#### **APRIL 2025**



# TAP NEWSLETTER

#### TAP SECRETARIAT UPDATES

## TAP Steering Committee Convenes to Launch New Term and Finalize Roadmap 2025–2030

On 17 March 2025, the TAP Steering Committee (SC) convened virtually to officially launch its 2024–2026 term, welcome new leadership, and finalize strategic directions for the years ahead. The meeting marked a significant milestone with the election of Dr. Abdou Tenkouano (icipe) as the new TAP Chair and Maria Auxiliadora Briones (RELASER) as Vice-Chair, following the end of the 2022–2024 term led by Max Olupot.

The Committee reviewed progress on the TAP Roadmap 2025–2030, which was shaped through regional consultations in Ghana and Thailand, and endorsed its phased implementation approach. The roadmap's six strategic objectives emphasize inclusive capacity development, stronger research-extension linkages, and high-level policy engagement. Members also discussed the need to enhance TAP's visibility at global events and to ensure strategic alignment with platforms such as Meetings of Agricultural Chief Scientists of G20 States (MACS-G20).

During the meeting, the TAP roadmap 2025-2030 was presented by TAP Secretariat. The meeting concluded with strong support for reinvigorating multi-stakeholder engagement and strengthening TAP's role as a global platform for promoting Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS). The incoming leadership emphasized collaboration, continuity, and positioning TAP as a catalyst for inclusive and sustainable agri-food systems transformation.







#### UPDATE ON TAP REGIONAL EVENTS & PARTNERS ACTIVITIES



#### **AFRICA**

#### FARA

#### TAP Regional Meeting in Ghana: A Roadmap for Africa's Agricultural Innovation

The Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) Regional Meeting, held from December 20-21, 2024, in Ghana, successfully brought together key stakeholders to refine the TAP Roadmap (2025-2030) and strengthen agricultural innovation systems (AIS) in Africa. Organized by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) in close collaboration with FAO, Sub-Regional Organizations (SROs), and National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs), the meeting served as a critical platform for aligning African priorities with global and regional frameworks.

Participants included policymakers, researchers, extension professionals, private sector representatives, farmer organizations, and other key stakeholders, all working towards enhancing AIS capacities to drive sustainable agricultural development.

#### TAP's Role in Strengthening Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS)

As a G20 initiative hosted by FAO, TAP provides a structured framework for addressing systemic challenges in agricultural innovation. TAP focuses on capacity development, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and inclusivity to strengthen AIS in developing countries. The TAP Common Framework serves as a guiding tool to create an enabling environment for agricultural innovation, fostering more effective and sustainable agricultural transformations across regions.

#### **Key Discussions and Outcomes**

The meeting aimed to ensure that the TAP Roadmap (2025-2030) reflects Africa's priorities while aligning with global and regional strategies, including the SDGs, Agenda 2063, and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

#### **Opening Remarks and TAP's Progress**

Dr. Aggrey Agumya, speaking on behalf of FARA, welcomed participants and expressed gratitude to FAO for selecting FARA as the host institution for this strategic dialogue. Dr. Selvaraju Ramasamy, representing FAO, joined virtually to share reflections on TAP's evolution, key achievements, and lessons learned from its first two phases.



TAP Regional Meeting in Accra, Ghana – December 2024 ©FARA

#### **Defining the New TAP Objectives**

• High-level policy engagement to facilitate cooperation in AIS capacity development.

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- Strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration and coordination for more effective innovation systems.
- Enhancing knowledge generation and dissemination among AIS actors.
- Increasing public-private sector participation to promote TAP's integrated delivery approach.
- · Fostering collective action among G20 countries and their institutions to support agricultural innovation.
- Encouraging co-learning among scientists, policymakers, civil society, and the private sector.



The Six Refined TAP Objectives (2025–2030) ©FARA/TAP Secretariat

In closing, Dr. Aggrey Agumya, Executive Director of FARA, thanked all participants for their valuable contributions and reaffirmed TAP's commitment to supporting African countries in their agricultural innovation journeys. He emphasized that TAP would continue to serve as a leading platform for fostering regional collaboration, policy alignment, and sustainable agricultural development across Africa.



#### Lisbon Tropical Summit



The Lisbon Tropical Summit, held from 5-8 November 2024, brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to address the challenges and opportunities in tropical agriculture. Organized by the University of Lisbon and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the summit emphasized the urgency of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and highlighted the importance of multi-actor collaboration in fostering innovation.

#### **TAP's Contribution to the Summit**

TAP's expertise in capacity development for agricultural innovation systems (AIS) was recognized as a critical element in addressing institutional complexity and enhancing innovation in tropical agriculture.

During the summit, TAP partners, including Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Centre for Coordination of Agriculture Research and Development (CCARDESA), Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutes (APAARI), Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IICA), Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), and other regional research and extension organizations, engaged in dialogues on Planetary Health, Agricultural Development, Social and Territorial Transitions, and Human Growth. Discussions underscored the need for South-South-North triangular cooperation and integrated approaches to promote sustainability and resilience.

Dr. Selvaraju Ramasamy, Head of the TAP Secretariat at FAO participated in the summit and highlighted the activities of the TAP during a side event and participated in a concluding discussion focusing on development of a framework (Planetary, Agriculture, Territorial, and Human) as a quidingprinciple for future actions



Participants of the Tropical Agriculture Summit in Lisbon - November 2024 ©Tropical Summit

#### **Key Takeaways and Next Steps**

- · TAP's role in connecting health, environment, society, and agriculture was highlighted, emphasizing the need for interdisciplinary solutions.
- The PATH framework (Planetary, Agriculture, Territorial, and Human) was introduced as a guiding principle for future actions.
- TAP will continue engaging with regional centers of excellence to strengthen research and extension capacities, particularly in Africa.
- · Following the summit, discussions are underway to organize the next Tropical Summit in Africa, led by FARA and co-hosted by key partners, including TAP.

As TAP and its partners move forward, collaboration and knowledge exchange will remain at the heart of efforts to drive sustainable innovation in tropical agriculture. For more updates, visit <u>TAPipedia</u>, <u>Linkedin channel</u> and stay connected with our community of practice.



#### ASARECA

#### Uganda Takes Bold Steps in Managing Invasive Alien Species

In March 2025, Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) joined a national effort in Uganda to raise awareness and promote action against invasive alien species (IAS), which pose serious threats to biodiversity, food systems, and rural livelihoods. The event, organized in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), the Government Citizen Interaction Centre (GCIC), and Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), convened a wide range of stakeholders from government institutions, research organizations, civil society, and the private sector.

Participants emphasized the urgent need for coordinated regional strategies, early detection systems, and stronger policy and regulatory frameworks to prevent the spread of IAS. Discussions highlighted that tackling IAS is not just an environmental priority, but also a key to safeguarding food security, ecosystem services, and economic resilience in the region.

ASARECA reiterated its commitment to fostering regional collaboration, knowledge exchange, and science-based interventions to help its member countries build resilience against emerging threats like invasive species. The event marked an important step in bridging awareness and action across sectors and borders.





Community-led tree planting initiative supported by ASARECA ©ASARECA



#### **Asia-Pacific**

#### APAARI



#### Regional Dialogue on Scaling the TAP Framework: A Step Forward for AIS

The Regional Dialogue on Strengthening Capacities in Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) - Scaling the TAP Framework, held from December 27-28, 2024, in Bangkok, Thailand, gathered key stakeholders from across the Asia-Pacific region to discuss strategies for scaling up the TAP Framework and enhancing innovation in agricultural systems. Co-organized by FAO, Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutes (APAARI), and regional partners, the event served as a platform to align AIS approaches with national policies, research, and extension efforts, ensuring more effective and sustainable agricultural innovations.

#### **Advancing TAP's Vision for Agricultural Innovation**

Opening the dialogue, Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Director of APAARI, emphasized the TAP Action Plan 2022-2025 as a critical tool for strengthening institutional capacities at technical, functional, and partnership levels. He highlighted the need for a TAP roadmap for 2025-2030, which will address emerging challenges in agri-food systems, such as climate resilience, market access, and value chain optimization.

Joining virtually, Dr. Selvaraju Ramasamy, Head of the TAP Secretariat at FAO, reiterated TAP's shift from a traditional linear technology transfer model to a co-innovation approach, which ensures that farmers, extension services, research institutions, and the private sector collaborate to develop contextually appropriate and sustainable solutions.

#### **Key Discussions and Outcomes**

#### 1. Strengthening Research-Extension Linkages

Participants highlighted fragmentation within national extension systems and stressed the need for more structured multi-stakeholder engagement. Key suggestions included promoting farmer-led knowledge-sharing, involving the private sector in co-developing innovations, adopting digital tools for decision-making, and fostering South-South cooperation.

#### 2. Policy and Institutional Reforms

The discussion emphasized the importance of AIS-enabling policies and cross-sectoral collaboration. Recommendations included aligning national research and extension strategies with the TAP framework and engaging high-level decision-makers to secure political and financial support.

#### 3. Integrating AIS into Higher Education

The dialogue also explored curriculum reforms to build future AIS capacity. Ideas included introducing AIS-specific courses and e-learning modules, promoting student engagement in rural areas, and developing mentorship and incubation programs to support young innovators.





Discussions led to the development of a two-phase roadmap that will guide TAP's efforts from 2025-2030:

- Phase 1 (2025-2027): Focus on scaling AIS capacity-building efforts at national and regional levels.
- Phase 2 (2028-2030): Strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships, policy integration, and resource mobilization for long-term impact.

Participants also stressed the importance of strengthening the TAP Secretariat, fostering regional collaboration through APAARI, Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network (APIRAS), and other networks, and aligning TAP's objectives with G20 and other global initiatives.



Regional Dialogue on AIS Capacity Strengthening - Bangkok, December 2024 ©APAARI/TAP

#### **DESIRA LIFT**

#### Connect Days in Hanoi

#### **DeSIRA Connect Days Asia & Pacific**

From January 14 to 16, 2025, 76 participants from 17 Asia-Pacific countries gathered in Hanoi for the DeSIRA CONNECT Days Asia & Pacific, reflecting on the EU-funded DeSIRA Initiative's progress in supporting research & innovation (R&I), agrifood system transformation and agroecological transitions in the region.



Discussions focused on the role of research, farmer organisations, and education in fostering local innovation and system changes. Regional stakeholders emphasized the need for integrated approaches, robust public strategies, and innovative financing mechanisms. The event highlighted the European Commission's continued support through DeSIRA-LIFT, which fosters collaboration, knowledge generation, and capacity building to accelerate agroecological transitions. A dedicated webpage with recordings, presentations, and posters is available for further insights.





DeSIRA CONNECT Days - Hanoi, March 2024 ©DeSIRA-LIFT

For more information, please see here and read the Perspective Brief <u>here</u>.

#### CATAS

#### The Global Tropical Agriculture Innovation Conference (GTAC)

The Global Tropical Agriculture Innovation Conference (GTAC), held from December 5-7, 2024, in Sanya, Hainan, China, brought together nearly 300 representatives from 29 countries and 13 international organizations. Hosted by the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS), the conference focused on science and technology innovation, value chain enhancement, smart agriculture, and sustainable development in tropical regions.

As a long-term partner of the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP), CATAS has been actively involved in TAP Action Plans, Steering Committee meetings, and capacity development initiatives since signing an MoU with FAO in 2021. To strengthen this collaboration, FAO was invited to participate in GTAC and share insights into TAP's role in fostering Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS). Dr. Selvaraju Ramasamy represented TAP and made a keynote presentation highlighting the activities of TAP and alignment with several other initiatives of TAP Members.



#### **Major Outcomes and Future Prospects**

GTAC provided a platform for launching new initiatives to strengthen global collaboration in tropical agriculture:

- The "Sanya Initiative" was released, advocating for technology-industry integration and the establishment of a global innovation network for tropical agriculture.
- An International Tropical Agricultural Science, Technology, and Innovation Alliance was formed to promote knowledge exchange and capacity building.
- · A new peer-reviewed journal on Tropical Agricultural Sciences was introduced to support the dissemination of cutting-edge research.
- CATAS signed collaboration agreements with eight institutions, expanding research and innovation partnerships.
- A ceremonial donation of date palm seedlings from the UAE to China symbolized international agricultural cooperation.

In the future, CATAS will deepen its engagement with FAO, TAP, and other partners, strengthening collaboration in research, education, and technology transfer to support sustainable tropical agriculture worldwide.

For further updates, visit <u>TAPipedia</u> and connect with the TAP through our <u>Linkedin channel</u>.





The Global Tropical Agriculture Innovation Conference (GTAIC) brought together innovators and policy leaders in Sanya, Hainan - November 2024 ©CATAS



#### AARINENA

#### Olive Innovation Platform



In June, with the support of FAO, Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA) launched the Olive Innovation Platform. This groundbreaking initiative aims to revolutionize the olive industry in the region by promoting innovation, collaboration, and knowledge sharing among stakeholders.

AARINENA held four webinars during which they made sure to listen to stakeholders and implement their recommendations based on the feedback received. Additionally, stakeholders were given the opportunity to use the platform during the meeting to ensure they became familiar with it and found it easy to use.

#### **Key Features of the Platform**

- · Knowledge Repository: A collection of research papers, articles, and case studies on olive cultivation, pest management, harvesting techniques, and more.
- Interactive Forums: Spaces for stakeholders to discuss challenges, share experiences, and collaborate on innovative solutions.
- Training and Workshops: Access to online courses, webinars, and workshops conducted by leading experts in the field.
- Innovative Tools and Resources: Tools for soil analysis, irrigation management, and disease detection to help farmers optimize their production processes.



Olive Innovation Platform, where users can join the online community and access resources **©AARINENA** 

#### How to get involved?

All stakeholders in the olive industry are invited to join us in this exciting venture. By participating in the Olive Innovation Platform, you can:

- Stay Informed: Keep up with the latest research and technological advancements.
- Collaborate: Work with peers and experts to tackle common challenges.
- Learn and Grow: Enhance your skills and knowledge through our educational resources.
- Innovate: Contribute to the development of new solutions that can drive the industry forward.

#### For Registration

To join the platform, as an individual or an organization, please log in here

#### **JIRCAS**

#### Japan Tech Catalog

Recently, Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Services (JIRCAS) developed the "Technology Catalog Contributing to Production Potential and Sustainability in the Asia-Monsoon Region", a compilation of applicable agricultural technologies which were developed in Japan or through international collaboration over the past 10 years that are expected to contribute to the establishment of sustainable food systems in the region.

Since the first publication in 2023, we have added technologies from many research institutes and universities, and now the all-Japan technology catalog is finally complete.

The catalog will serve as a reference for various stakeholders, including government officials, researchers, extension agents, producers, and the private sector, who would help transform the food systems of countries in the region.

For more information, please refer <u>here</u>.





Cover of the Technology Catalog Ver. 3.0, supporting sustainable food systems in the Asia-Monsoon Region ©JIRCAS/Green Asia

#### **Latin America & the Caribbean**

#### GFRAS

#### Empowering Farmers through Agroecology - Progress in the ÆRASProject

The "Accelerating Agroecological Transformation through Rural Advisory Services (ÆRAS)" project, funded by the European Commission and administered by IFAD, continues to make significant progress in strengthening participatory Rural Advisory Services (RAS) to support small-scale farmers in their transition to agroecology. By fostering knowledge exchange and strengthening advisory capacities, the project is enabling farmers to adopt sustainable practices and enhance their resilience.

ÆRAS has engaged 5,036 farmers across four target countries, namely Costa Rica, Ecuador, Madagascar, and Uganda, achieving 56% of its overall goal of 9,000 farmers for the entire project duration, until the end of 2026. The project has also exceeded expectations in capacity building, with 33 Master Trainers selected and trained, surpassing the initial target of 20 trainers for the project. Additionally, 243 RAS facilitators have been trained, and 30 Peer Learning Teams (PLTs) established, contributing to the dissemination of agroecological knowledge at the community level. Master Trainers have conducted 43 coaching sessions, ensuring continuous support for facilitators and farmers alike.

To strengthen local engagement, country-level project launch workshops were held, gathering 321 key stakeholders, also well above the expected 50 participants per workshop. These events facilitated discussions on project objectives, strategies, and implementation challenges, reinforcing the collaborative approach that is central to the AERAS initiative.







Ecuador National Symposium on Soil Conservation Strategy ©CF Ecuador

Recognizing the importance of continuous learning, ÆRAS incorporates Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) mechanisms at various levels. In addition to regular global project update meetings, national learning and sharing workshops serve as a key platform for reflection and exchange. These workshops provided an opportunity for RAS providers, extension agents, and farmer representatives to share best practices, discuss challenges, and develop actionable recommendations. Participation exceeded expectations, with a total of 244 attendees across the three countries, demonstrating strong stakeholder commitment to agroecological transformation.

ÆRAS is actively capturing and disseminating knowledge on Agroecology RAS to a broader audience. To date, 5,197 stakeholders have participated in various knowledge-sharing events, including but not limited to:

- Regional engagements facilitated by RELASER (60 stakeholders)
- Access Agriculture outreach activities reaching over 4,255 participants
- Video screenings conducted by ERA Teams in Uganda and Madagascar, engaging a combined 4,255 farmers
- YPARD Cafés, attracting 158 stakeholders across the four target countries



Advancing Agroecology in Madagascar\_GFRAS ÆRAS Project © FCA Madagascar



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These activities have significantly contributed to spreading agroecological principles beyond the direct beneficiaries of the project.

TROPICAL AGRICULTURE PLATFORM

The ÆRAS project continues to build momentum, ensuring that small-scale farmers and agricultural advisors have the knowledge and resources necessary for a sustainable agroecological transition. Through capacity building, knowledge-sharing platforms, and strong stakeholder engagement, the project is making a lasting impact in the regions it serves.

For more information, visit our website <u>here</u>.

#### Accelerating Agroecology through Rural Advisory Services in Africa and Latin America

To support the transition to sustainable food systems for small-scale producers, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), with funding from the European Commission and the Belgian Development Cooperation, is leading the Global Programme for Small-scale Agroecology Producers and Sustainable Food Systems Transformation (GP-SAEP). A key component of this initiative is the ÆRAS project – Accelerating Agroecological Transformation through Rural Advisory Services.

ÆRAS is being implemented in Ecuador, Costa Rica, Madagascar, and Uganda, where over 10,000 smallholder producers are being reached through participatory Rural Advisory Services (RAS). The project is coordinated by Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) and its regional networks Red Latinoamericana para Servicios de Extensión Rural (RELASER) and African Forum for Agricultural Advisory services (AFAAS), in collaboration with Access Agriculture and the Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD).

The project empowers producers through farmer-centered approaches that integrate ancestral knowledge, science, and agroecological principles. Master trainers mentor local RAS facilitators, who in turn work closely with farmer clusters to co-create, test, and scale sustainable solutions adapted to local ecological and cultural realities. Each year, national and regional learning events bring together facilitators to exchange knowledge and strengthen collaboration.

So far, more than 150 farms per country have been assessed using a comprehensive agroecology transition tool. These baselines guide facilitators in tailoring advisory strategies to accelerate agroecological adoption and promote biodiversity, soil health, and food and nutrition security.

ÆRAS reflects a growing movement to professionalize agroecology through inclusive and context-specific extension models. As María Paz Santibáñez, Program Officer at RELASER and Regional Coordinator for ÆRAS, notes:

"Agroecology is not just a response to today's challenges but also a vision for the future. Through the ÆRAS project, we reaffirm our commitment to this approach and look forward to sharing the lessons and evidence generated on this path to sustainability."

The initiative will run until June 2026, contributing to more resilient, diversified, and farmer-led food systems across continents.

#### FIBL



Open registrations for the "Agroecological Transition of Food Systems in Africa" Conference

The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) cordially invites you to attend the Conference "Agroecological Transition of Food Systems in Africa", taking place on May 6, 2025, at the Museum of Natural Sciences in Brussels, Belgium. Virtual participation via live streaming is also available.

The science-policy event will share insights from nine EU-Africa agroecology projects – including three large FiBL-led projects SustainSahel, SysCom and Crops4HD - on state-of-the-art scientific evidence on agroecological approaches for improved resilience of African smallholder farmers with policy and other stakeholders in Brussels. The projects are funded by Horizon 2020, DeSIRA and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

A key FiBL policy dosssier - "Cultivating Change with Agroecology and Organic Agriculture in the Tropics: Bridging Science and Policy for Sustainable Production Systems," - will also be presented at the conference. Based on 88 scientific publications, the dossier provides a strong case for how agroecology and organic farming can transform food production systems in the tropics, offering concrete pathways for sustainable development.

Join us to engage in critical discussions shaping the future of agroecology in Africa.

Further information on the conference <u>here</u>.



Agroecological Transition of Food Systems in Africa Conference – Brussels, 6 May 2025 ©FiBL



#### Unlocking the potential of Bolivia's native cacao

The Cacao Nacional Boliviano (CNB), native to the Bolivian Amazon, is gaining attention in the fine-flavor chocolate industry for its unique taste. Unlike common international varieties, CNB fruiting peaks earlier in the year, making it better adapted to local climatic conditions and less susceptible to certain pests and diseases.

However, CNB production remains low, and improving yields is crucial. Its distinct phenology pattern requires tailored management practices. The SysCom Bolivia project in Alto Beni, coordinated by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), and founded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Liechtenstein Development Service (LED), Coop Sustainability Fund and Biovision Foundation. This project is testing different agroforestry management strategies with and without pruning, to enhance CNB productivity. Early results show that pruning can improve harvesting efficiency while matching the yields of unpruned systems, though further research is needed to fine-tune the practice. The first publication from this trial will be available later this year.

In parallel, project partners ECOTOP Foundation, Fundación PIAF-El Ceibo, Institute of Ecology (University Mayor San Andres) are working on selecting superior CNB genotypes and developing demonstration plots to support its long-term viability. These efforts could significantly boost smallholder farmers' livelihoods while preserving cacao's genetic diversity.





Field trials in Alto Beni, Bolivia, are testing agroforestry strategies to enhance productivity of Cacao Nacional Boliviano (CNB), a native variety known for its unique flavor and early fruiting pattern ©FiBL

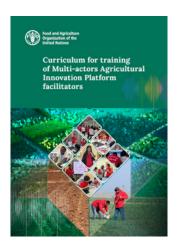
More information on the SysCom Bolivia project here.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**





Curriculum for Training Multi-Actor Agricultural Innovation Platform (MAIP)
Facilitators



FAO has recently released the Curriculum for Training Multi-Actor Agricultural Innovation Platform (MAIP) Facilitators, developed in response to FAO's call for a holistic transformation of agrifood systems. As these systems face increasing challenges from environmental and political instability, innovative and inclusive approaches are crucial. MAIP has emerged as an effective model, fostering collaboration among public institutions, private sectors, and grassroots practitioners to drive meaningful change. This curriculum equips facilitators with the skills to support and scale these platforms, ensuring that smallholder farmers and value chain actors can access innovations and services.

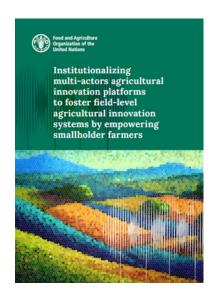
Built on the Training of Master Trainers for MAIPs co-organized by FAO and China Agricultural University (CAU) in 2023, the curriculum integrates insights from FAO-led projects in persimmon, hazelnut, and honey value chains, the TAP-AIS initiative, and the EU-funded project on local food systems in Azerbaijan. It provides step-by-step guidance on participatory approaches, digital extension tools, and market linkages, serving as a practical resource for facilitators across the agricultural value chain.

You can download the book here.

Institutionalizing Multi-Actors Agricultural Innovation Platforms to foster field-level agricultural innovation systems by empowering smallholder farmers

The transformation of agrifood systems hinges on the empowerment of smallholder farmers and the effective integration of innovation at the grassroots level. This policy brief explores the institutionalization of Multi-Actor Agricultural Innovation Platforms (MAIPs) as a scalable and sustainable approach to fostering field-level agricultural innovation. MAIPs provide a structured and collaborative framework where farmers, researchers, extension agents, policymakers, and market actors co-develop solutions, leveraging participatory action research, knowledge co-creation, and policy engagement.

To ensure the long-term impact of MAIPs, this brief highlight key policy recommendations, including standardizing MAIP frameworks, establishing certification systems, strengthening capacity-building initiatives, fostering transformative partnerships, and developing robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Drawing insights from FAO-led projects in China, Azerbaijan, and several African countries, it underscores the urgency of scaling up MAIPs through supportive policies, investment, and governance frameworks.



You can download the book here.

How to organize effective multistakeholder policy dialogue New guide available based on TAP-AIS project experiences.



Many projects and programmes use policy dialogue as a tool to support sustainable agrifood development. For example, both the CDAIS and TAP-AIS projects implemented policy dialogues to address priority issues in national agricultural innovation systems (AIS). But while there are some case studies and guidance available, the TAP-AIS project still faced a gap in information on how to organize effective multistakeholder policy dialogue in the agrifood context. So, the TAP-AIS team gathered key information, evidence, experiences and lessons learned on multistakeholder policy dialogue throughout project implementation and have compiled it into a guide which is now available online:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Multistakeholder policy dialogue to promote innovation in agrifood systems

Permanent link here.

This new training guide, entitled "Multistakeholder policy dialogue to promote innovation in agrifood systems" provides clear and comprehensive guidance on multistakeholder policy dialogue in agrifood systems. This guide introduces and uses the AIS concept as a key framing to promote innovation through smart, inclusive and collaboratively developed and implemented policies.

The guide is divided into six modules that cover the key concepts, tools and approaches (such as stakeholder analysis, problem framing, how to write a policy brief and more) to support participatory, inclusive and evidence-informed policy processes. These modules can be implemented in a training altogether, or on demand, based on user needs and preferences.

#### Stories of Change Vol.2 (DeSIRA-LIFT)





The second volume of Stories of Change, titled Pathways Agrifood System Transformation: From Local Innovation to Policy Change, is now available. The book showcases how DeSIRA projects are driving lasting change across Africa, Latin America, and Asia. It highlights examples of local innovation, collaboration between researchers and stakeholders, and strategies for scaling and sustaining transformative practices through policy changes. Case studies include gender equality initiatives in Tanzania, sustainable farming practices in Ethiopia, and policy innovation in Burkina Faso, amongst others, illustrating different pathways toward agrifood system transformation.

To read the book, please download <u>here</u>.

#### Perspective Briefs & Learning Briefs (DeSIRA-LIFT)

A new series of DeSIRA-LIFT publications is now available. It provides insights into R&I contributions to transformative changes and guidance to manage R&I -projects with impacts. The perspective briefs series summarize regional stakeholder perspectives collected during the four DeSIRA CONNECT Days, offering an overview of emerging trends and discussions on the key roles of R&I. The Learning briefs series capture the key success factors of impactful DeSIRA projects across the globe, and their major contributions to new collaboration mechanisms, policy changes and agroecological transitions.

The stories of change books give voices to innovators, their experiences and lessons learnt. Synthesis briefs summarize the critical findings of DeSIRA-LIFT to inform future R&I projects, strategies and investments. These publication series serve as a resource for learning, dialogue, and guidance, supporting efforts to make international R&I partnerships even more effective in transforming agrifood systems towards the SDGs.

More information and access to the full collection are available online.













AGRICULTURE

PLATFORM

















TAPipedia has released a new collection of 20 inspiring stories gathered through the Global Call for Agrifood System Innovations and Capacity Development for Innovation. The initiative, under the TAP-AIS project, invited farmers, researchers, entrepreneurs, and organizations worldwide to share their experiences in transforming agrifood systems.

Covering countries from Burkina Faso to Guatemala, the selected stories reflect a rich diversity of technological, organizational, institutional, and policy innovations that are boosting yields, building resilience, and empowering communities. Several entries also emphasize inclusive approaches, with strong participation from women and youth in shaping food system transitions.

Stories are available in English, French, and Spanish, and highlight real-world lessons from the field — from biofortification and climate-smart advisory tools to gender-responsive technologies and urban food hubs. These examples illustrate the critical capacities needed to drive sustainable, inclusive innovation across sectors and regions.

Explore the full collection on TAPipedia.





TAP has landed on LinkedIn

We're thrilled to announce that TAP has joined LinkedIn! This move represents our commitment to enhancing our online presence and fostering stronger connections. We invite you to follow our page and join us in this exciting journey. Your support in promoting our <a href="LinkedIn page">LinkedIn page</a> among your network would be greatly appreciated, and we also welcome your contributions directly to our page.

Together, let's engage, network, and collaborate on LinkedIn to better promote agricultural innovation!

# TAP on Linked in!



## Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP)

FAO-led global mechanism with over 50 members/donors promoting agricultural innovation, especially in the tropics.

https://www.linkedin.com/company/tropical-agriculture-platform-tap

### **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,

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





From August 2019 to December 2024, the European Commission (EU) supported TAP through the project "Developing capacities in agricultural innovation systems: scaling up the TAP Framework" (TAP-AIS), implemented by FAO.