

APRIL 2022

TAP Newsletter

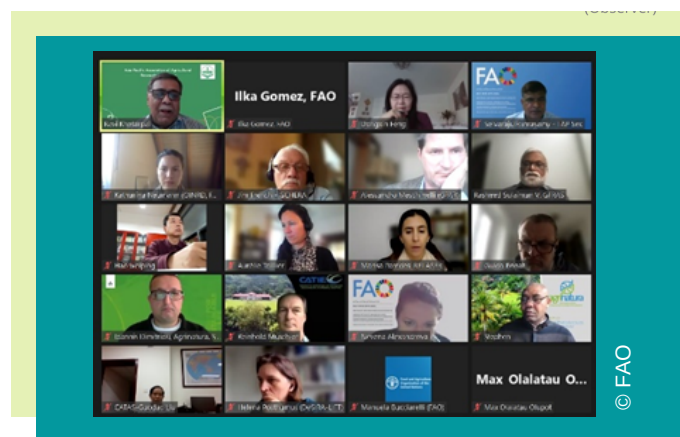


Election of the TAP Steering Committee 2022-2024

At the beginning of this year, the election of the Steering Committee (SC) 2022-2024 took place. As per the TAP Charter, TAP SC members and observers are elected every two years, and could serve for two consecutive terms. The TAP SC consists of up to eleven members preferably from different regions and types of organizations.

The new elected 2022-2024 TAP SC is composed as follow:

1. Max Olupot (AFAAS, new TAP Chair)
2. Guido Bonati (CREA, TAP Vice-Chair)
3. Aurelie Toillier (Agreenium)
4. Stephen Onakuse and/or Ioannis Dimitriou (Agrinatura)
5. Hao Weiping (CAAS)
6. Reinhold G. Muschler (CATIE)
7. Dongxin Feng (FAO)
8. James French (GCHERA)
9. Hildegard Lingnau (GFAR)
10. Rasheed Sulaiman (GFRAS)
11. Maria Isabel Paredes (RELASER)
12. Liu Guodao (CATAS, observer)
13. Darrell Sexstone (EC, observer)
14. Helena Posthumus (DeSIRA Lift, observer)



Participants of the TAP SC meeting on 04 April 2022

During the SC meeting on 04 April, the new elected TAP SC, including the Chair and Vice-Chair took over the ongoing activities of TAP. During the meeting, the new elected TAP Chair and TAP Secretariat acknowledged the support and time provided by the 2019 – 2021 TAP SC. Special thanks was given to the 2019-2021 TAP Chair, Mr Ravi Khetarpal (APAARI) and to the out-going to the members and observers (APAARI, FARA, CABI, GIZ and USAID).

TAP Steering Committee

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|--|--|---|---|--|
| Max Olupot AFAAS, New TAP Chair | Aurélie Toillier Agreenium | Stephen Onakuse or Ioannis Dimitriou Agrinatura | Hao Weiping CAAS | Reinhold G. Muschler CATIE |
| Guido Bonati CREA, TAP Vice-Chair | Dongxin Feng FAO | James French GCHERA | Hildegard Lingnau GFAR | Rasheed Sulaiman GFRAS |
| | Maria Isabel Paredes RELASER | Liu Guodao CATAS (Observer) | Darrell Sexstone EC (Observer) | Helena Posthumus DeSIRA Lift (Observer) |

UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

AARINENA

AARINENA launched the date palm innovation platform

The “**Research, Technology and Innovation Platform for Date Palm Integrated Production Systems in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) Region**” has been officially launched on 14 March 2022 at the 7th International Date Palm Conference in Abu Dhabi under the support of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The conference was organized and supported by the General Secretariat of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation.

Due to the high potential and the increasing importance of date palm in the NENA region, AARINENA and FAO collaborated to establish and operationalize this innovation platform that focuses on coordinating the efforts of the member countries at the regional and international levels and acts as an interactive hub for multi-stakeholders including researchers, producers, fund providers, farmers' associations, private industries, investors, and government agencies to promote the date palm integrated production system in the NENA region and to maintain high competitiveness in a dynamic global market.



57 experts from 13 countries discuss date palm cultivation and production

The platform serves as a hub for information and knowledge that effectively links relevant stakeholders to consolidate available research results, technologies, and innovations related to the date palm production value chain. The platform will also play a role in the technology transfer and capacity enhancement of various stakeholders using ICT solutions.

In addition, AARINENA in collaboration with FAO conducted a series of distance coaching protocols and capacity building activities. One of these activities is the Beta Version Testing Meeting for the Research, Technology, and Innovation Date Palm Platform on 19 January 2022. AARINENA also conducted another stakeholders training session and pilot testing on the Research, Technology and Innovation Date Palm Platform on January 12 and February 16, 2022. These two meetings focused on practical using and testing of the platform, core features (functionality), signing up (registration), forums, resources, and project management tools.

More information about the platform is provided in this recently published [info-sheet](#).



AARINENA 15th General Conference and TAP awareness raising

In its preparation for the 15th General Conference (GC) of AARINENA, which is planned to be held in November 2022, the executive committee of AARINENA in its extra ordinary meeting on 28 March 2022 decided to devote a session in the technical meeting of its GC to the TAP Common Framework for Capacity Development in Agricultural Innovation System (CD for AIS) as part of the awareness raising process among the Near East and North Africa (NENA) member countries. The session is tentatively proposed to include a brief introduction about the new TAP action plan 2022-2025, the position of AARINENA in the new TAP action plan 2022-2025, TAPipedia and probably some success stories emerged from the implementation of TAP Common Framework in the first two action plans.

AESA

Seed Entrepreneurship – A Case of Emerging Business Opportunity for Rural Youth

In the AESA blog on seed entrepreneurship, Mosharaf Hossain and Swati Nayak argue how farmers' seed security can be enhanced through the promotion of a youth-led seed entrepreneurship model in Eastern India. They also highlight seed economics and set forth the model's scaling pathways.

You can read the full blog post [here](#).

A seed entrepreneur showing new rice varieties to visitor in his field



AGRINATURA

Agrinatura celebrated its General Assembly

The Agrinatura General Assembly was hosted at the home institution of President Stephen Onakuse at the University College Cork, Ireland. This 2-day event took place on 18 and 19 May 2022 and was dedicated to bringing Agrinatura collective knowledge to broader audience.



Besides the regular business meeting, this year's General Assembly consisted of two workshops focused on youth inclusion and Agrinatura projects development. In addition, Agrinatura launched on 18 May 2022 its first mini conference **Bridging the Gap between Dialogue and Action through Agricultural Research for Development** for their members to present their activities. Please find more details about the conference at the Conference [website](#).

On 19 May 2022, the General Assembly was dedicated to the workshops and interaction with the European Commission and Partners around the world (ICA, RUFORUM, FARA, SEARCA and many more) through two workshop sessions entitled **"Working together towards Food Systems Transformation"** and **"Strengthening research and education capacities through international partnerships"**.

More information about the Agrinatura General Assembly is available [here](#).



APAARI

 Celebration of International Women Day in Asia-Pacific to advance gender equality in innovation

On 8 March 2022, the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), the Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network (APIRAS) and TAP collaborated in the celebration of International Women's Day in Asia-Pacific through a regional webinar on **"Women in research and extension: Advancing gender quality in innovation"**.

Following inspiring welcoming statement by Dr Sasireka Rajendran, Project Manager, APAARI, and Ms Nimisha Mittal, Lead Researcher, Centre for Research on Innovations and Science Policy (CRISP)/APIRAS, Dr Norah Omot, Policy Coordinator, APAARI kicked off the meeting. Inspiring women working in agricultural research, extension and policy in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran, and the Pacific Islands shared their inspiring stories of success, challenges and lessons as innovators and influencers of change in the Asia-Pacific region.

The webinar aimed to inspire and mobilize change to help advance women's role as innovators in their respective areas of research and extension, to ensure their meaningful and inclusive contribution to the transformation of agri-food systems in the Asia-Pacific region.

"At institutional level, we really need to practice gender mainstreaming in agriculture innovation,"

Tanka Maya Pulami, Deputy Chief Agriculture Officer, Agriculture Research and Development Centre, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan

"Remember how smart and strong you are. It is enough to be determined and believe in yourselves, and you will surely succeed,"

Maryam Hosseini Chaleshtor, Head of Rice Research Institute of Iran, Agricultural Research, Education and Extension (AREEO), Iran

 APAARI delivers a session on effective facilitation of functional capacity development for African research and extension organizations

During the Programme for Training of Trainers (ToT): **Integrating the TAP Common Framework into African research and extension organizations** that took place from 23-25 March 2022, APAARI delivered a session on what it takes to be an effective facilitator of functional capacity development. The session stressed that as the TAP Common Framework emphasizes, facilitation matters especially in delivering learning-oriented meetings, and engagement of multi-actors for practice-led innovation. The training focused on the following topics: the principles of adult learning; the effective facilitation brings out tacit knowledge and the ideal competencies of a trainer/facilitator.

CATAS

 CATAS and CIRAD signed a New Framework Agreement for Scientific Cooperation

On 24 March 2022, CATAS and CIRAD held an online signing ceremony for a new framework agreement for scientific cooperation. The ceremony was presided by Dr Liu Guodao, Vice President of CATAS and Ms Elisabeth Clavier de Saint Martin, President Managing Director of CIRAD. The two sides have been collaborating for 40 years in the fields of natural rubber, coconut, oil palm and soil health. The signing of the new cooperation agreement is expected to further expand the areas of cooperation and bring innovative ways of collaboration, facilitating both sides to offer better solutions for the sustainable development of tropical agriculture.



Signing ceremony. Dr Liu Guodao, Vice President of CATAS (left) and Ms Elisabeth Claverie de Saint Martin, President Managing Director of CIRAD (right).

CATAS wraps up training course on soybean production technology for the Republic of the Congo

From 10 to 12 March 2022, CATAS organized a training course on soybean production technology in the city of Sibiti, Lekoumou Province, the Republic of the Congo. In the Boudouhou Agricultural Reserve, forty-four participants from ten agricultural cooperatives received the 3-day training. The expert from CATAS elaborated the procedures and methods on land preparation, fertilizer application and seeds sowing, and demonstrated the soybean plantation process at a 20m x 20m land plot and field management of the plot. Additionally, the expert also briefed the participants on the history of the origin, domestication, and development of soybean in China, its nutritional value, its functions in improving the nutrition of women and children, the cooking methods, its role in the food industry chain, as well as its production and trade both in China and global in nature.



Training course on soybean production technology with farmers from the Republic of Congo

CATAS held a seminar on coffee and cacao research

On 4 March 2022, CATAS and the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), jointly held a seminar on coffee and cacao research. Experts from the International Institute of Chocolate and Cacao Tasting, CATIE, Westlake University and CATAS presented their research results in different themes, namely "Importance of Flavour in Bean-to-Bar Craft Chocolate," "Research on Coffee and Cacao Cultivation in Agroforestry Systems in the Americas," "Cacao Bean Quality and Profile Analysis," "Opportunities for Cacao Production Globally," and "Collection, Conservation, Identification and Utilization of Cacao Germplasm Resources."

With the focus on the scientific and technological needs for the development of coffee and cacao industries, participants also exchanged ideas on the research progress of coffee and cacao breeding, cultivation, and processing.



Participants of the seminar on coffee and cacao research, organized by CATAS and IICA (@CATAS).

CATAS representation at the World Banana Forum

From 19 to 20 January 2022, CATAS's banana experts attended a webinar organized by World Banana Forum (WBF), regarding TR4-resistant banana varieties. The experts promoted China's new TR4-resistant varieties such as the Zhongre No. 1 and the Baodao on the presentation entitled **"TR4-Resistant Banana Varieties - from Selection to Market Demand"** unveiled the "five-in-one" TR4 prevention and control technology and its application, as well as introduced the selection and breeding process and characteristics of the Zhongre No. 1.



FAO

 MOOC on Nutrition and Food Systems

The FAO e-learning Academy launched a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Nutrition and Food Systems. This MOOC addresses the necessary linkages within food systems and the importance of adopting a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition-sensitive interventions. It was designed and developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Agreenium (Institut Agro Montpellier et Cirad) and funded by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (2021 first edition), the Université Virtuelle Environnement et Développement Durable (UVED) and Montpellier Université d'excellence (Muse).



This MOOC is designed for people involved in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of nutrition-sensitive food systems and agriculture policies and programmes, policy, and decision-makers. It can also be of interest to students, specialists and professionals working in the areas of food systems, nutrition, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries who may be seeking to obtain the "Nutrition and Food Systems" certificate.

The MOOC is running from 06 May to 13 June 2022, in both languages: English and French.

More information is available [here](#).

 International Technical Webinar – How can policy monitoring support better decision making in agrifood systems?

The international technical webinar on **How can policy monitoring support better decision making in agrifood systems?** took place on 25 May 2022. The webinar is part of the series organized by the FAO elearning Academy, Agreenium (l'Alliance de la formation et la recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation, l'environnement et la santé globale), UN-ESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) and Future Food Institute. These webinars are an opportunity to share experiences and lessons learnt, discuss challenges, and propose innovative solutions and models. They aim to provide a holistic and comprehensive view of current trends in thematic areas related to global challenges, by combining development research and innovation perspectives.

More information about this webinar is available [here](#).

JIRCAS

 Breakthrough in nutrient use efficiency for rice by genetic improvement and fertility sensing techniques in Africa

A promotional video of the SATREPS **"Project for breakthrough in nutrient use efficiency for rice by genetic improvement and fertility sensing techniques in Africa"**, which is being implemented by JIRCAS in Madagascar, is now available on the ["Fy Vary Project" YouTube channel](#). The project name stands for "Fertility sensing and Variety Amelioration for Rice Yield," which also means "tasty rice" in Malagasy. The video features Mr Harifidy Ramilison, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Madagascar, introducing the phosphorus dipping technology (P-dipping) for fertilizer application and new rice varieties developed in the project. Please learn more about rice farming in Madagascar and the project's activities on the ground:

Fy Vary Project: <https://www.jircas.go.jp/en/satreps>;

Fy Vary Project" YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7NjUmUM45I>

GFAR

 Initiative for developing and applying partnership principles to research and innovation projects

On 11 April 2022 GFAR together with KFPE (Swiss Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries) organized a webinar to facilitate an online discussion among key players of the global research and innovation systems who will focus on how to measure and evaluate the quality of partnerships to enhance research and innovation processes' inclusiveness and fairness. You can find more details [here](#).

Please also see the latest [GFAR in Action campaign newsletter](#).



The TAP-AIS project

TAP-AIS PROJECT

 Strengthening capacity to innovation in Africa: Integrating TAP Common Framework and approaches - ToT Africa

From 23 to 25 March 2022, the Research and Extension Unit of FAO, together with AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA, CORAF and FARA (so-called CAADP XP4 Organizations) conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Integrating TAP common framework into African research and extension organizations in Africa within the framework of the TAP-AIS project.

The Training of Trainers focused on introducing and contextualizing AIS concepts, TAP Common Framework for functional capacity development and its approaches and tools, using interactive approaches. About thirty participants - regional experts representing research, extension advisory, education, and non-governmental organizations joined the training from several countries in Africa. Almost 40% percent of the participants were women.

More information about the event is available [here](#).



Participants of the ToT

■ Toward better enabling environment for innovation – multi-stakeholder policy dialogue process in Cambodia

Following up on the policy dialogue training held in November 2021 in Cambodia, which focused on the process of influencing public policy, including how to organize policy dialogue events and prepare policy briefs, an orientation meeting took place on 28 February 2022 between FAO and the Cambodia Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification Consortium (CASIC).

CASIC, which is comprised of representatives from multiple government and non-governmental institutions, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), the Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and Swisscontact, among others, was established as a platform for promoting conservation agriculture and sustainable intensification towards agroecological transition in Cambodia.

During the orientation meeting, participants discussed a roadmap and timeline for the organization of subnational policy dialogue events, that will take place in Battambang province and national policy dialogue events, which will take place in the nation's capital, Phnom Penh. Key stakeholders for the policy dialogue events in Battambang province will include members of a newly formed, CASIC-led subnational innovation platform to support conservation agriculture in the province, which is also supported by the TAP-AIS project in Cambodia. A key result of the meeting was setting up the 'core teams' composed of representatives from CASIC, FAO and other partner organizations which will work on the organization of policy dialogue events in three topic areas: mechanization, markets, and education for conservation agriculture.

■ Capacity development for DEAC Lao PDR kicks off – first training on making advisory services demand driven

A training on the farmer information needs assessment (FINA) approach and tools took place at the Lao-Korea Agriculture Training and Development Centre at the Department of Agricultural Extension and Cooperatives (DAEC) in Vientiane Capital, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) on 30 March 2022. The training was well attended with seventeen in-person participants from the national DAEC staff and the Lao Korea Development Centre as well as over twenty virtual participants from DAEC's wide network of provincial staff. FAO collaborated with regional experts from the Centre for Research on Science and Innovation Policy (CRISP) to organize and implement this training. More information about this event is available [here](#).



Training participants in Lao PDR

TAP-AIS Inception workshop in Pakistan

The Food and Agriculture Organization, Pakistan (FAO) in collaboration with the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR) organized the inception workshop of the TAP-AIS project on 31 March 2022.

The inception workshop objective was to raise awareness on the project objectives, approaches, expected results and to set the priorities for the project to align it with the Government and other organizations' efforts to strengthen capacities for agricultural innovation. A scoping study has been conducted to identify key innovation actors and their climate- relevant innovation processes in Pakistan. The results of scoping study were presented to validate and to identify the key entry points for detailed assessment of AIS in the light of stakeholder's feedback.

The Deputy FAO Representative Pakistan, Mr Farrukh Toirov, during his address emphasized the importance of strengthening the agriculture innovation system with the involvement of private stakeholder, this would reap long lasting benefits. The Development Advisor, Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan, Mr Roberto Aparicio Martín, highlighted the importance of capacity development and linkage development among stakeholders to achieve the sustainability in the agriculture sector growth. The Head, FAO's Research and Extension Unit, Mr Selvaraju Ramasamy, joined the event virtually and apprised the stakeholders on Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) and the Global TAP-AIS Project objectives and expected results.



TAP-AIS inception workshop in Pakistan

The event was appreciated by all stakeholders and acknowledged the FAO efforts towards capacity development to strengthen the AIS in Pakistan.

The event was attended by forty participants (23 in person and 17 virtual participations through zoom video call) including key officials from Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC), National Agriculture Research Center (NARC), provincial extension and research departments, agriculture universities, private sector agriculture technology companies, service providers, representatives from farmer's association and international development organization.



Participants of the TAP-AIS inception workshop in Pakistan

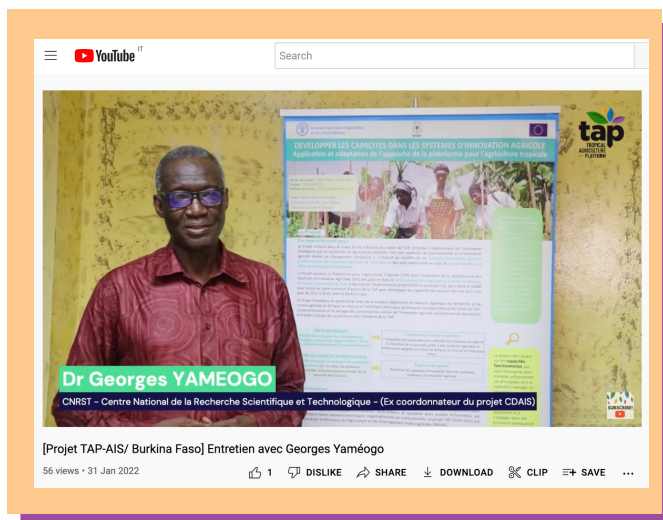
Interviews with TAP-AIS project partners

During the last months, some video interviews with colleagues and partner institutions working on the TAP-AIS project have been uploaded in the [TAP YouTube Channel](#).

If you haven't watch them yet, please find them in this continuously updated playlist:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZqi17_m4bQus27UVIXSS2a_uHN01sfTU

We are working on more interviews to upload for the project, but we also would like to hear from you, as TAP Members, and make a series of interviews on your role in TAP and the activities that you are carrying out.

Get in contact with us if you are interested and please also remember to subscribe to our YouTube Channel!



PUBLICATIONS

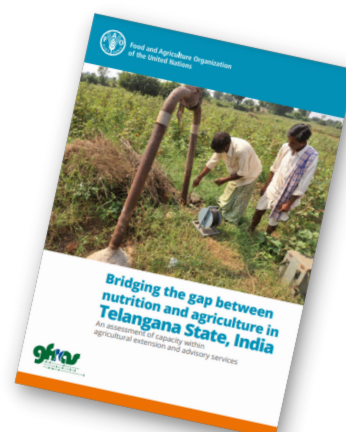
GUIDE FOR STRENGTHENING FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY FOR INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE, FAO and IICA (2022), in Spanish

The purpose of this guide is to contribute to the development of functional capacities among individuals and organizations that support innovation in Latin America. The guide uses the Common Framework on Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems promoted by the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) to identify and strengthen key functional capacities in organizations and individuals. According to the common framework, strengthening functional capacities enables actors to reflect and learn, collaborate, navigate complexity, and participate in strategies and policy processes. In addition, it allows to focus on the future and not only on solving current problems.

The guide is available online at: <https://www.fao.org/3/cb8579es/cb8579es.pdf>

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN NUTRITION AND AGRICULTURE IN TELANGANA STATE, INDIA, An assessment of capacity within agricultural extension and advisory services, FAO and GFRAS (2022)

Equipping agricultural extension and advisory services with nutrition knowledge, competencies and skills is essential to promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture. This report presents the results of an assessment of capacity within agricultural extension and advisory services, undertaken in Telangana State, India, with the global capacity needs assessment (GCNA) methodology developed by FAO and GFRAS. The methodology is available online at: <https://www.fao.org/3/cb8699en/cb8699en.pdf>



OTHER NEWS

GFRAS: NELK MODULE ON INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

This module is for extensionists from the public and private sector, including civil society and lead farmers. Agricultural students will also benefit from this module as an introduction to integrated pest management. This module provides extensionists with the knowledge and confidence to train and advise growers on IPM, its benefits and how it can be implemented in the field. It also provides an overall strategy for adapting the knowledge for specific crops in different countries and regions in consultation with local extension services and experts. The training module is available online at: <https://www.g-fras.org/en/knowledge/new-extensionist-learning-kit-nelk.html#technical-2-integrated-pest-management>



TAP-AIS PROJECT PUBLICATIONS ALL IN ONE PAGE

Did you know that there is a new section on the TAP website? As many publications related to the TAP-AIS project are coming out, we thought of having a place on the website where you can easily find them all at a glance.



The TAP-AIS project

Please check our publications [here](#).



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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.

TAP Secretariat,
Research and Extension Unit, Office of Innovation (OIN),
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153, Rome, Italy
E-mail: Tropagplatform@fao.org
Website: www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform

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