



Newsletter

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APFNet joins in RESULT Asia-Pacific Framework and Contributes to Advancing Regional Restoration Goals



The launch of RESULT Asia-Pacific framework. Photo: FAO

The Soil and Water Forum 2024, held from 9 to 11 December 2024 in Bangkok, was the platform for launching the “Restoring and Sustaining Landscapes Together (RESULT) Asia-Pacific” framework. This launch marked the beginning of a coordinated regional effort to restore and sustainably manage 100 million hectares of degraded landscapes across 20 economies in Asia and the Pacific by 2030.



Mr Huang Kebiao, Director of the Policy division of the APFNet, shared APFNet's experiences.

As a RESULT partner, APFNet actively participated in the launch and the follow-up events, contributing its expertise and insights in advancing the framework's goals.

During the first RESULT Asia-Pacific Investment Forum held from 11 to 12 December 2024, APFNet shared the findings from its APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal Assessment and its field efforts in Greater Central Asia on combating desertification and restoring lands.

These insights have provided valuable experience for implementing the RESULT framework and enhancing regional collaboration.

Steering Committee of the Presidents' Forum of Forestry Universities and Institutes in the Greater Mekong Sub-region met for future operations



Group photo of the Steering Committee

On 19 November 2024, the first Steering Committee Meeting of the Presidents' Forum of Forestry Universities and Institutes in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) was held in Kunming, China. Representatives of forestry universities from Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam deliberated on future regional cooperation in higher forestry education and talent development.

The Steering Committee, as the Forum's decision-making body, reviewed and adopted the operational framework document of the Presidents' Forum. The Committee members also recapped the implementation of the cooperation projects since the First Presidents' Forum and discussed the activities of the Second Presidents' Forum to be held in 2025. Southwest Forestry University was elected as the Steering Committee chair and the host of the forum liaison office.

Initiated and established in 2023, the President's Forum has created a new platform of inter-university cooperation regarding higher forestry education in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.

APFNet with partners foster forestry talent development

In June 2024, APFNet, in partnership with Gujing Gong Lingzhi Ltd., Southwest Forestry University, and Hainan Nature Foundation, established the "APFNet- Gu Jing Gong Lingzhi Scholarship Program". The program mainly supports young forestry officials and scholars from Cambodia and Laos to pursue Master's degrees in forestry at Southwest Forestry University (SWFU), China. Six students enrolled in this fall have started their two-year campus life.



First batch of students of the "APFNet- Gu Jing Gong Lingzhi Scholarship Program"

This program is one of the achievements of the action plan of the Pu'er Forum which was initiated by APFNet in 2023, aiming to build a regional exchange platform to promote regional cooperation and facilitate the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and related processes.



Three New Projects Funded to Boost Regional Research Innovation

SANFRI launched a new 2024-2025 round of Small Research Grants and received five project proposals. Upon the technical review, three proposals were selected for funding support.



GRANTED SMALL RESEARCH PROJECTS

1
Malaysia

Mycorrhizal fungi community structure and function in *Eucalyptus* hybrid plantation forests

2
Myanmar

Research on best practices of natural bamboo forest management: enhancing sustainable utilization and local livelihoods

3
China

Assessment of multiple ecosystem services of a typical forest in Yunnan Province

SANFRI aims to leverage the collective expertise and resources of its member institutes, promoting cutting-edge research and sharing best practices across the Sino-ASEAN region through initiatives such as the Small Research Grant.

The collaborative effort is expected to yield significant insights and drive advancements in sustainable forestry management, benefiting the forest ecosystems and local communities.

These granted projects, which align with the SANFRI's goals of enhancing sustainable forest management practices and capacity building, address critical issues such as fungi community structure, natural bamboo forest management, and the socio-economic benefits of forestry.



Field Training Opens Exchanges and Cooperation among Regional Tea Farmers

From 28 to 31 October 2024, the first session of Tea Farmer Training in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) was held in Pu'er, China.

Laotian tea farmers and official representatives visited tea gardens, renowned tea enterprises, and local tea markets. This allowed them to learn more about the tea industry chain, including a variety of seed selection and source control methods, planting and processing techniques, and marketing models. They also explored cooperation opportunities with Chinese counterparts. The Lao representatives were impressed by Yunnan's tea industry development and technological standards. They noted that the field training offered them valuable technical experience that could improve their tea farming and industry development.

The field training is one of the action plan achievements of the Pu'er Forum, with aiming to promote regional technical exchanges in the area of the tea farming, deepen cooperation, and contribute to regional tea industry and rural development. The training is sponsored by APFNet and organized by Southwest Forestry University, with technical support from APFNet Kunming Center, Forestry and Grassland Administration of Pu'er City, etc. Representatives from other GMS economies will be invited in the future.



Tea farmers exchanged the experience of tea planting and picking technology



Representatives visited the largest tea market in Pu'er



Representatives experienced Chinese tea culture by writing Chinese character of "tea"



APFNet project helps improve multi-level capacities of sustainable forest management in Myanmar



Group photo of trainees

The “Integrated Forest Ecosystem Management Planning and Demonstration Project in Greater Mekong Sub-region” project in Myanmar has already shown its impact through different types of training since 2021. From June 2021-2024, 10 in-project training courses were organized for around 300 people within the following three components.

- Economic empowerment for villagers: Natural resource management, livelihood alternatives, and community development
- Mindset improvement for local leaders: Watershed management and conservation
- Skill level-up for forestry professionals: Science-based watershed planning and management

No.	Date	Topic	Trainees	Number
1	January 2024	MAKING BAMBOO GRASS BROOM	Local villagers	30
2	February 2024	BAMBOO SILVICULTURE, PRODUCTION OF PICKLED BAMBOO SHOOTS, BAMBOO SHOOTS, DRIED BAMBOO SHOOTS AND MARKET LINKAGE	Young researchers and local communities	25
3	May 2024	MAINTENANCE OF TIMBER TREES AND FRUIT TREES	Local farmers	20

Training sessions held in 2024

APFNet has funded USD 1.12 million to the project, which aims to conserve forest germplasm resources and rehabilitate forest ecological services and forest productivity through the establishment of an arboretum and implementing integrated watershed forest management to contribute to sustainable forest management in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.



Scan here for more information about the project



TRAINING PHOTO GALLERY



**Demonstrating
frame
construction
for terrace
farming**

**Lecture
for
village
leaders**



Training certificate awarding ceremony



**Training in
grass
broom
making**

**Field
practice on
bio-fencing
for soil
erosion
control**



**Training in three-dimension mapping and
map composition**



**Training in
bamboo
culm care**



**On-site demonstration of topography and soil
conditions of Taungya cultivation**

AP-FECM Monthly Webinar Series Recap



The University of British Columbia, the current host, and the Executive Office of the AP-FECM, has been organizing a series of webinars since January 2024 to engage more regional stakeholders in advancing innovation in forestry education and keeping the communication regular.

July

[The Close-to-nature Forest Management in Yunnan Province, China](#)



September

[Challenges and opportunities for the promotion of sustainability, profitability and inclusion of the forestry sector in the Peruvian Amazon](#)



October

[Prospects and Challenges for Forestry and Forestry Education in Sri Lanka](#)



November

[Philippines in the Eye of the Storm: Implications to Forestry Education and Research](#)



December

[Opportunity and Obstacle in Higher Forestry Education: Lesson learned from FRAME Project](#)

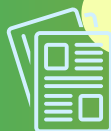


Scan here for
full list
Jan-Dec 2024



Initiated by APFNet, the Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism (AP-FECM), formerly known as the Forestry College Deans Meeting Mechanism in the Asia-Pacific Region, was proposed at the First Forestry College Deans Meeting in 2010 and formally established at the second meeting in 2011. As a regional forestry education cooperation and exchange platform, its purpose is to promote the development of forestry education in the Asia-Pacific region by strengthening cooperation and carrying out collaborative activities for promoting forest restoration and sustainable forest management in the Asia-Pacific region.

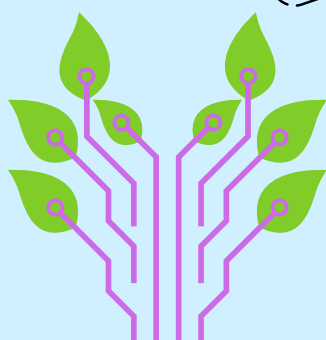
[Visit APFECM website for more information.](#)



INFORMATION SHARING

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