

AESA made progress on capacity needs assessment, publications, networking, and knowledge management in the past six months.

## Capacity Needs Assessment

AESA organised a two-day workshop on capacity needs assessment of extension and advisory service (EAS) providers in Nepal. The workshop was held on 31 May 2016 and 01 June 2016 in collaboration with the Nepal Agriculture Extension Association

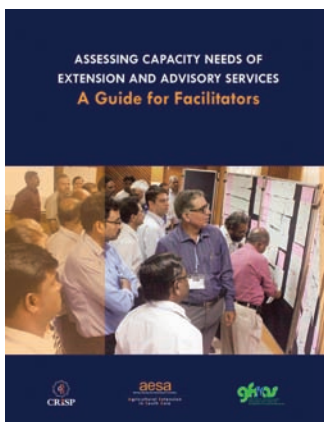


(NAEA). Thirty-eight participants represented 15 organizations that were involved in EAS at varied levels (planning, implementation, research, teaching, training, monitoring and evaluation and policy development) from the public, private and NGO sector. Capacity gaps at the individual and organisational levels among EAS providers were identified at this workshop. The participants also identified ways through which the prioritised capacity needs could be addressed.

## AESA Publications

Based on the findings from the Capacity Needs Assessment Workshops in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal, AESA published a Policy Brief on Capacity Needs of Extension and Advisory Services in South Asia. This policy brief illustrates the processes adopted for assessing the capacity gaps in the region

and the outputs of the assessment exercise (including the capacity needs and ways of addressing these).



A Facilitator's Guide on Assessing Capacity Needs of Extension and Advisory Services was also developed. A blend of interactive approaches for different sessions with tips for facilitators for effective delivery are discussed in the guide. This guide can be used as a standalone document/procedure to assess the capacity needs of the EAS providers.

## Inception Workshop

Supporting Smallholder Farmers in Asia and Pacific-Islands Region through Strengthened Agricultural Advisory Services.

AESA participated in the inception workshop of the project held at the SEARCA (Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture), Philippines, on 7-8 September 2016. In collaboration with GFRAS and APIRAS, this project will be implemented in 3 countries (Bangladesh, Philippines and Fiji). The aim is to strengthen the capacities of the country fora (of extension professionals) and the sub-regional/ regional networks in knowledge management, capacity development and policy engagement.



## Knowledge Management



AESA upgraded its web portal ([www.aesa-gfras.net](http://www.aesa-gfras.net)) with new features and a fresh layout in June 2016. AESA published seven blogs, two good practices, seven meeting notes and one working paper during the last six months (March 2016-August 2016).

The AESA Facebook group currently has more than 18,000 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.



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