

A COMPARISON OF POLICIES FOR VEGETABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IN ASEAN

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15th STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
ASEAN-AVRDC REGIONAL NETWORK FOR VEGETABLE
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (AARNET)

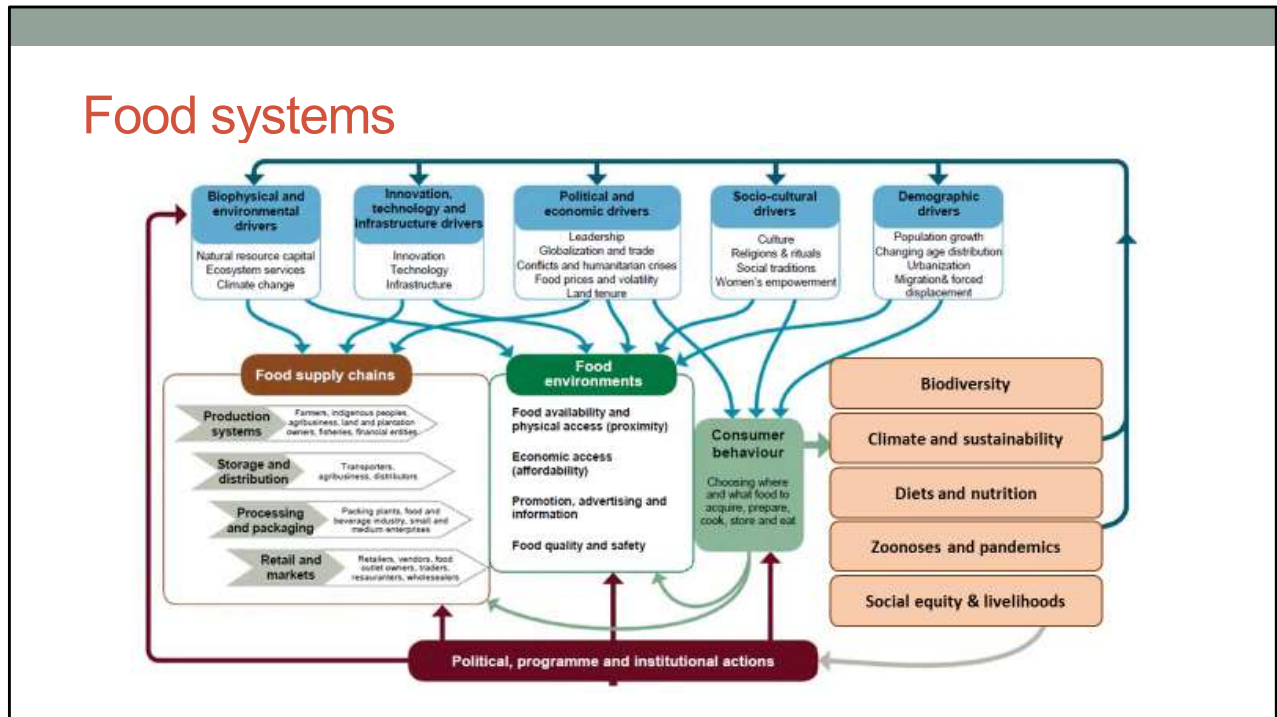
JUNE 23, 2021



Today, you will hear from 3 worldveg speakers on different projects that we are doing, or planning to do.

So first I'll give a bit of background...

Food systems



A lot of our work is based on the idea of food systems – the set of people and actions and processes that get us our food.

These include the food supply chains from production to retail

Also the food environment where those production systems interact with consumers, things like the availability or price of different foods, and the convenience or desirability of those foods to people, driving consumer behaviour.

All of this is driven by a range of factors, from natural resources and inputs to policy and governance to cultural factors and demography.

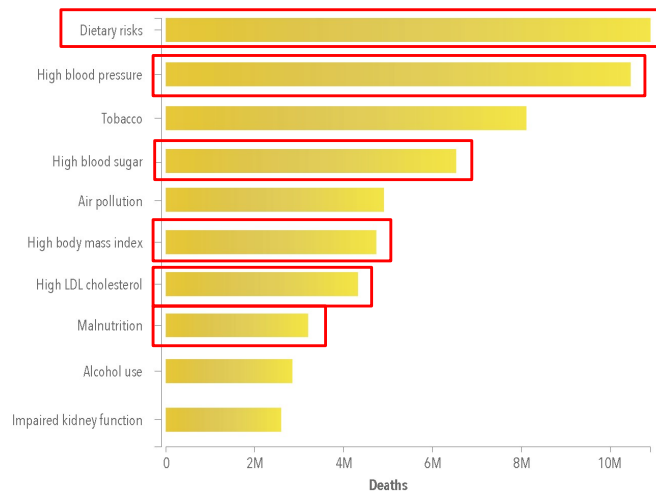
And these systems have a range of outcomes:

- They affect biodiversity due to changing land and input use
- They contribute to greenhouse gasses
- They shape diets, and diets shape how healthy we are
- They shape our vulnerability to pandemics such as Covid-19
- And food systems of course provide livelihoods for farmers and other food system workers

My focus today is on diets, but in the context of sustainable environments and fair livelihoods

What's the problem? Global burden of disease

TOP 10 RISK FACTORS FOR DEATH, GLOBALLY, IN 2017



GBD 2017

So from a nutrition perspective, there is a problem:

Diets are the biggest risk factor for death – risk factors outlined in red are diet-related.

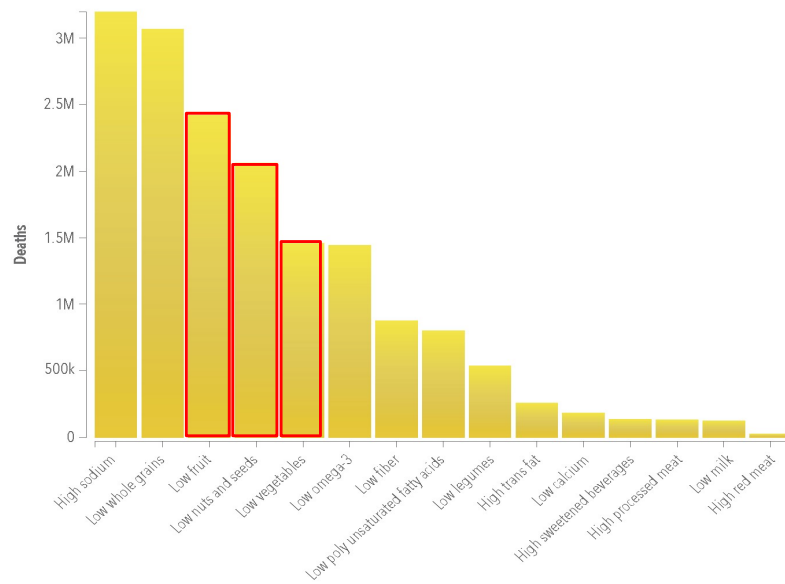
Worldwide in 2017, poor diet was linked to 11 million deaths, and even more disease and disability

Dietary risks



DIETARY RISK FACTORS RANKED BY NUMBER OF DEATHS, GLOBALLY, IN 2017

GBD 2017

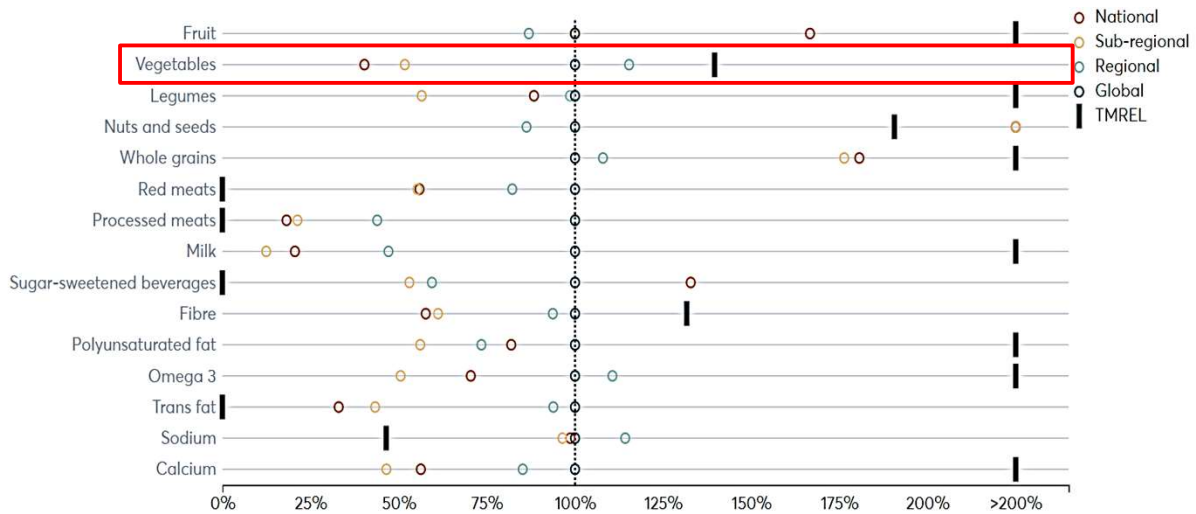


Most diet-related deaths are from **too much salt, fat and sugar**; and **not enough wholegrains, fruits and vegetables**.

Add to this life-years lost to disease, and it adds up to a huge, expensive and debilitating health problem.

Diets in Thailand

Diets in Thailand in adults aged over 25:
Global Nutrition Report 2020



As an example, diets here in Thailand do not quite meet the international recommendations.

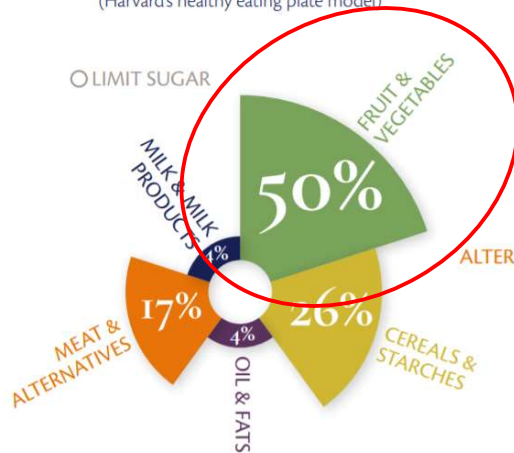
For vegetables:

- The best amount for health is 300g per person per day.
- The global average is just over 200g
- The regional average for SouthEast Asia is 250g
- And Thailand average per person per day is between 90-150g, depending on which data you use – so it's too low.

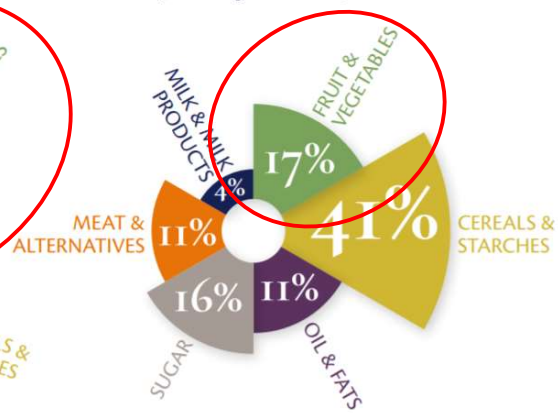
Food systems and diets

Global Panel, Food Foresight 2020

How we should be eating
(Harvard's healthy eating plate model)



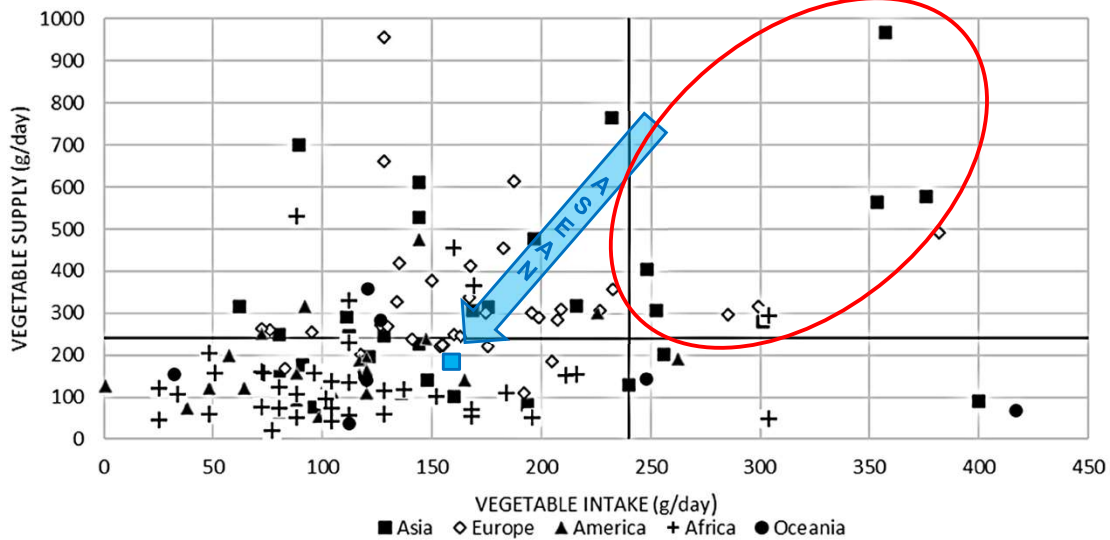
What we are actually producing
(According to 2011 FAO)



And a large part of this is because we are producing the wrong things. Health professionals tell us that 50% of what we eat should be fruits and vegetables. But fruits and vegetables are only 17% of what we are producing, globally.

Global vegetable intake and supply

Kalmpartizou et al 2020



And here are the numbers of ASEAN

All the black square shapes are Asian countries

- Intake is around 153g in ASEAN

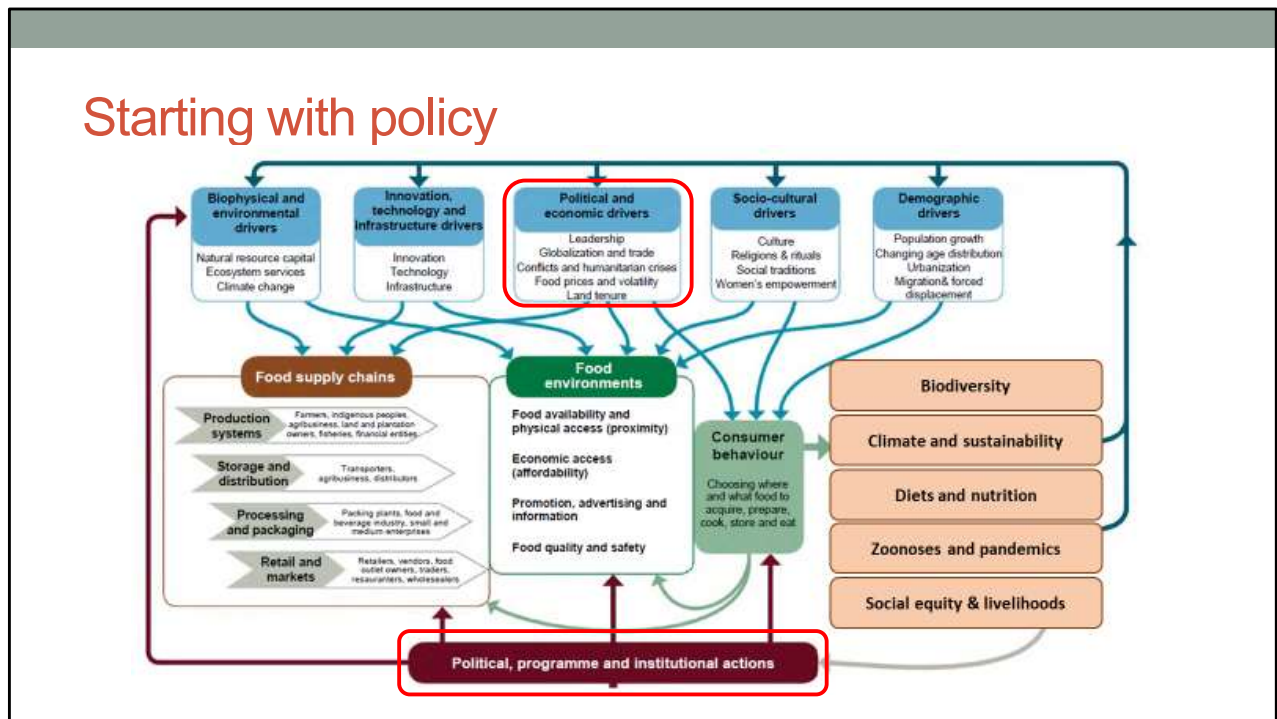
- Supply is around 190g in ASEAN

So ASEAN does not meet dietary or production targets.

**** But other Asian countries do much better on both supply and intake (squares in the top-right part of the chart)**

So how does this come about?

Starting with policy



The answer is: We don't know yet! But we would like to find out.

The written policy and regulations of different countries shape their food systems, from trade and production to retail and consumption.

So as a first step, we would like to understand how policies in different ASEAN countries address vegetables at all these different parts of the food system.

1. Literature review

- What do we already know about vegetable policy in ASEAN?
 - Policies in place in different sectors?
 - Effects of policies on food systems?
 - How policies designed, negotiated, funded, implemented, and enforced
 - Differences between countries?



First, as always, we look to see what is already known on an issue.

There is some academic literature and some reports on some aspects of vegetable policy in ASEAN, but there are lots of gaps that we want to fill.

2. Policy survey

- What written policy, strategy or regulation do different ASEAN countries have on supply-side and demand-side issues?

33 questions



ASEAN vegetable policy survey

This brief survey aims to understand vegetable-related policy, strategy, plans and regulations in the ASEAN region as part of the AARNET mandate to understand and collaborate on vegetable R&D in the region.

Please complete this form before June 7th 2021. Responses will be collated and reported by WorldVeg at the June 23rd AARNET meeting.

Please remember to submit your form using the button at the end.

Many thanks for your participation.

* Required

Country name *

Your answer

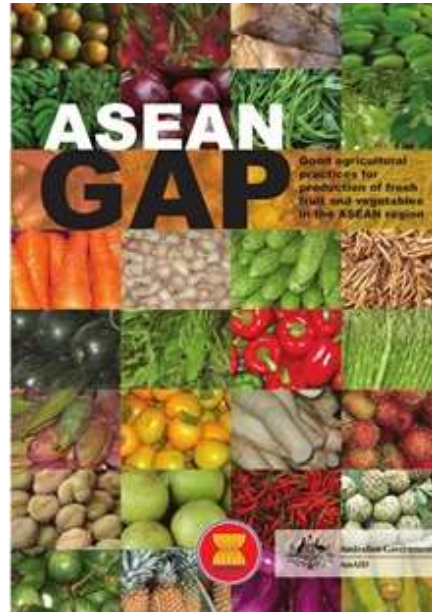
Second, each member country will be asked to provide basic information on whether the country has existing policy, strategy or regulations related specifically to vegetable production or supply in ministries or institutions related to food, agriculture and trade.

An initial online survey with simple yes/no questions will be circulated through AARNET, with government focal points asked to collate and provide information from different ministries.

This will tell us, quantitatively, how many countries have policies covering different areas of the food system through different ministries or departments.

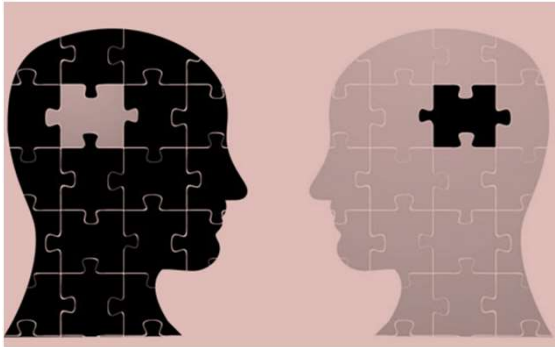
3. Policy summary

- How do written policies shape vegetable food systems within each ASEAN country?
- How is the policy environment different among the ASEAN countries?



Third, we want to know what those policies say about vegetables, so we need to read them and do a qualitative policy summary to understand how these policies shape food systems for vegetables in each country, and differently in different countries.

4. Policy interviews

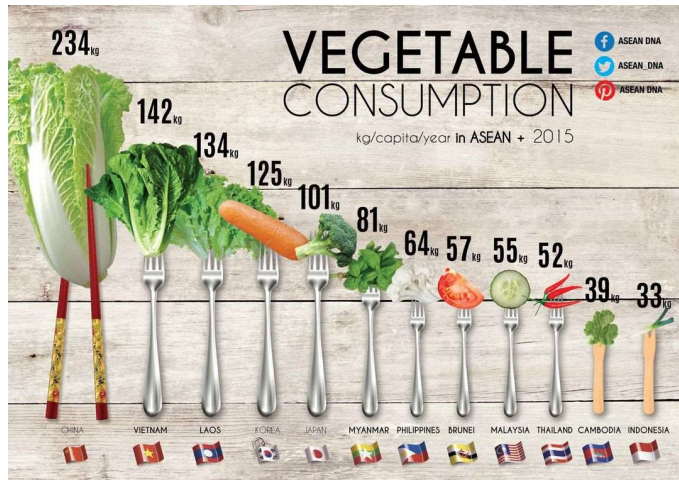


- Who is involved in setting vegetable policy?
- How did the policy environment for vegetables develop?
- How are approaches similar or different in ASEAN countries?

The final phase will comprise interviews with key actors in each country to understand how vegetable policy is understood, prioritized and addressed among the range of other policy priorities for each country. Five to ten interviews will be undertaken per country (depending on the complexity of the governance systems with direct relation to vegetables) yielding over 50 interviews in total. These will be analysed thematically to understand similarities and differences in approaches to vegetable supply policy in the region.

Synthesis

- Approaches to vegetable policy
- Gaps and best practices
- Mutual learning and exchange



- Bringing the findings from each phase together will allow us to better understand the range of approaches to ensuring vegetable-rich food systems in the ASEAN region, and how national contexts affect the negotiation and creation of policy, strategy and action in support of sufficient vegetables.
- Comparing the range of current approaches with best practices defined in international academic literature and frameworks will allow the identification of policy gaps as options for ASEAN countries to consider.
- The process of collecting and synthesising this information will also allow for mutual learning and exchange across ASEAN countries on this important area of public policy.



Thank you

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