CONVERGENCE INITIATIVE NATIONAL INCEPTION WORKSHOP THAILAND, 19-21 May 2025

Workshop Report

19 May - Workshop Day 1

I. Opening and Welcoming Remarks

At the opening of the workshop, several high-level officials delivered opening and welcoming remarks, emphasizing the importance of this event in advancing sustainable food systems and climate action in Thailand. Each official shared unique perspectives and roles from diplomatic relations, government policy, international cooperation, to technical guidance. Their messages collectively highlighted the urgent need for integrated approaches and strong collaboration to address the complex challenges facing food systems today. Below is a summary of the key notes addressed by the leaders who are championing the alignment between food systems transformation and climate actions.

- **Mr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub,** opened the workshop by emphasizing that the Convergence Initiative **aims to integrate food systems transformation with climate action.**

  He noted that Thailand is the ninth country to host this national workshop. The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub invited 17 more into the pipeline as dialogue countries. By linking national food systems pathways with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), the Convergence Initiative helps governments align strategies, foster collaboration across ministries and stakeholders – promoting coherent and high-impact national action to strengthen resilience, sustainability, and equity.

  He highlighted that meaningful and lasting transformation requires strong cooperation across all sectors, both nationally and globally. He expressed hope that the outcomes of this workshop will be translated into tangible contributions to Thailand's national development planning. This could mean integrating the Bio-Circular-Green Economy (BCG) model, the Climate Change Master Plan, the NAP, and the forthcoming NDC 3.0 in different projects – e.g. scaling climate-smart rice production, strengthening fisheries governance, supporting local food systems (aligning with national goals).

- **Ms. Michaela Friberg-Storey, UN Resident Coordinator in Thailand,** delivered opening remarks at the workshop, emphasizing that this event represents a timely and significant opportunity for Thailand to develop a shared, integrated vision for sustainable food systems, aligned with the country's 14th National Economic and Social Development Plan, which is currently being formulated.

  She highlighted the critical role of agriculture and the agrifood system in Thailand, noting that 35% of the workforce is engaged in this sector, contributing 8% of the national GDP and accounting for 17 % of the country's exports. However, the sector also faces major challenges. Approximately 8.8% of the population – over 6 million people – experience food insecurity. The dual burden of undernutrition in children alongside rising obesity rates. Growing food waste, particularly in urban centers like Bangkok, generates over 4,500 tones

daily. Total GHG emissions from the agriculture sector in 2022 shared 18 percent of the total GHG emission inventory (including energy, agriculture, industrial processes and product use (IPPU), and waste. Rice cultivation, among other agricultural activities, accounted nearly a half of the total GHG emission from the agriculture sector.

At the same time, Thailand is witnessing rising childhood obesity rates and high levels of food waste, particularly in Bangkok. She called for a holistic, people-cantered approach, and stressed the importance of strong collaboration both within the UN system and across government agencies. She cited examples of joint efforts by UN entities in Thailand, including FAO, UNEP, ESCAP, UNICEF, WHO, and UNDP, working together on issues such as nutrition, disaster preparedness, and sustainable agriculture. She concluded by stating that this workshop offers an opportunity for all stakeholders to contribute to a "blueprint for transformation" one that will drive forward food systems that are aligned with climate action, biodiversity conservation, and the well-being of people.

- **Mr. Robert Simpson, Deputy Regional Representative FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**, expressed appreciation to the Government of Thailand for its long-standing support, highlighting the nearly 50-year collaboration between FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

  He emphasized that food systems transformation is a shared responsibility, not only of FAO but of all stakeholders, covering the full spectrum from production to consumption. The transformation must address nutrition, sustainability, and food security. Thailand plays a key role in fisheries, forestry, and innovation including Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and value-added marketing through the One Country One Priority Product initiative which could serve as valuable lessons for other countries in the region.

  He underscored the urgent need to rethink our approaches, ways of working, and investment in food systems, pointing out that food systems transformation must prioritize health, nutrition, sustainability, and food security. He concluded that the Convergence Initiative will help align food systems transformation with climate action and hopes that Thailand's experience will contribute to global efforts through future UN and COP platforms.

- **H.E Mr Remco van Wijngaarden**, **Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands**, emphasized the Netherlands' unique position as a small country but a major agricultural exporter ranking second globally. He highlighted the dual challenge of climate change: agriculture significantly contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, while at the same time, climate change threatens food production. He stressed the urgent need to transform food systems to be healthier, more sustainable, and resilient, not only by changing how we produce food but also how we consume and manage it. He noted that food systems affect biodiversity, pollution, land use, and social conditions.

  He also reflected on the long-standing collaboration between Thailand and the Netherlands in agriculture and food systems and expressed readiness to further deepen this partnership by sharing lessons, technologies, and learning from Thailand's innovations.

He concluded by supporting the convergence initiative and encouraging locally driven adaptation through both simple practices like better soil and water management and advanced technologies to ensure sustainable food systems in the face of climate challenges.

- **Mr. Taworn Thunjai, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and National Convenor,** highlighting that **this event marks the beginning of Thailand's engagement in a global effort that brings together two urgent priorities: transforming agri-food systems and addressing climate change.** He emphasized that food systems both contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions and are increasingly vulnerable to climate impacts such as droughts, floods, and land degradation. Therefore, transforming food systems must be urgent, inclusive, and climate smart.

  Thailand is committed to advancing a people-cantered, climate-smart, and nature-positive food system—one that supports sustainability, improves nutrition, and empowers communities, especially smallholder farmers. The speaker stressed the importance of diverse production systems and investment in climate-smart agriculture.

  This transformation requires collaboration across government agencies, the private sector, civil society, and international partners. He underlined that aligning food system reform with national policies, food security goals, the SDGs, and the Paris Agreement is crucial, and that the Convergence Initiative provides a key opportunity to bring all efforts under one shared vision. He recognized the ongoing support from the UN system, including Rome-based agencies like FAO, and expressed confidence that collective action would lead to real progress. He concluded by wishing participants fruitful discussions and encouraged everyone to work together for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life for all.

II. Icebreaker Session

During this session, participants engaged in an interactive discussion imagining the future of food. They shared ideas about foods suitable for patients, such as easy-to-consume complete pellets designed for diabetic individuals. The conversation also included the role of AI technology in food development, as well as advancements in sustainable agriculture and cultivation methods to produce healthier and more sustainable foods for the future.

III. Introduction to the Convergence Action Blueprint (CAB)

Ms. Rathana Peou Norbert Munns, UNFS Coordination Hub, FAO

The Convergence Action Blueprint (CAB) is an initiative designed to align Thailand's climate action and food system transformation efforts. Its purpose is to review and integrate the national pathways regarding climate goals (NDCs - Nationally Determined Contributions) and food system strategies. The CAB aims to ensure that various stakeholders work collaboratively on these interlinked issues.

Objectives and Structure of CAB

Integration of Goals: The blueprint seeks to identify where climate action and food systems can converge, ensuring that targets are aligned and exploring areas that may be overlooked.

Living Document: The CAB is intended to be a living document instead of a rigid, structural framework. This means it is flexible and adaptable, allowing for continuous dialogue and improvements among stakeholders.

Four Main Components

Vision and Objectives: Establishing a unified vision for both climate and food systems.

Key Convergence Interventions: Identifying critical areas where climate actions and food systems can support each other.

Milestones: Setting clear milestones to track progress.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Developing a framework for accountability to ensure that the objectives are being met.

Importance in Climate Action and Food System Transformation

The CAB's role is crucial as it acknowledges the complexity of Thailand's agricultural and food sectors, which face numerous challenges related to climate change, resource management, and socio-economic inequalities. By fostering collaboration among existing groups and initiatives, the CAB aspires to enhance resilience, improve food security, and promote sustainable agricultural practices across Thailand.

IV. Understanding the national context

Thailand National Food Systems Pathway: Reflections and Actions after the UN Food Systems Summit 2021

Ms. Wannika Wutthi, Group of International Organization Cooperation, Bureau of Foreign Agricultural Affairs, Office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

Following the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, Thailand has aligned its national vision of “Stability, Prosperity, and Sustainability” and the BCG Economy Model with the UNFSS pathways. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives appointed a National Convener and has coordinated with various sectors through over 20 national dialogues to advance sustainable food systems.

Thailand localized the UNFSS Five Action Tracks into a national framework and integrated them into strategic plans, including the National Food Management Action Plan and the Thai Health Food Strategy (2025), supporting SDGs 2 and 12.

Key government agencies have signed an MoU to ensure coordinated action, while partnerships with FAO, civil society (such as the Sustainable Agriculture Foundation), and the private sector (via Global Compact Network Thailand) have supported implementation at all levels.

Research institutions like ARDA have funded studies to inform food system policies, and initiatives under the Thailand–FAO framework are tackling food loss, nutrition, and system transformation.

Thailand presented its progress at the UNFSS+2 in 2023 and is currently preparing its position for the UNFSS+4 meeting in Ethiopia in July 2025. Stakeholders are invited to contribute ideas to support the development of Thailand’s official position.

Assessment of Agrifood Systems in Thailand

Ms. Meeta Punjabi Mehta, FAO-RAP

This study is a collaborative effort between Kasetsart University, the National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC), the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), and King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT). Its objective is to assess the performance of Thailand's agrifood system in a systematic and evidence-based manner, employing a systems approach that covers the entire food value chain—from production, processing, and distribution to consumption and waste management.

Key Highlights of the Study Include

1. Rationale for the Study

Despite the existence of numerous food system-related initiatives, this study aims to complement ongoing efforts by providing a structured, evidence-based analysis. The goal is to identify strategic entry points for action and inform the development of a national vision for the food system.

2. Emerging Trends and Challenges

While Thailand has a strong agricultural economy and export capacity, several pressing challenges remain. These include low dietary diversity, increasing food loss and waste, rising Westernized dietary patterns, natural resource degradation (soil and water), climate change impacts, and socio-economic inequality.

3. Data and Indicators Used

The study gathers data across key dimensions of sustainability: food and nutrition security, livelihoods and farmer incomes, natural resources and environmental health, as well as equity and access to opportunities.

4. Systemic Challenges Identified

The challenges are interconnected rather than isolated. For example, natural resource degradation negatively affects agricultural productivity and competitiveness, which in turn influences nutrition and income levels. These issues form a feedback loop that requires a holistic and integrated approach to address.

5. Pathways for the Future

The study outlines preliminary policy recommendations, emphasizing sustainable resource management, the promotion of climate-smart agriculture, and the establishment of a shared national vision for the food system. This vision should include clearly defined goals and indicators to support systematic monitoring and evaluation.

UN System's Climate Promise 2025

Mr. Krib Sitathani, UNDP

1. Context of the Climate Promise

The Climate Promise is an initiative launched by the UN Secretary-General in February, mobilizing cooperation from UN agencies worldwide to support developing countries in preparing their third Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) ahead of the upcoming COP30. The main goal is to maintain ambition to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C, even though the current global aggregate of second NDCs is projected to lead to around 2.5°C warming.

2. Pillars of the Climate Promise

The initiative is built on three main pillars: Ambition, which focuses on raising targets for greenhouse gas reduction and building a sustainable future; Acceleration, emphasizing the design of projects and investments to address climate change rapidly; and Inclusivity, which stresses the principle of leaving no one behind by promoting broad participation across society.

3. Progress in the Asia-Pacific Region

In the Asia-Pacific, 10 countries have officially joined the initiative, and discussions are ongoing with another 11 countries. Thailand benefits from support by multiple development partners including GIZ, GGGI, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its NDC formulation and implementation.

4. UNDP's Role in the Climate Promise (Thailand Case)

UNDP plays a key role in Thailand by supporting data analysis and enhancement linked to ITCU guidelines[1] and lessons learned from PTRS reviews[2]. It also collaborates on integrating the Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF) sector to assess carbon sequestration potential. Additionally, UNDP strengthens government officials' capacities through training and workshops focusing on linking NDCs with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and analyzing NDC contributions to achieving the SDGs.

5. Cooperation in the SCALA Project (UNDP and FAO)

SCALA is a global collaboration between UNDP and FAO aimed at supporting countries to integrate mitigation and adaptation efforts in the agriculture and forestry sectors. The project covers 12 countries worldwide, including Thailand, and focuses on three main areas: building an evidence base, strengthening governance mechanisms, and promoting private sector engagement and investment.

Current financial landscape and gaps and opportunities for synergetic interventions and investments

Ms. Napaporn Yuberk, FAO-RAP

1. Global Climate Finance Situation

Globally, the gap in climate finance remains significant, especially in Agriculture, Forest, Other Land Uses (AFOLU) and waste sectors. According to the Climate Policy Initiative, adaptation finance continues to lag. Despite more than doubling between 2018 and 2022, annual flows are currently at just one-third of the volume required until 2030 in Emerging Market and Developing Economy alone (IMF, 2023)[3]. In 2022, 19% (USD 14.5 billion) of adaptation finance went to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and 2% (USD 1.5 billion) went to Small Island Developing States (SIDS). In 2022, USD 29 billion, or 23 % of climate-related development finance was allocated to agrifood systems. This represents a recovery from the significant decline seen in 2020–2021, bringing the share of contributions back to the same level as in 2019–2020[4].

[1] ITCU guideline
[2] Aligning NDC and Transparency Processes - NDC 3.0 Navigator
[3] Thailand is classified as an Emerging Market and Developing Economy (EMDE).
[4] FAO, Climate-related development finance to agrifood systems, 2024

2. Thailand's Climate Finance Situation and Challenges

According to the Parliament of Thailand, the average annual budget allocation for climate actions between 2019 and 2022 was approximately THB 1,200 million—equivalent to just 0.04% of the total fiscal budget. The primary recipients of this funding included the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, and the Ministry of Transport[5]. However, a significant portion of the allocated budget remained underutilized due to delays in investment implementation.

Thailand remains open to receiving financial and technical assistance from international development partners to address key challenges—particularly in enhancing and maintaining carbon sinks as part of its long-term mitigation goals.

3. Investment Gap in Agriculture and Food Security Sectors

Although agriculture and natural resources are critical to ensuring food security, these sectors continue to receive comparatively lower levels of financial support than others. Several key challenges hinder their access to climate finance, including:

- Limited availability of cost-benefit analyses for adaptation investments
- Unclear definitions and scopes of eligible investments
- Insufficient local capacity, particularly at the sub-national level

These barriers make it difficult for agriculture and food security sectors to effectively mobilize and access the climate finance needed to build resilience and drive sustainable transformation.

4. Thailand's Climate Finance Strategy: Conceptual Framework 2030 (CFS)

According to the Department of Climate Change and Environment, Thailand's Climate Finance Structure (CFS) is built around five key elements essential for the effective mobilization and allocation of financial resources for climate change mitigation and adaptation[6]:

Public finance: Integrates climate aspects into national planning, budgeting, and revenue frameworks, using mechanisms such as green bonds and climate funds.
Enabling operating environment: Focuses on creating supportive policy and regulatory frameworks for climate projects, encompassing capacity building and institutional strengthening.
Financial and Economic Instruments: Constructs financial tools and mechanisms, such as blended funds, facilities, carbon and tax incentives, to encourage climate-friendly activities.
Private sector engagement: Unlocks private sector financing for climate projects through proven mechanisms, e.g., public-private partnerships.
Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting: Establishes robust systems for tracking the effectiveness of climate finance interventions, with a focus on transparency, accountability, and measurability.

[5] The Parliament, 2023

[6] Thailand's Climate Finance Strategy: Conceptual Framework 2030, DCCE 2024

Thailand's ambitious NDC 2030 targets, with an estimated THB 5,000 billion (USD 145 billion) needed for the unconditional target and THB 7,000 million (USD 202 billion) for the conditional target.

5. Sources of Climate Finance

Thailand's climate finance sources include government budgets, environmental and energy conservation funds, investment promotion incentives from the Board of Investment (BOI), and loans from domestic financial institutions. International funds such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Adaptation Fund (AF) are also accessed. Thailand successfully accesses climate finance from the UN system (e.g., GEF and GCF) as well as bi-lateral government partners (e.g., Netherland, Germany, Sweden, UK, South Korea, Japan). For example, two projects funded by the GCF, entitled "Enhancing climate resilience in Thailand through effective water management and sustainable agriculture" and "Thai Rice: Strengthening climate-smart rice farming" are running in many provinces.

6. Integrating Food Systems into Climate Action

She concluded the strategy for integrating food systems into climate action. The upcoming 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30), to be held in Brazil in late 2025, presents a strategic opportunity for stakeholders in Thailand's food system to reinforce the Convergence Action Blueprint as part of the country's COP preparation efforts. The four key thematic areas:

1. Technological Transformation and Smart Farming
2. Agroecological Transformation and Climate Resilience
3. Circular Food Systems and Supply Chain Transformation
4. Evolving Policy Landscape and International Collaboration

In addition, the UNFSS+4 Summit in July 2025 offers a timely platform to foster open dialogue and strengthen coordination mechanisms between food systems and climate action stakeholders.

At the regional level, ASEAN cooperation on convergence initiatives positions Thailand to take a leading role in shaping the emerging ASEAN Vision for Food Systems and Climate Action.

To ensure accountability and track progress, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting for the Convergence Action Blueprint should be aligned with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP)'s M&E framework and integrated into the eMENSCR platform (accessible at emenscr.nesdc.go.th).

V. Convergence Action Blueprint - Pillar 1: Convergence vision and objectives

Ms. Rathana Peou Norbert Munns introduced the Visioning Exercise, aimed at enabling participants to collaboratively envision the future of Thailand in the context of integrating climate action and food systems. The session began with small group discussions at each table to identify key Drivers of Change.

Key "Drivers of Change" proposed by participants included:

- Changes in household and population income levels
- Public investment in agriculture and infrastructure
- Urbanization and its impacts on agricultural areas

- Evolving market systems and market mechanisms
- Biodiversity and ecosystem considerations
- The role of universities and academic institutions
- Regional context and dynamics, such as cooperation or competition with neighbouring countries
- Geopolitical factors influencing national and regional directions
- Demographic shifts, such as an ageing farming population
- Migration patterns and rural-to-urban movement
- Shifting investment priorities of both public and private sectors

VI. Initiative Spotlight

Thailand's Climate Change Action Plan for the Agricultural Sector 2023 - 2027 Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

Ms. Sureewan Bangwan, OAE

Ms. Sureewan Bangwan provided an overview of Thailand's Climate Change Action Plan for the Agricultural Sector 2023–2027 (CCAPA), developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC). The Plan aims to strengthen the agricultural sector's resilience to climate change while contributing to national emission reduction targets. It focuses on five strategic missions:

1. **Enhancing climate change adaptation** in agriculture.
2. **Contributing to greenhouse gas mitigation** efforts.
3. **Developing data, research, and climate-related knowledge** to inform decisions.
4. **Building human resource capacity** within the agricultural sector.
5. **Creating an enabling ecosystem** for effective climate action.

The Plan also outlines **eight key performance indicators**, such as: Reduction of agricultural losses and damages, decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, expansion of the agricultural carbon market, Increase in climate-related research and knowledge, establishment of a national tracking and evaluation system.

Implementation is guided by a steering mechanism, including a sub-committee and two technical working groups. The Plan is aligned with national climate strategies, aiming to reduce agricultural sector emissions by **5 million tons CO_2e by 2030**, and to contribute to Thailand's goals of carbon neutrality by 2050 and net zero emissions by 2065.

Examples of on-ground adaptation activities include i) Strengthening **agricultural learning centres**, ii) Promoting **climate-smart crop planning** outside irrigation areas, iii) Expanding **crop insurance schemes**, and iv) Supporting **environmentally friendly farming practices**.

SCALA Thailand – spotlight

Mr. Janek Toepper

Mr. Janek Toepper presented the SCALA programme, a joint FAO–UNDP initiative responding to the urgency of climate action in agri-food systems. Despite strong political ambition, implementation

progress remains slow due to key barriers: information asymmetry, institutional capacity gaps, and limited finance mobilization.

To address these, SCALA focuses on:

1. Strengthening evidence and systems-based assessments

2. Enhancing policy and planning mechanisms for climate integration

3. Promoting private sector investment and innovative finance

In Thailand, SCALA developed the Climate Action Review Tool to assess NDC and NAP measures based on transformative potential. Thailand's agriculture sector aims to reduce 5 $MtCO_2e$ by 2030 via livestock waste management, fertilizer reduction, and AWD rice practices.

The programme also conducted system analysis of the integrated maize-livestock value chain to identify risks and opportunities for resilience and mitigation, in partnership with national research institutes.

SCALA supported the **Climate Change Action Plan for the Agricultural Sector (CCAPA)** and the development of a national tracking system to monitor implementation and inform transparency reports. Future priorities include private sector engagement in maize value chains, gender inclusion, and alignment with NDC 3.0 and biodiversity strategies.

INFER Thailand Multidimensional risk assessment for food systems

Ms. Yi-Ann Chen, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Ms. Yi-Ann Chen from ESCAP highlighted the strategic purpose and long-term vision behind the development of the INFER platform. She clarified that the primary aim of this tool is to support national policy processes by providing a comprehensive framework for risk-informed planning. Rather than focusing solely on climate hazards or exposure data. INFER is designed to bring together diverse datasets—spanning hazards, vulnerabilities, and adaptive capacity—into one coherent system. This integrated approach enables more holistic risk assessment and better prioritization of public investment, particularly at the subnational level.

She emphasized that one of the core values of the INFER is its ability to uncover existing data gaps that impede evidence-based decision-making. The process of building and populating INFER has revealed inconsistencies and limitations in current national datasets. For example, while some indicators—particularly those sourced from the National Statistical Office (NSO)—are relatively recent, others such as land degradation still rely on data from as far back as 2019. Similarly, nutrition-related indicators remain sparse or outdated. Addressing these data limitations is critical to the effectiveness of the platform.

In terms of sustainability, she noted that the long-term plan is for the platform to be fully handed over to the Thai government. It is an opportunity to discuss with national institutions, particularly the Department of Climate Change and Environment (DCCE), which may potentially assume the lead role in managing and updating the platform. The vision is for national agencies to gradually take

ownership of data inputs, so that the platform remains current and responsive to Thailand's evolving development priorities.

She concluded by underscoring the platform's role not only as a technical tool, but also as a coordination mechanism—fostering cross-sectoral dialogue and collaboration, which are essential for comprehensive risk management in the face of converging challenges such as climate change, food insecurity, and social vulnerability.

Mr. Wittawat Bunnasarn, Disaster Risk Reduction Solutions Developer from the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) of the United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR)

Mr. Wittawat Bunnasarn from UNOSAT presented an ongoing collaboration between UNOSAT, ESCAP, and the INFER platform to develop a subnational food and climate risk assessment system for Thailand, expected to be officially launched around October 2025.

INFER moves beyond hazard-based mapping by assessing food system risks across three interlinked dimensions: hazard and exposure, vulnerability, and adaptive capacity. Drawing on national and provincial data across ministries and sectors, the model integrates climate indicators (e.g. drought frequency, flood exposure, extreme temperatures), socioeconomic and health-related vulnerabilities (e.g. poverty, nutrition outcomes, demographic pressures), and measures of resilience and response capacity (e.g. irrigation, land tenure, health infrastructure, and market access).

Q&A Highlights:

- **Dr. Woranuch Emmanoch from the Land Development Department** inquired about access to the tools, data, and knowledge generated under the SCALA programme, with the intention of applying them to the department's work.
  Mr. Janek Toepper, representing the SCALA programme, responded that the programme's outputs, including reports and tools, are publicly available on the official SCALA website. A link to the site will be shared as part of the workshop materials. He also noted that the programme is actively exploring opportunities for deeper collaboration with the Land Development Department going forward.
- **The representative from the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS)** suggested that the SCALA programme should be further expanded beyond the agricultural production level to encompass the broader food system, with a particular focus on the industry and consumer levels. Currently, the programme mainly focuses on agriculture. It was also recommended that the Foreign Agricultural Affairs Office, under the Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, consider developing a programme similar to SCALA. This would help provide a more systemic and integrated perspective on the country's overall economy.
- **Ms. Woranuch Ongkarojrit, representative from the Land Use Policy and Planning Division, Risk-Prone Areas Group, Land Development Department,** expressed interest in the INFER Thailand platform and inquired about how frequently the data is updated.
  Ms. Yi-Ann Chen, representative from ESCAP, clarified that the primary objective of the tool is to support policy processes in Thailand. Ultimately, the intention is to transfer the platform to the Thai government for long-term ownership and use. She noted that there are ongoing discussions about possible collaboration with the Department of Climate Change and Environment which could take the lead in updating the data moving forward.

Mr. Wittawat Bunnasarn, representative from UNOSAT, further explained that the indicators used in the platform are drawn from a variety of sources, with the National Statistical Office (NSO) being a major contributor. The data varies in recent years; some indicators are based on recent information, while others, such as those on land degradation, rely on data from 2019. In some areas, such as nutrition, data remains limited. He added that the platform also plays a key role in identifying data gaps, which is essential for improving evidence-based policy planning. There are plans to allow other relevant national agencies to contribute to the data updates on the platform in the future.

VII. Convergence Action Blueprint - Pillar 1: Framing the desired pathway

Shaping Thailand's Future Vision for Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems

Following the presentation of Drivers of Change by each group during the Visioning Exercise, the next step focused on identifying the "Key Characteristics" of a desired Future Vision, articulated in the form of adjectives. These characteristics were organized into three levels: Midterm Vision, Long-term Vision, and Development Goals, as summarized below:

1. Midterm Vision (4–5 Years)

Reflecting actionable and tangible changes that can be realistically achieved within the short to medium term:

- Adaptive – Able to adjust (e.g., through market mechanisms)
- Smart – Intelligent and technology-enabled
- Tailored – Context-specific and responsive to local needs
- Constructive – Positive and solution-oriented
- Supportive – Enabling and facilitative environment

2. Long-term Vision (20 Years)

Focusing on ambitious and sustainable outcomes that represent Thailand's long-term aspirations for its agrifood systems:

- Supportive – Enabling long-term transformation
- Inclusive – Equitable and leaving no one behind
- Climate-smart – Responsive and adaptive to climate change
- Nourishing – Promoting health and well-being
- Thriving – Flourishing, resilient, and sustainable development

3. Development Goals (Strategic Action Areas):

To move from vision to implementation, the following objectives were proposed:

- Build an adaptive foundation
- Ensure inclusiveness
- Strengthen resilience
- Promote climate-smart practices
- Apply integrated approaches
- Focus on actionable solutions
- Empower community-driven action

4. Vision Headlines (Under 10 Words):

Each group developed a concise communication message or “headline” to capture the essence of their future vision. These include:

- In 2050, Thailand strengthens climate-smart practice in sustainable agrifood systems for mankind’s existence
- Achieve regenerative sustainable food systems with practical actions and collaboration
- Strengthen resilience and sustainable food systems with committed, integrated and actionable solutions for climate change by 2050
- Strengthening cooperation framework on sustainable agricultural food systems and climate resilience at regional level
- Empowering communities to drive resilient and sustainable food systems
- By 2050, Thailand will enjoy transformative agricultural products that provide healthy and affordable food for all
- Thailand becomes a hub for sustainable agrifood systems that are climate-resilient, powered by smart eco-friendly innovation, ensuring food security and equitable income for all

5. Consolidated Vision Statement:

By 2050, Thailand will lead climate-smart, regenerative agrifood systems powered by eco-friendly innovation. Through committed collaboration and integrated solutions across the **value chain**, Thailand will build resilient food systems that ensure nutritional security, equitable prosperity for farmers, and environmental sustainability—transforming challenges into opportunities while empowering communities as stewards of our shared climate future.

VIII. Convergence Action Blueprint - Pillar 1: Identifying game changers

In advancing the Convergence Action Blueprint, particularly Pillar 1 which focuses on identifying key game changers, it is essential to review and reflect on the progress and effectiveness of national and provincial initiatives. This review aims to assess whether current approaches are sufficient, appropriately scaled, and timely for the vision-building exercise. Furthermore, it is necessary to examine the level of collaboration whether it is effective or if there are weaknesses to address and to identify any resistance, challenges, and gaps that remain. These insights will guide the formulation of strategies and measures to strengthen integration and achieve the convergence goals in climate action and food security and sustainable transformation (FST) in Thailand.

The key game changers identified by representatives from various sectors include:

- **High-Level Political Commitment:** Securing sustained ministerial-level support and cross-sectoral policy alignment to prioritize food-climate convergence within national development strategies.
- **Precision Agriculture Transition:** Scaling up data-driven, resource-efficient farming systems that optimize inputs while maximizing productivity and reducing environmental impacts.
- **Digital Innovation Ecosystem:** Establishing supportive regulatory frameworks and incentives for climate-smart agricultural technologies, including automation, remote sensing, and AI-powered solutions.
- **Carbon Finance Mechanisms:** Developing robust agricultural carbon accounting systems with incentives that reward sustainable practices while ensuring equitable benefit distribution to smallholders.

- **Agri-food Policy Reform:** Redesigning subsidy structures and market regulations to prioritize climate resilience and sustainability across the entire food value chain.
- **Bio-Circular-Green Economy Integration:** Accelerating the transition to regenerative systems that minimize waste, enhance resource efficiency, and create new value streams through circular approaches.
- **Agroecological Scale-up:** Supporting landscape-level implementation of diversified farming systems that harness ecological processes to build climate resilience while protecting biodiversity.

20 May - Workshop Day 2

Recap of Day 1 and Reflections

Ms. Napaporn Yuberk summarized the discussions from Day 1 of the meeting. She highlighted that senior leader from the UN system and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives emphasized the importance of strong political support to drive sustainable management of agriculture and food systems. The focus is on precision farming and the development of digital innovation ecosystems within the agricultural sector.

Key policies include reforming food and agriculture policies, integrating the circular bioeconomy, and promoting agroecology to reduce environmental impacts. There is also a target to reduce agricultural burning by 95% by 2030.

Thailand's vision for 2050 aims to become a leader in smart and sustainable agriculture, building resilient, equitable, and environmentally friendly food systems.

Critical factors driving the transformation of food and agriculture systems include political support, precision agriculture technologies, digital innovation, carbon finance mechanisms, policy reforms, and the expansion of agroecological practices.

IX. Initiatives Spotlight

Existing Stakeholder Initiatives and Program Outcomes Regarding Agrifood Systems and NDCs

Mr. Krib Sitathani, UNDP

NDC Partnership Support to Agriculture and Food Systems

Key Areas of Support:

- **Capacity Building:** Strengthening local institutions to implement climate strategies.
- **Finance Facilitation:** Helping mobilize climate finance from domestic and international sources.
- **Sector-Specific Support:** Assisting sectors like agriculture and forestry to align with NDCs.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Improving tracking systems for climate progress.
- **Project Development:** Supporting proposal preparation for funders like GCF and the World Bank.

Addressing Data & Coordination Challenges:

- Promoting **data-sharing** across agencies to avoid silos.

- Engaging stakeholders in data processes to improve relevance.
- Building technical capacity for **robust data systems** and project formulation.

Examples of Agriculture-Focused Support:

- **Philippines:** Investment project for smallholder farmers.
- **Global:** Approximately 990 support requests have focused on agriculture, with one-third specifically related to food systems.
- **Early Warning Systems:** Monitoring livestock diseases to enhance food security.
- **Renewables & Training:** Solar energy systems and farmer capacity-building.
- **Chile:** Integrating cross-sectoral climate goals in agriculture.

Ms. Yuqing Yu, UNFCCC RCC Asia Pacific

Ms. Yuqing Yu, UNFCCC RCC Asia Pacific, expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to share key findings from a recent study jointly conducted by the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and other experts. The study, completed last year, focuses on assessing investment opportunities in the agrifood systems sector through carbon markets, particularly under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

Ms. Yuqing emphasized that Thailand has a strong track record in carbon markets, particularly under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCM). Over 70 projects in Thailand's agriculture and food sector have benefited from such mechanisms, notably in areas such as biomass-to-energy, wastewater treatment in food processing facilities, and biogas utilization from livestock manure.

She noted that Article 6 differs significantly from CDM, with its threefold objective to enhance NDC implementation, promote sustainable development, and ensure environmental integrity. For countries intending to authorize the transfer of carbon credits, careful consideration is required—particularly in prioritizing high-cost abatement opportunities for international cooperation, while reserving low-cost options for domestic NDC achievement.

The FAO study identified the agrifood sector in Thailand as having strong potential under Article 6, with opportunities classified into three main categories:

- **Reduction:** Such as alternate wetting and drying (AWD) in rice cultivation and advanced biogas technologies, including co-fermentation of chicken manure with agricultural residues or food waste.
- **Removal:** Including agroforestry, biochar, soil carbon sequestration, and bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (CCS).
- **Adaptation with mitigation co-benefits:** Such as agri-weather advisories.

Ms. Yuqing recommended that Thailand consider technologies and geographic areas not yet covered by existing initiatives (e.g., Thai Rice NAMA and GCF-funded projects) in order to meet the "additionality" requirement under Article 6.

She further pointed out that many of these identified technologies are already aligned with Thailand's current policies and commitments, including its conditional NDC and long-term low-emission development strategies (LT-LEDS)—for example, manure management is featured in both.

While the agrifood sector is not yet a major player in Article 6 implementation globally, Thailand is already taking early steps. This includes submitting a project-related intention under Article 6.4 involving biomass, as well as transitioning 42 legacy CDM projects into the new Article 6.4 mechanism.

In closing, Ms. Yu underscored the importance of enhancing readiness and building institutional capacity to enable Thailand to fully and sustainably benefit from carbon markets under Article 6.

Mr. Jonathan Gilman, UNEP

Mr. Jonathan, representing UNEP and the UN team working in Lao PDR, highlighted the upcoming Convergence Initiative in Lao and the intention to learn from Thailand's experience, especially related to the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in agriculture.

- **Agriculture in Thailand's NDC**
  Agriculture plays a significant role in Thailand's NDC both for adaptation (integrated water management, climate-resilient agriculture) and mitigation, accounting for about 15% of national emissions. Approximately half of these emissions come from rice production, making it a key focus area for UNEP.
- **Key Initiatives**
  1. **Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP)**
     A multi-stakeholder initiative supported by UNEP, working with over 150 million smallholder rice farmers worldwide. The platform has demonstrated benefits including up to 20% water savings, 10–15% income increases for farmers, and up to 50% reduction in methane emissions.
  2. **GEF-Funded Project**
     UNEP recently secured financing from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to scale up sustainable rice production in Thailand over the next five years.
  3. **Rice Methane Carbon Offset Project**
     In collaboration with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, UNEP is developing a project to reduce methane emissions in the rice sector and explore carbon offset financing mechanisms.
  4. **TEEB Agrifood Initiative**
     UNEP supports the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Agriculture and Food (TEEB Agrifood) in Thailand, working with government and Khon Kaen University. Economic analyses showed that organic farming yields have not significantly declined over the past 15 years, countering common misconceptions and highlighting the opportunity for Thailand to lead in sustainable organic agriculture.
- **Challenges and Opportunities**
  While many pilot projects show promising results, scaling up remains challenging primarily due to financing gaps. UNEP promotes mechanisms to improve access to finance for small-scale entrepreneurs through tools like the Restoration Explorer, connecting local communities to business opportunities, mentors, and investors.
- **Integration and Collaboration**
  UNEP stresses the need to link climate action, biodiversity, and food system goals. The Convergence Initiative aims to strengthen collaboration among different environmental agreements and sectors, with ongoing partnerships in Thailand, Lao PDR, and Indonesia to align efforts under the global biodiversity framework targets.

Mr. Poomlert Lertworawit, Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC)

The Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) provides various forms of support to help farmers adapt to climate change, including:

1. **Sustainable Agriculture Loans:** BAAC promotes climate-smart agriculture by offering low-interest loans to encourage farmers to adopt environmentally friendly and sustainable farming practices.
2. **Water Management:** The bank supports farmers in developing small-scale water sources on their farms to ensure more sustainable production. It also promotes water-saving techniques, which have been shown to reduce water use by up to 35%.
3. **Training and Capacity Building:** BAAC organizes training programs to equip farmers with knowledge on sustainable agricultural practices, including production planning and climate-resilient farming techniques.
4. **Crop Insurance:** In collaboration with government agencies, BAAC provides crop insurance services to help farmers secure their income in the event of natural disasters.

These forms of support aim to enhance farmers' adaptive capacity and improve productivity under increasingly variable climate conditions.

Steps for Smallholder Farmers to Access BAAC Loan Programs

1. **Participation in Training:** Farmers are required to attend training sessions organized by BAAC or relevant agencies to build knowledge on agriculture and financial management.
2. **Screening Process:** After completing the training, farmers undergo a screening process conducted by relevant agencies such as the Department of Agricultural Extension, to assess eligibility and capacity to implement the proposed activities.
3. **Loan Application:** Farmers who pass the screening process can apply for loans with preferential interest rates, which are lower than regular loan rates.

Collaboration with government agencies plays a crucial role in strengthening farmers' production capacity while promoting environmental sustainability.

Q&A Highlights:

- A participant raised the issue of challenges related to scaling up successful climate-smart agricultural initiatives, particularly in organic agriculture where there is a common perception of lower yields. They inquired about opportunities and barriers to expanding these practices from pilot projects to larger-scale adoption. **Mr. Jonathan highlighted** that the approach to scaling up involves promoting positive results from pilot projects, engaging policymakers and stakeholders to generate interest and support. However, a major barrier is financing, with a significant global funding gap estimated to reach over $4 trillion by 2050 for land use investments, while current investments remain limited and mostly public. To address this, UNEP is working to improve access to finance for small-scale entrepreneurs through initiatives like the Restoration Explorer, an online tool that helps communities identify nature-based business opportunities and connects entrepreneurs with mentors and investors. Jonathan also emphasized the importance of strengthening linkages between multilateral environmental agreements and food systems, noting ongoing efforts to align climate, biodiversity, and agricultural objectives in the region through the Convergence Initiative and related partnerships with Laos and Indonesia.

- A participant raised a question regarding the conditions and benefits of the special loan provided by the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) for farmers participating in climate mitigation programs. In response**, Mr. Poomlert Lertworawit explained** that this special loan aims to encourage farmers to transition toward environmentally friendly farming practices and to better adapt to the impacts of climate change. **In terms of conditions,** eligible farmers must undergo training related to sustainable agriculture and demonstrate that their farming practices align with climate change mitigation or adaptation objectives. These requirements ensure that financial support is used effectively and contributes to long-term ecological resilience in the agricultural sector.
  Regarding benefits, participating farmers gain access to loans with lower-than-standard interest rates. In addition, they may receive support from international organizations that promote sustainable agriculture, including technology transfer and technical assistance. Upon meeting specific targets, farmers are also eligible for additional financial incentives such as a support grant of up to THB 1,600 per rai for practices that contribute to environmental conservation. These measures help reduce production costs for farmers while providing motivation to adopt sustainable approaches. More broadly, they reinforce the important role that agriculture can play in addressing climate change through practical and inclusive financial mechanisms.

X. Convergence Action Blueprint - Pillar 2: Key Convergences Intervention

This session was a key part of developing the "Convergence Action Blueprint" under Pillar 2, focusing on the guiding question: *"How do we get there?"* Through a participatory workshop format, participants worked together to group, prioritize, and sequence strategic interventions that are actionable and impactful.

The session began with a plenary review of the five strategic areas.:

1. Community-led resilience
2. Food loss and waste reduction
3. Climate-smart agriculture systems
4. Inclusive Food Systems Governance
5. Circular innovation ecosystems

Participants then self-selected into groups based on their interest or expertise and engaged in collaborative work to:

- Cluster and refine strategic objectives
- Prioritize high-impact interventions
- Sequence actions for practical implementation
- Link interventions to relevant "Game Changers," such as high-level political commitment and innovative financial mechanisms

This session marked a critical step in transforming the shared vision and strategic objectives into a concrete and actionable roadmap that can be advanced across both local and policy levels.

Based on the group brainstorming sessions, the key convergence interventions across the five strategic areas can be summarized as follows

Strategic Area 1: Community-Led Resilience Empowering communities to lead adaptation is key to sustainability. Participants stressed the need for locally driven plans, supported by resources and inclusive collaboration across sectors to co-create solutions.	**Key Interventions:** 1. **Develop Community Level Food System Databases** Establish localized databases to monitor and manage key food system components, including food banks, emergency stockpiles, and food loss and waste tracking across the agri-food value chain. 2. **Launch of climate-linked financing mechanisms for community food enterprises** Introduce innovative financing solutions—such as climate-resilient funds—with institutions like the DCCE serving as focal points to facilitate access for local food enterprises and cooperatives. 3. **Localize and Enhance Accessibility of Early Warning Systems and Adaptive Calendars** Deploy user-friendly, community-based early warning systems and adaptive agricultural calendars that address multi-hazard risks, including droughts, floods, and pest outbreaks. 4. **Conduct Reskilling Assessments and Tailored Capacity Building** Implement localised assessments to identify skill gaps and deliver targeted training programmes that align with specific climate risks and the evolving needs of communities. 5. **Promote Behavioral Change for Climate-Smart Consumption and Production** Design and implement behavioral change interventions that encourage sustainable consumption patterns and climate-resilient production practices at the household and community levels.
Strategic Area 2: Food Loss and Waste Reduction Food recovery and the reduction of food loss and waste (FLW) have been identified as national priorities. To drive coordinated action across ministries and sectors, the establishment of a National Food Recovery Commission with a five-year mandate has been proposed.	**Key interventions:** **Reducing Food Loss** 1. Improve Harvesting Techniques and Technologies ● Promote the use of climate-resilient crop varieties ● Introduce modern harvesting equipment and tools ● Provide farmer education and training on optimal harvesting practices 2. Enhance Post-Harvest Infrastructure ● Expand access to cold storage facilities ● Invest in drying technologies and improved packaging solutions ● Strengthen transportation systems to reduce spoilage

	3. Promote Processing and Preservation Solutions ● Encourage consumer acceptance of imperfect or “ugly” produce ● Support local processing initiatives to extend shelf life and reduce waste 4. Strengthen Supply Chain Integration ● Localize supply chains through shared knowledge platforms and resource mapping ● Foster collaboration among producers, processors, and distributors **Reducing Food Waste** 1. Improve Retail and Distribution Systems ● Expand food bank networks and donation systems ● Implement food-waste coding and tracking mechanisms 2. Raise Consumer Awareness and Education ● Promote responsible shopping habits through tools like shopping planners ● Conduct surveys to understand consumer behavior and tailor interventions ● Educate on the health and environmental impacts of food waste ● Encourage innovative cooking and eating practices to reduce waste ● Address food safety concerns to reduce unnecessary disposal 3. Leverage Technology and Innovation ● Support startups focused on food waste reduction ● Develop digital platforms and apps for waste tracking and redistribution 4. Foster Collaborative Actions ● Engage municipalities, provinces, businesses, NGOs, and religious institutions (e.g., temples) in joint food waste initiatives ● Promote community composting and urban waste separation through clear regulations and incentives 5. Promoting Policy Coherence in Food Waste Management and Climate Action ● Strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration among relevant ministries to align food waste management with climate action goals. ● Develop robust, interoperable data systems to track and quantify food loss and waste across the value chain. ● Create inclusive platforms that bring together government agencies, private sector actors, civil society,

	and academia to identify FLW hotspots and co-develop targeted, evidence-based solutions.
Strategic Area 3: Climate-Smart Agricultural Systems There is a critical need to integrate and enhance existing knowledge management systems to effectively support climate-smart agriculture (CSA).	**Key interventions:** **1. Enhance Knowledge Management for an Integrated Food System and Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)** ● Strengthen the effectiveness of knowledge management by developing a centralized, AI-powered web portal to curate, manage, and disseminate information on climate-smart agriculture (CSA). This platform will consolidate and link existing resources from key institutions such as T-Plat, the National Hydro informatics and Climate Data Centre, and the Climate Change and Environmental Centre. ● Develop Thematic Knowledge Areas to Support Climate Resilience: Curate and expand knowledge content across critical subject areas, including: ● Food and nutrition security ● Food loss and waste management ● Climate risk reduction strategies ● Gender-responsive approaches in climate action **2. Develop an Incentive Payment System to Promote Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)** ● Design and implement an incentive-based payment scheme to encourage smallholder farmers to transition from traditional farming practices to climate-smart agriculture (CSA) approaches. ● Targeted Incentives for Enhanced Adaptive Capacity: Establish a comprehensive incentive framework aimed at Local Administration Offices, farmers, and small businesses. The scheme will be implemented through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models to strengthen adaptive capacity and foster sustainable agricultural transformation. **3. Strengthen the capabilities of stakeholders throughout the agricultural value chain to comply with both food safety and climate-resilient standards, ensuring competitiveness and sustainability.**

	● Support training and capacity-building initiatives to enable food producers to meet key food safety and quality standards, including Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), Geographical Indications (GI), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) ● Promote the integration of climate-smart criteria into agricultural practices through standards such as GAP PM2.5 (stop crop residue burning practices), GAP Carbon Credit Plus (carbon sequestration and emissions reduction), Low Carbon Labelling (climate-friendly product labelling) **4. Develop a Comprehensive Risk Transfer Mechanism Across the Entire Value Chain** ● Design and implement a risk transfer scheme that encompasses all actors within the value chain, ensuring inclusive protection against climate-related risks. ● Leverage Climate Risk-Informed Data and Food System Insights ● Utilize climate risk data and food system analytics to design a climate-resilient insurance model tailored to the specific vulnerabilities of agricultural and food supply systems. ● Expand Access to Climate Risk-Based Insurance through the Insurance Sector Promote the adoption and accessibility of climate risk-based insurance products by integrating them into mainstream insurance business models and distribution channels.

Strategic Area 4: Inclusive Food Systems Governance
 	
Governance transformation is recognized as a critical cross-cutting enabler for sustainable food systems. To reinforce high-level political commitment, participants called for the establishment of a Chief Inter Ministerial Committee and direct engagement from the Prime Minister. These measures aim to
	Key interventions:
	
	1. Transforming National Food Policy for Climate and Biodiversity Integration
	● Policy Reform and Integration
	  ● Advance national food policy reforms that explicitly integrate climate resilience and biodiversity conservation.
	  ● Align agrifood strategies with sustainable consumption and production goals.
	● Inclusive and Accountable Governance
	  ● Establish inclusive governance platforms that actively engage local governments, communities, and marginalized groups.

institutionalize coordination, drive policy coherence, and ensure that food systems transformation remains a national priority.	● Institutionalize stakeholder consultations and participatory decision-making processes across all levels. ● Five-Year Governance Blueprint ● Develop a dynamic, five-year governance blueprint as a living framework to guide food system transformation. ● Ensure the blueprint is adaptable and informed by continuous stakeholder input. ● High-Level Political Commitment ● Propose the governance blueprint and policy reforms for Cabinet approval, with direct endorsement from the Prime Minister. ● Foster interministerial cooperation among key agencies (e.g., MOAC, MOPH, MONRE) to ensure cohesive implementation. ● Revise the current midterm plan and develop a new midterm policy aligned with the blueprint, incorporating multi stakeholder engagement throughout the policy cycle. **2. Enabling Systems for Innovation and Sustainability** ● Digital Innovation Ecosystem ● Leverage digital technologies to streamline processes and enhance transparency. ● Invest in research and development to improve technological infrastructure and ensure access to affordable innovations. ● Scaling Up the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy ● Promote the principles of the Sufficiency Economy to support resilient, self-reliant communities and sustainable livelihoods. ● Biodiversity and Agroecology in Agrifood Systems ● Raise awareness and accountability for biodiversity within food systems. ● Promote agroecological practices that enhance sustainability, profitability, and biodiversity conservation. Encourage biodiversity-friendly approaches as drivers of inclusive economic growth.
Strategic Area 5: Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Innovative Solution	**Key interventions:**

Ecosystem for Agrifood System The BCG model is essential for achieving: ● Ecological sustainability through regenerative practices and resource efficiency ● Economic profitability by fostering innovation, value addition, and green entrepreneurship ● Inclusive development that empowers local communities, smallholders, and marginalized groups This strategic area calls for the integration of science, technology, and innovation to build a resilient, low-carbon, and circular agrifood ecosystem that aligns with national and global sustainability goals. A key aspect for consideration is to ensure that Bio-circular-green innovation is well defined.	**1. Accelerate Commercialization and Local Implementation of Innovations** ● Fast-track the scaling and market deployment of innovative BCG solutions, ensuring they are locally tailored, profitable, and context sensitive. ● Leverage rural extension services to support local adoption, ensuring affordability and accessibility for smallholders and communities. **2. Strengthen Technology Infrastructure and Accessibility** ● Invest in affordable, community-level technology infrastructure to support the deployment of BCG innovations. ● Promote digital inclusion to ensure equitable access to tools and platforms. **3. Mobilize Finance and Partnerships** ● Utilize Article 6 mechanisms and foster public-private partnerships (PPPs) to scale BCG innovations and unlock climate finance. ● Provide incentives and enabling conditions for all actors—farmers, entrepreneurs, investors, and consumers—to participate in the BCG transition. **4. Bridge Gaps Through Intermediaries and Inclusive Engagement** ● Identify and empower intermediary actors to facilitate communication, coordination, and trust-building among stakeholders across the value chain. **5. Invest in Research, Development, and Innovation** ● Priorities R&D investments, particularly in digital technologies, eco-efficient processes, and nature-based solutions (NbS) to drive sustainable transformation. **6. Build Advocacy and Networking Platforms** ● Establish a national advocacy and networking platform for BCG actors to promote shared understanding, policy alignment, and consumer awareness. ● Address the need for clarity, visibility, and definition of BCG principles at both policy and grassroots levels. **7. Ensure Policy Coherence and Institutional Alignment** ● Address policy fragmentation by aligning and harmonizing multi-sectoral and inter ministerial policies. Promote the integration of biodiversity and BCG economy metrics into agri-food policies and planning frameworks.

XI. Understanding the existing multi- stakeholders' platforms and mechanisms

Ms. Sasiwimon Tabyam, Secretariat of Thailand Food Committee (ACFS)

Ms. Sasiwimon Tabyam highlighted The **National Food Committee Act, B.E. 2551 (2008)** serves as the foundational legal framework for establishing and operating the National Food Committee in Thailand. The Committee's work is organized around four main areas: Food Security, Food Safety, Food Quality, and Food Education and Consumer Behaviour.

The operational structure consists of four levels

- The National Food Committee (policy level, chaired by the Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister)
- Specialized Committees (focused on specific areas such as food security or safety)
- Subcommittees (providing in-depth analysis and recommendations)
- Working Groups (handling technical and field-level implementation)

The Secretariat is managed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS), with membership from 11 key ministries and 7 expert advisors.

The Committee's main responsibilities include proposing and supporting food-related policies to the Cabinet, developing participatory strategic plans, advising on regulations under Section 12 of the Act, monitoring and evaluating policy implementation twice a year, and supporting work through budgets from the FDA and ACFS.

Each food area has a designated lead agency: the Office of Agricultural Economics leads Food Security, the Department of Health focuses on Food Quality, and the FDA oversees Food Education and Data Management.

Currently, the Committee has expanded its subcommittees to five to cover a broader range of tasks and has implemented a five-year action plan (2023–2027). This plan aims to strengthen Thailand's food system by improving food management and logistics, enhancing safety standards, promoting healthy consumption behaviours, supporting research and innovation, and preparing for climate change impacts.

The Committee's work aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3), and Economic Growth (SDG 8), as well as national strategic plans and climate change policies.

The plan emphasizes integration across sectors and stakeholders, fostering collaboration among government agencies, private sector, and civil society to ensure a resilient, safe, and sustainable food system for the future.

Ms. Sakaoduan Khayanying, National Farmer Council

Ms. Sakaoduan Khayanying highlighted the role of the National Farmers Council and the status of the Agricultural Development Master Plan

The **National Farmers Council of Thailand** plays a critical role in promoting and advancing the country's agricultural sector. Its core responsibilities include:

- Proposing agricultural policies and development strategies to the Cabinet
- Supporting the organization and strengthening of farmer groups at the local level
- Developing and disseminating agricultural databases and information
- Recommending solutions to key agricultural issues, such as unfair crop pricing
- Promoting initiatives to enhance the quality of life for farmers across economic, social, and political dimensions

The Council is currently implementing the **Second Agricultural Development Master Plan (2023–2027)**, which serves as a strategic framework for sustainable agricultural development. The plan focuses on three key objectives:

1. **Strengthening Farmers** – Enhancing farmers' capacity and improving their livelihoods
2. **Promoting Green Agriculture** – Encouraging sustainable and environmentally friendly practices
3. **Increasing Agricultural Value for Global Markets** – Supporting value addition and facilitating international market access

The Master Plan is in its implementation phase and involves active collaboration with stakeholders at both national and sub-national levels. It is aligned with Thailand's national development strategies and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aiming to drive an inclusive and sustainable transformation of the agricultural sector.

Ms. Maria Tuazon, FAO, UN Regional Food Systems Taskforce

Ms. Maria Tuazon shared the progress and key functions of the Regional Networking Group on Food Systems, which serves as a collaborative platform among UN agencies in the Asia-Pacific region. The key points are as follows

1. **Purpose of the Network**
   The Network was established to coordinate and enhance collaboration among UN agencies working on food systems, in order to avoid duplication of efforts and support member countries in advancing food systems transformation agendas.
2. **Governance Structure**
   - An Advisory Group composed of heads of UN agencies.
   - A Technical Working Group to support implementation and planning.
   - Quarterly meetings to share workplans, good practices, and identify opportunities for joint activities.
3. **Approach and Coordination**
   The Network emphasizes the use of existing tools and resources developed by UN agencies rather than creating new ones and fosters joint implementation. Examples include collaboration with FAO, WFP, and the SUN Movement, which provided both technical and financial support.
4. **Cross-sectoral Engagement**
   The Network has organized sub regional workshops that included participation not only from agriculture ministries but also from environment ministries, national statistics offices, and planning and finance sectors, reflecting a systems approach to food.
5. **Expanding Partnerships**
   Originally comprising only UN agencies, the Network is now expanding to include regional

platforms such as ASEAN and the Pacific Community (SPC), in recognition of the broader ecosystem of support needed for food systems transformation.

6. **Next Steps**
   The Network will move toward in-country engagement through hand-holding support, to translate regional-level guidance into national-level actions.

Q&A Highlights:

- During the meeting, a question was raised **regarding whether the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would continue beyond the year 2030.** A representative from the United Nations clarified that, at present, there is no formal mandate or official process in place to establish a post-2030 SDG framework. Member States at the United Nations in New York have expressed a strong and consistent position that efforts should be focused on achieving the current 2030 Agenda before initiating discussions on any future framework. Furthermore, it was noted that the current UN Secretary-General does not have the authority to launch a new process for post-2030 goals. It is anticipated that any such discussions would only begin once a new Secretary-General assumes office in January 2027. Therefore, the international community remains focused on fully implementing the existing SDGs by 2030, with any potential future agenda to be considered at a later stage.
- Participants proposed that the implementation of Phase II should include clearly defined national targets to support the advancement of Thailand's agricultural sector particularly in areas of innovation and sustainability. The objective is to position Thailand as a regional or global leader in the future.
  In addition, a suggestion was made to revise the terminology used to describe partners involved in driving the food system. Specifically, **it was proposed to replace the term "industrial sector" with "private sector"** to ensure broader inclusion of relevant stakeholders, beyond just the Federation of Thai Industries.
  In response, the representative from the responsible agency clarified that the **Phase II plan has been developed with consideration of the entire food chain** and is not limited to any one group of actors. The representative also welcomed the suggestion to revise the wording to improve clarity and ensure broader and more inclusive communication in planning documents and implementation efforts moving forward.

XII. Convergence Action Blueprint - Pillar 3: Milestones

The activities under this Pillar aim to promote concrete actions within the established framework, with an emphasis on inclusive participation from all sectors in designing comprehensive implementation approaches. This is to ensure effective achievement of both short-term and long-term goals.

During the activity, participants in each group engaged in brainstorming, exchanging ideas, and jointly setting shared objectives. These discussions have been synthesized into key milestones across the five areas, as outlined below.

Strategic	2026	2030	2050
Strategic Area 1:	• Implement 20 pilot villages per province as models of	• Target villages achieve full coverage in community plan	• Strengthen and fully advance the agri-food system,

Strategic	2026	2030	2050
Community-Led Resilience	climate-resilient agricultural systems, with a strong emphasis on community participation throughout the planning and implementation process, supported by targeted grants to promote adaptation activities. • Enhance Knowledge Management for an Integrated Food System and Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) • Communities have actively adopted the Early Warning System to support agricultural production planning and enhance preparedness for natural hazards such as droughts, floods, and irregular rainfall. • A draft strategy on behavior change in the agri-food system has been developed to drive behavioral shifts at the individual, household, and community levels	development and database establishment for effective risk management. • Expand the comprehensive implementation of early warning systems and smart agriculture, accompanied by transparent reporting on fund utilization. • Integrate climate change knowledge into the formal school curriculum.	positioning the country as a leading force in the Asia region.
Strategic Area 2: Food Loss and Waste Reduction	• Enhance agricultural productivity through improved harvesting, breed selection, innovation, and capacity building. • Develop smart transportation systems including real-time tracking,	• Advance smart logistics infrastructure with AI, automation, big data analytics, and sustainable solutions. • Strengthen sustainable food systems via expanded processing, education,	• Strengthen sustainable food system development through education, local supply chains, Food Loss Waste management, innovation support, and policy

Strategic	2026	2030	2050
	cold chain logistics, and route optimization. • Promote consumer awareness on food waste reduction, local supply chains, processing, startups, and supportive policies.	localization, startups, and regulatory frameworks.	
Strategic Area 3: Climate-Smart Agricultural Systems	• Enhance Knowledge Management for an Integrated Food System and Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)	• Develop an Incentive Payment System to Promote Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) • Strengthen the capabilities of stakeholders throughout the agricultural value chain to comply with both food safety and climate-resilient standards, ensuring competitiveness and sustainability. • Develop a Comprehensive Risk Transfer Mechanism Across the Entire Value Chain	Transformative change for sustainability
Strategic Area 4: Inclusive Food Systems Governance	• Undertake a mid-term evaluation of Phase I (2023–2027) of Thailand's Food Management Action Plan to assess progress, challenges, and opportunities for improvement. • integrate relevant entry points from the National Climate Action Blueprint into the Food Management Action	• Implement Food Management Action Plan Phase II (2028–2032), with a focus on scaling up priority interventions. • Align the evaluation of Plan Phase II with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Progress Review and integrate it into the existing national monitoring framework.	Achieve a Sustainable and Resilient Agri-food System**.**

Strategic	2026	2030	2050
	Plan Phase II (2028–2032) to ensure alignment with national climate priorities. • Secure formal endorsement of national food security commitments, aligned with climate change adaptation and mitigation goals—at the Cabinet level.	• Establish mechanisms for Flagship Agri-Food Projects to support transformative initiatives that drive innovation and deliver measurable outcomes across the agri-food system.	
Strategic Area 5: Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Innovative Solution Ecosystem for Agrifood System	• Establish foundational systems for BCG innovation and adoption, pilot BCG solutions are locally commercialized and tested. • Initial finance mechanisms and public-private partnerships (PPPs) are mobilized. • Support early adoption of BCG by strengthening rural extension services and technology infrastructure.	• Widespread scaling and integration of BCG practices across local communities, with proven profitability and context relevance. • Empowering all stakeholders to actively participate and collaborate through accessible digital tools. • Harmonize policy frameworks and multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms.	• BCG practices are mainstreamed in local agri-food systems. • BCG contributes significantly to climate resilience, economic inclusion, and biodiversity protection. • Communities are self-reliant in maintaining BCG innovations and governance.

21 May - Workshop Day 3

Recap of Day 2 and Reflections

Ms. Napaporn Yuberk summarized the discussions from Day 2 of the meeting, emphasizing the collective effort to turn strategic visions into practical, community-led actions. She highlighted that the session focused on how to operationalize the five strategic areas—ranging from resilience and innovation to inclusive governance—in ways that truly respond to local realities.

Participants underscored the importance of enabling **early warning systems, local food data platforms, and climate-smart practices** that can support farmers and communities to anticipate and adapt to changes. Strong emphasis was also placed on reducing food loss and waste through infrastructure improvements and innovation, as well as ensuring that **no one is left behind** in the transformation process.

She also reflected on the dynamic exchange around **financial reform and policy shifts**, including digital tools for transparent subsidy delivery and incentive mechanisms to promote low-emission, adaptive agriculture. Importantly, the discussion acknowledged the need to go beyond technical fixes—recognizing that sustainable food systems require **inclusive processes, shared decision-making, and equitable access to resources**.

She concluded by affirming that the transition toward sustainable food and agriculture systems must be driven by collaboration across sectors and levels, grounded in community leadership, and supported by coherent governance and financing systems.

XIII. Monitoring evaluation and accountability

SDG Indicator Monitoring

Ms. Chidabha Chitsamphandhvej, National Economics and Social Development Council

The presenter highlighted three key points as follows

1. Thailand's SDG Monitoring and Evaluation Framework:

Thailand has established a structured system to monitor and evaluate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The system uses 251 indicators under 17 goals and 169 targets, which are regularly reviewed and adjusted to align with national development priorities. The National Statistical Office serves as the key agency for data collection. Progress is assessed at both the target and goal levels, using a combination of quantitative and qualitative data. Statistical methods and regional data are used to evaluate trends, project future progress, and inform national planning efforts—all geared toward achieving the SDGs by 2030.

2. Approach to Setting SDG Indicator Targets and Challenges Faced:

Thailand sets national targets by adapting those proposed by the United Nations to fit within the framework of national and sectoral strategies. The process involves using historical growth rates and statistical analysis to determine feasible and context-appropriate targets. However, several challenges exist, such as the mismatch between some global targets and Thailand's development plans, and the limitations in applying international benchmarks that may not fully reflect local conditions.

3. Data Dissemination and Progress Evaluation:

Thailand publishes SDG indicator data through multiple platforms, most notably the **Thailand SDG Dashboard**, which provides detailed information on target indicators, data availability, and downloadable datasets. The country conducts regular evaluations of SDG implementation, including assessments of data readiness and trend analyses to measure progress against established targets. Both quantitative statistics and qualitative insights are used to ensure comprehensive and context-sensitive reporting.

Monitoring mechanisms of Climate Change

Ms. Chidabha Chitsamphandhvej, National Economics and Social Development Council (NESDC)

The presenter highlighted three key points as follows

1. Thailand's Climate Change Response in Agriculture

Thailand has undertaken various actions to address climate change impacts in the agriculture sector, such as adjusting farming strategies (e.g., early water release for rice planting), supporting research to adapt agriculture and fisheries to rising temperatures, developing early warning systems, and improving water resource management through efficient irrigation and drainage systems. These efforts are supported by collaboration among key agencies, aiming to ensure food security and sustainable agriculture.

2. Key Challenges in Monitoring and Evaluation

Thailand faces several challenges in tracking climate projects, including limited budget allocation, weak inter-agency coordination, insufficient or inaccessible data, and a lack of capacity and training among personnel. These issues underscore the need for more effective systems and practices in managing climate initiatives.

3. Tools Used by the Department of Climate Change

The Department employs tools such as the Thailand Taxonomy for private sector screening, monitoring and evaluation models, climate risk maps, early warning systems, and context-specific global indicators. These mechanisms help ensure systematic and effective climate action.

XIV. Convergence Action Blueprint - Pillar 4: Monitoring evaluation and accountability

Thailand is currently developing a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework and indicators for its National Adaptation Plan (NAP). This presents a strategic opportunity to integrate food system indicators aligned with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) into the NAP framework. Given that the NAP's objective for the agriculture and food security sectors is to ensure that "productivity and food security are maintained amidst climate risks and impacts," this integration will enable Thailand to report progress on both SDG 2 and SDG 13 (Climate Action) in a coherent and synergistic manner.

Thailand's SDG implementation and monitoring are coordinated by the National Committee for Sustainable Development (NCSD), chaired by the Prime Minister. The Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) serves as the national focal point, ensuring alignment between global SDG targets and national development priorities.

- Localised SDG Indicators: Thailand has developed a set of localised indicators that reflect national contexts while aligning with the global SDG framework.
- Data Collection and Management: The National Statistical Office (NSO) plays a central role in collecting and managing SDG-related data, in collaboration with line ministries and agencies.
- Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs): Thailand has submitted multiple VNRs to the United Nations, highlighting progress, challenges, and innovations in SDG implementation.

The eMENSCR platform (accessible at emenscr.nesdc.go.th) is Thailand's official digital system for monitoring and evaluating national development plans. Developed by NESDC, it supports:

- Project Monitoring: Tracks progress of government initiatives aligned with national strategies.
- Data Integration: Consolidates data from various ministries and agencies.
- Performance Evaluation: Assesses the effectiveness and impact of development programs.
- Transparency and Accountability: Provides public access to reports and dashboards, enhancing transparency.

XV. Overview and Group Reflection on the CAB Pillars

According to participants, the pillars identified as **needing the most strengthening were Pillar 2, which focuses on interventions, and Pillar 4, which pertains to monitoring and evaluation (M&E).** There were indications that **data sources** also require attention

Participants shared several key learnings and reflections from the last three days of the workshop:

- **Collaboration and Networking:** There was significant appreciation for the cooperation and networking achieved during the workshop. Participants highlighted the impressive data initiatives and the necessity of breaking down silos to foster better connections and partnerships.
- **Systematic Planning and Knowledge Sharing:** Reflecting on their experiences, attendees noted the importance of systematic planning, utilizing useful skills, and sharing knowledge effectively. They recognized that these elements are critical for future success.
- **Data and Policy Integration:** Participants were impressed by the amount of existing data systems and the policies in place. There was a keen interest in how these could be further developed to enhance outcomes.
- **Living Document Creation:** The concept of creating a "living document" emerged, which aims to clarify perspectives and allow for ongoing updates and reflections as new insights and data come to light.

Overall, the workshop fostered a positive mindset and encouraged participants to engage deeply with the topics discussed.

XVI. Note of Thanks and Closing

At the closing session of the Thailand National Inception Workshop under the Convergence Initiative, two key representatives delivered closing remarks: **Mr. Stefanos Fotiou**, **Director of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, and Mr. Krit Hansaward, Representative from the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.**

Mr. Stefanos Fotiou expressed his appreciation for Thailand's active participation as a priority country in the Convergence Initiative, which began two years ago. He commended Thailand's strong collaboration across sectors to identify and advance five key priority areas to transform the food system:

1. Community focus
2. Food loss and waste reduction
3. Climate-resilient agriculture
4. Inclusive food system governance
5. Circular and green operations

He emphasized that these five areas should not be viewed in isolation, but rather as interconnected and mutually reinforcing pillars of the convergence approach. This integrated framework is critical for addressing climate change impacts on Thailand's food system, which plays a vital role both

domestically and in global markets. He highlighted Thailand's competitive advantages in the food sector that contribute to food security and poverty alleviation.

He extended his sincere thanks to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the FAO country and regional offices, national consultants, and partners from UN agencies including UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC, ESCAP, and GEF. Special appreciation was given to the interpreters and the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub team for their outstanding coordination efforts. He concluded by noting that lessons learned from this workshop will be shared at upcoming global events such as the Stocktaking Moment in Addis Ababa and COP30.

On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives leadership, Mr. Krit Hansaward expressed his gratitude to all participants for their constructive engagement over the three-day workshop. He highlighted the workshop as a crucial milestone in advancing Thailand's food system transformation in alignment with climate change policies, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and commitments under the Paris Agreement.

He underscored progress made in developing integrated blueprints covering four essential components:

1. Defining a shared vision
2. Identifying clear, actionable steps
3. Setting milestones, timelines, and targets
4. Establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

He thanked FAO, the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, and all UN partners and stakeholders for their valuable contributions. He concluded with hope that the collaboration initiated at this workshop will lead to concrete policy and operational changes that enhance the sustainability and resilience of Thailand's food systems. Finally, he wished all participants a safe journey home.

Annex:

- Workshop Agendas and presentations for each speaker can be found on this drive.
- Attached:
    - Participant list to workshop
    - Raw material of notetaking from FAO team
    - Masterfile of presentations by workshop facilitator