

# Update 7

March 2016

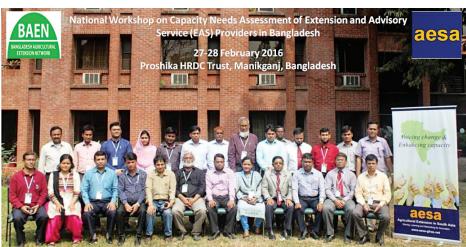
AESA progressed on capacity needs assessment, networking, governance and knowledge management during this period.

### Capacity Needs Assessment

AESA organised workshops on capacity needs assessment of extension and advisory service (EAS) providers in three countries, namely India (6-7 October 2015), Sri Lanka (10-11 February 2016) and Bangladesh (27-28 February 2016) during the last 6 months. These national



workshops were held in collaboration with the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Sri Lanka Agricultural Extension Association (SLAEA) and the Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN) in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh respectively. About 30 participants representing over 15 organizations involved in EAS at varied levels (planning, implementation, research, teaching, training, monitoring and evaluation and policy development) from the public, private and NGO sector participated in each of these workshops. Capacity gaps at the individual, organisational and enabling environment levels among EAS providers were identified at the workshops. The participants also identified ways through which the prioritised capacity needs could be addressed.



AESA is currently trying to support EAS in these countries in addressing these gaps. The experiences from this assessment are being used as an input for finalising the Facilitators' Guide for Capacity Needs Assessment of EAS.

### Networking and Policy Engagement

AESA collaborated with the Sri Lanka Association for Agricultural Extension (SLAEA) in organising the National Conference on Agricultural Extension & Policy Dialogue on 12 February 2016. This conference highlighted the importance of having a policy for agricultural extension



in Sri Lanka. AESA is working closely with the SLAEA in developing this policy.



The first meeting of Pakistan Extension Network (PEN) was held on 1 September, 2015 at the Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

The first meeting of

the Executive Committee of the Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN) was held at Dhaka on 28 December 2015. The annual work plan for BAEN was presented at this meeting.

## AESA Governance Meet

AESA Governance Meeting was held on 13 February 2016 at Kandy, Sri Lanka. AESA focal points from seven countries in the region (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) participated in this meeting. The meeting reviewed the progress of AESA during the last two years and took several decisions to strengthen AESA.



## AESA on social media

AESA published four blogs, three good practices, six meeting notes, two working papers and one face-to-face interview during the last six months (September 2015-February 2016). The AESA Facebook group currently has more than 14,500 members. We are using the Facebook group, LinkedIn group, Twitter handle and the AESA email list to promote new knowledge on extension and advisory services.

**Good Practices 12: December 2015**

**BOOST IN EGG PRODUCTION AND FAMILY INCOME THROUGH CLIMATE RESILIENT PRACTICES IN BACKYARD POULTRY REARING**

Upgrading backyard poultry involves modifications at several levels, namely, cage modification, vaccination, feed supplement and supporting infrastructure. The addition of good practices at different levels are important in promoting new techniques, argues Dr. S. S. and Dr. P. Marudhanayagam.

**GOOD PRACTICES**

Training on scientific backyard poultry

To begin with, about eighty farm owners, who are already engaged in backyard poultry keeping in traditional cage systems, were invited to undergo training on scientific backyard poultry rearing was organized by the ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) as part of the financial resource on Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) project.

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**Working Paper No. 1**

**Status of Extension & Advisory Services in Sri Lanka**

Prof. W.A.D.P. Wanigasundera  
University of Peradeniya

October 2015

**Working Paper No. 1**

**FACE TO FACE**

Shri Pandurang Tawade is the founder and Managing Director of Agri-tourism Development Corporation Pvt. Ltd., Maharashtra. He has received several national and international awards for his contribution in the field of agri-tourism. He is a strong advocate of agri-tourism to understand the potential of agri-tourism and some of the challenges it faces in India.

Why do you think Agri-tourism is important for farmers?

Agri-tourism can generate weekly income which can compensate weekly expenses of the farm. While a farmer receives income through agriculture only once or twice a year, he has to spend on agriculture-related expenses every week. Farmers can earn more money under these circumstances. Agri-tourism offers him an opportunity to earn income in between and it can meet farming and his household more secure and sustainable.