

AESA made considerable progress in networking and knowledge management during the past six months.

Networking at the country level

Two meetings, one held in India (26 August 2014) and the other in Bangladesh (1 September 2014) led to the establishment of country level networks of AESA in both countries.



The meeting for establishment of the “Indian Extension Network (IEN)” was organized at the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. Senior officials involved in extension practice, research, policy and agri-business participated in this launch meeting. The meeting discussed several issues related to the mission of IEN, its potential activities, governance and how it could add value to the existing initiatives in extension and advisory provision in the country.



In Bangladesh, the meeting to launch the Bangladesh Extension Network (BENet) was organized by the Second Crop Diversification Project (SCDP) of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE). This meeting was attended by extension officials from different sectors, agricultural universities and NGOs and the meeting constituted an ad hoc executive committee to take forward the activities of BENet.

AESA Directory

As decided in the first face-to face meeting of AESA held at Kathmandu (14-15 January 2014), an online AESA Directory (<http://aesa-gfras.net/RegistrationForm.aspx>) was created. Those who are interested can register in this directory and this would help in creating a database of all those who are interested and involved in extension and advisory services in South Asia.

Email Discussion

AESA in association with the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) and the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) organised an e-discussion on the “Role of Producer Organisations in Strengthening Extension and Advisory Services in the Dairy/Livestock Sector in India” during 18 August to 30 September 2014. 61 members participated in this discussion. The discussion highlighted the importance of producer organizations (POs), the need to involve them more in strengthening extension and advisory provision, lack of adequate information on the current activities of POs and the lack of capacity among EAS providers in supporting the formation and strengthening of POs. The findings and recommendations from this e-discussion will be used by AESA, IVRI and GFRAS in identifying ways of strengthening POs in extension and advisory provision.

AESA web-portal



The image shows two side-by-side screenshots. The left screenshot is the AESA web-portal homepage, featuring the AESA logo and the tagline 'Sharing, learning and networking for innovation'. The main navigation menu includes: HOME, ABOUT US, BLOGS, GOOD PRACTICES, FACE TO FACE, MY MEETING NOTES, RESOURCES, USEFUL LINKS, and AESA DIRECTORY. A featured article titled 'AESA UPDATE' dated 'Update: 3 March 2014' is visible, along with a section for 'AESA PARTNERS' listing GFRAS and IVRI. The right screenshot is the Facebook page for the 'Agricultural Extension in South Asia' group. The page shows the group name, a cover photo, and a post by Crisp India titled 'The World in 2014: ICT FACTS AND FIGURES'. The post text states: 'The new figures show that, by the end of 2014, there will be almost 3 billion Internet users, two-thirds of them coming from the developing world, and that the number of mobile-broadband subscriptions will reach 2.3 billion globally. Fifty-five per cent of these subscriptions are expected to be in the developing world... See More'. The group has 5,348 members and is a closed group.

We have added several new publications to the AESA portal and have organized these under 12 major themes. During April-September 2014, AESA published 7 Blogs, 2 Good Practices, 3 My Meeting Notes and 1 Face to Face interview. The AESA facebook group currently has more than 5300 members (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/428431183848161/>) and we are using the facebook group and the AESA email list to promote information and links to new publications, conferences and training programmes.

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