

NOVEMBER 2022

TAP Newsletter



TAP present at the FAO Science and Innovation Forum

In occasion of the <u>FAO Science and Innovation Forum</u>, celebrated from 17 to 21 October 2022, TAP Partners organized a series of side event in the week of 12 to 14 October 2022 to present their insights on science, technologies and innovations that can drive food systems transformation. Here some highlights of the side events organized:

TAP side event on "TAPipedia: Fostering knowledge sharing in support of agricultural innovation" – 12 October 2022

The event aimed to promote knowledge sharing in support of agricultural innovation and in particular <u>TAPipedia</u>, the TAP knowledge hub that is positioning itself as the reference gateway for innovation-related practices, stories and case studies. Event participants were introduced to TAPipedia and to collaborative experiences in support of knowledge sharing on agricultural innovation.

The panel discussion featured the participation of Viviana Palmieri (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture - IICA); Andre Laperriere (Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition - GODAN); Valeria Pesce (Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation - GFAR); Pieter Spanoghe (Ghent University, EU Farmbook platform, Eureka Horizon2020 project)

The discussion aimed to strategize the use of online platforms for capacity development for agricultural innovation and possible future developments. The panellists expressed willingness to collaborate for comanaged and quality-checked knowledge platforms, through sustainable and coherent approaches. They stressed the fundamental role of participation, interaction and sharing among the actors of the Agricultural Innovation Systems. It was also underlined that it is necessary to embrace the variety of knowledge, not only formal documents.

Recording of the webinar is available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Hp59vH6zNo







AARINENA's side event on "Enhancing knowledge sharing in support of agricultural innovation Date Palm Innovation Platform" – 13 October 2022

The side event jointly organized by the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) aimed to demonstrate and share with the different stakeholders and partners the development and structure of the innovation platform for the date palm in the NENA region (https://aarinena.org/palm/) and thus enhancing of better utilization of new knowledge, innovations and technologies in a sustainable and inclusive process in the NENA region and beyond. The event counted with the interventions of Dr Adel Abdel Rahim, President of AARINENA; Dr Beth Crawford, Director of Office of Innovation at the FAO; Dr Rida Shibli, the Executive Secretary of AARINENA; Dr Selvaraju Ramasamy, Senior Agricultural Officer at the FAO-Office of Innovation; Dr Nael Thaher, Rural Development and Agri-Food Business Expert, Dr Atef Swelam, FAO Office of Innovation, and Dr Mohammad Malkawi and Ms Wafaa Musalam, Software and IT Experts.

Around 44 participants from diverse organizations attended virtually this event. At the end of the event, panellists concluded that the enhancement of multi-stakeholder innovation platform for knowledge sharing, coordination and collaborative processes related to research, technology, and innovation; as well as the awareness raising and accessibility to innovation and technologies to support small-scale producers through the recently established research and innovation date palm platform are crucial to achieve and maintain the high competitiveness of date palm products in a dynamic global market.

Recordings of the event are available here: https://youtu.be/yJiBzzwRwDo

DeSIRA-LIFT side event on "Strengthening AIS: learning from past and present research interventions" - 13 October 2022

The webinar aimed to review the contributions and challenges of previous experiences built upon research partnerships, such as the EU-funded <u>CDAIS project</u>, and present three new patterns of research partnerships aimed at generating more long-term transformative outcomes in agricultural innovation systems in countries: a farmer-led research partnership, a living lab as a new multi-actor innovation facility, and partnerships between research and policy makers.

Three DeSIRA projects were invited to present these new patterns:

- the <u>FO-RI project</u>, implemented by AGRICORD and its partners, working in 16 countries with farmers' organizations leading research activities to codevelop agro-ecological innovations;
- the <u>Santés & Territoires project</u>, implemented by CIRAD and its partners, conducting research for innovation using living labs in Africa and Asia;
- the <u>TAP-AIS project</u>, implemented by FAO in nine countries, with the broader scope of using research and innovation to develop policy frameworks for AIS strengthening.

There were also important interventions from invited panellists (CIRAD, FARA, DG-INTPA and DeSIRA-LIFT), emphasizing key challenges and lessons learnt on making research partnerships work for AIS strengthening:

- AIS strengthening requires more long-term research partnerships with farmers' organizations, civil society, private sector and policy makers, beyond traditional project duration, in order to align their innovation agendas and collaborate further.
- The risk to invest in technological innovation leaving behind social innovation.
- The importance of engaging farmers early in the research projects as drivers of R&I agendas, then reversing
 the research processes for transforming agri-food systems, through on-demand research approaches led by
 civil society and farmers 'organizations.
- The need to shift learning models from science-based approaches to experience-based approaches where scientists co-learn and co-develop knowledge with their partners and AIS actors while developing innovations.

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- The need to accelerate knowledge sharing on multi-stakeholder innovation experiences in order to make national and international communities move together at the same pace for boosting agricultural innovation.
- The need to develop innovation policies as capacity development policies, targeting three levels of the AIS (innovation niche partnerships, innovation support service providers, and policy actors), creating more enabling environments for innovators and enabling new accredited job profiles to facilitate multi-actor collaboration and innovation processes.

This was the first webinar organised by the DeSIRA-LIFT Community of Practice, which aims at sharing and learning on challenges and practices in managing for impacts in Research and Innovation projects of the Desiral Initiative. The Desiral-Lift Community of Practice will offer follow-up learning events to the Desiral projects around two key challenges: innovating with multi-actor facilities, innovating in insecure contexts.

TAP side event on "Capacity development for agricultural innovation systems (AIS) mainstreaming and investments through the Tropical Agriculture Platform" – 13 October 2022

The event aimed at sharing successful examples from TAP Partners on strengthening capacity of agricultural innovations systems and insights among regional organizations on evidence-based policy dialogue and investments on agricultural innovation, based on regional and country level assessments. Opening remarks were given by the Max Olupot, TAP Chair, Christophe Larose, European Commission and Selvaraju Ramasamy, FAO Office of Innovation. It was followed by two facilitated discussions among experts from the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS), AGRINATURA / DeSIRA LIFT, Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and Latin American Network for Rural Extension Services (RELASER).

During these sessions, experts agreed that the strengthening of functional capacities is key to unlock the potential of innovation from the local level in the AIS. They also emphasized that gathering good evidence in a systematic way, through an effective monitoring, evaluation and communication system for awareness raising and advocacy are crucial for the mainstreaming capacities, policies and investments for AIS. It was also highlighted that TAP plays an important role in advancing from recommendations to real changes in the institutional frameworks and the collective understanding of innovation processes and systems, and in facilitating inter-regional sharing of tools and approaches for mutual learning and exchange.

Recording of the webinar is available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HfzIXwIJV78



UPDATES FROM PARTNERS



APAARI

APAARI developed a post ToT refresher course on applying TAP tools in technical projects

The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) in Africa partnered with APAARI through the Biopesticide Development Project in Southern African Development Community (SADC) funded by the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF). In the context of this project, ICGEB requested APAARI to do a focused session on the practical aspects of the application of TAP tools and the model of blending of technical and functional capacities that has been developed and used by APAARI.

A refresher course was designed accordingly and delivered on 8 September 2022 to the SADC project innovation facilitators. The course provided a quick overview of key concepts, including the agricultural innovation system (AIS) perspective, the three dimensions, dual pathways, capacity development cycle, and functional capacities.

The main focus of this training was on the application of the concepts and 'blending' of technical and functional capacities in practice based on APAARI's experience in the Asia Pesticide Residue Mitigation and Bangladesh Phytosanitary and Biopesticide Development Project. Experiences and lessons learned from these projects were the foundation of this refresher training.

Links with the project's Knowledge Management (KM) and Capacity Development Strategy developed by APAARI were also discussed to ensure that the development of functional capacities is addressed holistically. Strong emphasis was given to the role of facilitation and how the facilitators should apply adults' focused learning approaches, knowledge-sharing processes and engagement techniques to deliver the project's outcomes more effectively.

The learning outcomes of this refresher training were consequently used in the Training Workshop on Key Elements of Pesticide Residue Decline Assessment and Biopesticide-Based Residue Mitigation, held by ICGEB from 31 October – 4 November 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya.

CATAS

CATAS President at the FAO Science and Innovation Forum

Dr Huang Sanwen, President of CATAS, attended virtually the FAO Science and Innovation Forum as a speaker. President Huang shared his experience on how science and technology innovation enhance the resilience of marginal agricultural areas through the plantation of specialty crops such as mangoes, macadamia nuts and Chinese wild grape, the development of supporting technologies for integrated management of rocky desertification areas in China, as well as the strengthening of tropical agricultural technical assistance in the tropics.

Additionally, President Huang displayed the innovations made by Chinese scientists in breeding specialty crops represented by Chinese wild grape, and food crops including potatoes and their roles in increasing farmers' income and boosting industrial development. Before wrapping up, he reiterated CATAS's willingness, as the FAO Reference Center for Tropical Agriculture Research and Training, to strengthen cooperation with international organizations and contribute to increasing agricultural productivity in marginal agricultural areas around the world.



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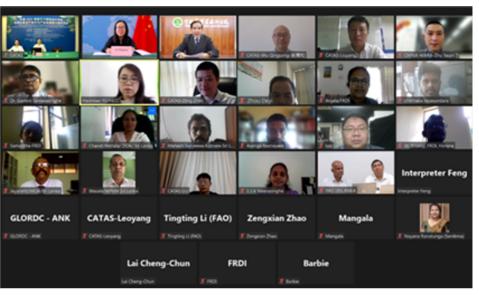
Dr Huang Sanwen, President of CATAS, speaking at the Forum (©CATAS)

CATAS capacity building activity on Tropical Fruit Production Technology and Industry Development

Starting on 10 October 2022, the five-day capacity building activity on Tropical Fruit Production Technology and Industry Development under China-FAO-Sri Lanka South-South Cooperation Project kicked off. Sponsored by FAO, this activity marked the first of series activities of the China-FAO-Sri Lanka South-South Cooperation Project, to be jointly organized by CATAS and the Foreign Economic Cooperation Center of MARA. During the event, Chinese experts shared the industry and technological development of China's banana, pineapple and mango, fruit tissue culture, orchard management, high-efficient fruit production, agricultural product processing technology, agricultural product traceability and blockchain technology, and other good agricultural practices related to the tropical fruit industry. 35 officials attended the training, including technicians and employees from Sri-Lanka's government organizations, institutions and other enterprises (i.e., the Fruit Research Institute, National Institute of Post Harvest Management, and Technology Extension Department of the Ministry of Agriculture of Sri Lanka).



Dr Liu Guodao, Vice President of CATAS giving the opening remarks (©CATAS)



Online group photo (©CATAS)



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CATAS held the World Tropical Agricultural Science Forum in Sanya



On 29 July 2022, CATAS held the World Tropical Agricultural Science Forum in Sanya, Hainan. Huang Sanwen, President of CATAS, Carlos Watson, Representative of FAO to China, and Selvaraju Ramasamy, TAP Secretariat / FAO Office of Innovation, attended the forum and delivered speeches.

Liu Guodao, Vice President of CATAS, made a keynote speech at the forum. Focusing on tropical agriculture, biological breeding, deep blue fishery, animal health and nutrition, the forum invited 13 well-known local and foreign experts and scholars to make special reports. More than 90 representatives from science and education institutions, diplomatic envoys from Thailand, the Republic of Congo in China and representatives of the Gates Foundation in China attended the meeting, and more than 70 people from 20 countries including Egypt, Nigeria, Myanmar and Grenada joined the meeting online.



Intervention of Selvaraju Ramasamy (TAP Secretariat / FAO Office of Innovation) during the Forum (©CATAS)



Intervention of Carlos Watson during the Forum, Representative of FAO to China (©CATAS)





On-site Reports (©CATAS)



On-site Reports (©CATAS)





DESIRA-LIFT

DESIRA-LIFT - Service Area 1 on-demand service facility to Pillar 1 DeSIRA projects





DeSIRA LIFT - Service Area 1 provides on-demand support services to country-based DeSIRA projects, in order to help project teams to prove and improve their impacts on climate-orientated innovation systems in line with more sustainable food systems transitions.

In order to do so, the DeSIRA-LIFT team selected a set of five core managerial capacities of project implementers considered to be enablers of projects' outcomes and impacts. These are: capacity for real time monitoring-evaluation and learning, capacity to manage open innovation processes, capacity to adapt and respond to innovation needs in countries; capacities influence project's institutional environment and strengthen national AIS; capacity to collaborate in multi-actor settings.

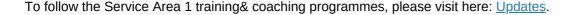
These five core capacities will be enhanced and monitored by DESIRA-LIFT with a view to provide a better understanding on how to design, run and support AIS-orientated interventions. A menu of on-demand support services is gradually adjusted based on the feedback received from projects, as well as their support requests, to prove and improve their impacts.

A Community of Practice has been set up with the twofold goal of sharing DeSIRA projects' challenges and practices, and bridging projects' support needs with adequate international expertise.

Service Area 1 just started its training and coaching programmes.

Service Area 1 started in October training and coaching activities on MEL systems, approaches, and tools for AIS-oriented interventions. On-line courses will be run several times a year for different DeSIRA Project clusters, according to language and thematic issues. They are announced few weeks ahead to allow for online registration and the mobilisation of volunteer project staff.

To better understand Service Area 1 service offer, please visit here: "Our support service offer". See also Service Area 1 delivery approach and timeline.



FAO

Innovative Mobile Applications for Sustainable Agriculture

IFAO Liaison Office in Geneva and the Geneva Trade Platform (GTP) organized on 17 November 2022 a Hackathon competition, inviting students all over the world to provide innovative ideas on mobile applications that could improve outcomes for farmers and policy makers.

Among the submissions, three hackathon finalists were invited to present their ideas. Team B2 from Bulgaria presented an application for small producers that measures and analyses farmers' environmental footprints and connects them to support services. Team Garbatella from Spain proposed an application that would connect small producers with local consumers and Team Winners from Switzerland presented an application to support sustainable fertilizer use by farmers, which could also support domestic policy making.

A panel of experts evaluated the finalists' ideas based on the creativity and originality, whether the proposals solve a genuine problem, the feasibility of the proposal, and the style, structure and clarity of the presentations. After an in-depth evaluation, Team Winners won first place and Team Garbatella and Team B2 tied for second place.

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During the event, Cathy Sall, Associate Programme Officer of the International Trade Center (ITC) and Rolf Traeger, the Least Developed Countries Section Chief of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), shared their work on agriculture and technology. Cathy Sall introduced her work at ITC on tech sector development and entrepreneurship, especially in relation to start-ups in developing countries. She highlighted how smallholders often face challenges relating to access to credit, access to inputs, access to data, and market access. Rolf Traeger spoke about UNCTAD's work on Least Developed Countries and underlined the need for sound policy and traditional modes of service provision that may be needed alongside app-based or other technology-enabled services. He emphasized the need for innovations to be adapted to local contexts.

The recording of the hackathon is available <u>here</u>.

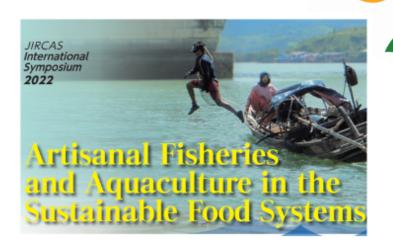
FAO and the Geneva Trade Platform (GTP) have partnered to organize a series of events themed around the role of the multilateral trading system, supporting innovative approaches to strengthening agricultural sustainability. Previous events covered how trade, sustainability and agriculture can further be integrated into the multilateral policy discussions; and the needs of LDCs in this context. The next and last event of this series will take place on 12 December and focus on greening agricultural subsidies.

JIRCAS

JIRCAS International Symposium 2022 - "Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Sustainable Food Systems"

The JIRCAS International Symposium 2022 was held on 22 November 2022, as a follow up of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, and on the occasion of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022).

The event aimed at providing a forum with national and international research and academic communities to discuss opportunities and challenges for a resilient, efficient and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture sector, and to bring new insights and identify strategic areas of science, technology and innovation (STI) for international collaboration to promote both sustainability and productivity of the sector.



TAP-AIS PROJECT

National policy dialogue in Cambodia sparks discussion and actions on conservation agriculture

On the 07 September 2022 the Cambodia Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification Consortium (CASIC) with support from FAO's TAP-AIS project held a national policy dialogue event on "Promoting Conservation Agriculture in Cambodia". The dialogue, which was held at the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), had a total of 49 participants (including 12 women) representing the government, international organizations (including CIRAD, EU, GIZ and Swisscontact), farmer organizations and the private sector.

H.E. Dr Asikin Yoeu and H.E. Dr Chan Saruth, CASIC Steering Committee Vice Chair and Executive Board Chair respectively, and Undersecretaries of State of MAFF, presided over the dialogue and ensured that the event was conducted in a participatory manner, including contributions from stakeholders from all sectors.

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Results from two subnational policy dialogues held in Battambang province and a draft policy brief entitled "Bottomup solutions to promote conservation agriculture in Cambodia" were presented and discussed at the dialogue. Recommendations, especially promote mechanization, market education and access and training for opportunities conservation agriculture, were the focus of the discussion.

This national policy dialogue resulted in a way forward for CASIC in promoting their policy agenda including a plan for next steps and the policy brief which will be revised and published in the coming weeks.



In person participants of the national policy dialogue pictured here in front of MAFF in Phnom Penh. ©CASIC



Final project workshop of the TAP-AIS project in Lao PDR

FAO's TAP-AIS Project in Lao PDR organized its final workshop on 22 September 2022 in Vientiane to mark the completion of the main activities of the project. More than 40 participants from the key departments of the Ministry of Agriculture (MAF), Ministry of Communication and Technology (MOCT), Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC), academia, the Lao Farmer Network (LFN), private sector actors, international development partners and more participated in the workshop.

The workshop provided opportunities to present the results and key achievements of the project with the major stakeholders in the agricultural innovation system (AIS). Organizations involved in the project also shared their experiences and lessons learned from the effective implementation the project through capacity development interventions. Overall, the two-year project strengthened capacities of 155 (65 women) core beneficiaries, directly benefitted around 2000 individuals in total (including those who attended at least one TAP-AIS training, workshop or event) and a further 2800 beneficiaries estimated were supported indirectly by the project.



Participants of the TAP-AIS Final Workshop in Lao PDR ©FAO

Results from two subnational policy dialogues held in Battambang province and a draft policy brief entitled "Bottomup solutions to promote conservation agriculture in Cambodia" were presented and discussed at the dialogue. Recommendations, especially to promote mechanization, market access and education and training opportunities for conservation agriculture, were the focus of the discussion.

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PUBLICATIONS





INTRODUCING THE AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGIES AND **INNOVATIONS OUTLOOK (ATIO)** FAO (2022)

Agrifood system transformation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals requires increased attention to developing, adapting and diffusing impactful science, technology and innovation (STI). Current levels and patterns of STI uptake are inadequate to facilitate needed agrifood system transformations, especially in today's low- and middle-income countries. Moreover, the descriptive and evaluative evidence on current and emergent STI is also insufficiently well understood to permit intentional management of STI to meet the multiple objectives of future agrifood systems: efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable.

This report (available here) introduces the vision, rationale, scope and methods for new knowledge products FAO will launch as part of a new Agrifood System Technologies and Innovations Outlook (ATIO). ATIO's objective is to curate existing information on the current, measurable state of STI and upcoming changes, as well as their transformative potential, to inform evidence-based policy dialogue and decisions, including on investments.



ASSESSING AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION SYSTEMS: A TRAINING MANUAL FAO (2022)

An assessment of a country's agricultural innovation system (AIS) provides insights on its strengths and weaknesses and needs and opportunities for improvement. A well-managed AIS assessment provides data and information that inform policy dialogue, guide capacity development and help prioritize investments that boost innovation. To support countries that wish to assess their AIS, FAO's Office of Innovation has now published Assessing agricultural innovation systems: a training manual. The publication is available <u>here</u>.

The training manual presents a methodology developed by FAO's Office of Innovation in collaboration with partners and supported by the European Union. It contains eight modules, using a highly participatory learning process where trainees' experiences and reflections on agricultural innovation processes are central to the learning.

After completing a training programme, trainers and facilitators will:

- Be familiar with the concept of AIS and the Tropical Agriculture Platform's approach to capacity development for AIS.
- Be familiar with the FAO framework on AIS assessment, approaches and tools to use in each step of the assessment; and
- Be able to plan and assess an AIS in a specific national situation and interpret and communicate the results.

Assessing agricultural innovation systems:



BOTTOM-UP SOLUTIONS TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE IN CAMBODIA - RESULTS FROM A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER POLICY DIALOGUE PROCESS FAO (2022)

A new TAP-AIS project brief has just been released: Bottom-up solutions to promote conservation agriculture in Cambodia - Results from a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue process. The brief, prepared by FAO with the Cambodia Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification Consortium (CASIC) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) in Cambodia, highlights the results from a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue process facilitated at both local and national levels in Cambodia led by CASIC with support from FAO's TAP-AIS project.

The multi-stakeholder policy dialogue approach brings together diverse stakeholders to discuss relevant policy issues in the agriculture innovation system (AIS) and in this case conservation agriculture was identified as a key innovation (a bundle of agro-ecological practices) in which local stakeholders have a vested interest but are facing major challenges. The brief is available here.



GOOD PRACTICES IN STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION SYSTEMS (AIS) IN ASIA PACIFIC APIRAS, APAARI and FAO (2022)

As part of the TAP-AIS project, the Asia-Pacific Islands and Rural Advisory Services Network (APIRAS), the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) in close collaboration with the Research and Extension Unit of the FAO published the seventh of the good practices on strengthening AIS.

The Good Practice Number 7 on Promoting Climate Sensitive Innovations in The Mekong Delta through diversified Public-Private Partnership is available here.





REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON INVESTMENT IN MODERN AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY AND ITS SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS OF FARMERS IN ASIA-PACIFIC - PROCEEDINGS AND **RECOMMENDATIONS** APAARI (2022)

The Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), under its programme Asia- Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology and Bioresources (APCoAB), organized a Virtual Regional Workshop on Investment in Modern Agricultural Biotechnology and its Socio-Economic Impact on Livelihoods of Farmers in Asia-Pacific, in collaboration with the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), Philippines; Council of Agricultural (COA), Taiwan; CropLife Asia (CLA), Singapore; and Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII), India, with the following expected outcomes:

- Provide a platform to have an overview of investment in agricultural biotechnology R&D by public and private sectors and its impact in the region and;
- Identify potential areas for investment/co-investment in modern agricultural biotechnology and ways forward on innovative funding mechanisms by public and private sectors.

The two-day virtual workshop was attended by a total of 424 participants belonging to 33 countries from Asia-Pacific region and beyond including researchers, representatives of various National Agricultural Research System (NARS) organizations (public sector) and private sector, policymakers, regulatory personnel, Consultative Group of International Agriculture Research (CGIAR, in short CG) Centers, advanced research institutes, funding/donor agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and Farmers Organizations as well as the recognized experts from 15 countries who made presentations and participated in the panel discussion.

To know more about the insights and recommendations, download the full report.



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. Office of Innovation (OIN), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153, Rome, Italy E-mail: <u>Tropagplatform@fao.org</u>

Website: www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform_





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.