



TAP ACTION PLAN (2018-2021)

Executive Summary

[The Tropical Agriculture Platform \(TAP\)](#), is a multi-layer dynamic facilitation mechanism comprising 45 global, regional and national partners, representing agricultural research, education and extension, and international technical, development and funding agencies¹. TAP was launched as a G20 initiative in 2012, and its purpose is to improve efficiency and effectiveness of capacity development programmes and knowledge sharing to strengthen agricultural innovation systems in the tropics and sub-tropics². By fostering greater coherence among partners for more harmonised action and greater mutual accountability, TAP contributes to: (i) developing innovation capacities in three major dimensions - policy/enabling environment and at organisational and individual level; (ii) strengthening relevant technical and “soft” skills of research, extension and education actors and (iii) improving knowledge and information exchange to enhance linkages for joint learning. The ultimate beneficiaries are small and medium scale agricultural producers and enterprises, especially youth and women.

TAP partners approved the first TAP Action Plan 2014-2017. This was based on the regional needs assessments that were conducted in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and South East Asia. The Action Plan had three core elements: i) Advocacy and policy dialogue; ii) The development and pilot testing of a [Common Framework](#) on Capacity Development (CD) for Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS); iii) [TAPipedia](#), an information sharing platform on agricultural innovation. The implementation of the first TAP Action Plan was supported from 2015 till 2018 by the European Commission through [the EU-funded project Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems \(CDAIS\)](#) as well as through direct and indirect contributions of various TAP partners. Since 2015, the TAP Common Framework (CF) has been applied in eight countries, in Africa (Angola, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Rwanda), Asia (Bangladesh and Laos) and in Latin America and the Caribbean (Guatemala and Honduras) to generate evidence for more informed decision-making. The lessons learned from CDAIS, TAPipedia and TAP partners’ collective actions have been used to shape the second action plan.

The second TAP Action plan covers the period 2018-2021. The draft Plan was presented at the fifth TAP Partners Assembly in Laos in September 2017, at which partners appointed a task force to finalise the Action Plan for review by the TAP Steering Committee and final approval by the TAP Partners’ Assembly. The goal of the second TAP Action Plan is to strengthen agricultural innovation capacities at country level. It has a strong focus on improving TAP governance, expanding the political mandate of TAP at international, regional and national level, greater involvement and commitment of TAP Partners in all aspects of implementation, financial sustainability and country ownership of the agricultural innovation agenda.

¹A full list of TAP Partners is available at the following link:

http://www.tapipedia.org/sites/default/files/list_of_tap_partners2017.pdf

²TAP Charter: http://www.tapipedia.org/sites/default/files/tap_pajan2016_ammendedcharter_2016-03-01.pdf

Four Priorities have been identified for the TAP Action Plan 2018-2021:

Priority 1: Countries acknowledge the importance of AI in their national strategic plans

International and regional events on agricultural innovation, including an International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation in 2018 as well as the development and piloting of guidelines for countries to assess their agricultural innovation systems and capacity development (CD) needs are planned. Key expected outputs include gaining political commitment from G20 and other mechanisms for the Common Framework on CD for AIS and TAP's work is widely known and visible.

Priority 2: Countries substantially increase investments in the identified strategic priority AI interventions

Countries are foreseen to articulate their demand and offer for CDAIS and advocate for synchronised investments in CD for AIS. Key expected outputs identified include the organization of global, regional and national marketplaces and proposals developed for innovative funding for country level priority AI interventions, targeting major donors.

Priority 3: Countries learn from existing CD for AIS interventions and further develop the Common Framework to improve the coherence, and effectiveness of their CD for AI interventions

Validation of the CD Framework and updating of tools and learning approaches are planned. The documentation and analysis of lessons learned from piloting the TAP Common Framework in the eight CDAIS countries as well as engaging the private sector to foster greater collaboration for capacity development are foreseen. A key expected output is that the CF on CD for AIS is widely adopted at regional and national level and integrated in higher education and vocational training curricula and that national capacities for AI are strengthened.

Priority 4: Countries monitor the progress of their CD for AIS interventions/investments

Further development of the M&E architecture for the TAP CF is foreseen to enable partners and countries to track the progress made and can share experiences to contribute to the attainment of the TAP goal.

Detailed activities are outlined and indicators have been developed for each priority area identified.

OUTPUTS/ ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY/IES	PROPOSED TIMELINE	RESOURCES A. AVAILABLE B. NEEDED	TARGETS/INDICATORS	CONTRIBUTION OF TAP PARTNERS
Goal: Strengthen agricultural innovation capacities for countries mainly in the tropics and sub-tropics.					
Impact/ultimate target: Improve livelihoods, income and food security of small and medium scale producers and enterprises in the agribusiness sector especially youth and women					
Assumptions/pre-requisites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ TAP Partners remain committed and engaged (and new partners joining) ➤ TAP Governance strengthened and TAP Secretariat operational³ ➤ TAP Secretariat and implementation of TAP Action Plan financially sustained ➤ Political mandate recognized (G20 mandate acknowledged and other significant international, regional and national policy organs committed to TAP) 					
Outcome/Priority 1: Countries <u>acknowledge</u> the importance of AI in their national strategic development plans					
Output 1.1: International Symposium and other major events are organized to raise awareness of AI.					
1.1.1. Organize an International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation (AI) for Family Farmers (FFs)	FAO	Week of 19-23 November 2018	A. For the organization B. Travel for TAP Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Symposium is held (with at least # participants, target ≥ 300) - A Call for Action to unlock the potential of AI for FFs supported; - Priority intervention areas identified - Potential actions and strategies for scaling up successful innovations to meet the needs of millions of FFs identified 	Agrinatura (financial and technical support) Agreenium, APAARI, CABI, CATAS, FORAGRO, GFAR, ICMOD, IICA, PROCITROPICOS, YPARD (technical support & mobilisation of constituent members)

³ The TAP Secretariat implements TAP activities as per the Plan of Action approved by the TAP-PA and in close consultation with the TAP-SC and TAP partners.

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				- Electronic proceedings with key recommendations for action.	
1.1.2. Other regional and Global events on Innovation are organized by partners	FARA, GCHERA, GFAR (Annual Workshops/ Conferences)	2018-2021	A. For FARA 2018 CAADP PP event (25-27 April 2018)	- 2-3 Major Events per year (Conferences, Policy dialogues) focusing on AI for tropical agriculture are held	Agreenium, CATAS, GFAR, YPARD (technical support & mobilisation of constituent members)
Output 1.2: Countries assess their AIS and weaknesses and capacity development (CD) needs are identified based on the TAP Common Framework (CF)					
1.2.1 A framework with guidelines and toolkit for AIS assessment at country level is developed, addressing recommendations of FAO Member States (25 th session of FAO Committee on Agriculture 2016 ⁴ , FAO Conference ⁵ in 2017)	FAO, CIRAD	Jan – Aug 2018	A. Until Aug 2018	- An online expert survey (200-250 ppl) - 1 expert workshop (including country representatives) to develop guidelines building on online survey results and TAP CF, 13-14 June 2018, Paris, France	Agreenium, APAARI, FiBL, GCHERA, FORAGRO, GFAR, ICIMOD, YPARD (technical backstopping) Learnings gathered from the 8 countries of the Agrinatura-FAO CDAIS project
1.2.2 AIS assessment guidelines are tested	FAO	Sep - Dec 2018	B. Partially	- 2-3 Countries tested the AIS assessment guidelines (Burkina Faso, Tanzania, one Latin American country to be decided)	Agreenium, FiBL, GFAR, ICIMOD (technical support) CIRAD, an Agrinatura member (support testing of guideline in Burkina)

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mr949e.pdf>, para 38

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mu208e.pdf>, para 43

OUTPUTS/ ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY/IES	PROPOSED TIMELINE	RESOURCES A. AVAILABLE B. NEEDED	TARGETS/INDICATORS	CONTRIBUTION OF TAP PARTNERS
1.2.3 Expand the TAP tool box with the AIS assessment guidelines	TAP Secretariat	Dec 2019	A. For toolbox B. For training module	- TAP CF toolbox updated - CD training module on use of the AIS assessment guidelines developed	
1.2.4. Support participatory assessment of AIS at multi-level (national, regional, sectoral, local) and identification of CD interventions at all levels	FAO	Jan 2018-Dec 2021	A. For 8 countries until Dec 2018 and 2019-2021 for 1 additional country B. For 2019-21 to continue in selected and new countries	- # CD for AIS needs assessments (At least 3 new countries)	Agreenium, APAARI, GCHERA, GFAR, FARA, FORAGRO, ICIMOD (technical support) Agrinatura (technical and financial support in 8 CDAIS project countries); and interested to expand to additional countries. YPARD (technical support on youth-specific CD needs)
Output 1.3 Countries design/improve Innovation Strategies and priority interventions are identified					
1.3.1 Based on the AIS assessment, support countries to develop their national innovation strategy (including identified CD intervention areas)	FAO	Jan 2019-Dec 2021	B. Needed	- # of national innovation strategies developed	Agreenium, GCHERA, FARA (technical support) APAARI regional workshop with NARS in APR on developing their agricultural innovation strategy
Output 1.4: TAP Common Framework on CD for AIS supported by G20 and other international and regional mechanisms.					

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1.4.1 Gain political agreement and support from G20 and other international mechanisms to use the CF on CD for AIS.	TAP Secretariat, FAO, GFAR	Jan 2018- Dec 2021	A. Partly available until Dec 2018 B. For activities from 2019-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # Political statements (including from policy makers attending the international agricultural Innovation Symposium for Family Farmers) - # References to TAP CF in other organizations' strategic documents 	<p>Agreenium, APAARI GCHERA, GFAR (technical support and advocacy)</p> <p>CIRAD through its presence in the French delegations in international official events like G20 (advocacy)</p>
Output 1.5: Work of TAP and its partners is widely known and visible					
1.5.1 Elaborate and implement new TAP communication strategy	TAP Secretariat	Jan 2018 –Dec 2021	A. Until Dec 2018 B. Needed for 2019-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TAP Communication Plan updated - Multimedia information material produced in support of goals and outcomes of TAP Action Plan as defined in communication plan (# videos, # stories of change, # press releases, # newsletters, # webinars, # blogs). - # Partner websites with information on TAP (>40) 	<p>Agreenium, Agrinatura, APAARI, CABI, FORAGRO, CATAS, ICIMOD, GFAR, YPARD (knowledge and information sharing through their websites, networks, presentation at global/regional events)</p>
Outcome/Priority 2: Countries substantially increase investments in the identified strategic priority AI interventions.					
Output 2.1: Global, regional and national marketplaces for AIS needs and investments are organized and better coordinated.					
2.1.1 Support the organization of events in voluntary countries to better articulate offer and demand of CD for AIS	FAO, GFAR	Jan 2018 - Dec 2021	B. Needed for 2019-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # Voluntary countries where capacity innovation fairs/marketplaces events are organized (at least 3 events organized) 	<p>APAARI to support capacity innovation marketplace in APR in 2019.</p>

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needs and foster networking between CD for AIS providers.					GCHERA, YPARD (networking) Cirad, through its membership in 20 formalized Partnership Platforms for Research Innovation and Training ⁱ , can support events.
Output 2.2 Awareness of priority interventions raised with major donor agencies					
2.2.1 Advocate for increased and better synchronized investments in CD for AIS and develop proposals for innovative funding mechanisms for CD for AIS.	FAO, GFAR	Jan 2018 - Dec 2021	A. For Policy dialogues at country and regional/global level (until Dec 2018) B. Needed for 2019-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # Events/meetings (8 National and 2-3 regional/global Policy Dialogues Reports by December 2018) - # Proposal developed for innovative funding mechanisms for country level activities (at least one) - X percentage increase of national investments on CD for AI 	Agreenium, Agrinatura, APAARI, GFAR, GCHERA, CABI, YPARD (technical support and advocacy)
2.2.2 Foster collaboration on capacity development among AIS actors, including private sector , through (sub-) regional innovation platforms.	CABI (for PlantWise and other CABI programs), FARA for Africa region, GFAR	Jan 2018- Dec 2021	B. Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # Regional/sub-regional Innovation Platforms established/strengthened (≥ 3) - # of new Private Sector actors engaged in PPP on CD for AIS. 	APAARI, CABI (private sector engagement) Agrinatura, CIRAD, FARA will leverage on their Innovation/Partnership Platforms. GCHERA, GFAR (sharing experiences)

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Outcome/Priority 3: Countries learn from existing CD for AIS interventions and further develop the Common Framework to improve the coherence, and effectiveness of their CD for AI interventions					
Output 3.1: TAP Common Framework is validated in 8 pilot countries.					
3.1.1 Document, analyse, review, synthesize and exchange at global level, lessons learned in the 8 pilot countries	TAP Secretariat, Agrinatura, FAO, CABI	Jan 2019-Dec 2021	B. Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # Lessons learned documents published - Resources on CDAIS pilots shared on the CF interactive page on TAPipedia and through other channels (webinars, newsletters, APAARI KM workshop in 2018 etc) 	<p>Agrinatura (with FAO) document lessons learned & analysis of CDAIS project.</p> <p>APAARI, GCHERA, FARA, FORAGRO, NRI, YPARD (knowledge sharing online and in meetings/events)</p> <p>CABI to develop lessons learned document</p>
3.1.2 Review and update tools and develop new learning tools on CD for AIS targeting practitioners	TAP Secretariat	Oct 2018-Dec 2021	<p>A. Partially for new tools (on gender analysis and partnerships)</p> <p>B. Needed for 2019-21</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # New tools (including # e-learning module/tools in three languages) - At least # Subscribers to online e-learning module - Adapted toolbox published - Revised CF published 	Agreenium, Agrinatura, GFAR, ICIMOD (technical support)
3.1.3 Share experiences on applying the Common Framework to promote its adoption by Regional Fora, Networks and Associations.	TAP Secretariat	Jan 2018- Dec 2021	<p>A. Partially Available until Dec 2018</p> <p>B. Needed for 2019-21</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # Regional Fora, Networks and Associations Events/meetings where TAP CF and country experiences are presented - # References to TAP CF in Regional AR4D Strategic Documents and programmes 	Agreenium, GFAR, Agrinatura, GCHERA (technical support)

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # Resources on lessons learned shared through TAPipedia 	APAARI (sharing lessons learned applying the CF in their programmes)
Output 3.2 TAP Common Framework is applied in new countries					
3.2.1 New countries implement CD for AIS projects using the CF principles	FAO	Jan 2018- Dec 2021	A. Available (for one country) B. Needed for at least 3 countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # new full project proposals for CD for AIS projects in # 8 countries - at least 4 CD for AIS projects are implemented 	Agrinatura and its members could contribute to similar CD4AIS initiatives in new countries. APAARI to support one country to implement CD for AIS
3.2.1. Promote the use of the CF on CD for AIS in alignment with related policies in voluntary countries among stakeholders involved in policy making.	FAO, GFAR	Jan 2018- Dec 2021	A. Available until Dec 2018 B. Needed for 2019-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # Projects/Programmes adopting principles of CF - X percentage of Government/donor funding for projects/programmes adopting the CF principles - # Strategy documents integrating the TAP CF approach. 	APAARI (Advocacy) CABI, CATAS, GFAR, GCHERA (technical support)

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Output 3.3. National capacities for AI are strengthened including strengthening of national innovation mechanism for advocacy, multi-stakeholder dialogue and coordination.					
3.3.1 Support countries to implement their CD intervention plans	FAO	Jan 2018-Dec 2021	A. Available for 2018 B. Needed for 2019-2021	- # CD intervention plans implemented (At least 3 new) and previous ones completed	APAARI's mapping and capacity needs assessment with APR universities Agrinatura and its members interested to contribute to related initiatives in new countries. GFAR (technical support)
3.3.2 Support countries to establish/strengthen innovation platforms	FAO,	Jan 2018-Dec 2021	A. Available for 2018 B. Needed for 2019-2021	- # Innovation Platforms established/strengthened (≥ 8 from CDAIS + 4 new)	Agreenium, GFAR, CABI (technical support) CIRAD could leverage on Partnership Platforms they participate in (see 2.1.1)
Output 3.4 New learning tools on CD for AIS targeting practitioners are developed					
3.4.1 Develop new learning tools	TAP Secretariat/CABI	Jan 2018-Dec 2021	A. Available for 2018 B. Needed for 2019-2021	- # new learning tools (≥ 3 for each of the CD for AIS cycle stages)	Agreenium, GFAR, GCHERA (technical support) CABI to contribute tools from their programmes

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Output 3.5 TAP Common Framework on CD for AIS supported by G20 and international and national development organizations through political mobilization					
3.5.1 Maintain and deepen political agreement and support at G20 and at global level for the use of the Common Framework on CD for AIS.	TAP Secretariat, FAO	Jan 2018- Dec 2021	A. Available until Dec 2018 B. Needed for 2019-21	- # G20 Documents referring to TAP/TAPipedia and application of Common Framework principles	Agreenium, GFAR, GCHERA (technical support) CIRAD through presence in French delegations at international official events (advocacy)
3.5.2 Expand political support by regional and sub-regional fora/organizations for the use of the Common CD for AIS Framework.	APAARI	Jan 2018- Dec 2021	A. Available until Dec 2018 B. Needed for 2019-21	- # References to TAP Common Framework in Regional documents and meetings/conferences reports.	Agreenium, APAARI, GFAR, FARA (technical support, advocacy)
Output 3.6: System thinking and soft skills development integrated in Higher Education, vocational training curricula, including agribusiness development programmes targeting young people.					
3.6.1. Develop HE curricula on CD for AIS or integrate CD for AIS components in existing curricula in partnership with higher education institutes.	GCHERA, GFAR	July 2018-Dec 2021	B. Needed	- # HE updated their curricula based on CD for AIS principles, tools and lessons learned and on soft skills thinking (≥20)	APAARI and its partners to contribute to the curricula reform Agreenium, GFAR (technical support)
3.6.2. Develop vocational curricula on CD for AIS or integrate CD for AIS components in existing curricula.	GFAR	2018-2021	B. Needed	- # Vocational Training Centers updated their curricula based on CD for AIS principles and tools and lessons learned (≥20)	APAARI's pilot activity with one agricultural university

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3.6. 3. TAP Common Framework is integrated into national agribusiness development programs targeting young people	FARA	2018-2021	B. Needed	- # National agribusiness training modules (which include CF elements) developed	GFAR, YPARD (technical support)
Output 3.7 TAPipedia as the reference platform on CD for AIS expanded					
3.7.1 Maintain and monitor the use of TAPipedia	TAP Secretariat	2018-2021	A. Until Dec 2018 plus basic maintenance. B. For 2019-21: 50%	- # Page views per month (English, French and Spanish)	GFAR provides hosting of website
3.7.2 Continue harvesting resources and collections from TAP Partners and others relevant institutions.	TAP Secretariat	2018-2021	B. Needed	- # Collections harvested (≥ 10) - # Relevant resources harvested (≥ 800)	Agreenium, CATAS, GFAR (technical support) APAARI to harvest and publish stories through TAPipedia and other channels.
3.7.3 Based on TAP communication strategy promote TAPipedia users engagement through social media, newsletters and webinars.	TAP Secretariat	2018-2021	A. Until Dec 2018 B. Needed for 2019-21	- # Newsletters (≥ 1/quarter) - # webinars (≥ 1/year) - # of GFAR Social media posts (≥1/quarter)	Agreenium, CATAS, FORAGRO, GFAR, YPARD (technical support and sharing) APAARI (advocacy and CD for its members)

OUTPUTS/ ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY/IES	PROPOSED TIMELINE	RESOURCES A. AVAILABLE B. NEEDED	TARGETS/INDICATORS	CONTRIBUTION OF TAP PARTNERS
Outcome/Priority 4: Countries monitor the progress of their CD for AIS interventions/investments.					
Output 4.1 A Monitoring and Evaluation system of CD for AIS is established in pilot and new countries.					
4.1.1 Further develop the M&E architecture of the TAP Common Framework for new projects beyond CDAIS.	TAP Secretariat/FAO	June-Dec 2018	A. Staff time and virtual consultations B. For F2F meeting, training of staff and publication	- M&E Guidelines and M&E Tools published - # M&E trainings for CD for AIS project staff organized and # staff coached	APAARI: Links to be developed with the ASTI project of APAARI Agrinatura contribute building on the MEL of CDAIS project
4.1.2 Evaluate TAP (as part of 2018 CDAIS Final Evaluation), and in 2021.	FAO Independent Office of Evaluation	October 2018 June 2021	A. Available (2018) B. Needed (2021)	- # Evaluation report (1 in 2018, 1 in 2021)	
Output 4.2 Countries share their experience and progress through regular global meetings (e.g. TAP Partners Assembly etc.).					
4.2.1. Operate the TAP-Governance arrangement with appropriate meetings of Partner Assembly (PA) and Steering Committee (SC).	TAP Secretariat	2018-2021	A. Until Dec 2018 B. Needed for 2019-21	- # SC meeting (≥ 4 meetings/year) - 1 PA/year (Face to Face or Virtual)	CABI, GCHERA, Agrinatura (participation)

¹ <https://www.cirad.fr/en/our-research/platforms-in-partnership-for-research-and-training>