



OCTOBER 2021

# TAP Newsletter



## TAP-AIS

### FAO brings together EU DeSIRA projects in support of Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa

A virtual consultation to explore areas of collaboration and create synergies among four EU-funded DeSIRA projects in Africa was held on 16 September 2021. The projects, which seek to spur innovation through Africa's agricultural regional research architecture, are led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development (Agrinatura), the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR) and the 'CAADP ex-Pillar IV organizations' composed respectively of the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS), the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF), Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

Forty participants attended the meeting including representatives from the EU Commission, Agrinatura, FAO, GFAR, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and heads of regional research and extension organizations. This event initiated a dialogue among DeSIRA projects, working with the CAADP ex-Pillar IV organizations. The meeting provided information on the TAP-AIS, CAADP XP4, DeSIRA LIFT and GFAR projects, their approaches and their progress to date, as well as exploring synergies among them. The partners expressed the need for better coordination among the projects and a desire to continue the discussion initiated during the event.



Participants of the virtual consultation

Two regional studies, presented respectively by FAO "[Joint rapid appraisal on strengthening agricultural innovation systems in Africa, Asia and Latin America](#)" and ASARECA "[Capacity Gap Analysis](#)", provided insights into main capacity gaps and entry points in the region. Potential common areas for collaboration and synergies among projects were then identified in break-out groups and plenary discussions. More information is available [here](#).



**TAP-AIS project webinar: Joint Rapid Appraisal (JRA) on strengthening Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) in Africa, Asia and Latin America by regional research and extension organizations**

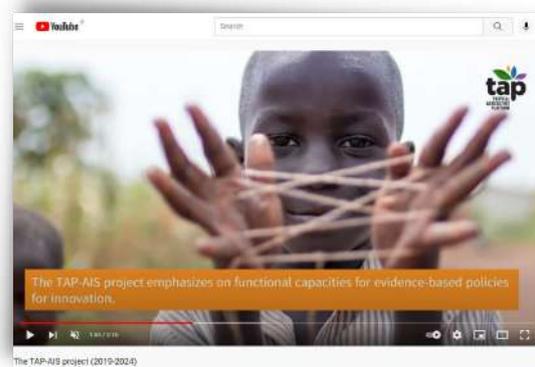
The webinar was organized in the framework of the TAP-AIS project “*Developing capacities in agricultural innovation systems: scaling up the Tropical Agriculture Platform Framework*” implemented by FAO’s Research and Extension Unit (OINR), Office of Innovation (OIN), and funded by the European Union (EU) as a component of the EU DeSIRA initiative.

In 2020, the Regional Agricultural Research and Extension Organizations (RREO) in Africa, Asia and Latin America jointly carried out rapid appraisals as part of the project to scope the innovation environment, identify and document initiatives aimed at strengthening Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS). The focus of the Joint Rapid Appraisals (JRA) was on functional capacity development with a view to exploring ways in which RREO can support the development of these capacities using TAP approaches and tools. The three regional studies were consolidated in the synthesis report and launched during this event.



**New video about the TAP-AIS project on YouTube**

A new video about the TAP-AIS project, illustrating its objectives and approach, is available on the [TAP YouTube channel](#). The video is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), and soon it will be released in French.



**Burkina Faso launches national roadmap in support of the transformation of food system for the 2030 Agenda**

The President of Burkina Faso, Mr Roch Marc Christian Kabore, in his statement during the UN Food Systems Summit on 23 September 2021, presented a national roadmap in support of the transformation of food system for the 2030 Agenda. The President also acknowledged the weak innovation capacities in the agricultural sector and the need to develop joint technical and ‘operational’ capacities of key stakeholders in agri-food systems.

The roadmap included some of the conclusions stressed by the policy dialogue facilitated by the EU-funded Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems ([CDAIS](#)) project, jointly implemented by FAO and Agrinatura, namely:

- (i) to conduct a diagnosis of the national agricultural innovation system;
- (ii) to create a national multi-actor and multi-scale political dialogue platform for the sustainability of the dialogue mechanism around agricultural innovation; and
- (iii) to revise and adapt training curricula to be in line with modernization needs and competitiveness of agriculture.

These recommendations are being supported by the current FAO-led [TAP-AIS](#) project (2019-2024) and CIRAD-led [AcceSS](#) project (2021-2025), both funded by the European Commission under the DeSIRA Programme.



UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

AARINENA

Workshop on Smart Farming Technologies

The Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA) in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Research and Policies (TAGEM), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Republic of Turkey, held an online workshop entitled “Smart Farming Technologies” on 30 September 2021, in an endeavour to reach the objectives of its five years’ plan of action (2019-2024). Professor Dr Adil Abdelrahim, the President of AARINENA, and Dr Ihsan Aslan, Deputy Director General of TAGEM, addressed the opening session of the workshop. They both stressed the importance of the inventories and advanced technologies in transforming agriculture into smart, effective and efficient business in a world that witnesses a rapid increase in human population, natural resources degradation and climate change. The workshop was moderated by the Executive Secretary of AARINENA, Prof Dr Rida Shibli and there were more than one hundred participants from different countries in the Near East and North Africa region (NENA).



Experts in the field of smart agriculture from the Republic of Turkey shared their great expertise and gave informative presentations about the modern technologies that are currently used in agriculture, including machines and equipment that are used in precision farming, irrigation, pesticide application, etc. Moreover, the workshop tackled many issues and topics with regard to smart farming and modern technologies. In particular new automated electric tractors, drones, robots, early warning systems, smart phones and their applications, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) agri-food information and communication systems that will all eventually serve to save time, efforts, and labour hours in addition to the new technologies that can greatly contribute to sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation and green growth economy. The workshop served as a platform for sharing knowledge, experience, information and advances in the field of smart agriculture. It contributes to strengthening the capacities of the different stakeholders of the agricultural and innovation systems in NENA region and beyond.

AESA

Dialogue on Public-Private Partnership Policy and its role in agricultural extension

A policy dialogue on Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and its role in agricultural extension was held at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) Conference Room on 25 September 2021. The event was organized by Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN) under the IFAD-Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS)-Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESA)-Last Mile Programme (LMP). This event discussed the draft findings from the recent analysis conducted by BAEN on PPPs in agricultural extension in Bangladesh and charted potential ways forward in strengthening PPP initiatives to reach farmers at the last mile with advice and services. The findings will soon be shared through a policy brief.



Participants of the policy dialogue on Public-Private Partnership and its role in agricultural extension

## ■ AESA Face to Face (September 2021): Conserving India's Rice Diversity

*"In-situ seed conservation efforts by individual seed champions and NGOs in India are yet to receive the needed institutional support from agencies involved in agricultural research, development or policy. This neglect may further accelerate the erosion of genetic diversity that have been protected so far with their efforts."*

Shankar Patnaik, Seed Conservationist

Mr Shankar Patnaik is a retired schoolteacher from Modeigaon village of Kosagumuda block in Nabarangapur, Odisha. Post-retirement, he and his wife Ms Minakshi Devi, started collecting, conserving (in-situ), documenting and promoting seeds of indigenous rice varieties without any external help. Shankar has been honoured with the 'Dr Richaria Samman' by Odisha Desi Bihana Mancha in 2017 for his contribution towards conservation of indigenous rice.



*Demonstration of indigenous rice varieties in the field*

Mr Patnaik recently shared his experience and insights from his efforts at in-situ conservation of indigenous rice varieties with Rasheed Sulaiman V and Nimisha Mittal. Excerpts from this interview are given [here](#).

## ■ Sparking a paradigm shift in the Asian-Pacific innovation investment landscape

On Tuesday 28 September 2021, the Asia-Pacific Association of Agriculture Research Institutions (APAARI) and the Commission for Sustainable Agriculture Intensification (CoSAI) hosted the first dialogue, in an ongoing series, focusing on the innovation investment landscape and future food systems in the Asia-Pacific. At the outset, APAARI highlighted the importance of agricultural innovation in the region to meet the challenges of climate change and zero hunger, as well as highlighting the importance of partnerships and engagement with global and regional bodies in the Asia-Pacific region for building capacities to innovate. The dialogue hinged on a recent [report](#) on the current level of investment in innovation for Sustainable Agricultural Intensification (SAI) in the Global South, commissioned and published by CoSAI. Please read more [here](#).

## AGREENIUM-CIRAD

### ■ Official launch of the FAIR Sahel project: intensifying agriculture in an ecological way to promote the resilience of Sahelian farms.

The official launching ceremony of the project '*FAIR Sahel*', coordinated by CIRAD, was held on 15 June 2021 in Ouagadougou, under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation of Burkina Faso.

The objective of the four-year FAIR Sahel project, funded by the DeSIRA programme of the European Union (EU) and by the French Development Agency, aims at promoting the sustainable intensification of agricultural production in the Sahel region, by creating favorable conditions for small producers to set up innovative technical systems of agro-ecological intensification. This project is a consortium of ten partners from Africa and Europe, from research institutions and development organizations, engaged in the support of innovations for agro-ecological transitions.

The FAIR Sahel project will enable institutional actors at the regional level to support the deployment of agro-ecological intensification. The project will focus, for example, on market gardening in the Niayes in Senegal, sorghum and legume-based systems in central areas in Burkina Faso and in cotton production areas in the three countries of intervention. At the national and sub-regional level, the project will bring its experience and share its results with the political authorities of each country and the Sahel region, to contribute to scientifically argued advocacy and be socially supported by the project stakeholders. More information about the project is available [here](#).



Official ceremony of the project Fair Sahel chaired by Amadou Hebie, Representative of the European Union Delegation in Burkina Faso, Maminata Traoré Coulibaly, Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation of Burkina Faso, Prof Roger Nebie, Delegate General of CNRST, Serge Marlet, CIRAD Deputy Regional Director for West Africa Dry Zone

## Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Nutrition and Food Systems

In September, a free online course to learn about the pathways to sustainable and healthy diets was launched by FAO e-learning Academy, in partnership with the German Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Agreenium, Cirad (Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement), L'institut Agro – Montpellier SupAgro and UVED (Université Virtuelle Environnement et Développement Durable). This Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) covers the interlinkages between food, nutrition, agri-food systems and the importance of adopting a multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach for promoting healthy diets and nutrition through food systems.



The course offers collaborative activities such as live webinars, video recordings of the experts' contributions, publications and other relevant learning materials including links to other relevant self-paced e-learning courses. This MOOC is especially relevant for decision makers, policy makers, policy advisors and formulators, investment planners, project managers involved in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of agri-food system policies and programmes for healthy diets and improved nutrition. The course is also aimed at professionals and students in the areas of food systems, nutrition, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The course took place from 17 September to 24 October 2021.

## AGRINATURA

### UNFSS Science Days: Side-event on the role of agricultural research and innovation on food systems transformation science



On 6 July 2021, Agrinatura together with FARA and Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP) organized a side-event on "The role of agricultural research and innovation on food systems transformation science", as a part of the Science Days of United Nations Food System Summit (UNFSS) 2021. Good practices and principles were discussed based on successful cases of transdisciplinary research that resulted from examples of Africa-EU cooperation on agricultural research and innovation, as well as recommendations for a long-term strategy for research and innovation.

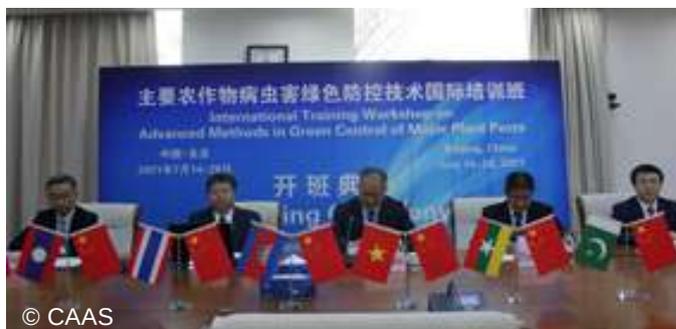


The panel consisted of Dr Yemi Akinbamijo (FARA), Dr Helena Posthumus [DeSIRA-LIFT/Wageningen University & Research (WUR)], Dr Stephen Onakuse (Agrinatura President), Dr Guy Faure (European Commission), Dr Elisabeth Nsimadala (Pan Africa Farmers Organization/ East Africa Farmers Federation), Dr Bongwiwe Njobe [Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo (CIMMYT)] and Dr Alex Mutua (Managing Director, Goshen Farm Exporters Ltd, Kenya). The participants had a fruitful exchange on how academia, higher education, advisory services, private sector and funding institutions shall participate in the food systems transformation, providing a relevant input to inform the UNFSS deliberations. For more information on the outcome of the meeting visit [here](#).

## CAAS

### IPPCAAS organized the International Training Workshop on Advanced Methods in Green Control of Major Plant Pests

On 14 July 2021, the Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (IPPCAAS) successfully conducted the *International Training Workshop on Advanced Methods in Green Control of Major Plant Pests* for attendees from Southeast Asian countries. This workshop was sponsored by the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology of China. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all lectures were conducted online.



Key presenters during the IPPCAAS workshop

Mr Zhang Yahui, Director General of Department of International Cooperation (CAAS) delivered the opening remarks. The first keynote lecture “*Plant Health in China*” was given by Prof Zhou Xueping, Director General of IPPCAAS. In the following days, 14 lectures on the theme of “*Advanced Methods in Green Control of Major Plant Pests*” were delivered by the experts from IPPCAAS and other institutes in China. After the final evaluation, 44 trainees from six Southeast Asian countries, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan and Viet Nam were qualified for the certificates by the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology, China, and 20 of them were selected as “Outstanding Trainee” according to their performance.

In the closing ceremony, Prof Zhang Jie, Deputy Director General of IPPCAAS, congratulated the 44 trainees who completed all training courses. He also encouraged the trainees to apply the knowledge and methods shared by this workshop in their future research and management, to benefit more people in their countries. The trainees expressed their sincere acknowledgements to all keynote speakers and IPPCAAS. They also expressed their intention to deepen collaboration with China in green control on crop diseases and pests.

### CAAS organized the Session I of the Thematic Forum during the International Conference on Food Loss and Waste

From 09 to 11 September 2021, the International Conference on Food Loss and Waste (ICFLW) was held in Jinan, Shandong Province. ICFLW was proposed by Mr XI Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China on the occasion of the fifteenth G20 Summit last year. At the convening of ICFLW, President XI sent a congratulatory letter, which was read out by Mr JI Bingxuan personally, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China. Twenty-four ministers and six deputy ministers of agriculture from G20 and relevant countries attended the event, six heads of international and regional organizations delivered speeches at the conference, while 16 ambassadors to China participated in the conference. The Organizing Committee of the Conference, entrusted the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) to organize the *Session I of Thematic Forum of the Conference - Reducing Food Loss in Production*, which was a complete success.

This session was moderated by Prof Zhang Yahui, Director General of Department of International Cooperation, CAAS. Nine experts and officials from both China and abroad analysed the situation of food loss and waste in the world, and shared their perspectives, experiences and practices for reducing food loss and waste, particularly in the process of food production, aiming to promote global food security and achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.



Presenters at the Session I of Thematic Forum of the Conference Reducing Food Loss in Production

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## CATAS

### CATAS Reyan No. 4 King Grass will drive the development of livestock industry in Pakistan

The Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS) in partnership with the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF), developed a project on intercropping King Grass in palm tree plantations. UAF introduced Reyan No. 4 King Grass from CATAS and completed the local adaptability test and propagation of this cultivar in Pakistan. Professor Li Kaimian, Vice President of CATAS, presented seedlings of Reyan No. 4 King Grass to Mr Awais Ahmad Khan, Counsellor of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Beijing during the CATAS-UAF Workshop on “Tropical Agricultural Science and Technology Cooperation”, on 23 September 2021.

At the same time, in Pakistan’s session, Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor of UAF, distributed hundreds of bundles of 30-40 kg King Grass seedlings to major agricultural institutions, universities and farmers, together with production technology manuals to expand its research and cultivation in the country. According to the research of UAF, King Grass can be harvested three to four times a year in Pakistan, with a yield of 350 tons/hectare per harvest, which can effectively solve the issue of Pakistan’s feed shortage in summer. CATAS’s Reyan No. 4 King Grass will drive the development of Pakistan’s livestock industry.



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Presenters at the Session I of Thematic Forum of the Conference Reducing Food Loss in Production



UAF held an online King Grass seedlings distribution ceremony

**CATAS and WFP signed a MOU on strengthening South-South Cooperation**

CATAS and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) jointly held a Seminar on *South-South Cooperation Roadmap of Tropical Agriculture* in Haikou City, Hainan Province, attracting the participation of over 80 experts and officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Emergency Management, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, the WFP China Office, and the embassies of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Republic of Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Zambia, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal in China, as well as related scientific and educational institutions and enterprises.

At the seminar, Dr Liu Guodao, Vice President of CATAS, and Mr Qu Sixi, WFP's Country Director in China, jointly signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CATAS and WFP on strengthening South-South Cooperation. The two parties deepened cooperation in many areas including the development of value chains of cassava, rice, corn and other tropical crops in the form of talent exchange, expert dispatch, training, technical cooperation and field demonstrations. Via deepening South-South cooperation in tropical agriculture, the two parties aim at sharing China's technical solutions, best practices, experiences and development approaches concerning tropical agriculture with other developing countries, improving food security and the livelihoods of rural people and contributing to poverty alleviation and hunger reduction in developing countries.



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MoU signing ceremony





Visit to CATAS Cassava Field

### ■ Sub Forum of the fourth Forum on China-Africa Local Government Cooperation held in Haikou

On 09 September 2021, CATAS, Foreign Affairs Office of Hainan Province and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) co-hosted the Sub Forum of the fourth Forum on China-Africa Local Government Cooperation in Haikou City, Hainan Province. This forum, themed "*Intensified Agricultural Cooperation for Poverty Reduction and Common Development*", invited more than 30 delegates from Hainan provincial departments, as well as sister provinces, embassies, consulates and agricultural sectors of African countries to attend either online or offline.

At the forum, representatives of CATAS, IITA and scientific research institutions of Egypt, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Republic of the Congo, Zanzibar United Republic of Tanzania, and other countries shared their classic cases on agricultural policy planning and poverty reduction. The Office of Foreign Affairs of Hainan Province and CATAS also announced that they will jointly organize the 2021 Hainan-Africa Joint Training Programme on Tropical Agriculture for Green Development and Poverty Alleviation, thereby consolidating the friendship and deepening the pragmatic cooperation between Hainan and its sister provinces in African countries.



Group photo

COSAI

■ CoSAI side event at the 2021 AGRF Summit: Building knowledge around effective instruments for innovation investments

The Commission on Sustainable Agriculture Intensification (CoSAI) and the [Institute for Natural Resources](#) (INR) recently hosted a side event at the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) 2021 Summit (read about some of the key outcome from the event [here](#)).

The side event brought together CoSAI Commissioners and agricultural experts to discuss CoSAI's upcoming study: the [Approaches and Instruments Study](#), which is looking at approaches and instruments that both stimulate and support innovation investment in agriculture and resolve interlocking constraints to uptake at scale. The event highlighted how the whole investment environment, including the sector, scale and objective of investments, as well as the financial and non-financial instruments employed, influence innovation development and consequently the impacts required to achieve Sustainable Agricultural Intensification (SAI). The panel of experts also stressed the importance of placing farmers at the centre of the innovation environment and instruments, emphasising that *"If we want to achieve inclusive social and equity objectives and improve the lives of the poorest, farmers must be central to the process"*. The event discussion will inform the final findings of the study and contribute to knowledge building around effective instruments for innovation investments. Watch the recording of the event [here](#).



Presenters at the CoSAI side event at the 2021 AGRF Summit

GFAR

■ GFAR Partners in Action! Join us in sharing your successes

The Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR) Secretariat team is pleased to announce the continuation of the [GFAR Partners in Action campaign](#), which celebrates the achievements of the diverse network of partners who are working together to shape a new, sustainable future of agriculture and food. Each month GFAR is showcasing stories submitted by partners, related to a key theme in agri-food research and innovation.

Over the past months, GFAR has published [25 campaign blogs](#) and the hashtag #GFARinAction has reached over 460 000 people on Twitter alone. To launch the campaign in April, GFAR explored the [GFAR Collective Action on Inclusive Digital Transformation of Agriculture](#), which is addressing the lack of inclusion of farmers in the design and governance of digital agriculture processes, preventing them from harnessing the benefits and fully embracing the digital transformation. In May, GFAR turned the spotlight on the [GFAR Collective Action on Forgotten Foods](#), which aims to define, together with farmers and other innovation actors, what needs to change for research systems to better support and build on local and indigenous expertise in cultivating crop species forgotten by science.

Partners in GFAR then took the lead, sharing their work on [climate change adaptation and mitigation](#); [empowering youth in agri-food systems](#); and [nurturing innovations that put farmers at the centre](#) — in the true spirit of GFAR partnership.

September marked the arrival of the momentous UN Food Systems Summit, and GFAR partners brought readers some intriguing and refreshing insights into the ways food systems can be made safer, more nutritious and more inclusive of all actors.

Read all the campaign blog posts [here](#).



### ■ Help shape a new future for food

The call is now open for contributions to the second phase of the #GFARinAction campaign and all partners in GFAR are invited to submit original blog posts on the following themes:

Month	Theme
October 2021	Closing the gender gap in agriculture
November 2021	Building resilience to climate shocks
December 2021	Farming in a post-COVID world
January 2022	Soil and land data to support improved sustainability and FAIR access

Selected blogs will receive editorial support and be featured on the GFAR website, included in the monthly newsletter, widely promoted across GFAR network of over 600 partners and shared through social media. This is a great opportunity for increased visibility of your organization's work and to encourage discussion through the comments section.

Blogs that highlight your involvement with GFAR are particularly encouraged, all suggestions related to the monthly theme are welcome. Please contact the campaign coordinator, Holly Holmes [holly@cultivatecomms.com](mailto:holly@cultivatecomms.com), to indicate which theme/month you would like to contribute to.

Subscribe to the GFAR Partners in Action newsletter [here](#). Follow and engage with the campaign on social media using #GFARinAction.

## RELASER

### ■ Pre-dialogue to the 2021 Food Systems Summit of YPARD and RELASER

On 25 August 2021, the Latin American Network of Rural Extension Services (RELASER) and the Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) - Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) - held the preparatory dialogue for the 2021 Food Systems Summit entitled “*Innovative Ideas that help to produce in a sustainable way and improve the quality of urban and rural life*”, which was facilitated by Mr Sebastián Pedraza, President of the Board of YPARD and Coordinator of YPARD-LAC.



The event was initiated by Mr Francisco Aguirre, Executive Secretary of RELASER, who indicated that this initiative is carried out *“in response to a call from the United Nations, which we find very interesting and finds it in a context of participation, which is valuable to improve food systems in Latin America and the world”* and urged a greater participation of *“rural youth so that they have a more leading role in this future scenario, and family farming to become more relevant”*. To access the recording of the dialogue, click on the following link: <https://bit.ly/DialogoPreparatorioYPARD-RELASER>.

**Let's talk about rural youth: RELASER Costa Rica and GFRAS conversatory**

On 21 September 2021 the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS), the National Forum Costa Rica of the Latin American Network of Rural Extension Services (RELASER), and the Latin American Interinstitutional Network Empowering Rural Youth co-organized an event called *“Conversation on Rural Youth and Agricultural Extension”*. During the event, four guests from different Latin American countries (Costa Rica, Colombia, Mexico and Uruguay) presented, their experts on issues related to rural youth. This space was carried out through the Zoom platform and was facilitated by Ms Laura Ramírez from the National Institute for Innovation and Transfer in Agricultural Technology (INTA), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica and a member of RELASER.

This event *“is part of an initiative that arose within the framework of the LMP Project of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which proposes to take extension services to the last mile”*. The event lasted about two and a half hours and can be seen on the YouTube channel of the INTA project PLATICAR, at <https://bit.ly/ConvJuventudesRurales>



**YPARD**

**YPARD took part in the creation of the Youth Declaration for Transforming Food Systems**

On 23 September 2021, the Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) delivered the *“Youth Declaration for Food Transformation”* at United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) 2021. More information is available [here](#). Read also a [quest post](#) published on GFAR’s website on the importance of financing youth organizations.



**VIRTUAL TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT) STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURE INNOVATION SYSTEMS IN ASIA-PACIFIC: TAP APPROACHES AND TOOLS**

**WHEN: 19 AND 20 OCTOBER 2021**

In the framework of the TAP-AIS project, FAO’s Research and Extension Unit, Office of Innovation (OIN), in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and the Asia-Pacific Islands and Rural Advisory Services Network (APIRAS) organized a regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on Agriculture Innovation Systems (AIS) concepts and methods, targeting trainers and faculties from Asia-Pacific.



The main objectives of the ToT were to:

1. raise awareness on AIS approaches;
2. introduce participants to the TAP common framework on capacity development for AIS; and
3. set accompanying tools for capacity development and strengthening agri-food systems in their respective countries.

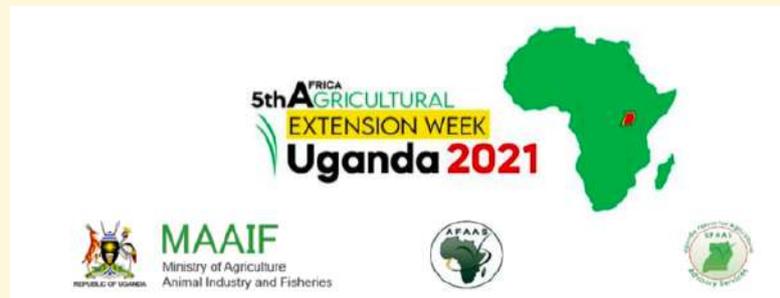
## UPCOMING EVENTS

### THE 5th AFRICA-WIDE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WEEK, 14-20 NOVEMBER 2021

The African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) will hold the 5th Africa-Wide Agricultural Extension Week (AAEW) from 14-20 November 2021. The event shall be hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) of the Republic of Uganda, in partnership with the Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (UFAAS).

The theme of the 5th AAEW 2021 is "Effective Agricultural Extension Systems for Sustainable Agripreneurship in Africa". The global context of the 5th AAEW 2021 is grounded on several initiatives at different levels to address the key challenges in the broad development agenda. These include adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the African Union Commission's 2063 Agenda: The Africa We Want, and the Paris Agreement on climate change in 2015, which all give new impetus to resolving the challenges and to seize opportunities. These initiatives recognise that the world is more interdependent than ever and that Africa and developing countries remain the weakest link in global economic development.

Within the Africa and the European partnership context, examples of programmes to address the challenges is the "Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture (DeSIRA)", an EU initiative aimed at deploying science and innovation to achieve an inclusive, sustainable and climate-relevant transformation of agriculture and related food systems in partner countries.



### GFRAS ANNUAL MEETING, 30 NOVEMBER-03 DECEMBER 2021

2021 Annual Meeting of the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS). Annual Meeting will discuss the foundations of agroecology and how it can help build stronger and more resilient communities, support food systems, and aid in the recovery of value chains.

To register, click here:

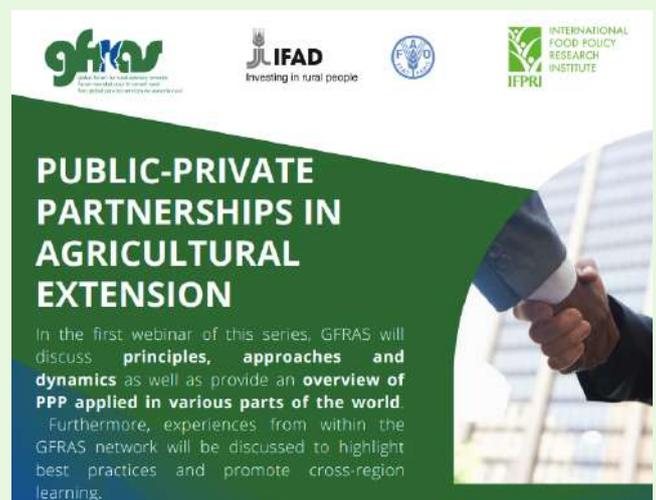
<https://www.g-fras.org/en/eventseng/2021-gfras-annual-meeting.html>



### GFRAS WEBINAR SERIES: PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION, 9 NOVEMBER 2021

First in the Webinar Series: Public-Private Partnerships in Agricultural Extension on 9 November 2021:

<https://www.g-fras.org/en/gfras/1124-webinar-series-public-private-partnerships-in-agricultural-extension.html>



**JIRCAS INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 2021, 17 NOVEMBER 2021**

The JIRCAS International Symposium 2021 featuring the theme "*The role of science, technology and innovation in achieving sustainable food systems in the Asian monsoon region: a platform for international collaboration*" will be held online on Wednesday 17 November 2021.

In May 2021, the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) unveiled the "Measures for achievement of Decarbonization and Resilience with Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems (MeaDRI)". The MeaDRI strategy has proposed pathways in where Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) can take a central role in reducing environmental footprint while enhancing productivity for food production. To achieve impacts on the regional and global scales, socio-economically and technologically feasible STI options should be made available, not only for Japan, but also for countries sharing similar agro-ecological conditions, such as those in the Asian monsoon region.

This Symposium will provide a forum to discuss a platform for international collaboration contributing to "Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems". In the contexts of global debates on sustainable food systems transformation the objectives will be:

- Review recent policy developments on agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors at country/regional level in the Asian monsoon region.
- Identify the STI portfolios with evidence or potential to achieve both productivity improvement and environmental sustainability depending on agro-ecological and socio-economic contexts.
- Discuss the roles of stakeholders for international collaboration based on respective comparative advantages.

For more information visit: <https://www.jircas.go.jp/en/symposium/2021/e20211117>. Registration are open until 16 November 2021 ([Registration link](#)).

**EIGHT TAP PARTNERS ASSEMBLY, WEEK 22-26 NOVEMBER 2021**

This year the Eighth TAP Partners Assembly will be organized virtually in the week 22 to 26 November 2021.

It will consist of:

1. Two-day TAP Partners Meeting on 23 and 24 November 2021
2. Side events organized by TAP Partners on 22, 25 and 26 November 2021

More information about the event will be announced soon at: <https://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform/en/>



23-24 NOVEMBER 2021  
**8TH TAP PARTNERS ASSEMBLY**

**PUBLICATIONS**



**METHODOLOGY ON GLOBAL CAPACITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT (GCNA)**

Integrating nutrition objectives into agricultural extension and advisory services programmes and policies. French Version of this document is currently available: <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB2069FR>



Since August 2019 the EU supports TAP through the project "Developing capacities in agricultural innovation systems: scaling up the TAP Framework" (TAP-AIS), implemented by FAO.

**Contact the TAP Secretariat**

TAP is a G-20 initiative launched in 2012 to promote agricultural innovation in the tropics. TAP has formed a coalition of more than 50 partners. Its main goal is to strengthen agricultural innovation systems (AIS) in developing countries through coordinated multi-stakeholder interventions.

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