



APRIL 2020

TAP Newsletter



TAP

■ The TAP Capacity Development Expert Group was re-established

The members of the TAP Capacity Development Expert Group (CDEG) were nominated and confirmed by the TAP Partners organizations in February 2020. The group is composed of **14 experts** with a wide range of expertise on Capacity Development (CD), Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS), international/national agricultural research systems, agricultural extension and advisory services (EAS), Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Innovation policy, and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL).

The work of the CDEG aims at scaling-up efforts to strengthen capacities for innovation at individual, organisational and institutional level and activities that increase the awareness, knowledge, application, and uptake of the TAP Common Framework (CF).

An introductory virtual meeting with the newly appointed members of the TAP CDEG was held on 5 March 2020. They were briefed by Judith Francis, TAP Chair, and Selvaraju Ramasamy, TAP Secretariat, on the process used to develop the TAP CF and the lessons learned from the EU-funded four-year project CDAIS, which ended in August 2019. Emphasis was placed on the link between the work of the CDEG and the TAP Action Plan 2018-2021, as well as on the new EU-funded TAP/FAO DeSIRA project. Priorities for the TAP CDEG workplan 2020-2021 were identified, as follows:

1. Revision of the TAP Common Framework on Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CD for AIS);
2. Development of the e-learning modules on CD for AIS;
3. Development of new TAP tools (to be decided based on the requirements).

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global crisis which is already affecting the food and agriculture sector. Prompt measures are needed to ensure that food supply chains are kept alive, domestically and internationally, to mitigate the risk of large shocks that would have a considerable impact on everybody, especially on the poor and the most vulnerable (FAO, 2020).

Several TAP partners are responding to the crisis and providing possible support in their respective geographical domains adhering to the norms introduced by the host governments by making use of various means including online systems.

This TAP newsletter presents some responses from the partners to face the global challenges and to come out of this crisis stronger.

Capacity Development Expert Group members

Cristina Petracchi heads the FAO e-Learning Academy in the FAO Partnership Division. She coordinates the design, development, delivery and language adaptations of an extensive portfolio e-learning courses and blended learning programmes, related to the SDGs and many other cross-cutting relevant themes. She engages actively in consolidating partnerships across UN agencies, academic institutions, regional organizations, CSOs and NGOs, for CD initiatives and has created many University Masters' and Post Graduate Degree Programmes.



Dannie Romney is the Global Director of Development, Communication and Extension at CABI and also has strategic oversight for social science and M&E in CABI. She has lived in Africa for 20 years and has more than 30 years of experience working in agricultural research and extension including more than 20 years on activities facilitating or supporting "Agricultural Research into Use" and agricultural innovation systems.



David J. Spielman is a Senior Research Fellow at IFPRI. His research agenda covers a range of topics including agricultural science and technology policy; plant genetic resources and seed systems; agricultural extension and advisory services; and community-driven rural development. Earlier in his career, he worked on agriculture and rural development issues for the World Bank (Washington, D.C.), the Aga Khan Development Network (Pakistan), and several other organizations.



Delgermaa Chuluunbaatar is an Agricultural Extension Officer at FAO's Research and Extension Unit, based in Rome. Her work covers a broad range of areas, including institutional reforms, extension policies and metrics, institutionalization of good extension practices, facilitation of innovation processes, and capacity development for strengthening national agricultural extension and innovation systems. She has over 20 years of experience working in agriculture and rural development.



Flor de Maria Prado works as Peru Representative for YPARD and a Consultant for Rural Development. She is currently a master student at Wageningen University in the program of Development and Rural Innovation. During the past 4 years, she has been working with farmers on the coast and jungle of Peru on topics related to rural youth, inclusive businesses and rural entrepreneurship.





***Huang Guixiu** is a Professor in Plant-microbe interaction of CATAS under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China and is the Director of the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of CATAS. He has professional knowledge and rich experience in capacity development for agricultural innovation system through talent training and international cooperation on tropical agriculture.*



***Jessica Bagdonis** is a Human and Institutional Capacity Development Advisor at the Bureau for Food Security, USAID.*



***Julián Bartual Martos** is the Director of the Elche Agricultural Experiment Station of INIA in Spain. He is also member of scientific committees for the International Society for Horticultural Science and has experience in cooperation between countries to support minor and under-utilised species. He is an expert on Mediterranean fruits and ornamental native species at different stages as a Researcher, Professor and Extensionist. He has authored several publications and has organized and taught in several Agriculture Training Courses and Seminars on innovation and technology.*



***Martina Spisiakova** is a Knowledge Management Coordinator of APAARI and a facilitator of networking, learning, knowledge sharing and collaboration among the diverse stakeholders that are strengthening agricultural research and innovation systems in the Asia-Pacific region. These include government agencies, research institutions, regional and international organizations, higher education and the private sector. She is also a regional ambassador for promoting capacity development for agricultural innovation systems in Asia-Pacific. She has an extensive experience in coordination of knowledge management and innovation projects and activities in the region.*



***Patrice Djamen** is a member of the Board of Directors of GFRAS and Chairperson of AFAAS and works as Coordinator and International Consultant in sustainable agriculture and food systems of the West and Central Africa Network for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services (RESCAR-AOC). He is a senior expert in the facilitation of innovation, capacity development, policy reform and investment planning and management processes for sustainable agriculture and food systems.*





***Patrick Van Damme** is the Chair of EFARD, and of the Ghent University Association Africa Platform, and Pro-Chair of the Centre for Sustainable Development. He has extensive experience with teaching and R&D in (sub)tropical agriculture and ethnobotany. He has extensive hands-on, policy development experience in several countries located in Africa, Latin America, and Asia; and has collaborated with academic, research and development partners all over the world. He has published more than 220 impact factor journal articles (and over 450 other articles).*



***Tim Chancellor** leads the Capacity Strengthening Programme at the Natural Resources Institute (NRI), University of Greenwich. He has more than 10 years of experience coordinating the Institute's work on capacity strengthening and partnership development. He also helped to develop and manage the continent-wide Strengthening Capacity for Agricultural Research and Development in Africa and the EU-funded project Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS).*



***Viviana Palmieri** works as Technical Specialist in Innovation and Technology in Agriculture, at IICA's Directorate for Technical Cooperation. Coordinator of the crosscutting topic "Innovation and Technology" and Executive Secretary of FORAGRO. Her areas of expertise and work include technological and institutional innovation, innovation systems, innovation policies, situation analysis of agriculture from a technological perspective, research and extension methodologies, technical cooperation on digital agriculture, and knowledge management for innovation. Agronomist by profession, she has an MSc in Crop Production Systems from CATIE (Tropical Agricultural Research and Training Center).*



***Wellington Ekaya** is the Head of Capacity Development at ILRI. His key responsibilities include strategic leadership of ILRI's Capacity Development portfolio, policies and guidelines, fostering institutional partnerships to harness new opportunities in capacity development, resource mobilization and knowledge dissemination. He has over 20 years of experience in capacity development across African countries.*

GFFA Expert Panel Discussion on *Tropical agriculture: innovation for inclusive, sustainable and safe value chains*

The TAP Secretariat organized an expert panel discussion at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) held in Berlin from 16-18 January 2020. The technical panel on *Tropical Agriculture: innovation for inclusive, sustainable and safe value chains* included 7 experts representing young farmers and practitioners from five countries (Zimbabwe, Rwanda, The Gambia, India and Honduras), FAO and GIZ. The panel members from Honduras and Rwanda shared their experiences from the CDAIS project. The event was attended by more than 100 participants.

During the panel, TAP activities related to capacity development for innovation were presented, which generated interest among the participants to engage in TAP activities or to become members of TAP.

In addition, the importance of using multi-stakeholder processes to develop and support value chain development was underlined. Multi-stakeholder platforms such as TAP and the GIZ network of Green Innovation Centres can play an essential role in supporting development of national capacities to innovate for food and nutrition security. The role of governments, the private sector and farmer organizations in strengthening functional, technical and business capacities, and engaging young farmers in these processes was also emphasized. The need to invest in development of capacity and infrastructure was stressed by the panel. TAP is an active mechanism to advance innovation for inclusive, sustainable and safe value chains.



Panellists at the GFFA Expert Panel Discussion



APAARI

■ APAARI technical project on pesticide residue mitigation

The Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) recognizes that developing technical capacities alone is insufficient to ensure successful application and coordination of technologies in the long run. APAARI's experience under TAP on promoting CD for AIS was a basis for integrating development of functional capacities and AIS perspective in the design of a project titled '[Asia Pesticide Residue Mitigation through the Promotion of Biopesticides and Enhancement of Trade Opportunities](#)'. This Asia Pesticide Residue Mitigation project integrates a focus on people, particularly regarding communication, negotiation, and collaboration skills, as well as on building more effective and dynamic relationships among the multiple actors involved in pesticide residue mitigation.

The project is funded by the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)/World Trade Organization (WTO) and implemented by APAARI, IR-4 Project/ Rutgers University and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The project aims to increase awareness of how pesticide residue issues impact trade and develop methods for overcoming these trade barriers.

The primary participants of the project are national pesticide regulatory authorities, farmers, industry associations, agri-food export companies, and domestic consumers. Women play a key role in the global value chains for many agri-food products and face particular challenges in the context of compliance with international trade standards for pesticides. Hence, the project ensures their participation and capacity development as well.

Read more: [Synthesis of the webinar](#)

"Innovation is not just research output" said Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Secretary, APAARI, at a recent pre-inception webinar of the project. "Innovation provides a socio-economic value, so functional capacities enable more partners to strengthen innovations", he pointed out.

In keeping with the 4+1 functional capacities described in the TAP Common Framework, APAARI has identified the capacities that are critical to realize the potential of innovation, particularly in the context of this technical project such as:

- The capacity to learn and adapt quickly to the food safety standards, changing consumer demands, and industry change,
- Effective listening can ensure that all needs and targets are met, ultimately developing enduring long-term relationships and collaboration that can lead to sustainable development outcomes,
- The ability to negotiate in particular when entering formal and informal dialogue with independent regulatory bodies, key stakeholders, and of course, the government on policy-related matters,
- Organization skills since trade implies the work in logistics, variety of agricultural products and producers.



APAARI/CAAS

6th Global Forum of Leaders for Agricultural Science and Technology 2019

APAARI participated in the 6th Global Forum of Leaders for Agricultural Science and Technology 2019 (GLAST), held in Chengdu, China, on 12-14 November 2019. This is an initiative by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) in collaboration with the FAO, the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the People's Government of Chengdu. Over 400 delegates from government, agricultural research institutes, agricultural universities, private sectors, embassies and consulates in China, from 39 countries and 15 international organizations attended the meeting.

As an important platform, GLAST provides leaders, managers, and scholars worldwide with great opportunities to expand the scope and content of their cooperation and accelerate the construction of a global network for scientific and technological innovation in agriculture, in order to contribute wisdom and strength to the sustainable development goals set forth in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The theme of the forum was "Science and Technology for Green Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas". Through keynote presentations and open discussions, participants have shared their insights, experiences and new ideas for agricultural science and technology innovation to promote agricultural development, particularly on five major topics: "Establishment of Green Agricultural Production System", "Agricultural Natural Resources and Ecological Environment Protection", "Food Nutrition and Health", "Agricultural Players' Empowerment and Capacity Building" and "IT-Based and smart Agriculture".

A Chengdu Declaration was signed at the end of the Forum to formalize the commitments and partnerships in several areas, including the promotion of green agricultural development driven by innovation.

Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Secretary, APAARI, made a presentation on Biosecurity Issues and Challenges due to the Transboundary Movement of Crop Pests in Asia-Pacific. He also contributed to a panel discussion on Agricultural Player's Empowerment and Capacity Building and highlighted the role of APAARI with its ongoing activities with FAO on AIS. Furthermore, he signed an agreement with Xueping Zhou, Director General of the Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (IPP-CAAS), for an International Partnership for Cooperation on Transboundary Crop Pests Monitoring and Control (IPC-TCPMC).



Signature of the IPC-TCPMC agreement
between APAARI and IPP-CAAS

CAAS

CAAS launched the “International Agricultural Science Program” (CAASTIP)

At the GLAST-2019, CAAS launched the “International Agricultural Science Program” (CAASTIP) with the aim of establishing a mechanism for a sustained international cooperation on collaborative research, to facilitate the integration of scientists from all countries into a global innovation network so as to enhance scientific innovation, promote cooperation and conduct joint research on key generic technology.

In the first five years, CAASTIP will use USD 10 million of its existing resources to support international collaboration while it looks to mobilise additional financing. CAASTIP welcomes active participation from partner institutes all over the world.

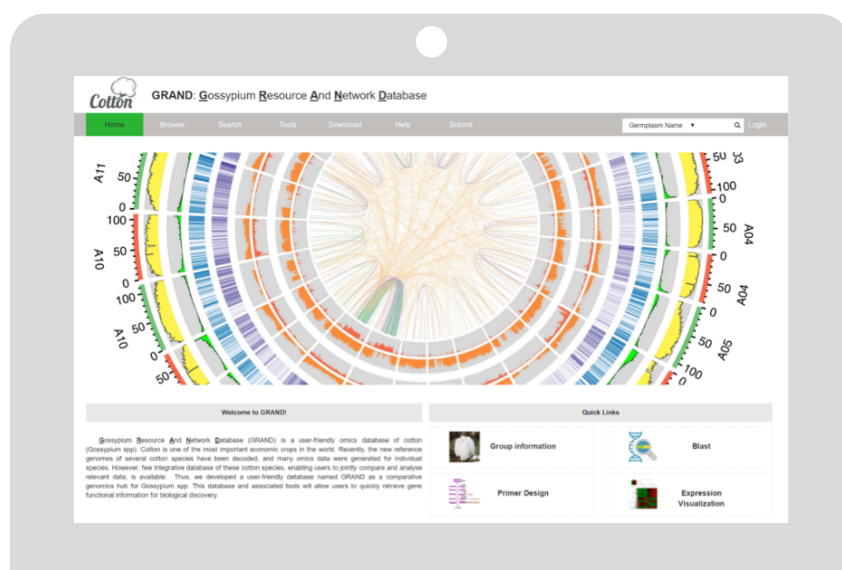


A panel session during the GLAST-2019 in Chengdu, China (November 2019)

CAAS Cotton Genome web database shared

On 31 December 2019, the Gossypium Resource And Network Database (GRAND) was officially launched by the Institute of Cotton Research of CAAS. GRAND is a user-friendly omics database of cotton (*Gossypium* spp).

Cotton is one of the most important economic crops in the world. Recently, the new reference genomes of several cotton species have been decoded, and many omics data were generated for individual species. The Institute of Cotton Research of CAAS has completed the whole genome sequencing and mapping of diploid cotton species (*Gossypium raimondii*, D-genome), diploid cotton species (*Gossypium arboreum*, A-genome) and tetraploid cotton species (*Gossypium hirsutum*, A/D-genome). All these cotton genome sequencing data and related transcriptome data were integrated and mined, and opened to the world through the GRAND web database, which provides convenience for cotton researchers. It will greatly promote the research on cotton molecular breeding and other molecular biology research in the world.



CATAS

CATAS Cooperated with IITA and Seychelles Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture

CATAS signed cooperation documents with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture of Seychelles, respectively, to strengthen cooperation in the fields of tropical agricultural science and technology and biodiversity protection.



CATAS and the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture of Seychelles signed Letter of Intent on Tropical Agricultural S&T Cooperation



CATAS and IITA signed Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation on Biodiversity Protection

CATAS revealed the evolution mechanism of Mango

CATAS, together with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and another 8 institutions, assembled a chromosome-level genome of mango, and revealed the evolution mechanism of mango species and the domestication history of cultivated varieties at the genome level. The related research results were published in *Genome Biology* (IF = 14.028).

Website: <https://genomebiology.biomedcentral.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s13059-020-01959-8>



CTA

CTA-IFAD Innov4AgPacific Project – Strengthening research collaboration for agricultural innovation in Pacific Island Countries

Building capacity for innovation in agri-food systems for improved nutrition outcomes also includes strengthening North-South research collaboration and training young researchers while actively engaging non-research actors and paying close attention to the policy and cultural context. Between one-fifth to one-third of all deaths in Pacific Island countries (PICs) are related to non-communicable diseases (e.g. diabetes, cancer, hypertension). The activities of one of the CTA-IFAD co-funded [Innov4AgPacific](#) project activities is focused on providing seed-funding to civil society organisations (CSOs) to upscale their Community Food Production initiatives (CFPIs) to strengthen the agriculture-nutrition-income nexus. An assessment of two of these CFPIs was conducted by the University of the South Pacific (USP) working in close collaboration with the Universities of Cambridge and Exeter, the CSOs, and CTA, using methods and tools developed under the [Community Food and Health \(CFaH\)](#) project.

The [Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises & Development \(FRIEND\) Fiji](#), CFPI project 'Garden to Plate - Integrated Backyard Gardening for a Holistic Approach to Income and Health' which promotes [9x9 backyard gardening model](#) and organises training sessions to include principles of healthy cooking using a '[Garden to Fork](#)' recipe book was assessed. The [Kastom Gaden Association \(KGA\)](#), Solomon Islands, CFPI project 'Improving local food crop planting material production and supply systems for improved food security and livelihoods of rural populations' was also assessed.

The research teams engaged the CSOs in the review and contextualisation of the CFaH methods and tools and trained post-graduate students who conducted the in-field data collection in local languages. Results showed that the CFPIs are contributing to; increasing access to a wider range of foods, improving dietary diversity scores, reducing food expenditures and increasing incomes. The research also demonstrated the utility of the CFaH approach for generating the evidence on CFPIs and empowering communities but of building research capacity for innovation in support of achieving sustainable, resilient nutrition-sensitive food systems.



Two webinars were organised to share the lessons learned and extend the capacity development.

See link to the Innov4AgPacific **online webinars**:

[Webinar 1: Pacific Community Food Production Initiatives for Improving Nutrition](#)

[Webinar 2: Pacific Community Food Production Initiatives for Improving Nutrition](#)

Recommended next steps include mobilising additional resources for further capacity development to strengthen agricultural innovation systems through multi-dimensional research collaboration and exploring innovative financing mechanisms and partnership opportunities to attract new investments for scaling CFPs for greater impact on food security and nutrition.



One of the organised KGA seed fairs in the Solomon Islands



FRIEND-Fiji backyard garden champion explaining the different food crops she plans to replant to feed her family



KGA training session on propagation methods



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

 The new EU Farm to Fork Strategy

The [Farm to Fork strategy](#) is the flagship agri-food element of the EU Green Deal adopted by the European Commission on 11 December 2019. The Farm to Fork Strategy will illustrate the objectives and actions needed to secure a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system.

The strategy will combine both regulatory and non-regulatory initiatives to reach its objectives. For the preparation of the new Farm to Fork Strategy, to be presented by the European Commission in April 2020 (date to be confirmed and may be subject to change), a stakeholders' consultation took place from 17 February to 20 March 2020. Over 600 submissions were received and are being reviewed. Read more: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12183-Farm-to-Fork-Strategy>.



FAO

 The G20-MACS Meeting in Dammam, KSA

The first [G20 MACS meeting](#) under the presidency of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) was held in Dammam, KSA on 17-19 February 2020. The meeting covered key global issues such as sustainable agriculture development in drylands, promoting agricultural productivity and sustainability through a wide range of innovative approaches including cutting-edge technologies, and the Water, Energy and Food (WEF) nexus. MACS members recognized the need to co-create tailor made approaches, adapted to the local needs of farmers, rural communities, value chains and consumers.

Selvaraju Ramasamy, Head of Research and Extension Unit (AGDR), FAO, participated in the meeting and presented FAO's work on strengthening agricultural innovation systems (including TAP activities) as background information for further discussion by the G20 members. EC's support to TAP was highlighted during the MACS meeting. Bilateral meetings with other TAP Partners (i.e. ICARDA and CABI) took place during the event and discussed the forthcoming joint events.

TAP/FAO DeSIRA Project: Developing Capacities in Agricultural Innovation Systems: scaling up the Tropical Agriculture Platform Framework

In the first quarter of 2020, inception missions took place in four countries (Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Eritrea and Rwanda). These visits contributed to the establishment of country teams, including the recruitment of country project managers, and appointment of national project coordinators, and to the development of work plans.

In Cambodia, for example, the project raised high expectations on capacity development for effective agricultural innovation systems due to its fragmentation and the weak linkages and collaboration between key actors' such as research, extension and academia. The TAP Common Framework approaches, focused on functional capacities, will make a significant contribution towards strengthening the capacity of the system at national level.

In Rwanda, an inception workshop was held in February 2020. Twenty-four representatives of various institutions attended the inception workshop held in Kigali on 18 February 2020. Participants included Theogene Rutagengwa, Director General in charge of Animal Resource Development at the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), Arnaud de Vanssay, Head of Section Rural Development at the Delegation of the European Union to Rwanda, and Gualbert Gbehounou, FAO Representative in Rwanda.



Participants of the National Inception Workshop of the TAP/FAO DeSIRA project held on 18 February 2020 (Kigali, Rwanda)

Participants recommended three potential focus areas of the project: 1) Small livestock (small ruminants, piggery, poultry, rabbits, etc.); 2) Access to finance for agricultural and rural development; and 3) Sustainable soil and environmental management, for climate-resilient solutions in the agriculture sector. They reviewed the project's planned activities, which include an assessment of agricultural innovation systems around the proposed focus areas, to guide further actions.

In addition, FAO is partnering with the Natural Resources Institute (NRI), a specialist research, development and education organisation of the University of Greenwich (United Kingdom), to develop a rapid appraisal methodology for identifying entry points to facilitate the uptake and integration of TAP tools into regional and sub-regional organizations (AFAAS, FARA, CORAF/WECARD, ASARECA, CCARDESA, APIRAS, APAARI, IICA, RELASER) strategies and programmes. The methodology will be used by regional organizations (research and extension networks) to conduct the appraisal and develop a joint action plan in the second half of 2020.

FAO - AGRINATURA partnership renewed

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between FAO and AGRINATURA was renewed in March 2020 for the next 3 years. Through this MoU both organizations plan to strengthen capacities for agricultural innovation both in Europe and in developing countries with an overall goal to improve agricultural innovation systems to make them more efficient and sustainable.

Following the renewal of the partnership, FAO and AGRINATURA will continue collaborating through joint activities to strengthen National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems and facilitate the access to knowledge and best practices to small-holders and family farmers. The partnership activities will also aim to support implementation of the TAP Action Plan (2018 – 2021) and facilitate policy processes for shaping the agricultural research agenda to include gender-sensitive, small-holder oriented research priorities.

EU-funded SALSA project: from research to policy recommendations in support of small farms

SALSA - Small Farms, Small Food Businesses and Sustainable Food Security, is an EU-funded research project of the Horizon 2020 program running from April 2016 to July 2020 with the aim to provide a better understanding of the role of small farms and small food businesses in meeting the sustainable food and nutrition security challenge. The project pioneers a novel integrated multi-method approach in 30 Reference Regions in Europe and Africa, involving a consortium of 16 European and African partners including universities, research institutions and farmers' organizations. The Research and Extension Unit (AGDR) of FAO coordinates the communications and joint learning of the project, and assists linking research work on enabling policies. SALSA recently published five Policy Briefs providing guidance for policy interventions in support of small farms, and the SALSA Summary Booklet, summarising the project's main steps and achievements (available [here](#)).

SALSA results are especially relevant during the current COVID-19 outbreak, which includes closure of borders. The importance of regional food systems and supply chains to feed the population is more evident than ever. SALSA demonstrated that small farms and food businesses make a significant contribution to Food and Nutrition Security in many regional food systems and they guarantee regional food production over time. According to the project, focusing on enabling conditions and policies that can help maintain small farms in regional communities throughout the coming programming period will increase the resilience of food systems.



The Policy Briefs developed under the SALSA project

GCHERA

 The World Agriculture Prize

The GCHERA World Agriculture Prize is the international award of the Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for the Agricultural and Life Sciences (GCHERA). The Prize aims to encourage the development of the mission of higher education institutions in education, research, innovation and outreach in the agricultural and life sciences by recognizing the distinguished contribution of individuals to this mission. Two 100,000 USD prizes will be awarded in 2020 with at least one recipient NOT coming from a country classified as having a developed economy. See the [list](#) of those countries with a developed economy. The GCHERA World Agricultural Prize is now open for Nominations for 2020:

<https://www.gchera.com/world-agriculture-prize.html>

NRI/GFRAS

 Assessment of Achievements of the GFRAS Operational Plan 2016–2021

In 2019 a team from the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) was commissioned by the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) to carry out a review of the first five years (2016-2021) of its 10 year operational plan (2016 - 2025). It is designed around three 'strategic fields' on advocacy, professionalisation of rural advisory services and knowledge exchange among members and the wider community of actors in rural advisory services. The review concludes that GFRAS and its member organisations at regional and national levels are making an important contribution in support of agricultural innovation. It draws some lessons from current GFRAS activities and makes some recommendations on future directions, taking into account the changing context in which rural advisory services are now functioning. The full report is available on the GFRAS website at <https://www.g-fras.org>

TAP PARTNERS ACTIVITIES IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

EMBRAPA

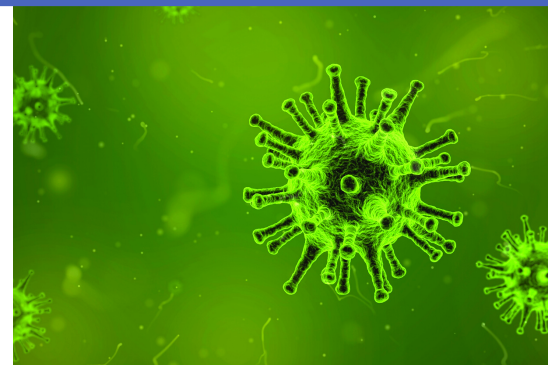
 Embrapa donates personal protective equipment to agricultural inspectors of Sergipe and field hospitals in Rio de Janeiro during COVID-19 outbreak

Embrapa Tabuleiros Costeiros (Aracaju, SE) made available a series of personal protective equipment (PPE), in addition to alcohol gel, so that agricultural inspectors from the Federal Superintendence of Agriculture (SFA) in Sergipe can continue to carry out their work, which is considered essential to supply society at this time of COVID-19 crisis.

Embrapa Solos (Rio de Janeiro, RJ) also donated the equivalent of more than twenty thousand reais in PPE to the State Department of Health on March 31. There were 216 lab coats, 650 masks, 35,800 gloves and 36 goggles.

The material provided by Embrapa Solos will go to the field hospitals that are being set up in Rio de Janeiro.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#)



Agricultural Inspector of Sergipe,
inspecting a fruit container



State department of Health car with the donated material from Embrapa

■ Embrapa made available Technical Instruction Manuals of good practices for poultry and swine farmers during COVID-19 outbreak

These manuals describe the differences among the zoonotic viruses from the Coronaviridae family and the human type. These guidelines also include good practices such as the routine of disinfection of materials entering the farm, recommendations of minimum distance from other workers, and how to maintain the measures of personal hygiene. The researchers also reinforce the fact that the producers should wear specific clothes and shoes during the work at farm and, when possible, bathe before and after accessing the farm. Read more [here](#).

FAO

■ FAO Policy brief on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

A policy brief on risk to food supply chains provides recommendations on how to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. This protracted pandemic crisis could quickly put a strain on the food supply chains, which is a complex web of interactions involving farmers, agricultural inputs, processing plants, shipping, retailers and more. The shipping industry is already reporting slowdowns because of port closures, and logistics hurdles could disrupt the supply chains in the coming weeks. This policy brief provides recommendations on measures to consider in order to keep the supply chain alive in these times of crisis. Click [here](#) to download the policy brief.

■ Keeping food and agricultural systems alive - Analyses and solutions in a period of crises - COVID-19 Pandemic

In response to the current global outbreak of COVID-19, FAO has analyzed past experiences and provides compilation of policy responses with their pros and cons for agricultural and food systems. The list is available [here](#), and it will be continually updated and expanded.



Message from AGRINATURA



We are all sharing a world that is very different than it was just a few weeks ago, and it's changing by the day. Agrinatura is especially concerned about the situation in countries where public health systems have limited reach and where resources to strengthen them are scarce. Agrinatura is also very aware of the potential implications of the pandemic for the stability of food systems at global and local levels, and of the need to protect vulnerable groups in society who are most likely to be disadvantaged. Agrinatura-member organisations will be redoubling efforts to generate and disseminate knowledge that contributes to sustainable agriculture and food systems. "We will support our partners throughout the world, and especially in Africa, to address the challenges that will undoubtedly be magnified by the pandemic" said Carolyn Glynn, President of Agrinatura. As such, Agrinatura is participating in various fora, that are discussing and studying the effects of Covid-19 on food systems.

As a network of research and higher education organisations, Agrinatura is continuing to operate most of its normal services but staff are now working from their homes, in line with regulations introduced by their national governments. We have had to postpone certain activities, notably those which demanded travel. However, like many other organisations we are making effective use of online systems and discovering that we can accomplish much in this virtual mode. We also appreciate that access to such systems is not universal and that a lot needs to be done to reduce the digital divide that exists in many countries.

This year's [General Assembly](#), scheduled to take place in May at University College Cork in Ireland will not take place. Essential business such as approval of the financial accounts will be conducted electronically. A two-hour online workshop is planned for 20 May and, if circumstances permit, a physical meeting will be held in September in Prague, Czech Republic, linked to [Tropentag 2020](#). Further details will follow soon. Meanwhile, we express our sincere gratitude to University College Cork staff for their hard work in preparing for the General Assembly and that they are inviting us to the Agrinatura General Assembly in May 2021!

The world after this global pandemic will probably not be the same. The members of Agrinatura will help through research and education in close collaboration with our partners to understand the effects of the pandemic and work on pathways to support the building of structures as a response to the upcoming challenges.

Agrinatura Association




 TAPipedia - www.tapipedia.org

TAPipedia, the global knowledge sharing platform of TAP in support of Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems, has reached the milestone of **3000 online resources!** TAP Partners and their networks are encouraged to benefit from this unique repository and to contribute with their own resources related to agricultural innovation systems.

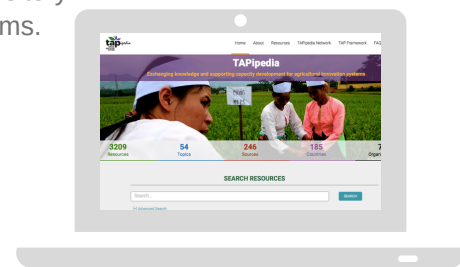
The most viewed publications in 2020 include:

République du Bénin (Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage et de la Pêche)

1. "Plan Stratégique de Développement du Secteur Agricole (PSDSA) 2025 et Plan National d'Investissements Agricoles et de Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle. PNIASAN 2017 – 2021". 2017, 139 pp.

2. Cussianovich, P.; Altamirano, M. "Estrategia nacional para el fomento de la producción orgánica en Nicaragua. Una propuesta participativa de los actores del movimiento orgánico nicaraquense". MAGFOR, INTA, IICA, COSUDE, Embajada de Austria - Cooperación para el Desarrollo, 2005, 160 pp.

3. La Gra, J.; Kitinoja L.; Alpizar K. "Metodología de evaluación de cadenas agroalimentarias para la identificación de problemas y proyectos: un primer paso para la disminución de pérdidas de alimentos". San José, C.R.: IICA, 2016, 267 pp.



CDAIS tools and factsheets are now available in French and Spanish:

Organizing a policy dialogue – A practical guide - [FR](#) - [ES](#) -

Innovation Niche Partnerships – A guide to the coaching process - [FR](#) - [ES](#) -

Organizing a marketplace – A practical guide - [FR](#) - [ES](#) -

Organisational Strengthening – A guide to the coaching process - [FR](#) - [ES](#) -

Capacity Needs Assessments – A trainers' manual - [FR](#) - [ES](#) -

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning – Concepts, principles and tools - [FR](#) - [ES](#) -



Recommended reading

The book "[Innovations in Sustainable Agriculture](#)", edited by Muhammad Farooq and Michele Pisante, was recently published by Springer. It presents recent advances in sustainable agriculture research and development, focuses on environmentally sustainable and profitable food production systems. It describes ecological sustainability of farming systems, presents innovations for improving efficiency in the use of resources for sustainable agriculture and propose technological options and new areas of research in this very important area of agriculture, such as the [Innovation System Approach for Urban Agriculture: Case Study of Mexico City](#).





PAST EVENTS

- FAO/AGDR Seminar on [Design of Extension Programs and Digital Agriculture](#) (Brenda Ortiz, Visiting Scientists, Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services - AEAS, 21 February 2020 at FAO HQ, Rome, Italy).
- FAO Side Event Digital Council: [Towards the establishment of an International Digital Council for Food and Agriculture at the GFFA](#) (16 January 2020 in Berlin, Germany);
- Expert Panel Discussion on [Tropical agriculture: Innovation for inclusive, sustainable and safe value chains](#) at the GFFA (17 January 2020 in Berlin, Germany).



UPCOMING

The Third Young Ruralists School: Young Innovators for Rural Development. Edition Lima - Huarochirí 2020.

The Third Young Ruralists School of Ypard-Peru is a program subsidized through international cooperation, which seek to train young professionals on the formulation of multidisciplinary projects for rural agricultural development using an agro-ecological, participatory and gender approach in a specific rural community in the province of Huarochirí.

This year the Third Young Ruralists School will take place from **18 April to 22 August 2020** in the city of Lima (Peru) with occasional field trips to other parts of the country. The application for the programm closed on 15 April 2020 and received 155 applications.

For more information, stay connected with Ypard-Peru on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/YpardPeru/?ref=bookmarks>



Technical webinars organized by the FAO eLearning Academy, Agreenium and UN-ESCAP

The FAO and Agreenium are offering their second technical webinar in English on the theme: Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition: Making agriculture and food systems nutrition-sensitive. It will take place on **28 April 2020 between 14:30 and 16:00 (CET)**. Learn more in [Programme and registration](#). This technical webinar is part of the series organized by the FAO eLearning Academy, Agreenium and UN-ESCAP in thematic areas related to global challenges, by combining development research and innovation perspectives. [Watch here](#) the video of the 1st webinar

Opening of applications for the Master " Global Quality in European Livestock Production " (GLOQUAL)

Applications for the Master GLOQUAL are officially open. Application are open until **4 May 2020**. The Master GLOQUAL, co-accredited by VetAgro Sup and the University of Clermont Auvergne and organized in partnership with Bordeaux Sciences Agro, the University of Lorraine/ENSAIA and INRAE, aims to train specialists in multi-criteria evaluation methods for the global quality of animal production systems. [Learn more here](#).

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 40 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 Action Plan through the project "Developing capacities in agricultural innovation systems: scaling up the TAP Framework" (DeSIRA), implemented by FAO.