



JULY 2021

TAP Newsletter



TAP

UNFSS Science Days: TAP side event on capacity development for AIS - Lessons learned and future action of the TAP partnership

The Tropical Agriculture Platform ([TAP](#)) organized a side event on “Capacity development for agricultural innovation systems - Lessons learned and future action of the TAP partnership”. The event took place on 05 July 2021, as part of the Science Days of United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) 2021. The event highlighted the work done by the TAP, as a global multi-stakeholder facilitation mechanism on capacity development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) and the experience from TAP Partners. The event consisted of three sessions – opening, the perspective of the Partners and Regional Research and Extension Organizations efforts in integrating the TAP tools into their work.

The event was represented by the European Commission (EC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS), the European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development (Agrinatura), the Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation (AICS), the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institution (APAARI), the Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network (APIRAS), the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS), the Commission for Sustainable Agriculture Intensification (CoSAI), the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Red Latinoamericana para Servicios de Extensión Rural (RELASER).

The opening session was followed by a facilitated discussion on **TAP Partners’ perspective on strengthening capacities for agricultural innovations systems**. The key messages highlighted:

- the importance of strengthening functional and organizational capacities of local innovation actors to improve agricultural practices;
- the need for collaboration among TAP Partners to support national and regional AIS initiatives;
- the development of tools to support decision making for investors and managers that can increase the effectiveness of innovations; and
- the importance of facilitating multi-stakeholder approach and access to funding for innovations.



TAP Side Event:
Opening session ceremony

Regional Research and Extension Organizations highlighted their efforts to integrate TAP tools and approaches into their work and shared some lessons learned through their collaboration in the context of the [TAP-AIS project](#).

The event was closed by Ms Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist at FAO, emphasizing the importance of science and technology to achieve more efficient, inclusive and resilient food systems at country level, also recognising the crucial role of TAP in facilitating co-creation of knowledge and innovation. Ms Elouafi thanked the European Union representatives for funding TAP through the CDAIS and TAP-AIS projects and encouraged TAP partners to continue to support the TAP Action Plan.

FAO INNOVA in Colombia – virtual event to promote TAP

TAP was represented by Mr Selvaraju Ramasamy, Head of Research and Extension at FAO's Office of Innovation / TAP Secretariat, during the virtual event "FAO Innova – a strategy for rural innovation management", organized by the FAO Representation in Colombia on 30 June 2021. The event brought together FAO staff and consultants working in different programmes and projects related to agricultural innovation. The event aimed at establishing a common agenda that includes developing a shared understanding of innovation and its dimensions, as well as creating spaces for exchange, networking and collaboration. The event also served to promote the [TAP Common Framework](#) and tools among the participants.



TAP Represented in G20 MACS

On 15 and 16 June 2021 the 10th G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (G20-MACS) took place. TAP was represented by Mr Selvaraju Ramasamy, Head of Research and Extension at FAO's Office of Innovation. The virtual meeting under the Italian Presidency focused on "The role of science, technology and innovation in sustainable food systems to improve food security and safety". The meeting was opened by Ms Graziella Romito, Chair of the G20 MACS, followed by the opening statements of Ms Stefania De Pascale, Vice President of the Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA), Italy, and of G20 Troika – Saudi Arabia and Indonesia. Ms Ismahane Elouafi, FAO's Chief Scientist introduced the topic of the meeting with an overview and introductory presentation. The meeting focused on two thematic areas: *digital traceability*, and *new breeding techniques*.

The meeting also included a briefing on the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) by Mr Joachim von Braun and on 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26): Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) by Mr Dirk Nemetz of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

A [MACS communiqué](#) was also released from the meeting.

Revamped version of TAPipedia is now online

The TAP Secretariat is pleased to announce that a revamped version of [TAPipedia](#) is now online!

This version features improved layout, navigation and functionalities, as well as optimised website's speed and visibility through the search engines (e.g. Google).

Furthermore, the newly designed homepage includes a Twitter feed allowing TAPipedia users to read the latest news in real-time from the TAP Twitter account [@TAP_G20](#).



■ New video about the Tropical Agriculture Platform on YouTube

A new video about the Tropical Agriculture Platform, illustrating its goals and work, is available on the [TAP YouTube](#) channel.

The video is available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).



UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

AARINENA

■ Launching of the Near East and North African (NENA) Date Palm Research, Technology and Innovation Platform

Due to the high potential and the increasing importance of date palm in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region, the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa ([AARINENA](#)) and the Research and Extension Unit at FAO's Office of Innovation are collaborating to "*Establish and operationalize a research, technology and innovation platform for a date palm integrated production system in the NENA region*".

This platform will focus on coordinating the efforts of the member countries at regional and international levels, acting as an interactive hub for multi-stakeholders including researchers, producers, funders, farmers associations, private industries, investors and government agencies to promote the date palm integrated production system in NENA region and to maintain high competitiveness in a dynamic global market. It will serve as a hub for information and knowledge management sharing that effectively links relevant stakeholders to consolidate the available research results, technologies and innovations related to date palm production value chain. The platform will also play a key role in capacity development/enhancement of the various stakeholders along the value chain at all levels (from individual to system level) using Information and Communications Technology (ICT) solutions and other means whenever the situation permits. Changes in the mindsets that will sustainably enhance the process of innovation and technology generation, transfer and adoption, is the ultimate outcome expected from this platform.

AARINENA will be facilitating the implementation of the platform activities in partnership with the FAO. These activities shall include identification of research priorities, available technologies, technical innovations, practices, research and innovation; and capacity development gaps related to the date palm value chain.



Date Palm

Based on this, a regional model for research, technology and innovation platform, including monitoring and evaluation system for date palm integrated production system, will be established and operationalized. This model will focus mainly on scaling-out research results, promising technologies and innovations to small-scale producers and other relevant stakeholders.

Invitations are extended to all relevant stakeholders, including national, regional and international partners for launching this important platform in the very near future.

AESA

■ Blog on transforming Extension and Advisory Services to promote agroecology

As the need for new approaches to sustainable agriculture increases, agroecological approaches have gained prominence in the scientific, agricultural and political discourse. Though the record of Extension and Advisory Services (EAS) in promoting sustainable agricultural practices has generally been poor so far, it could play a very important role in promoting agroecology. To do this, several changes within EAS are needed.

The following blog post discusses some of these changes:

<https://wle.cgiar.org/cosai/news/transforming-extension-and-advisory-services-promote-agroecology>

THE 13 PRINCIPLES OF AGROECOLOGY



© AESA

The 13 principles of agroecology

AGREENIUM

■ Joint webinar-series on sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems for healthy diets and improved livelihoods in Africa

The COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated vulnerabilities of our global food systems. In addition to putting heavy strains on already fragile and over-stretched health systems, as well as disrupting food supply chain systems, the COVID-19 pandemic is having a devastating impact particularly on the most vulnerable groups and community lives and livelihoods. Furthermore, the complexity and sustainability of the global food systems requires a holistic and integrated approach bringing together all actors, to secure all the resources, knowledge, technologies and capabilities across relevant sectors and to ensure food security and nutrition for all in a sustainable manner. In this context, rethinking and transforming our food systems is of paramount importance to accelerate progress towards Zero Hunger and deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In view of the above scenario the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger ([CERFAM](#)) and [Agreenium](#), the French training and research alliance for agriculture, food, the environment and global health, in collaboration with key partners, jointly organized a webinar on “Promoting the transformation of food systems to accelerate African governments’ efforts to eradicate hunger and malnutrition during COVID-19 and beyond”.

This interactive event is part of CERFAM-Agreenium 2021/2022 three-part webinar series (July, September and October 2021) under the overarching theme “*Multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches for healthy, adequate and diverse nutrition in Africa*”.



Webinar 1 - 6 July 2021: *Promoting the transformation of food systems to accelerate African governments' efforts to eradicate hunger and malnutrition during COVID-19 and beyond.*

Webinar 2 - 7 September 2021: *Nutrition-sensitive food systems in a post-COVID world: African solutions, innovations, and perspectives.*

Webinar 3 - 5 October 2021: *Robust local food systems and rural resilience: what role for African smallholder farmers?*

The objective of the webinar series is to bring to the table the ongoing conversation on food systems and generate discussion on how to catalyse effective food systems transformation looking towards the Tokyo 2021 Nutrition for Growth Summit (N4G) and the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit.

CATAS

■ CATAS - online Seminar on Cassava Production and Processing Technology for African Countries

From 28 June to 15 July 2021, the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences ([CATAS](#)) organized an online seminar on “*Cassava Production and Processing Technology for African Countries*”. This seminar was sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, jointly supported by World Food Programme (WFP) Center of Excellence for Rural Transformation and the Regional Center of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition.

Dr Qu Sixi, the Representative of the WFP China, Mr Chen Runyun, Vice President of the International Business Officials Training Institute of the Ministry of Commerce, Dr Liu Guodao, Vice President of CATAS, Mr Edward Waweru Kimani, Deputy Ambassador of Kenya to China, Mr Patrick Teixeira, Acting Country Director of the Regional Center of Excellence, attended the opening ceremony and delivered speeches. The seminar was held on Zoom and was attended by 276 participants from 19 African countries, such as Egypt, Kenya and Nigeria, among others. The purpose of the seminar was to share the development status and important technologies of the cassava production and processing industry in China, to support African countries to improve their ability to cope with the development challenges of the tropical agricultural industry, to promote mutual communication and understanding and deepen extensive cooperation between China and African countries in agriculture.



Opening ceremony



COSAI

Lessons from innovation pathways studies

The Commission on Sustainable Agriculture Intensification ([CoSAI](#)) has commissioned a three-country study ([Innovation Pathways Studies](#)) that is systematically looking at “Sustainable Agriculture Intensification (SAI) innovation success cases” in three types of agriculture scales: small-scale, medium - to large-scale, and urban and peri-urban. It examines which factors led to success and how the cases measure up in terms of meeting diverse SAI objectives (economic, environmental and social) and in managing the trade-offs between these. The country studies will be complemented by a global review of case studies and will use a common framework of analysis to draw out common lessons as well as context-specific findings. In conjunction with the Oversight Group and the three country-teams, CoSAI has been working through the inception phase to develop a common framework and has agreed hypotheses to be tested through the development of the case studies. CoSAI has now received the inception reports from the three teams and, the Oversight Group is in the process of providing feedback to the teams. The results of the study are expected in September 2021 and aim to extract lessons for practitioners and investors in innovation in SAI, based on concrete examples, to guide future investment.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Agro-ecology events at the Directorate General for International Partnerships (INTPA), European Commission

Two webinar events took place on Friday 02 July 2021 to promote agro-ecology and its perfect fit into the transformative agenda of the [EU's Green Deal](#), [Farm to Fork](#) and [Biodiversity Strategies](#). Agro-ecology is an important innovative approach which is increasingly mainstreamed in agri-food systems programmes under the European Union multiannual partnership project programming cycle with low and middle income countries (NDICI Global Europe, 2021-27).

The first webinar “*The role of agro-ecology in achieving the Green Deal's transformational objectives*” explained why an agro-ecological transformation of agri-food systems makes sense and how agro-ecology contributes significantly to mitigating and adapting to climate change, stemming biodiversity loss, as well as halting and reversing land and water degradation. The second webinar “*The effects of agro-ecology. Why metrics and measurements of agro-ecology*” outlined what were the appropriate metrics to apply, and what is currently being done in this area.

The President of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Mr Emile Frison from Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-Food), Dr Fergus Sinclair from World

Agroforestry (ICRAF), the Alliance pour l'Agroécologie en Afrique de l'Ouest (3AO), the East Africa network of agro-ecological entrepreneurs, the UN Agency for Food and Agriculture (FAO), the GRET and the Transformative Platform for Agro-ecology (TPP) were lead speakers while many international stakeholders were present.



Announcing the DeSIRA-LIFT programme

The key role food systems play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is increasingly recognised. However, for this role to be achieved, our food systems across the globe need to become more sustainable, more equitable and climate-smart.

The [DeSIRA initiative](#) (Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture) aims to contribute to the climate-relevant, productive and sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). DeSIRA supports research and innovation projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America and it strengthens research capacities and research governance involving key actors at national, regional, continental and global levels.

The European Union (EU) funded three-year DeSIRA-LIFT programme (Leveraging the DeSIRA initiative for agri-food systems transformation) started in June 2021. This program is a close collaboration between Agrinatura (the European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development), the European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD) and the European Commission's DG International Partnerships (INTPA).

DeSIRA-LIFT will support the DeSIRA initiative current and future activities to optimize its impact. It will manage and deliver pre-defined services and emerging on-demand services in support of the DeSIRA research and innovation projects, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) ex-pillar IV organizations, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), the involved European Delegations and stakeholders at large.

The specific objectives are:

- supporting country-based DeSIRA project implementers to enhance their impacts on climate-oriented innovation systems in line with sustainable food systems transitions;
- supporting CAADP African ex-pillar IV organizations, the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR) and the Tropical Agricultural Platform (TAP) in their roles; and
- making knowledge work for INTPA policy and contribute to the policy dialogue on food systems.

The DeSIRA LIFT team will soon launch in-depth exchanges with:

(i) the DeSIRA community: DeSIRA research and innovation projects; CAADP ex-pillar IV organizations: FARA, 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), AFAAS; GFAR, TAP, FAO, IFAD; and

(ii) DG INTPA and EU Delegations.

This will help fine-tune the DeSIRA LIFT planning and activities based on needs and demands of the DeSIRA community.

DeSIRA-LIFT is being implemented by AGRINATURA, including, specifically: Wageningen University & Research (WUR), Centre for International Cooperation Research and Development in Agriculture (CIRAD), Instituto Superior de Agronomia / University of Lisbon (ISA/Lisboa), Natural Resources Institute / University of Greenwich (NRI) and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), and the Comité de liaison Europe-Afrique-Caraïbes-Pacifique (COLEACP).

FAO

■ [FAO at the 2021 High-level dialogue on the Partnership in Action on Science, Technology and Innovation for SDGs Roadmaps](#)

On 09 July 2021, Mr Selvaraju Ramasamy, Head of Research and Extension, at FAO's Office of Innovation, participated in the side-event "[High-level dialogue on the Partnership in Action on Science, Technology and Innovation for SDGs Roadmaps](#)". The event centred on tools and solutions to strengthen countries' ownership of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for sustainable development. Discussions also touched on elevating the policy debate on STI for SDGs and mobilizing national efforts through effective partnerships. In this respect, Mr Ramasamy highlighted the multi-faceted contributions of STI as part of agri-food systems transformation, including bringing agriculture and food security perspectives into STI for SDG roadmap processes at the national level. This builds on the experiences and lessons from FAO's work on strengthening agricultural innovation systems through the Tropical Agriculture Platform ([TAP](#)) partnership, a multi-stakeholder mechanism to strengthen capacities of [Agricultural Innovation Systems](#).

"FAO strongly believes that STI is the key accelerator in supporting the Agenda 2030," he said, adding that FAO expertise can build on the [Global Pilot Programme on STI for SDG Roadmaps](#), not least through efforts towards the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems, to achieve better production, nutrition, environment and life for all.

■ [FAO and CATAS partnered to boost cooperation in the field of tropical agriculture science](#)

FAO and CATAS have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), setting out a path for their continued cooperation in the field of tropical agricultural science and technology. The MoU was signed virtually by Ms Ismahane Elouafi, FAO's Chief Scientist, and Dr Liu Guodao, Vice President of CATAS for International Cooperation. Through the MoU, FAO and CATAS will be able to initiate and enhance their cooperation to cover a broad range of activities, including capacity building, knowledge exchange, provision of resources and development of financing initiatives in the field of tropical agricultural science and technology. This MoU is expected to strengthen the collaboration between FAO and CATAS through various mechanisms, such as South-South cooperation, the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) and the World Banana Forum (WBF).

FAO and CATAS share common objectives with regard to the development of tropical agricultural science and technology, as well as alleviation of poverty and hunger. They have a long history of collaboration, including the designation of CATAS as FAO Reference Center for Tropical Agriculture Research and Training, and CATAS being one of the partners of the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) hosted by FAO to promote capacity development in agricultural innovation systems. Read more [here](#).

■ Why soft skills are a core part of agricultural innovation

Read [here](#) a news story from Angola, Bangladesh and Guatemala on how the strengthening of soft skills, through the EU-funded Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS) project and TAP, has helped farmers in the pilot countries to innovate and improve livelihood.

■ FAO e-learning Academy releases a series of Small-scale Agricultural Mechanization Hire Services e-learning courses

The [e-learning Academy](#) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is pleased to inform that a series of “*Small-scale Agricultural Mechanization Hire Services*” e-learning courses to support agricultural production and entrepreneurship are now available free of charge as a global public service.

The courses are the result of a joint collaboration effort involving the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), that has also kindly funded this project; the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center of the CGIAR (Cymmit) and FAO, both the Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) and the FAO e-learning Academy of the Partnerships and United Nations Collaboration Division (PSU).

The certification is also available for these e-learning courses by using the Digital Badge system. The FAO e-learning Academy is adopting the **Digital Badges Certification System** to certify the acquisition of competencies, in order to **promote talents** within organizations, to **increase employment opportunities and entrepreneurship**. Certification by FAO, is granted by passing the final scenario-based performance evaluation and is now associated to these FAO e-learning courses.

Please find below the FAO e-learning Academy Portfolio of the joint Cymmit/GIZ/FAO Agricultural Mechanization related e-learning courses:

·Small-scale agricultural mechanization hire services as a business enterprise

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=711>

·Local area and market assessment <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=712>

·Selection, assessment and purchase of power sources and implements

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=714>

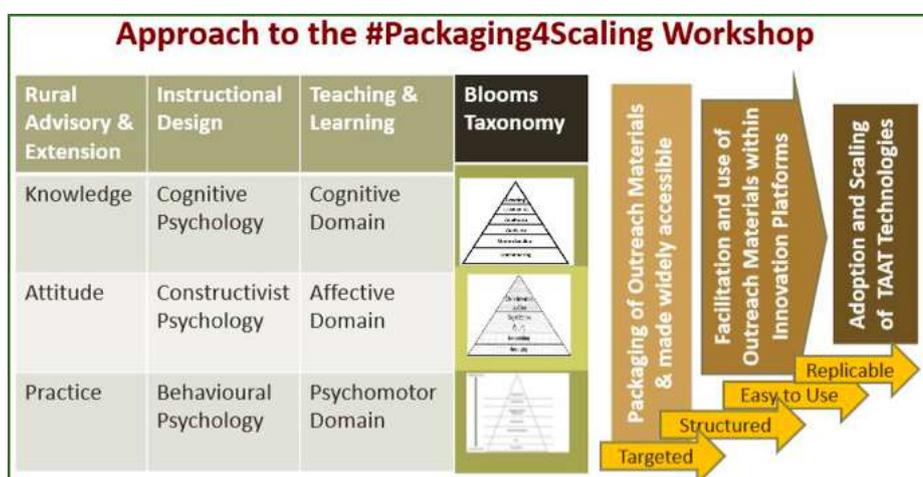
·Managing the hire service as a business <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=713>



FARA

FARA and AFAAS lead the development of knowledge products and learning resources for outreach, despite the pandemic

As part of the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) flagship programme of the African Development Bank (AfDB), FARA, AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA, CORAF have collaborated with the FARA-led Capacity Development & Technology Outreach Compact of the TAAT Programme. Their aim was to pursue the development of knowledge products and outreach materials accessible to facilitators of Agricultural Innovation Platforms in more than 30 countries in Africa. This has been possible by working in tandem with the Commodity Compacts along specific value chains, generally lead by advanced research institutions and centres of the CGIAR system. The conceptualisation of the packaging of the modular sets of outreach materials started in November 2019, as a TAAT side-event in the Biennial African Extension Week organized by AFAAS.



The approach used to combine principles of Extension, Instructional Design and Learning Domains in designing Modular Outreach materials



Workshop processes amongst extensionists, Researchers and Instructional Design specialists in the conceptualisation of the template for the design of the outreach materials

With the pandemic impacting the interactions, each compact addressed the development of at least one set of outreach materials based on one proven technology. The contents preparation was motivated by creating a series of webinars on commercialisation prospects around each of the selected TAAT technologies. Thus, between June and October 2020, FARA and AFAAS co-facilitated the organization of 12 interactive webinars, focused on one technology being promoted by each of 12 Commodity or Enabler Compacts.

While each of the webinars recorded between 120-180 participants, the recordings were edited and published on [FARA's Youtube](#) channel. Six [Technology Briefs](#) were developed based on each webinar session. The details of each presentation were packaged into 13 [Dissemination Notes](#) and made available on [FARA's e-Library](#). Building on the momentum of the collaboration around the development of the contents of the webinars, FARA, AFAAS and the TAAT compacts, further developed and packaged the contents into a structured, modular set of outreach materials, albeit each set being on one technology (amongst many) promoted by the TAAT programme. These activities have culminated during this quarter in the publication of [Modular Outreach Materials](#) on the FARA e-Library. As these technologies are promoted in the field, they could further be developed into separate kits for use within the [Agricultural Innovation Platforms](#) supported through the [TAAT](#) programme.

JIRCAS

■ New five-year plan of JIRCAS started in April 2021

The Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences ([JIRCAS](#)) has started a new five-year period of the medium to long-term plan in April 2021. This fifth medium to long-term plan of JIRCAS, mandated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, specifies the overall goals and vision in the implementation of research activities. JIRCAS has started new research programmes and international collaboration, and capacity development, which continue to be important themes.

JIRCAS offers a Visiting Research Fellowship Programme which invites promising researchers from developing countries to conduct research under the supervision of JIRCAS researchers. While monitoring the status of Covid-19, preparations for accepting applications for 2021 has started and an announcement will be made soon.

WORLD VEGETABLE CENTER

■ New home garden training materials from the World Vegetable Center

Home gardens make an important contribution to food and nutrition security around the world and their significance has further increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Research shows that strengthening people's capacity in gardening and nutrition can be an effective way to improve the quality of diets. To support projects in implementing effective home garden interventions, the [World Vegetable Center](#) has developed a new home garden toolbox tailored for use in tropical and subtropical environments.

Training materials are available for each stage of growing a home garden. Each lesson builds gardeners confidence and enthusiasm for using their home gardens to improve their household's access to healthy vegetables and fruits. All guides can be used with low literacy and illiterate populations and encourage gardeners to learn from each other as they work toward building more productive gardens.

The toolbox is free to use and can be accessed at the following link: <https://toolbox.avrdc.org/>



A woman in her home garden in Sindhupalchok, Nepal, 2018



TAP-AIS PROJECT

■ Developing capacities in agricultural innovation in Lao PDR

Innovation is critical to the future of agriculture sector in Lao PDR, but limited functional capacities to monitor, analyse, and evaluate related economic opportunities and market conditions remain barriers to sharing the benefits of innovation nationwide. This was among the insights discussed during the workshop on the findings of the AIS Assessment, jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the European Union Delegation and the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI) on 08 July 2021 in Vientiane Capital, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR).

The workshop was co-chaired by the Deputy Director General of NAFRI, Dr Chansamone Phongoudom, the FAO Forestry Officer on behalf of the Country Representative to Lao PDR, Ms Akiko Inoguchi and the Representative of the EU Delegation to Lao PDR, Ms Assunta Testa. The workshop was attended by almost 80 representatives (55 online) from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and national stakeholders. During the workshop key findings of the assessment of the national AIS were presented and discussed. It was emphasized that Lao PDR agriculture innovation partnerships have been established in different forms but need more support from development projects and local authorities for coordination and to strengthen capacity to develop new services and products. Developing the capacities of key organizations and improving the policy environment could serve to strengthen Lao PDR agricultural innovation systems and drive the positive transformation of agri-food systems.

The AIS assessment in Lao PDR was conducted by a team of national experts from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, National University of Laos, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Science and Technology and CSOs, with technical and methodological support from FAO's technical team. The assessment emphasizes ways in which the agriculture sector can adapt to promote innovation to improve productivity. Highlighted were two examples of Lao agricultural innovation via the Lao Farmer Network and Thong Mang Agricultural Cooperative.



Participants of the AIS Assessment workshop in Lao PDR


RECENT EVENTS
"TOKENISM OR DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION? COMMITMENTS FOR INSTITUTIONALIZING YOUTH AGENCY IN FOOD POLICY SPACES"
WHEN: WEDNESDAY, 28 JULY 2021, 13:30-14:20 HRS CENTRAL EUROPEAN SUMMER TIME
CO-LEADING ORGANIZATIONS: YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (YPARD) AND YOUTH ALLIANCE FOR ZERO HUNGER

The global food and agriculture space is finally abuzz with enthusiasm for dialogues about the role of youth. Youth organizing through networks, civil society and the private sector, youth participation in dialogue and policies are essential. With this side event, youth organizations have joined forces to address the main challenges youth face when seeking to democratically and sustainability engage in food policy spaces. Youth is the next cutting edge theme, just as women (gender) has become. After all, the well-being and lasting participation of youth, like women, is essential to the sustainability and regeneration of every aspect of food systems. The 2014 FAO State of Food Security in the World asserts that "strengthening capacities for strategic planning and policies at all levels is essential to global food security."

What are the first steps in sustainably mainstreaming youth? This side event discusses the main barriers to consistent, democratic youth participation, including:

- 1) credibility
- 2) tokenism
- 3) siloing (e.g.: as innovators, entrepreneurs, labour, the leaders of tomorrow)
- 4) restricted access to information
- 5) limited networks with more established professionals and leadership
- 6) capacity building and mentorship
- 7) varying definitions of youth
- 8) funding.

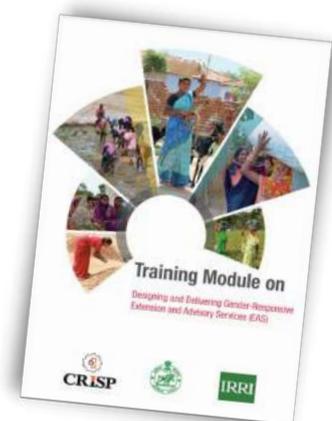
Youth organizations and youth branches of civil society serve as speakers, moderators, and rapporteurs for the event, the outcome of which will lay the foundation for a Guide for Institutionalizing Youth Agency in Food and Policy Spaces, to be launched parallel to the [UN Food Systems Summit](#).


PUBLICATIONS
TRAINING MODULE: DESIGNING AND DELIVERING GENDER-RESPONSIVE EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES (EAS)

Published by: The Centre for Research on Innovation and Science Policy (CRISP) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) - 2021

Facilitating an effective training course on designing and delivering gender-responsive Extension and Advisory Services (EAS) not only involves understanding what construes gender-responsive extension, but also deliberating on competencies that are needed to be able to do so. This training module has been envisioned to assist with reflection on gender bias and gaps in extension and on potential tools and approaches to design and deliver gender-responsive EAS. After completing this module the learners should be able to tackle gender analysis and integrate gender effectively into their programmes.

The publication is available online: https://www.crispindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Training-Module-on-Designing-and-Delivering-Gender-Responsive_ESA_15-June-21.pdf



TAP-AIS PROJECT: AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION SYSTEMS – ASSESSMENT REPORT FROM CAMBODIA AND LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

In the context of the TAP-AIS project, assessments of the national Agricultural Innovation System (AIS) of Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic were conducted in the first half of 2021. The AIS assessment process involved different actors and stakeholder groups within the AIS to identify priority actions and practical solutions according to their expectations and functions in the AIS. These assessments emphasize the ways in which the agriculture sector can adapt to promote innovation for improving productivity and profitability of producers.



AIS assessment report of Cambodia: <http://www.fao.org/3/cb5159en/cb5159en.pdf>

AIS assessment report of Lao People's Democratic Republic: <http://www.fao.org/3/cb5205en/cb5205en.pdf>

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION SYSTEMS IN EL SALVADOR (CDAIS) PROJECT - SYSTEMATIZATION AND METHODOLOGY REPORT

This report presents the main results and achievements of the implementation of the “Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems in El Salvador (CDAIS) project”. The project was implemented from 2018 to February 2021, thanks to the technical support of FAO and the Government of El Salvador, and the financial support provided by the Government of the Republic of Italy, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) and its Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS). The project supported agricultural innovation in four productive areas (coffee, beans, tomatoes and plantains), based on previous experience collected on the piloting of the [Common Framework on Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation](#) of the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) in Honduras and Guatemala. The report is available in Spanish on TAPipedia, [here](#).



CALL FOR PAPERS

JOURNAL OF WEATHER AND CLIMATE EXTREMES: SPECIAL ISSUE ON INNOVATION SYSTEMS FOR BUILDING RESILIENT AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS TO WEATHER AND CLIMATE EXTREMES

This special issue of the Journal of Weather and Climate Extremes welcomes innovative ideas and high-quality review and research papers showing fundamental and applied research and case studies on the “Innovation systems for building resilient agri-food systems to weather and climate extremes”. The specific topics may include role of various innovation system actors in co-developing, testing, implementing and institutionalizing actions related to the following:

1. innovative approaches and methods of assessment of risks, vulnerabilities and impacts;
2. action oriented risk and impact monitoring and early warning systems;
3. functioning information and communication networks;
4. risk and vulnerability reduction measures, emergency preparedness and response;
5. best practices and innovative technologies (e.g. remote sensing, smartphone applications, drones, artificial intelligence); and
6. policies, strategies and relevant standard operating procedures.



Deadline for the submission of the manuscripts is **31 October 2021**. Submission guidelines and further information are available at the following link: <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/weather-and-climate-extremes/call-for-papers/novation-systems-for-building-resilient-agri-food-systems>

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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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.