

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

## Networking at the country level

The Bangladesh Extension Network (BE-net) organized their second meeting at Dhaka on 24 September 2014. In the meeting, BE-net identified two sub-committees, one to work on a draft constitution and the other to develop a webpage for BE-net. The members of Indian Extension Network (IEN) met for the second time at Karnal on 3 February 2015 and discussed several issues related to improving the effectiveness of extension and advisory services in India.



## Participation at the 5<sup>th</sup> GFRAS Annual Meeting (23-25 September 2014)

Participants from Asia discussed the common challenges in rural advisory services (RAS) in Asian countries and the current status of networking initiated in the different countries. This meeting held at Buenos Aires, Argentina, discussed the importance of evidence-based policies for extension and rural advisory services and how to influence these policies to strengthen RAS.



the same period, meetings with students and faculty in extension were organised at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore,



Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai, and Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. AESA also participated in the IFPRI workshop on “Agricultural Extension Reforms in South Asia: Status, Challenges and Policy Options” held at New Delhi on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

## Discussion on Producer Organisations in the Dairy Sector

During 18 August to 30 September 2014, AESA in association with the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) and the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) organised an e-discussion on “Role of Producer Organisations in Strengthening Extension and Advisory Services in the Dairy/Livestock Sector in India”. This discussion was followed by several rounds of face-to-face discussions with the officials and member producers of dairy producer cooperatives in four states of India. The findings and recommendations from these consultations are compiled and published. We hope this publication stimulates discussion among different stakeholders on engaging producer organizations in strengthening the demand for and supply of extension and advisory services.



## AESA web-portal

We have added several new publications in the AESA portal. AESA published six blogs, one good practice, four meeting notes and one face-to-face interview during the last 5 months (October 2014-February 2015). The AESA facebook group currently has more than 9000 members and we are using the facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/428431183848161/>) and the AESA email list to share information on extension and advisory services.

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