

**10TH TAP PARTNER
ASSEMBLY**

CAPACITATING COUNTRIES TO INNOVATE
TOWARD AGRIFOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION



21-23 NOVEMBER 2023

10TH TAP PARTNER ASSEMBLY

**Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)
& Virtual**

**STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES TO INNOVATE
TOWARD AGRIFOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION**

With technical support of



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Funded by
the European Union

BACKGROUND

The [Tropical Agriculture Platform](#) (TAP) is a G20 initiative, launched in 2012, with the mandate to work towards bridging the capacity gaps for agricultural innovation in the tropics. Its objective is to increase coherence and effectiveness of capacity development interventions for agricultural innovation systems, for sustainable change and impact at scale.

TAP and its 52 Partners embrace an Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) perspective, acting as a multilateral and dynamic facilitation mechanism for better coherence and greater impact of capacity development interventions in AIS. To date, TAP achievements include joint development and piloting of its [Common Framework on Capacity Development for AIS](#), accompanied by practical tools and manuals; strengthening key organisations and policy makers in nearly 20 countries to integrate TAP approaches into national roadmaps, strategic plans, innovation programmes and projects; and enhancing joint learning through [TAPipedia](#), an open knowledge-sharing system.

The new Action Plan 2022-2025, endorsed by TAP Partners in January 2023, emphasizes mainstreaming AIS approaches at national, regional and global levels. It targets key organizations and policy makers, with a particular focus on integrating inclusive, needs-based bottom-up approaches into AIS. Currently, TAP Partners contribute to implementing the Action Plan through various initiatives and programmes, which are regularly shared with all Partners through the TAP Newsletter, TAP website, social media and, importantly, in TAP Partner meetings.

The upcoming 10th Partners Assembly of the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) from 21 to 23 November 2023 will promote knowledge exchange and learning around the theme: “Strengthening capacities to innovate toward agrifood system transformation”. In addition to the Partner Assembly, the meeting will also focus on the technical aspects of the capacity development of AIS to promote innovation at all levels. The event is organized in two parts:

The first day is dedicated to the introductory keynote presentations and the 10th TAP Partners Assembly, to share and learn from the Partners’ ongoing approaches for strengthening the capacity of AIS, endorse TAP governance and decisions, and to discuss the expanding role of TAP.

The second and third days of the TAP Partners Assembly focus on technical sessions organized around the three major areas of work of TAP 2022–2025 Action Plan:

- Strengthening innovation capacities at country level
- Roles of Regional Research and Extension Organizations (RREOs) in promoting TAP tools and strengthening AIS
- Promoting policy advocacy and investments in AIS at all levels

TAP Partners and other development partners are invited to share their lessons, success stories and challenges in group work sessions, panel discussions and plenary sessions, with a view to boost synergies and explore future joint action.

AGENDA

TIME	TOPICS & FORMAT	SPEAKERS / FACILITATORS
Monday 20 November		
18:00 - 20:00	Registration / Check-in, Radisson Blu Hotel	All participants
DAY 1. TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER		
8:00-8:30	Registration	All participants
9:00 – 9:30	Opening Session: Welcome and opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO-Representative from Ethiopia • Government Representative from Ethiopia • EU Delegation in Ethiopia • TAP Chair • Director, Office of Innovation, FAO 	
9:30 - 9:35	TAP Video	TAP Secretariat
9:35 – 9:45	Highlights of TAP in 2022–2023	
9:45: 10:45	Brief reflections on expectations and the key achievements of TAP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TAP mission and G20 expectations: Overview - Selvaraju Ramasamy, TAP Secretariat, FAO, Rome - Relevance of TAP Action Plan: Successes and Challenges - Max Olupot, TAP Chair, AFAAS, Uganda - Capacity development of AIS for multistakeholder policy engagement to promote conservation agriculture and agroecology in Cambodia - H.E. Dr. Yoeu Asikin, Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Cambodia. - Coordination of AIS actors at the national level: Setting up of governance for national AIS in Burkina Faso - M. Gnoumou, Ministry of Agriculture, Burkina Faso - Integration of TAP tools for strengthening capacity for innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean - Maria Paz Santibañez, Latin-American Network for Rural Extension Services (RELASER), Chile - Role of TAP in strengthening inter and intra-regional collaboration and partnership among Regional Research and Extension 	All participants

	<p>Organizations for promoting agricultural innovation - Rasheed Sulaiman, Agricultural Extension South Asia Network (AESAN), India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting agricultural innovation systems: the DeSIRA initiative rationale and expectations - C. Larose, DG INTPA/EC (tbc) <p>Discussion (15 minutes)</p> <p>Facilitation : <i>Dongxin Feng, FAO/IAEA Joint Centre, Vienna, Austria</i></p>	
10:45 -11:00	Group picture and coffee break	
11:00-12:30	<p>Technical Session 1: Strengthening Capacities of Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS): Approaches, Common Framework, Tools and Methods for scaling-up</p> <p>Objective: to discuss a range of approaches and frameworks, tools and methods used by development partners and opportunities and challenges for scaling up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of innovation in agriculture – GIZ’s approaches for transformation of agriculture and food systems - Andrea Wilhelmi-Somé, Sector Coordinator Transformation of Agri-Food Systems, GIZ, Ethiopia - Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems: Stimulating Innovation Support in Europe –Simona Cristiano, Council for Agricultural Research and Agricultural Economics (CREA), Italy - Operationalization of TAP Common Framework – Experiences and lessons - Martina Spisiakova, Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), Bangkok, Thailand - Strengthening Capacity for Innovation: Leveraging gender equality and youth to ensure impact –Nicoline de Haan, CGIAR Gender Platform, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Nairobi, Kenya - Strengthening capacity of extension and advisory services for building sustainable and resilient food systems in Africa: Strategic pillars and applied innovations. Fentahun Mengistu, Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) - Q&A Session (15 minutes) - Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) – revisiting TAP’s common framework, processes and update –TAP Secretariat, FAO, Rome - Discussion (15 minutes) 	<p>Short presentations and moderated panel discussion (all participants)</p>

	Facilitation: Max Olupot , African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS), Uganda	
12:30 -14:00	Lunch break	
14:00 -17:00	TAP Partners Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revisiting TAP reference documents: TAP Theory of Change, TAP Action Plan, TAP engagement strategy, TAP Common Framework - Update on the implementation of the TAP Action Plan 2022–2025 - Discussion about the expanded role of TAP - New partners to TAP (if any) - Election of the Chair and Co-Chair of TAP Partner Assembly and election of TAP Steering Committee members - Closing remarks 	TAP Partners only (Separate annotated agenda will be distributed to the TAP Partners for discussion and decision)
14:00 -17:00	Parallel session: Unpacking and evidencing outcomes of the TAP-AIS at the country level	Country project focal points (Separate Agenda to be shared)
18:00 -20:00	Welcome reception	All

DAY 2. WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER

9:00 -9:15	Recap Day 1	TAP Chair
9:15-10:30	Technical session 2: Increased innovation capacities at country level (TAP Outcome 1) <p>Objective: to demonstrate and discuss selected examples of application of capacity development approaches and methods to promote innovations at country level and its impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategies for impactful capacity building in Agricultural Innovation Systems for improved competitiveness and market access – Blaise Amony, ASARECA Secretariat, Uganda. - Perspectives on youth inclusion at country level to promote innovation – Genna Tesdall, Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD), Berlin, Germany - Promoting innovations for sustainable agrifood systems – JIRCAS's approach to enhance agricultural productivity potential – Norihito Kanamori, Japanese International Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), Ibaraki, Japan 	All Participants

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting innovation capacities and scaling up of innovations for the tropical agriculture in China - Xue Zhang, Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS), Haikou, Hainan, China - Integrating AIS into agricultural education and strengthening professional extension associations for policy impact – Catherine Msuya, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania - Strengthening research – extension linkages for co-development of innovation in Colombia María Fernanda Garrido Rubiano, Agrosavia, Colombia - Strengthening innovation support services for accelerating innovation dynamics in agriculture – Aurelie Toillier, The French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) <p>Facilitation: Fernando Manzo Ramos, RELASER</p>	
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break	
10:45 – 12:00	<p>Group Work: Deep dive in to case studies and lessons</p> <p>Group 1: Multi-actor mechanisms at country level to accelerate innovation in the agriculture sectors</p> <p>Objective : to explore how innovation facilities (hubs, platforms etc.,) for strengthening functional capacities can complement technical capacities for accelerating innovation initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DeSIRA project WATDEV, Gaetano Ladisa- Scientific Administrator (CIHEAM) - DeSIRA project Yayu Coffee – Bekele Haile, project manager (Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung) - DeSIRA project Women coffee climate- Alemu Tesfaye, OSSREA - DeSIRA project transitions - J. Mockshell, project leader, Alliance-Biodiversity-CIAT - FAO TAP-AIS – Per Rudebjer, FAO, Rome - GFAR – Inclusive digital agriculture - Marie Jo Cortijo <p>Facilitation: P. Henriquez, Wageningen University and Aurelie Toillier, FAO</p> <p>Group 2: Designing national policies for agricultural innovation</p> <p>Objective : to discuss different approaches and pathways for innovation policy support at the country level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrating the AIS perspective into the National Agricultural Policy in Malawi - Blessings Susuwele, TAP-AIS Malawi 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research Strategy at national level - Phonevilay [Lanoy] Sinavong, Lao PDR - Policy for digital transition in agriculture in Colombia - Ana Garcia Hoyos, Country Project Manager TAP-AIS Colombia - Experiential learning and technology scaling – Olandele Idowu, South Africa - Green innovation – Andrea Ruediger, GiZ, Nigeria - Extension and advisory services in Africa – Gerrit Holtland, Ethiopia - Policies for innovation support services in Burkina Faso, Aristide Sempore, Burkina Faso <p>Facilitation: <i>Samson Eshetu & Manuela Bucciarelli, FAO</i></p>	
12:00 – 12:30	<p>Reporting Back : Insights from group work and perspectives for future action</p> <p><i>Group 1: Priscilla, Agrinatura</i> <i>Group 2: Samson Eshetu, FAO</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Elias Zerfu</i></p>	
12:45 -14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-15:30	<p>Technical session 3 : Support of Regional Research and Extension Organizations (RREOs) to countries on strengthening capacities for Innovation (TAP Outcome 2)</p> <p>Objective: to share and discuss the experiences of Regional Research and Extension Organizations (RREOs) in supporting countries for innovation</p> <p>Africa: Joint capacity development activities by CAADP XP4 organizations – Abdulrazak Ibrahim, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Accra, Ghana (tbc)</p> <p>Asia and Pacific: AIS for sustainable intensification in Asia Pacific region – Ravi Khetarpal, Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), Bangkok, Thailand</p> <p>Latin America and the Caribbean: AIS for innovation and bioeconomy – Karen Montiel, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)</p> <p>Near East and North Africa – Sustainable date palm research and innovation platform – Rida Shibli, Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in Near East and North Africa (AARINENA)</p> <p>Inter-regional: Lessons Asia and Latin America – synthesis of good practice notes – Maria Paz Santibañez (RELASER)</p>	All Partners

	Facilitation: Rasheed Sulaiman, Agricultural Extension South Asia Network (AESAN), India	
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break	
15:45 – 17:00	<p>Group work: Deep dive in to case studies and concrete experiences</p> <p>Group 1: Promoting TAP tools and methods through Regional Research and Extension Organizations</p> <p><i>Objective: To share and reflect on experiences, successes and challenges in applying TAP capacity development approaches and tools in addressing agrifood systems challenges</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Martina Spisiakova, APAARI - Karen Tatiana Montiel Lopez, FORAGRO/IICA - Abdulrazak Ibrahim, FARA - Delgermaa Chuluunbaatar, FAO - Max Olupot, AFAAS - Mariame Maiga, CORAF <p>Facilitation: Richard Lamboll, NRI</p> <p>Group 2: Integration of TAP tools and methods into the Higher Education Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stephen Onakuse, Agrinatura - Nimisha Mittal, APIRAS - Anthony Egeru, RUFORUM - GCHERA- Integrating AIS approach in higher education, lessons from Working Groups - Hildegard Lingnau, GFAR - Fernando Manzo, RELASER <p>Facilitation: Maria Paz Santibañez, RELASER</p>	
17:00 – 17:30	<p>Reporting Back: insights from the group works and perspectives for future action</p> <p><i>Group 1: Richard Lamboll, Agrinatura</i> <i>Group 2: Maria Paz Santibañez, RELASER</i></p> <p>Facilitation: Delgermaa Chuluunbaatar, FAO</p>	
17-18h00	E-learning course on TAP Capacity Development for AIS	FAO OIN and FAO e-learning team

DAY 3. THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER

09:00–09:15	Recap of Day 2	TAP Chair
09:15–10:30	<p>Technical session 4 : Policy advocacy and increased investments in AIS</p> <p>Objectives: Present experiences and key achievements of the policy advocacy and investments in strengthening capacity of agricultural innovation systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocate for more investments in AIS: Moving beyond the TAP partnership – Max Olupot, AFAAS - Mobilizing investments and coalition for transformative change in agrifood research and innovation - Empowering smallholders through collective actions – Hildegard Lingnau, GFAR - Advocacy and investments for Enabling Farmers for Agricultural Transformation (EFAT) - Nimisha Mittal, GFRAS - Global engagements for agricultural innovation – Shantanu Mathur, IFAD - Foresight for making-decision on policy and investment for AIS - Nevena Alexandrova-Stefanova, FAO, Rome - Investments in strengthening capacity to develop innovative practices and technologies – Oureish Noordin, Extension and Capacity Building, AGRA, Nairobi, Kenya <p>Facilitation: Selvaraju Ramasamy, TAP Secretariat, FAO, Rome</p>	All Partners
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break	
10:45 – 12:00	<p>Group work : Deep dive in to case studies and concrete experiences</p> <p>Group 1: Private sector engagement mechanism in AIS for promoting women-led innovations</p> <p>Objective : <i>to advocate for the role of women in seed systems and to share experiences in promoting private sector investment ; to discuss the drivers allowing innovations to happen and benefiting women and lessons learned in promoting women-led innovations in the seed systems.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mariame Maïga, Gender Lead for CAADP-XP4 and CORAF Regional Gender and Social Development Adviser - Munoko Karen Musikoyo-Nguru, Agribusiness Expert, FARA - Maimouna Coulibaly Sidibe (Mali), Founder and owner of Faso Kaba, Mali - Augusta Nyamadi-Clottey, CEO of the National Seed Trade Association of Ghana (NASTAG) - Gloria Zalisssa Sawadogo, NaFaso, Burkina Faso - Nasser Aichatou, Director General, Ferme Semencière Aino, Niger 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rana Muhammad Wajid KHAN/ Syed Irfan Hussain Shah, Pakistan <p>Facilitation: <i>Isolina Boto, COLEAD, Belgium</i></p> <p>Group 2: Strengthening mechanisms for policy advocacy and investments in AIS</p> <p><i>Objective : Policy and governance need to be supportive of innovation systems approaches in provide incentives and direction for behavioural change among innovation actors. This group work will discuss experiences from different organizations on how evidence can inform policy change towards more effective agricultural innovation systems</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Italian Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AICS) - GIZ- Andrea Wilhelmi-Somé - FAO Lao PDR Sengphachanh Sonethavixay - SAARC- Nasreen Sultana - IICA - <i>Fernando Barrera</i> - Lao PDR - Phonevilay SINAVONG - CGIAR – Namukolo Covic <p>Facilitation: <i>Nevena Alexandrova, FAO</i></p>	
	<p>Reporting Back: Insights from working groups and perspectives for future action</p> <p><i>Group 1: Isolina Boto, COLEAD</i> <i>Group 2: Nevena Alexandrova, FAO</i></p> <p>Facilitation: Nicoline de Haan, CGIAR Gender Platform, ILRI, Nairobi, Kenya</p>	
12:30 -14:00	Lunch break	
14:00 -15:00	<p>Way forward and closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mainstreaming capacity development of AIS and innovation for agrifood systems transformation: major take-aways from the three days- TAP Chair - Facilitating TAP Partners engagement - Closing (EU, FAO) 	All