

Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESA) participated in webinars and published several outputs from September 2020 to March 2021.

Knowledge Management

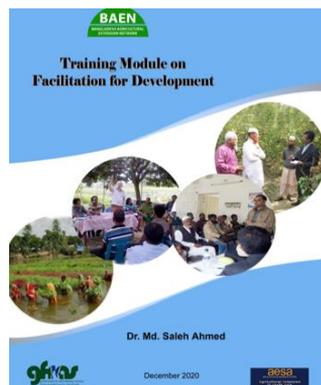
AESA, through its website, published ten blogs, four good practices notes, six book reviews, three face-to-face interviews, and three meeting notes during this period. The AESA Facebook group currently has more than 20,900 members. AESA updated the resource section of its website by adding more relevant themes, like agroecology and youth in agriculture. AESA is using the Facebook group, LinkedIn group, Twitter handle, and the AESA email list to promote exchange of knowledge on extension and advisory services (EAS). AESA is also handling knowledge management functions of the Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network (APIRAS) (www.apiras.net).



AESA organized an online survey to obtain feedback on its activities during January 2021. We received 252 responses and the findings from this survey can be accessed from website. Our sincere thanks to all those who participated in the survey and we will use your valuable advice to do even better.

Capacity Development

AESA facilitated the customization of New Extensionist Learning Kit (NELK) Module on 'Facilitation for Development' to the Bangladeshi context with the Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN). AESA and BAEN co-organised two workshops at Dhaka, Bangladesh, to support customization of this module on 26 September 2020 and 28 November 2020. Fifteen in-country trainers participated in these workshops and contributed to the customization of this module.



Through this process, the trainers also got socialized to the new customized module, and also to the process of customization that they found quite innovative and useful for future use. The process of customization has also been documented for sharing within the GFRAS community.



Networking

AESA has now become a new partner of the Tropical Agricultural Platform (TAP). Initiated by the G20 and generously supported by the European Union, TAP <http://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform/en/> focuses on the development of national capacities for agricultural innovation in the tropics, where most of the developing countries are located and the capacity gap is especially wide.

AESA participated in the Regional Dialogue on 'Capacity Development in Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS) in Asia, Africa and Latin America: Lessons and Experiences from the Joint Rapid Appraisals (JRA)' on 20 November 2020 and presented the findings from South Asia. This event was co-organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Latin American Rural Extension Services Network (RELASER), the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), the APIRAS, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), and the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) as a side event at the TAP Partner Assembly.



AESA also participated in the Virtual Supervision Mission of the Last Mile Programme (LMP) during 2-5 December 2020. The project is supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and managed by GFRAS. AESA members participated in the 11th GFRAS Annual Meeting held virtually on 5th and 6th October 2020. The meeting was on the theme 'Preparing Advisers for the Digital Era'.