

Between March and September 2023, Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESA) organized trainings, participated in webinars and meetings, worked on strengthening country fora, and published several outputs.

Networking

A meeting of AESA and Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN)



was organized on 26 August 2023 at Dhaka, Bangladesh to review BAEN’s progress and the implementation of the Last Mile Programme (LMP) supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development

(IFAD). BAEN and AESA have issued a joint call for good practices on ‘Business Oriented Extension and Advisory Services in Bangladesh’ under the LMP.

Innovation Grants

A cheque handover ceremony for two projects selected as part of the Innovation Grants funding, namely ‘Sustaining the Fresh Vegetable Supply Chain for Healthy Communities’ and ‘Empowering Farmers with 4IR-Enhanced Online Vet Services for Safe Animal Protein Production’, was organized at Dhaka on 14 June 2023 by BAEN.



Meeting participation

AESA participated in the Improvement of Rural Agricultural Technology Extension System in Asia (RATES) workshop organized by the Asian Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (AFACI) from 24 to 28 April 2023 at the Rural Development Administration, South Korea. Twelve countries are participating in this initiative.



AESA also participated in the IFAD Supervision Mission on the LMP which was organized at Lilongwe, Malawi, from 25 to 28 July 2023. The participants included representatives of IFAD, targeted country extension networks,



representatives of regional networks and the Global Secretariat of the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS).



AESA on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network (APIRAS) along with the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and FAO-Tropical Agricultural Platform organized the second meeting of the Working Group on Agroecology on 18 July 2023. Twenty-one participants representing different organizations

shared their experiences on the development and promotion of courses on agroecology.

Knowledge Management

Towards spreading awareness, AESA, through its website, published twelve Blogs, four Good Practices Notes, two Book Reviews, five Meeting Notes, ten Face to Face interviews and one Policy Brief during the last six months. AESA is also using Facebook, LinkedIn, X (formerly twitter), Instagram and its email list to promote the exchange of knowledge on extension and advisory services (EAS). AESA is also handling knowledge management functions of APIRAS (www.apiras.net).

Capacity Development

On behalf of APIRAS, AESA co-organized with FAO's Office of Innovation and APAARI a regional training on Multistakeholder Policy Engagement during 18-20 September 2023.

