

Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESA), participated in webinars, worked on strengthening of several country fora, and published several outputs from September 2021 to March 2022.

Country Fora Strengthening

Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN), under the IFAD-funded Last Mile Programme (LMP), co-organized a 'Leadership training for rural youth lead farmers' from 07 to 08 January 2022, in collaboration with Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). It was a two-day residential training where 21 trainees from five NGO partner organizations of PKSF participated.



F H Ansary, MD and CEO, ACI Agribusiness, Bangladesh; Md. Afzal Hossain Bhuiyan, Organising Secretary, Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN); and Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension), National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), India; participated in the 'Sensitization Workshop on Country Network of Extension and Advisory Services Providers, Cambodia' held in a hybrid mode on 29 March 2022.



The Network of Agricultural Extension & Advisory Services in Sri Lanka (NAEASSL) organised its Annual General Meeting (online) on 1 March 2022. AESA made a short presentation on the experience of customisation and mainstreaming of the New Extensionist Learning Kit (NELK) into the training/education curricula in South Asia through a virtual Workshop organised by the Central Asia and the Caucasus Forum for Rural Advisory Services (CACFRAS) Network in Uzbekistan on 24 February 2022.

Networking

AESA participated in a virtual dialogue organised by Commission on Sustainable Agricultural Intensification (CoSAI) and Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), on 'The innovation investment landscape and future food systems' on 28 September 2021. AESA participated in the 8th Tropical Agricultural Platform (TAP) Partners Assembly from 23 to 24 November, and the GFRAS 12th Annual Meeting during 30 November - 3 December. AESA represented APIRAS at the 2021 Annual Meeting of International Association of Agricultural Sustainability (IAAS) held on 10 December 2021, and presented the findings of the Joint Rapid Appraisal on Strengthening Agricultural Innovation Systems in Asia-Pacific.

AESA collaborated (on behalf of APIRAS), in the webinar on 'Women in research and extension: Advancing gender equality in innovation' organised on 08 March 2022, on the occasion of International Women's Day. This event was co-organised by APAARI, in collaboration with APIRAS, and TAP, hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The main speakers reflected on their personal experiences in research and extension which was very inspirational.



The BAEN team is supporting a study that is drawing lessons from last mile delivery services organised by pluralistic extension service providers in Bangladesh, supported by IFAD funded projects in Bangladesh.

Knowledge Management

AESA, through its website, published 13 blogs, three good practices notes, four book reviews, 13 meeting notes, and one face to face interview during this period. It has crossed three milestones as it has published the 50th Good Practice Note, the 100th Meeting Note and the 150th Blog during the last six months. AESA led the assessment of 'Integrating Nutrition into Extension and Advisory Services in Telangana (India)' based on the FAO-GFRAS Global Capacity Needs Assessment Methodology and the country report is currently available.



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