed exchange and photo opportunities. Participants were FLSs from Bangladesh, India, Laos, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. They shared local and indigenous seeds of rice, legumes, spices, herbs and vegetables. The seed exchange also served as a symbolic act of resistance against global threats to seed sovereignty posed by corporate-backed international policies and trade agreements, which risk criminalizing indigenous and agroecological seed practices. Similar efforts were organised by Tenaganita, including seed sharing, homegrown vegetable swapping, food sharing, and storytelling among community members including migrants and refugees.

In Nepal, Social Work Institute (SWI) organised an indigenous seeds festival in West Nepal with more than 300 participants while Caritas-Nepal organised a Local Food and Agriculture Product Exhibition in Makawanpur joined by more than 150 people. Both activities celebrated the wealth of local and indigenous food systems in Nepal.

In Pakistan, the Pakistan Kissan Mazdoor Tehreek (PKMT) organised the mobilisation of rural women for the campaign while Society for Peace and Sustainable Development (SPSD) in South Punjab conducted activities to promote agroecology and distributed organic seeds to rural women.

In the Philippines, MASIPAG organised various activities with their chapters in Southern Philippines such as workshops, social media campaigns, and a symposium with students. On the other hand, urban poor farmers, women, youth, and food justice advocates came together at the IPAM field learning site Food Today, Food Tomorrow and tilled the land, planted food crops, and learned about the urban poor's assertion of their right to food and right to housing and why it is a struggle for freedom that concerns everyone. Meanwhile, Good Food Community organised a solidarity bike ride towards a collective farm in an urban poor community, facilitated a discussion and held a stencil-making workshop that produced calls for food sovereignty and agroecology.

In Sri Lanka, Vikalpani celebrated the International Rural Women's Day, World Food Day and 16 Global Days in Buttala City through awareness-raising activities such as discussions and rallies highlighting agroecology and climate justice.

In Thailand, the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) and Southern Peasants' Federation of Thailand (SPFT) joined the campaign through a learning exchange. Participants in the APWLD Feminist Participatory Action Research workshop from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Philippines visited the community of SPFT where meaningful exchanges on food sovereignty and agroecology stories took place.

Meanwhile, youth farmers and activists from Bangladesh, India, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, and Pakistan delivered video statements highlighting the role of the youth in agroecology, agroecology as a climate solution, agroecology practices that enhance biodiversity, and the importance of youth as leaders in the agroecology movement building.



**THE FUTURE IS FEMALE**  
Women in Agroecology

October 15, Tuesday, 8 pm (GMT+8)  
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/WomenAgroecology>

[ipam-global.org](https://ipam-global.org)

*Women organizations join IPAM's webinar on women and agroecology in celebration of International Rural Women's Day.*

# Asian People's Exchange for Food Sovereignty & Agroecology (APEX)

In 2024, PANAP continued to work in coordinating the Asian People's Exchange on Food Sovereignty and Agroecology (APEX Platform) with Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura / Farmer-Scientist Partnership for Development (MASIPAG), Kindermissions, and MISEREOR as part of the consortium.

The four working groups - Asserting Climate Justice, Strengthening Food Sovereignty Movements through People-Led Development, Food Systems Transformation, and Women, Youth, and Children - organised regional workshops, learning exchanges, and other activities that contributed to achieving the platform's objectives of strengthening food sovereignty movements, transforming food systems, and asserting climate justice.

The Asserting Climate Justice working group led by BARCIK, and SHISUK from Bangladesh and SERUNI from Indonesia, spearheaded the development of "agroecology as a climate solution" narratives based on the documentation conducted by platform members on the benefits of agroecology to the climate. These narratives have become a tool for advocacy at the national and global platforms as they are aimed at capturing the experiences, best practices, lessons, challenges, and benefits of agroecology as a climate solution. A workshop in Penang, Malaysia in June started the process with Dr. Chito Medina of MASIPAG, who presented a guide and discussed the concepts of farmers' adaptation, mitigation, and resilience to climate change through agroecology



*Workshop on documenting agroecological practices in Asian rural communities as climate solution in Penang, Malaysia*



*The APEX working group on climate justice organised a side event on agroecology as a climate solution at the UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan*

Moreover, the working group led the participation of APEX at the UNFCCC COP29 in Azerbaijan and organised the side event, “Agroecology for Climate Justice: Stories from the Global South.” The agroecology narratives were presented to more than 40 individuals from different organisations and countries from Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and North America. Among the working group’s members that attended the COP were BARCIK, SHISUK, SERUNI, and MASIPAG. As of this writing, 12 partners have already submitted drafts of their narratives. Furthermore, APEX joined several activities and meetings during the conference with the aim of furthering networking and movement-building.

Meanwhile, the working group on Strengthening Food Sovereignty Movements through PLD gathered in Nepal and facilitated a workshop for the publication of a book that will further articulate what PLD is, from the point of view of the platform members. This is the platform’s second PLD book following *Experiences in Peopleled Development: Promoting Food Sovereignty and Agroecology in Asia* launched in 2023. The second book will focus on the tools and methods for facilitating PLD in communities which will help development workers, community organisers and leaders carry out PLD in their own communities.



*20 APEX partners discussing the planned manual on people-led development at a workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal*

In the Food Systems Transformation working group, the first regional activity, “People’s Seed Systems: A Learning Exchange,” that also took place in Nepal and hosted by the Social Work Institute (SWI), tackled the corporate seed systems and the situation of seed sovereignty in different Asian countries on the one hand, and focused on the local seed systems practiced by the SWI partner communities in West Nepal, on the other.

Participating partners from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam were also able to share their own experiences and practices in their local seed systems.



*APEX partners discussing the planned manual on people-led development at a workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal*

Part of the learning exchange was a community visit to West Nepal where the indigenous Maigar community showed their already established seed systems such as seed banking, seed exchange, and trial farms. According to one SWI community organiser Krishna Tharu, he was inspired to establish a local seed bank for his community as a result of the organisation's participation in the activities of the Regional Learning Exchange Platform for Facilitating Change Processes towards Food Sovereignty in Asia (RLEP) in which seed exchanges and seed systems were among the topics discussed in the process. RLEP, which preceded APEX, was also coordinated by PANAP.



*Seed learning exchange in Kathmandu, Nepal*

Additionally, the learning exchange also served as a space for the partners to discuss global and national trends and policies affecting the people's seed sovereignty. One such trend discussed was the implementation of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, or UPOV, in various Asian countries. Other prevailing factors preventing food producers and farmers from practicing seeds sovereignty were identified as land grabbing, corporate capture of food, and the climate crisis.

Finally, the Women, Youth, and Children working group held its Regional Youth Workshop in Negombo, Sri Lanka, hosted by Vikalpani National Women's Federation. It was attended by youth participants representing 13 organisations from nine countries across Asia. The workshop allowed the participants to refine plans first conceptualised during the APEX Conference in 2023 including capacity building on agroecology for target youth participants, campaigning for agroecology and climate justice, and movement building activities.

The youth workshop culminated with a community visit to Monaragala District where members of Vikalpani welcomed the group through cultural performances, and local food sharing. Vikalpani also showed the group their women's farmers' markets, home gardens, and their community seed bank. The participants also

visited the Vikalpani office, where its leaders and members shared their history of struggles, women and youth organising, and their grassroots work as a whole.

APEX, through its coordinator and youth working group focal person, has also been active in the Global People’s Platform for Socio-ecological Transformation, a platform composed of organisations from the Global South and the Global North. APEX is part of the platform’s working group on agroecology and climate.



*Top row: APEX youth visited the home gardens and markets of Vikalpani members in Monaragala, Sri Lanka*



*Bottom row: Youth participants discussing the challenges and issues faced by the youth sector, Sri Lanka*



# Women in Agriculture Programme

---

PANAP made several important contributions in addressing gender inequalities and gender injustices through strengthening the capacities of women in agriculture, and providing support and visibility to their struggle through its various programmes. PANAP is also mainstreaming women's issues into broader agendas, such as food sovereignty, agroecology, climate justice and issues on pesticide use and land grabbing.

## Advancing rural women's leadership

### Irene Fernandez Leadership Training for Rural Women

Twenty-eight (28) rural women leaders and partner groups in 7 countries participated in the Irene Fernandez Rural Women's Leadership Training held in Penang on 10-12 December 2024. The women were a mix group of farmer leaders, agricultural workers, CSO partner groups and PANAP staff. from Vietnam (CGFED & SRD), Laos (SAEDA), Bangladesh (Barcik & Shisuk), India (PAN India & Thanal), Indonesia (PROGRESS AND KOPPMI) and intern and staff from PANAP (Philippines & Malaysia).



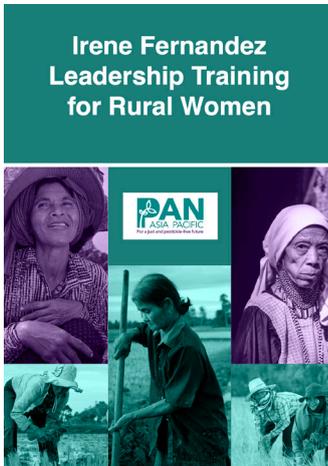
The Irene Fernandez Leadership Training for Rural Women was conducted at a crucial time to highlight and share experiences and struggles of rural women and their role as formidable change-makers in communities. The workshop is dedicated to the late Fernandez, former Chairperson of the Steering Council of PANAP, a teacher and social activist who dedicated her life to training rural women and strengthening women-led movements for change.



The training was a journey for the women participants who shared about their personal stories of struggle and survival, of lessons and victories. They were inspired by the different ideas, methods and strategies presented over the 3-day training. The "interactive sessions helped in understanding concepts on globalisation, corporate agriculture

*Participants in the Leadership Training Sessions  
- Making a House and River of Life*

and gender-based oppression.” They found the “methods meaningful, inclusive and engaging” and the training “useful and informative” for their future work. These regional leadership trainings have been adapted to local contexts and echoed in Vietnam, Laos, Bangladesh and India through local training.



## Public launch of the Irene Fernandez Leadership Training Module

In February, PANAP also launched the Irene Fernandez Leadership Training for Rural Women module, which has since been downloaded over 2,100 times. The modules are designed to equip advocates to guide their own training at the community level. It has been adapted for use and translated into four languages: Vietnamese (by CCGFED), Laotian (SAEDA), Bangla (SHISUK) and Malayali (Thanal Trust). Printed copies were also distributed at various events, significantly extending its reach among advocates.

## Programme Assessment of the Women’s Leadership Training

In December, an assessment was held in Penang with partner groups who have been involved in the leadership training programme since it was pioneered in 2012. The meeting highlighted the strengths and how to improve the content and methods of the training. There were also sharing from partners on how they adapted the modules into local contexts and the impacts of the training in the communities. Several recommendations were proposed, such as building a pool of instructors, developing a trainer’s manual and updating the module on campaigns, media and advocacy. The meeting was attended by 12 participants coming from PAN India, SAEDA (Laos), CGFED (Vietnam), Shisuk (Bangladesh) and PANAP staff.

## Highlighting women’s initiatives in agroecology

### Feature stories on Women in Agroecology

Nineteen case studies on women in agroecology were collected and shared on our website and social media. Many of these were launched during the International Women’s Day in March 2024. These case studies highlighted the stories of women who have transitioned to agroecology as an alternative to chemical-dependent farming. The stories illustrated how women overcame traditional gender roles in their households and secured their livelihoods through agroecology, which offers safer food, healthy lifestyle and more sustainable source of income by avoiding toxic pesticides and other hazards of conventional farming. The documentation of challenges and successes strengthens agroecology’s role not only as a sustainable agricultural alternative but also as a tool for gender transformation among rural women.

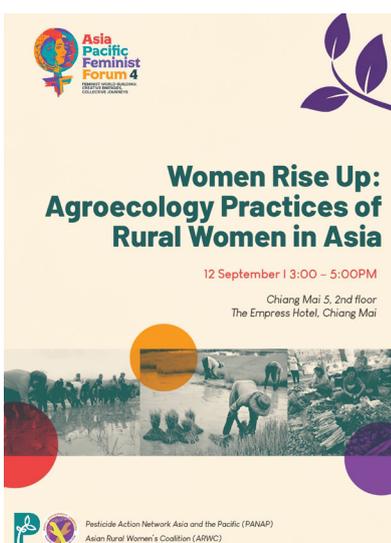
## Workshop - Women Rise Up: Practices of Rural Women in Asia

On 12 September, PANAP, together with the Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC), organised the workshop Women Rise Up: Agroecology Practices of Rural Women in Asia in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The workshop focused on the women food producers who practice agroecology – as seed savers, nurturers of safe and healthy food, promoters of climate-resilience and protectors of land, waters and biodiversity. Partners Vikalpani (Sri Lanka), Amihan (Philippines), and TNWF (India) shared their initiatives and successes from seed saving to harvesting and marketing; and how they are taking action as a movement to push for sustainable farming systems. Critical to the practice of agroecology is ownership and access to land and resources. Workshop participants also endorsed PANAP's 16 Days of Global Action for Agroecology Campaign in October.

The workshop gathered 27 women coming from 9 countries (Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, India and Sri Lanka.) The workshop was held as part of a three-day Asia Pacific Feminist Forum (APFF) of APWLD, a member of PANAP.

## Outcome Documentation visits with women in the communities

On 14-16 May, PANAP embarked on an outcome documentation visit with a community partner of SAEDA in Khungvieng village, Xieng Khuang province, Laos to record the initiatives of women in agroecology and review the results to better understand the women's insights and situation in their farms and homes. PANAP conducted one-on-one interviews and an FGD with 10 women who are all leaders in the Organic Farming Association (OFA).



*Participants of the Women Rise Up Agroecology Workshop held in Chiang Mai, Thailand*



PANAP learned that the women pioneered the agroecological initiatives in the village. The sustainable practices contributed to increasing biodiversity and improved resilience to climate change. They have been stewards of seed conservation. Through their marketing initiatives, they contributed to improving their household income. These gave them the agency to decide and confidence to plan for their family's health, education and other needs. "I now have the power to decide," shares Bwa Ham, a young farmer who lets her 1-year old child play in her organic farm as she feels safer even if her child eats something in the field. Through OFA, their sense of solidarity and support were also reinforced. The women in Khungvieng village have become the frontliners of agroecology - protecting biodiversity, conserving seeds, and ensuring food security for the family.

In October, PANAP had also planned an outcome documentation visit in CuongHai Xuan commune, Hai Hau district, Vietnam, with the Women's Pioneer Group, a community partner of CGFED. However, the visit did not push through due to restrictions imposed by the local authorities. At the last minute, they denied the visit saying the team needed another permit for another local office. PANAP, CGFED, and the members of the Women's Pioneer Group, had to re-arrange the itinerary and improvise with the adjustments.

### **Outcome Documentation Training for partners**

On 3-4 October, PANAP conducted an Outcome Documentation Training for its partners in Bangladesh, India, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam held in Penang, Malaysia. The training was aimed to document results of our work on the ground, and at national and global levels. Various data collection methods/tools were also discussed to substantiate the outcomes in clear, organised and accessible forms both for internal and public use.

The tools in documenting the evidence and stories from the ground were useful guides to show the changes (from mindsets to policies and practices) in the communities. The training also helped partners to validate their contributions in a participatory process alongside communities.



*Left: Women leaders from the Organic Farming Association (OFA) in Khungvieng village in Laos.  
Right: PANAP and SAEDA organised a biodiversity training with Organic Farmer Association (OFA), in Laos*

## Guaranteeing right to social protection for rural women

Through a project, “Improved social protection and labour rights for women farmers, agricultural workers and indigenous people in food and agricultural production,” PANAP aims to contribute evidence-based knowledge and documentation on the risks and vulnerabilities that women farmers and agricultural workers face. Partner groups in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia and Indonesia conducted a participatory action research (PAR) focused on women’s vulnerabilities including pesticide use and exposure, their experiences on the impact of shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic and environmental damage due to climate change. Insights on how to challenge and/or propose improvements to existing policies on social protection were raised, as well as recommendations to national governments and the ASEAN. PANAP has developed a Regional Report based on the 5-country research including the community demands which will be used to generate a policy brief to lobby the ASEAN on their right to social protection.



*Partners discussing tools in documenting stories in the communities*

## Strengthening alliances through collective efforts

PANAP co-organised the Steering Committee meeting of the Asian Rural Women’s Coalition (ARWC) held in September in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The ARWC is a space where rural women and advocates come together as voices of strength and unwavering commitment to not only empower rural women but also address systemic issues affecting their democratic rights. The meeting planned out strategies to strengthen ARWC’s visibility and collective efforts through continued engagement in national and global platforms on land rights and climate justice, and sustained solidarity efforts with rural women’s movements. Five national organisations (AMIHAN, TNWF, HDO, Vikalpani and Seruni) and 2 regional groups (PANAP, APWLD) attended the Steering Committee meeting. Seruni (Indonesia) has been the ARWC Secretariat since 2022.

To commemorate the International Rural Women's Day on 16 October, ARWC issued a statement "Amid wars and crises, build rural women's movements for rights, welfare, and genuine development". The statement was a reminder to advocates to recognize rural women's crucial role in agriculture, food security and sustainable development; to stand with them in fighting for their rights and welfare.

PANAP participated in and co-coordinated the International Women's Alliance (IWA) General Assembly in Penang, Malaysia. This international assembly provided a platform for PANAP to network with other advocates, discuss the challenges faced by women in agriculture in Asia Pacific, learn from other regions and strengthen collaboration through solidarity efforts and campaigns. PANAP's Executive Director was elected as Chairperson of the new executive committee, presenting an opportunity to unite around common causes on rural women related to land rights, climate justice, social protection and rights to health and environment.



Top: Gathering of the Steering Committee of the Asian Rural Women's Coalition in Chiang Mai, Thailand.  
Bottom: Newly elected Executive Council of the International Women's Alliance with PANAP's Sarojeni Rengam as its Chairperson

# Information and Communications Programme

PANAP's Information and Communications Programme aims (1) to enhance the public profile of PANAP; (2) to advance the objectives of PANAP's Programmes through a sustained information and education campaign; (3) to make more effective use of mass media to enhance PANAP's public profile and promote its advocacies; and (4) to enhance information systems and communication skills among PANAP staff and partners.

## Publications

In 2024, PANAP, in collaboration with its network partner organisations, have made available seven useful and relevant information materials to support its programmes and campaigns. These are as follows:

- Irene Fernandez Leadership Training for Rural Women modules
- Land & Rights Watch 2023
- Buzzing Bees: Ecological Lifelines
- Women in Agroecology: Towards pesticide-free communities
- Pesticides and Women's Reproductive Health
- Sowing Harm: The Multifaceted Impact of Pesticides in Four Countries (Policy Brief)
- Sowing Harm: The Multifaceted Impact of Pesticides in Four Countries (Full Report)
- Field Survey: Pesticide Use and Impacts in Kerala, India
- Field Survey: Pesticide Use and Impacts in Yavatmal, India



## Feature Stories

PAN Asia Pacific’s (PANAP) Women in Agroecology: Towards Pesticide-Free Communities campaign continues on a transformative voyage alongside these women, chronicling their daily struggles and triumphs through a series of stories. In 2024, PANAP compiled nine new feature stories to document evidence of the successes of agroecology in upholding the rights and welfare of rural women and contributing to community resilience. This collection of feature stories highlights the voices of remarkable women from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Laos, and Vietnam. Their stories encapsulate the challenges rural women face and the victories they gain as they navigate the complexities of agricultural livelihoods and advocate for change. Through the Global People’s Caravan (GPC), PANAP has released a three-part article examining how the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) and related processes, including the upcoming UN Summit of the Future, preserve and deepen corporate control over food and agriculture—and why rural peoples are pushing back.

## Expanding Online Community thru Listserves

Various listserves are being maintained by PANAP to provide a wide base of support for its programmes and campaigns to strengthen partnerships and alliances. The listserve has grown to 866 subscribers that includes not just partners but also media and information.

PANAP has jumpstarted publishing four issues of its “Agroecology in Action” newsletter which is a bulletin that highlights the grassroots work of the International People’s Agroecology Movements’ (IPAM) field learning sites to promote agroecology as a sustainable approach to agriculture and food production and development, in the framework of food sovereignty, ecological and social justice.



### NO LAND UPDATES ON LAND AND RESOURCE GRABBING RIGHTS OF LIFE! AND HUMAN RIGHTS | 31 December 2024

"No Land, No Life" is a campaign to highlight and stop land and resource grabbing as a gross violation of the human rights of the people. Click her to know more.

#### Land & Rights Watch

| TYPE OF VIOLATION         | CASES       |          | NUMBER OF VICTIMS |          |          | TOTAL    |
|---------------------------|-------------|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|
|                           | INDONESIA   | LAOS     | INDONESIA         | LAOS     | VIETNAM  |          |
| LAND GRABBING             | 458         | 229      | 255               | 147      | 37       | 668      |
| ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION | 339         | 348      | 1,256             | 1,014    | 972      | 3,590    |
| FORCED EVICTION           | 162         | 270      | 455               | 44       | 751      | 1,520    |
| DISPLACEMENT              | 66          | 32,161   | 40,540            | 0        | 67,690   | 140,391  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>1025</b> | <b>*</b> | <b>*</b>          | <b>*</b> | <b>*</b> | <b>*</b> |

\*There are cases where one person can be a victim of two or more human rights violations. Thus, the number of victims for all cases of violations should not be added on to avoid double counting.



#### To quit their jobs, sugarcane workers in India risk kidnapping, assault, and murder

India | With no written contracts, sugarcane workers are at the mercy of their employers to decide when they may leave. They frequently work under the threat of violence, abduction and murder. Bonded labor - a system in which workers are perpetually in debt to their employers and cannot leave, is rampant in Maharashtra.

PANAP has maintained its regular newsletters on “No Land, No Life!”, “Protect Our Children from Toxic Pesticides” and “Agri-Workers Monthly”.

## **PANAP’s Organisation Profile thru Social Media**

In 2024, PANAP’s Facebook page had 368 postings which recorded a total of 114,327 impressions, 102,268 reach and 5,299 engagements.

PANAP’s YouTube account registered 3,800 views, 33,600 impressions, 123 hours of watch time.

## **Providing easier access to information and resources thru its website**

The PANAP website ([www.panap.net](http://www.panap.net)) registered a total of 2,534,268 hits, 668,176 page views and 160,115 visits. The website has also monitored a total of 36,932 downloads of its information materials.

# APPRECIATION

---

PANAP would like to thank you the following people and organisations for their support and generosity in helping to formulate, enhance and improve the work of the organisation in order to meet the challenges and commitments the vision we have adopted

## PANAP STEERING COUNCIL

Anwar Fazal

Glorene Amala Das

Satnam Kaur

Burnad Fatima

H.M. Chathurika Sewwandi

Jayakumar Chelaton

Lynn Redoble

Nasira Habib

Yang Hongyan

People's TransAction, Malaysia

Tenaganita, Malaysia

Malaysia

SRED, India

Vikalpani, Sri Lanka

Thanal, India

Philippines

KHOJ, Pakistan

PEAC, China

THANK YOU to our network partners who have continued their support through information sharing, networking and linking with us on key activities.

Our SPECIAL GRATITUDE also goes to the following organisations for their support without which we would not have been able carry out our work:

- Agroecology Fund (AEF)
- Karibu Foundation, Canada
- Katholische Zentralstelle für Entwicklungshilfe (KZE), Germany
- Marisla Foundation, U.S.A.
- OXFAM Belgium
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

# PANAP STAFF LIST - 2024

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Sarojeni V. Rengam          | Executive Director                                       |
| Arnold Padilla              | Deputy Executive Director                                |
| Rosmah Ismail               | Administration & Finance Director                        |
| Alia Diyana Mohammed Hassim | Project Coordinator (Pesticides)                         |
| Blesila Frilles             | Admin & Finance Assistant                                |
| Diana Bando                 | Project Officer for APEX                                 |
| Dinesh Rajendran            | Research Officer (Pesticides)                            |
| Elnard Arellano             | IT Development Officer<br>(Information & Communications) |
| Ilang-Ilang Quijano         | Programme Officer<br>(Information & Communications)      |
| Marjo Busto                 | Project Coordinator<br>(Women in Agriculture)            |
| Muhamed Nazri Bin Romzi     | Finance Officer  |
| Nisha Kumaravel             | Programme Officer (Pesticides)                           |
| Terence Krishna Lopez       | Project Coordinator<br>(APEX/ Agroecology in Action)     |
| Yaneswari Govindaraj        | Administration Assistant                                 |
| Yanna Ibarra                | Programme Assistant<br>(Food Sovereignty)                |

In its 30 years of existence as an independent organisation, PANAP has situated itself in the grassroots movements in Asia and has gained strength from these linkages. This can be seen through the successes of its campaigns, training and policy advocacies that have strengthened people's movements, publicised their issues, and united various movements. The interactions with local communities have enriched the solidarity among grassroots organisations, advocacy groups and individuals.

Currently, PANAP has 109 partner groups in Asia and the Pacific region, and it outreaches to more than 400 CSOs and grassroots organisations in Asia and globally.

The empowerment of women has been a conscious effort within PANAP staff, its programmes, and its network. It has been able to systematically ensure women's involvement and integrate gender views in various projects and activities.

The organisation works within the framework of food sovereignty i.e. people's and communities' right to decision making on food and agriculture, right to land and productive resources and, the right to safe and ecologically produced food. The reduction and elimination of pesticides is still its mandate but it is also focused on other hazardous technologies.

Overall, PANAP's work continues to provide impetus to improve the lives of the marginalised communities. The organisation empowers communities for change and advance food sovereignty, ecological sustainability and gender justice.

48, Persiaran Mutiara 1  
Pusat Komersial Bandar Mutiara  
14120 Simpang Ampat, Penang.  
Tel: 04- 5022337  
Email: info@panap.net  
Homepage: <http://www.panap.net>



# OTHER PAN REGIONAL CENTRES

## **AFRICA**

PAN Africa  
B.P. 15938, Dakar-Fann, Senegal  
Tel: (221) 825 4914  
Fax: (221) 825 1443  
Email: panafrica@pan-africa.sn  
Website: www.pan-africa.sn

## **LATIN AMERICA**

Centro de Estudios sobre Tecnologías Apropriadas de la Argentina Rivadavia 4097  
P.O. Box 89 (1727), Marcos Paz  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Telefax: (54220) 4772171  
Email: javierrapal@yahoo.com.ar  
Website: www.rap-al.org

## **NORTH AMERICA**

PAN North America  
2029 University Ave, Suite 200, Berkeley CA 94704 USA  
Telephone: 510-788-9020 (country code 1)  
Email: panna@panna.org  
Website: www.panna.org

## **EUROPE**

PAN Europe (represented by PAN Germany and PAN UK)  
Email: coordinator@pan-europe.info  
Website: www.pan-europe.info

## **PAN Germany**

Nernstweg 32 D-22765 Hamburg, Germany  
Tel: (49 40) 399 1910-0  
Fax: (49 40) 390 7520  
Email: info@pan-germany.org  
Website: www.pan-germany.org

## **PAN UK**

Development House  
56-64 Leonard Street,  
London EC2A 4JX, England, UK Tel: +44 (0) 20 7065 0905  
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7065 0907  
Email: pan-uk@pan-uk.org Website: www.pan-uk.org

