



ASFARNET will engage in activities that will ensure responsible farming, accelerate transfer of appropriate modern technology, and ensure community participation in these activities.



...learning new technologies through field visits and interaction with technology users and other stakeholders



...letting farmers voices be heard and listened to



...keeping an open communication line among members...The ASFARNET newsletter provides updates on agri-developments. It is electronically available at www.searca.org/~bic



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The ASFARNET held its first meeting in Bangkok, Thailand

"...that whoever could make two ears of corn, or two blades of grass, to grow on a spot of ground where one grew before, would deserve better of mankind and do more essential service to his country..."
-Jonathan Swift

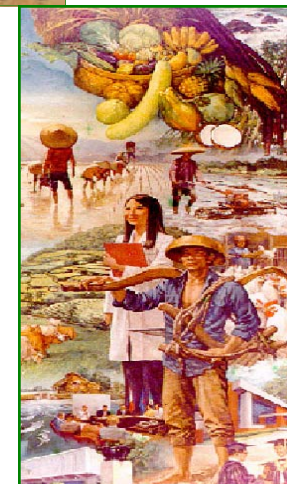


Asian Farmers Regional Network



For responsible farming and policies

toward improving the quality of farmers' lives and environment



ASFARNET: Our Beginning

The Asian Regional Farmers Network or ASFARNET was conceived by farmers from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam who participated in a capacity building workshop on "Farmer to Farmer: Sharing Experiences Related to Agricultural Biotechnology" held in Manila and Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines from December 3-6, 2003.

Through a series of interactive lectures on biotechnology, visits to field trials and actual farmers' fields planted to Bt corn, the workshop helped increase Southeast Asian farmers' awareness of the challenges facing agricultural biotechnology. It also enhanced their knowledge of policy issues, based on stakeholders' experiences with agricultural biotechnology in the Philippines and gave them opportunities to discuss farmer-level experiences with biotechnology crops. Farmers from the United States, India and the Philippines shared their experiences in planting genetically modified crops and how they have benefited from the technology.

The interaction experience rallied the participants to group themselves into a network now known as ASFARNET.



Our Mission

We will support the sharing, exchange, transfer or adoption of information, knowledge, skills and technologies in agriculture and other relevant fields of disciplines to enhance traditional farming, improve agricultural productivity, safer environment, and promote rural development.

Objectives

- To promote capacity and confidence building activities among members through sharing, exchange, transfer or adoption of relevant information, knowledge, skills and technologies;
- To work with governments, regional and international institutions, organizations, other agencies and stakeholders by:

-supporting strategic development programs and policies designed to

- (a) address the food security concerns in the region that aimed for self-reliance and promote Asian cooperation;

(b) promote biodiversity conservation;

(c) share, exchange, and sustainable use of genetic resources;

(d) promote fair trading within the Asian region and world market; and

(e) promote environment-friendly farming system;



-collaborating on scientific research, development and extension activities:

- To foster linkages with relevant institutions and stakeholders within the Asian member countries;
- To establish regional and country offices that will serve as communication centers in accessing and dissemination of ASFARNET programs and activities to farmers and organizations in the region/member countries.



Farmers should be given the right to choose what crop to plant and having alternative crop varieties is important to allow them to make the right decisions