



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



CDAIS Marketplace: brokering partnerships for effective capacity development for agricultural innovation

Concept note¹

The CDAIS project. The project “Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems” (CDAIS) is an initiative launched in 2015 and implemented by Agrinatura and FAO, with the financial support from the European Union. CDAIS is bringing together key stakeholders in the agricultural innovation systems of each eight pilot countries (Angola, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Ethiopia, Honduras, Laos, Rwanda) to assess needs as well as to elaborate and implement national capacity development plans for agricultural innovation. The ultimate objective is to promote innovation that meet the needs of small farmers, small and medium-sized agribusiness and consumers.

Concept and objectives of the CDAIS Marketplaces. A marketplace is an event organized to facilitate matching of demand and supply and to promote learning, sharing and exchanging of information, knowledge and practical experience on specific topics. In the context of the CDAIS project, the Marketplace proposed aims to broker partnerships for effective capacity development (CD) for agricultural innovation.

The CDAIS Marketplaces have the general objective of facilitating the matching of initiatives of capacity development for agricultural innovation systems (capacity development supply) with the real capacity development needs of the major agricultural innovation actors (capacity development demand).

Specific objectives of CDAIS Marketplace are to create opportunities for the actors of national Agricultural Innovation Systems, some of which in need for CD, and others who can offer and/or fund services for CD, to (i) meet and share experiences and future programs/projects on strengthening capacities to innovate, (ii) discuss assessed needs and action plans on capacity development, and (iv) establish partnerships relevant to capacities to innovate.

¹ This note was developed by the TAP Secretariat with inputs of the CDAIS country teams, and revised based on feedback of the CDAIS Project Oversight Committee, a CDAIS working group (FAO/ICRA) and again with CDAIS Rwanda team in charge of organizing the first CDAIS marketplace.

Participants include farmers and their organizations, academia, extension services, input suppliers, food traders and processors, NGOs, national service providers, development agencies and donors.

The CDAIS Marketplace event. The national CDAIS Marketplace in each CDAIS country is a one-day event that benefits from the preparatory contacts between relevant actors and the National CDAIS team. It relies on lessons learnt from the capacity needs assessment process and builds towards a national platform on agriculture capacities to innovate. Information gathered from the scoping studies and inception workshop will be useful.

The Marketplace will have several sessions as summarized below.

- Introduction and welcome **plenary session**, for introducing the CDAIS project, program and modalities of the Marketplace and participants.

- **Group session 1: Presentation of capacity demand of niches/innovation partnerships with Action Plan on CD for AIS** (morning). Objective: to present the CD demand of CDAIS innovation niches and action plan to those organizations that can fund and/or implement capacity development interventions.

- **Group session 2: Presentation of supply side/partnering potential** (afternoon).
Objectives:
 - o To share information about current capacity development projects implemented by development agencies and service providers or funded by funding agencies and drawing with the local stakeholders the main lessons learnt;
To identify possible collaborations and synergies between CDAIS and other ongoing CD projects;

- **Match-making session (group and plenary work)**. Objective: to capture the potential collaborations between each niche, the potential service providers who have appropriate capacity to work with them and the partners who might offer collaborations and/or resources.

- **Closing session (plenary)** Objective: to wrap up the main outcomes of the Marketplace and to agree a process of accountability to track engagement in new collaborations and partnerships.

At the end of the event questionnaires will be distributed to the participants in order to evaluate the Marketplace and to send feedbacks for future events.

After the event participants will receive a report of the CDAIS Marketplace.